IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

Exhibit A
Dan Christensen

September 26, 2011

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Attn: FOIPA Request
170 Marcel Drive
Winchester, VA 22602-4843
foiparequest@ic.fbi.gov.

Dear FOIA officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request a search of the FBI’s indices to the Central Records System and the filings system of the bureau’s Tampa field office for information pertaining to a closed anti-terrorism investigation into the activities of Saudi nationals who lived in and/or owned a residence at 4224 Escondito Circle, near Sarasota, Florida prior to 9/11.

The residents were Abdulazziz Al-Hijji and his wife, Anoud. The home’s owners were Anoud Al-Hijji’s parents, Essam and Deborah Ghazzawi. The FBI investigation began in the fall of 2001 and continued into at least 2003.

I request copies of all FBI 302 reports about the matter, as well as all related investigative reports or FBI memos or correspondence. Likewise, I request copies of reports or information the FBI obtained about the Al-Hijjis and/or the Ghazzawis from any foreign law enforcement organization or intelligence service, to include Saudi intelligence.

Please send a memo (copy to me) to the Tampa field office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed. Please advise me of any destruction of records and include the date of and authority for such destruction.
If documents are denied in whole or in part, please cite the appropriate exemption.

I request a fee waiver. I am a contract reporter with The Miami Herald. I also operate the nonprofit news site www.browardbulldog.org I recently wrote about this specific topic, and intend to publish additional stories about it. The stories published by Herald and Broward Bulldog generated enormous public interest about a matter of continuing public concern, the terrorist attacks of 2001. As such, the material I seek “is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government,” specifically the FBI’s investigatory findings and conclusions of a matter that two Florida FBI spokesmen have said was closed years ago.

I can be reached at the cell phone listed below. Please call rather than write if there are any questions or if you need additional clarification from me.

I expect a response to this request within ten (10) working days, as provided for in the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Dan Christensen
954-242-2822
Mr. Dan Christensen

FOIPA Request No.: 1174909-000
Subject: AL-HIJJI, ABDULAZIZ ET AL

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Act (FOIPA) request to the FBI. The FOIPA number listed above has been assigned to your request.

You have requested records concerning a third party (or third parties). Records pertaining to a third party generally cannot be released absent express authorization and consent of the third party, proof that the subject of your request is deceased, or a clear demonstration that the public interest in disclosure outweighs the personal privacy interest and that significant public benefit would result from the disclosure of the requested records. Proof of death can be a copy of a death certificate, Social Security Death Index, obituary or another recognized reference source. Death is presumed if the birth date of the subject is more than 100 years ago. Since you have not furnished a Certification of Identity form, proof of death, or public justification for release, the release of records concerning a third party would result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and would be in violation of the Privacy Act, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552a. These records are also generally exempt from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA, Title 5 U.S.C. § 552 exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

Enclosed is a Certification of Identity form. You may make additional copies of this form if you are requesting information on more than one individual. The subject of your request should complete this form and then sign it or prepare a document containing the required descriptive data and have it notarized. The original certification of identity, notarized authorization with the descriptive information and a legible, original signature must be provided to the FBI before an accurate search of our records can be conducted.

If requested, we will conduct a search for any public records maintained in our files, such as court records and news clippings, without the express authorization of the third party, proof of death, or public justification for release provided the subject is of sufficient public notoriety. If public records exist in our files and you desire to obtain them, please reply with a letter asking for the public documents. You can fax your request to (540) 868-4997, or mail to 170 Marcel Drive, Winchester, VA 22602, to the Attn: Work Process Unit. If we do not receive a response from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, your request will be closed. You must include the FOIPA request number with any communication regarding this matter. This response should not be considered an indication of whether or not records responsive to your request exist in FBI files.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Number assigned to your request to facilitate its identification.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI File Fact Sheet.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information Dissemination Section
The primary function of the FBI is law enforcement. The FBI does not keep a file on every citizen of the United States.

The FBI was not established until 1908 and we have very few records prior to the 1920's.

FBI files generally contain reports of FBI investigations of a wide range of matters, including counterterrorism, counter-intelligence, cyber crime, public corruption, civil rights, organized crime, white-collar crime, major thefts/violent crime, and applicants.

