

~~SECRET//ORCON-UISGOV/NOFORN~~

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Briefing Title: [redacted] Family

Date: 4/30/2014

Briefer: [redacted]

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Commissioner Attendees: Hoffman, Meese and Roemer

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Staff/FBI Attendees: Gannon, Grewe, Pirko, Keena, [redacted]

Briefing Slides: Browardbulldog.org Article, FBI [redacted] White Paper; Rapid Start Leads, Follow up Interviews, Tampa Case File [redacted] Interviews, FDLE Report

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MFR: Keena and Pirko

Headers:

- Request for Information
- Overview of Article and FBI Actions
- FBI Findings
- Opening EC 4/16/2002
- Information Management Databases
- Gaps/Possible Issues/Recommendations

Request for Information:

- Roemer - What happened to and currently where are the three individuals [redacted]
[redacted]
- Grewe - How long had [redacted] been an agent when he wrote the EC?
- Roemer - What were the Tampa field office's responses to the article and the renewed interest in the case?

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Overview of Article and FBI Actions:

Dan Christensen, editor and founder of Broward Bulldog, wrote an article in 2011 stating there was new information that showed the FBI found ties between the hijackers and [redacted] family. The article was also printed in the Miami Herald. Christensen claimed the investigation wasn't reported to Congress or mentioned in the 9/11 Commission Report.

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Based on the article, the FBI looked further into the case. Articles are still being written as this is an ongoing issue in Tampa.

Former Florida Senator, Bob Graham, continues to question the [redacted] ties to the 9/11 attack, even after the FBI had concluded that the family had no connection to the hijackers or knowledge of the 9/11 plot. Graham believes:

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1. There was telephonic contact between the hijackers and the [redacted] family
2. FBI has the gate records that show the hijackers coming into the housing community where [redacted] resided. (FBI does not have those records, due to the lack of connection found to the hijackers)

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Updated: 5/6/2014

[redacted] met with Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staff members to explain the steps the FBI went through and its findings. She assumes everything is resolved since she has not heard back; however Graham continues to question the FBI.

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[redacted]
[redacted]

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[redacted] in April 2002.

Those types of leads are not unique to the FBI. The FBI gets calls like this all of the time and runs down all leads. It's not unusual to receive multiple calls on one individual or a group.

[redacted]

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[redacted] The interview summary EC was provided to Sen. Graham.

In April 2004, FBI agents [redacted]

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[redacted]

FBI Tampa released 2 press releases/general statements (2011 and 2012) regarding their findings that [redacted] had no connection to the hijackers.

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FBI Findings:

The FBI found no evidence that connected the family members mentioned in the article to any of the 9/11 hijackers, nor was any connection found between the family and the 9/11 plot. Through the PENTTBOM investigation, no evidence was found of contact between the hijackers and the family, to include [redacted] There was also no evidence the hijackers visited the family's residence.

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According to the report, the hijackers visited the [redacted] and there was telephonic contact with the hijackers. The FBI found there is no evidence and no grounds that the family, or 2 & 3 degrees of separation, had any telephonic connection.

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[redacted] of the gated community, was mentioned in the article stating he had a gut feeling th [redacted] had something to do with the attacks. [redacted]
[redacted] The FBI did not obtain the gate records from the community because there was not a justified reason to believe there was a connection with the hijackers. There was no investigative belief or reason to obtain the records.

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[redacted] lead agent, has briefed Senator Graham on the FBI's findings. He believes one EC was not turned over in FOIA litigation; however [redacted] confirms it was turned over. [redacted] showed it to Graham; however it was heavily redacted.

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Tampa did the right thing by entering information into Rapid Start. After 3 calls, they opened a case. They interviewed the family members when they returned to the U.S. They obtained their contact information. However, Tampa did not have the derogatory needed to bump the investigation up to a [redacted] other than the badly written [redacted] opening EC b [redacted] Tampa did everything correctly.

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There is no actual documentation of searches and work done to rule out connections. [redacted] wrote the white paper provided. She also personally [redacted]

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Opening EC 4/16/2002:

On 4/16/2002 FBI agen [redacted] requested a [redacted] be opened on the [redacted] his opening EC stated that investigation revealed many connections between the [redacted] and the hijackers [redacted] stated this was a bad statement. It was overly speculative and there was no basis for the statement. The EC stated the family fled unexpectedly. It also stated [redacted] had connections with the [redacted] [redacted] however there was no connection with the [redacted]

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b7E -2

The EC stated the family left suddenly; however [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

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The opening EC concluded [redacted]
[redacted]

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This EC was shown to Senator Graham. Graham called [redacted] to discuss; however they never actually spoke.

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Information Management Databases:

Prior to 9/11, the FBI was using the leading tracking information management system, Rapid Start. It was a form of documenting information/leads that came in. The information is very helpful if future derogatory information is presented. If derogatory information is later

presented or found, the FBI can go back and possibly find value in the information previously entered in Rapid Start.

After 9/11, ORION was used. The Operational Response and Investigative Online Network (ORION) is the FBI's crisis management system. ORION provides case management and related information processing capabilities to support Federal, State, Local and Tribal law enforcement personnel in coordinated response to crises at special events or critical incidents. ORION was recently deployed over to Alexandria, VA police through the law enforcement online network.

To avoid future EC lead issues, the FBI now uses Sentinel. The lead screen automatically pops up for the agent.

Gaps/Possible Issues/Recommendations:

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