The FBI does not issue clearances or nonclearances for anyone other than its own personnel or persons having access to FBI facilities. Background investigations for security clearances are conducted by many different Government agencies. Persons who received a clearance while in the military or employed with some other government agency should contact that entity. Most government agencies have websites which are accessible on the internet which have their contact information.

An identification record or "rap sheet" is NOT the same as an FBI "file" - it is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and related documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization or military service. The subject of a "rap sheet" may obtain a copy by submitting a written request to FBI, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, Record Request, 1000 Custer Hollow Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306. Along with a specific written request, the individual must submit a new full set of his/her fingerprints in order to locate the record, establish positive identification, and ensure that an individual's records is not disseminated to an unauthorized person. The fingerprint submission must include the subject's name, date of birth and place of birth. There is a required fee of $18 for this service which must be submitted in the form of a money order or certified bank check made payable to the Treasury of the United States. A credit card payment option is also available. Forms for this option and additional directions may be obtained by accessing the FBI Web site at www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm.

The National Name Check Program (NNCP) conducts a search of the FBI's Universal Index (UNI) to identify any information contained in FBI records that may be associated with an individual and provides the results of that search to the requesting Federal, State or local agency. For the NNCP, a name is searched in a multitude of combinations and phonetic spellings to ensure all records are located. The NNCP also searches for both "main" and "cross reference" files. A main file is an entry that carries the name corresponding to the subject of a file while a cross reference is merely a mention of an individual contained in a file. The results from a search of this magnitude can result in several "hits" and "idents" on an individual. In each instance where UNI has identified a name variation or reference, information must be reviewed to determine whether it is applicable to the individual in question.

The Record/Information Dissemination Section/Freedom of Information-Privacy Act (FOIPA) search for records provides copies of FBI files relevant to a FOIPA request for information. FOIPA provides responsive documents to requestors seeking "reasonably described information." For a FOIPA search, the subject name, event, activity, business, or event is searched to determine whether there is an investigative file associated with the subject. This is called a "main file search" and differs from the NNCP search.

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FBI, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.fbi.gov
Certification of Identity

Privacy Act Statement. In accordance with 28 CFR Section 16.41(d) personal data sufficient to identify the individuals submitting requests by mail under the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a, is required. The purpose of this solicitation is to ensure that the records of individuals who are the subject of U.S. Department of Justice systems of records are not wrongfully disclosed by the Department. Requests will not be processed if this information is not furnished. False information on this form may subject the requester to criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and/or 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(i)(3).

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.50 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Suggestions for reducing this burden may be submitted to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Public Use Reports Project (1103-0016), Washington, DC 20503.

Full Name of Requester 1 ________________________________

Citizenship Status 2 ____________________________ Social Security Number 3 ____________________________

Current Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth ____________________________ Place of Birth ____________________________

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am the person named above, and I understand that any falsification of this statement is punishable under the provisions of 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 by a fine of not more than $10,000 or by imprisonment of not more than five years or both, and that requesting or obtaining any record(s) under false pretenses is punishable under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552a(i)(3) by a fine of not more than $5,000.

Signature 4 ____________________________ Date ____________________________

OPTIONAL: Authorization to Release Information to Another Person

This form is also to be completed by a requester who is authorizing information relating to himself or herself to be released to another person.

Further, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(b), I authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to release any and all information relating to me to:

Print or Type Name

1 Name of individual who is the subject of the record(s) sought.
2 Individual submitting a request under the Privacy Act of 1974 must be either "a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(a)(2). Requests will be processed as Freedom of Information Act requests pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Section 552, rather than Privacy Act requests, for individuals who are not United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence.
3 Providing your social security number is voluntary. You are asked to provide your social security number only to facilitate the identification of records relating to you. Without your social security number, the Department may be unable to locate any or all records pertaining to you.
4 Signature of individual who is the subject of the record sought.
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

Exhibit C
The attached letter is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.
Thank you.

Dan Christensen
Dear FOIA officer:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act. I am a news reporter as I describe in more detail below. The information I seek pertains to the FBI investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Release is justified because the attacks are a matter of intense public interest and this material “is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding.”

I request a search of the FBI’s indices to the Central Records System and the filings system of the bureau’s Tampa field office for information pertaining to an anti-terrorism investigation regarding activities at the residence at 4224 Escondito Circle, in the Prestancia development near Sarasota, Florida prior to 9/11/2001. The activities involve apparent visits to that address by some of the deceased 9/11 hijackers.

The FBI investigation began in the fall of 2001 and continued into at least 2003. Local FBI officials have said the investigation is closed.

I request copies of all FBI 302 reports about the matter, as well as all related investigative reports or FBI memos or correspondence – including the FBI’s findings and conclusions as to what happened at that address. Likewise, I request copies of reports, information or summaries obtained about the matter from any foreign law enforcement organization or intelligence service, to include Saudi intelligence.
Please send a memo (copy to me) to the Tampa field office to assure that no records related to this request are destroyed. Please advise me of any destruction of records and include the date of and authority for such destruction.

If documents are denied in whole or in part, please cite the appropriate exemption.

I request a fee waiver. I am a contract reporter with The Miami Herald. I also operate the nonprofit news site www.browardbulldog.org I recently wrote about this matter, and intend to publish additional stories. Stories previously published by the Herald and Broward Bulldog generated enormous public interest about a matter of continuing public concern, the terrorist attacks of 2001. As such, the material I seek “is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of government,” specifically the FBI’s findings and conclusions about an investigation FBI spokesmen in Florida have said was closed years ago.

I can be reached on my cell phone, 954-242-2822. Please call rather than write if there are any questions or if you need additional clarification from me.

I expect a response to this request within ten (10) working days, as provided for in the Freedom of Information Act.

Sincerely,

Dan Christensen

P.S. – This request is a modified version of FOIPA request 1174909-000. Please note this new request concerns no third parties. I would appreciate an expedited response. Thanks.
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,


Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

____________________________________________________

Exhibit D
MR. DAN CHRISTENSEN

FOIPA Request No.: 1176403-000
Subject: ADDRESS 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request to the FBI. Please check for the status of your FOIPA request at www.fbi.gov/foia

☐ This FOIPA request has been received at FBI Headquarters for processing.
☐ This FOIPA request has been received at the [_____ Resident Agency / _____ Field Office] and forwarded to FBI Headquarters for processing.
☐ We are searching the indices to our Central Records System for the information responsive to this request. You will be informed of the results in future correspondence.
☐ Your request for a fee waiver is being considered and you will be advised of the decision at a later date.

The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request. Your patience is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information

Dissemination Section

Records Management Division
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

Exhibit E
MR. DAN CHRISTENSEN

FOIPA Request No.: 1176403-000
Subject: ADDRESS 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This is in further reference to your letter dated October 27, 2011 directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and your November 20, 2011 letter directed to the Department of Justice Office of Information Policy, in which you requested expedited processing for the above referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

You have requested expedited processing pursuant to the DOJ standard permitting expedition in two categories:

28 C.F.R. §16.5 (d)(1)(ii): "An urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity, if made by a person primarily engaged in disseminating information."

28 C.F.R. §16.5 (d)(1)(iv): "A matter of widespread and exceptional media interest in which there exist possible questions about the government's integrity which affect public confidence."

Based on the information provided, your request for expedited processing has been granted.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and )
DAN CHRISTENSEN, )
Plaintiffs, )
 )
v. )
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and )
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, )
Defendants. )

__________________________________________

Exhibit F
Mr. Dan Christensen

FOIPA Request No.: 1176403-000
Subject: ADDRESS 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE SARASOTA FL (2001-2003)

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 27, 2011. The collection, maintenance and disclosure of the records to which you seek access, like the records of all Federal agencies, are governed by the provisions of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). The Federal law prohibits disclosure of such records in the absence of written authorization of the individuals to whom the records pertain.

Also, the Privacy Act allows for the release of documents pertaining to an individual if disclosure is required by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In this regard, we have determined that disclosure of the records you have requested could constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and as such, would be exempt from disclosure pursuant to exemptions (b)(6) and/or (b)(7)(C) of the FOIA.

As the FBI has publically stated, a review of our records revealed that in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the FBI received a large number of calls from the public reporting suspicious activity. At no time during the course of its investigation of the attacks, known as the PENTTBOM investigation, did the FBI develop credible evidence that connected the address at 4224 Escondido Circle, Sarasota, Florida to any of the 9/11 hijackers.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,
Plaintiffs,
v.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Defendants.

Exhibit G
Dan Christensen

Melanie Ann Pustay
Director, Office of Information Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
1425 New York Ave. NW
Suite 11050
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

FOIA # 1176403-0000  FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL

Dear Ms. Pustay:

This is an appeal of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Feb. 7, 2012 denial of my expedited FOIA request dated Oct. 27, 2011.

My request pertains to the FBI investigation into the 9/11 terrorist attacks, specifically that part of the inquiry that focused on a residence at 4224 Escondito Circle, near Sarasota, Fl. FBI Records Section Chief David M. Hardy denied my request after erroneously determining that disclosure would constitute "an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." In fact, I sought no information about any specific individual – and none are named in my request.

Any legitimate privacy concerns for individuals that may arise from my request could easily be remedied by excising their names before the records are released. That easy solution should have been offered to me by Mr. Hardy, but was not.

Mr. Hardy's denial was also deficient in that he did not provide me with the number of pages that were being withheld, or make a reasonable estimate regarding the volume of the information that was withheld. I appeal that defacto denial, too, and ask that those numbers be provided to me.

I expect a determination on this appeal within 20 (twenty) business days. Questions? I can be reached on my cell phone, 954-242-2822 or by email at dchristensen@browardbulldog.org. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Dan Christensen

Cc: Thomas Julin, Esq.
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Defendants.

Exhibit H
Mr. Dan Christensen

Re: Request No. 1176403

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This is to advise you that your administrative appeal from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was received by this Office on March 7, 2012.

The Office of Information Policy has the responsibility of adjudicating such appeals. In an attempt to afford each appellant equal and impartial treatment, we have adopted a general practice of assigning appeals in the approximate order of receipt. Your appeal has been assigned number AP-2012-01599. Please mention this number in any future correspondence to this Office regarding this matter.

We will notify you of the decision on your appeal as soon as we can. If you have any questions about the status of your appeal you may contact me at the number above.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Jones
Supervisory Administrative Specialist
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Defendants.

Exhibit I
Mr. Dan Christensen

Dear Mr. Christensen:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your request for access to records concerning an investigation relating to 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida.

The Freedom of Information Act provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. After carefully considering your appeal, I am affirming, on partly modified grounds, the FBI's action on your request. To the extent that responsive records exist, without consent, proof of death, official acknowledgment of an investigation, or an overriding public interest, disclosure of law enforcement records concerning an individual could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). I note that the FBI informed you that it conducted a search for responsive records but found no "credible evidence that connected the address at 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida to any of the 9/11 hijackers." I further note that while the FBI conducted a search in this instance, the FBI properly asserted Exemption 7(C) and was not required to conduct a search for the requested records. See Blackwell v. FBI, 646 F.3d 37, 41-42 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (upholding agency's refusal to conduct a search for law enforcement records pertaining to named third parties because such records are categorically exempt from disclosure in the absence of an overriding public interest).

Furthermore, I am denying your request that we itemize and justify each item of the information withheld. You are not entitled to such a listing at the administrative stage of processing FOIA requests and appeals. See Bangoura v. U.S. Dep't of the Army, 607 F. Supp. 2d 134, 143 n.8 (D.D.C. 2009).

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the actions of the FBI in response to your request.
For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 301-837-0348.

Sincerely,

Janice Galli McLeod
Associate Director
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

Exhibit J
VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Dan Christensen

FOIPA Request No. 1176403-002
Subject: 4224 Escondito Circle
Civil Action No.: 12-cv-61735 (SDFL)

Dear Mr. Christensen:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
<th>Section 552a</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ (b)(1)</td>
<td>(b)(7)(A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗ (b)(2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔ (b)(3)</td>
<td>(b)(7)(C)</td>
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<td>✗ (b)(4)</td>
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<td>✗ (b)(9)</td>
<td>(b)(7)(I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✗ (b)(10)</td>
<td>(b)(7)(J)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35 pages were reviewed and 31 pages are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

In accordance with standard FBI practice and pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) [5 U.S.C. § 552/552a (b)(7)(E)/(j)(2)], this response neither confirms nor denies the existence of your subject's name on any watch lists.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.
You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's eFOIA portal at http://www.justice.gov/oip/efoia-portal.html. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked “Freedom of Information Appeal.” Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief
Record/Information Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosures (2): Explanation of Exemptions; Bates pages SARASOTA-1 through SARASOTA-35
cc: Carole Fernandez, Assistant United States Attorney

In response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to FBI Headquarters, enclosed is a processed copy of responsive FBI documents.

Documents were located which originated with, or contained information concerning an Other Government agency [OGA]. This information was referred to the OGA for consultation and their response had been incorporated in this release.
EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

(b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;

(b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;

(b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;

(b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;

(b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;

(b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions;

(b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

(d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;

(j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;

(k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;

(k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;

(k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;

(k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;

(k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;

(k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.
IN THE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: 12-cv-61735-WJZ

BROWARD BULLDOG, and
DAN CHRISTENSEN,

Plaintiffs,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, and
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,

Defendants.

Exhibit K
(U) ALLEGED SARASOTA LINK TO 9/11 HIJACKERS

(U) The FBI found no evidence that connected the family members mentioned in the Miami Herald article to any of the 9/11 hijackers, nor was any connection found between the family and the 9/11 plot.

BACKGROUND

(U) In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, among the large volume of calls received by the FBI from the public to report on suspicious activity, the FBI received at least three calls regarding the alleged abrupt departure before 9/11 of the residents of 4224 Escondido Circle, Sarasota, Fl. One of the callers, the local Postal Inspector, advised that mail was piling up at the house and that the family did not leave a forwarding address. Interviews of the Postal Inspector and the property manager of the gated community in which this residence was located identified the residents of the house to be [Redacted] and his wife [Redacted] and the owner of the house to be [Redacted] (father of [Redacted]).

(U) [Redacted] and her mother [Redacted] were interviewed in July 2002, after FBI Tampa learned that they had returned to the United States (note: this information was obtained from the then-security officer of the gated community, who is quoted in the Herald article). [Redacted] advised that she and her family left the United States in late August/early September 2001 on a planned departure. She denied that they had fled, advised that her husband had found employment in Saudi Arabia, and provided a contact telephone number for them in Saudi Arabia.

INVESTIGATION

(U) The FBI's PENTTBOM investigation found no evidence of any contact between the hijackers and the [Redacted] family, to include telephone, email, or financial contact. The FBI also found no evidence of hijacker vehicles having visited the [Redacted] residence (note: the FBI appears not to have obtained the vehicle entry records of the gated community, given the lack of connection to the hijackers).

(U) All known telephone numbers for the [Redacted] family were searched through available databases with negative results. The numbers also were specifically searched against call records from all telephones and calling cards used by the hijackers, again with negative results.

OTHER INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. [Redacted] aka [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

(U) In 2002, there was reporting that a "family member" of [Redacted], known as [Redacted], aka [Redacted], was a flight student at Huffing...
Venice, Florida. Hijackers Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi attended Huffman Aviation, was interviewed multiple times after 9/11 and identified Atta and Al-Shehhi as individuals who had flight training at Huffman. However, investigation did not reveal any other connection between them and the hijackers and the 9/11 plot. In addition, [redacted] denied knowing [redacted] as a relative of the [redacted] family. There is no further information to substantiate the claim that [redacted] as a relative of the [redacted] family.
Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter to Attorney General Holder and FBI Director Mueller dated September 14, 2011, seeking information about alleged links between a Saudi family living in Florida and the 9/11 hijackers. Specifically, your letter asks whether this matter was investigated by the FBI and whether information developed by the FBI was disclosed to Congress and to the 9/11 Commission’s inquiry. This letter supplements information provided orally by the FBI to your staff last month.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, the FBI received a large number of calls from the public reporting suspicious activity. Among those, the FBI received at least three calls regarding the alleged abrupt departure of residents of a specific address in Sarasota, Florida shortly before the 9/11 attacks. During the course of its investigation of the attacks, known as the PENTTBOM investigation, the FBI followed up on these calls but found no credible evidence of any contact between the hijackers and the family; nor did the investigation find any evidence whatsoever of any physical visits or telephone, email or financial contact between the hijackers and family. Members of the Saudi family were subsequently located and interviewed. Contrary to suggestions in media reports, the FBI did not develop any evidence that connected the family members to any of the 9/11 hijackers or to the 9/11 plot.

During the course of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into the events of 9/11, congressional investigators were granted access to virtually all PENTTBOM-related documents, with the exception of material protected by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. The records concerning the Sarasota matter are not protected by Rule 6(c) and were therefore available to congressional investigators. During the eight-month period of the inquiry, the Joint Inquiry staff reviewed tens of thousands of documents in the FBI’s possession and the FBI formally produced records to staff investigators upon request. In total, the FBI produced more than 24,000 pages of records through this process. The records of the Joint Congressional Inquiry were subsequently transferred to the 9/11 Commission. As a result of their review of FBI records, congressional investigators focused on several aspects of the PENTTBOM investigation originating in Florida, but the FBI is unable to ascertain whether these investigators...
reviewed records concerning the Sarasota family. The FBI also has not identified any specific
requests made by the investigators concerning the Sarasota family.

We very much appreciate the concern that prompted your inquiry. We can assure you
that the FBI's response to the 9/11 attacks was comprehensive and unprecedented. Special
agents responded to more than 300,000 investigative leads, collected and processed more than
150,000 pieces of evidence and conducted more than 167,000 interviews in order to find out
everything possible about the attack. In addition, the investigations conducted by the Joint
Congressional Inquiry and the 9/11 Commission were exhaustive efforts to understand the events
leading up to the attacks. The FBI cooperated fully with those efforts and provided voluminous
information to congressional and Commission staff.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we
may be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Weich
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member

SARASOTA-4
Pursuant to the investigation into the 09/11/01 terrorist attacks, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Tampa Division became aware of a wealthy and successful international businessman and his family residing in a $530,000.00 in an affluent section of Sarasota, Florida. On or about 08/27/2001, the family fled their home.

Based upon repeated citizen calls following September 11, the FBI and the Southwest Florida Domestic Security Task Force became aware of the family. Following an inspection of their home by agents of the Southwest Florida Domestic Security Task Force, it was discovered that the family left their residence quickly and suddenly. They left behind valuable items, clothing, jewelry, and food in a manner that indicated they fled unexpectedly without prior preparation or knowledge.

Further investigation of the family revealed many connections between the individuals associated with the terrorist attacks on 09/11/2001. More specifically, a family member, also...
Precedence: ROUTINE
Date: 09/16/2002

To: Tampa

From: Tampa
   Fort Myers Resident Agency
   Contact: SA
   tel

Approved By:
Drafted By: MLF

(U) Case ID #: (Pending)

(U) Title:

(U) Synopsis: To forward information.

(U) Derived From: G-1
   Declassify Sq#: XI

Enclosures: A envelope containing photocopy of contact telephone numbers for provided by
   Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

Details: On 07/22/2002, the writer interviewed
   and regarding possible terrorist activity
   involvement. and denied any involvement in criminal activity nor terrorist activity.

   Parents are and
   is currently in Saudi Arabia.

   and her mother are in the United States, but planning to return
to London tomorrow.
   denies any involvement in nor any knowledge of any criminal or terrorist activity. Further,
   Denies her father being involved in a criminal or terrorist activity.

   Advised that her father is a businessman
   involved in import and export.

SECRET

SARASOTA-7
To: Tampa  From: Tampa  
Re:  09/16/2002

and her mother denied any knowledge of the following individuals:

nor

advised that last year, in late August and early September, she and her family members left the United States for Saudi Arabia on a regularly scheduled departure. When asked about their seemingly hurried departure from the United States, denied that they fled was surprised that law enforcement was interested in her or her family and she wished to cooperate in any way possible.

advised that she does not know when she or any her family members will return to the United States. Her husband, recently found employment in Saudi Arabia. They can be reached at telephone number

advised that her father is not planning on returning to the United States any time soon.
27 June 2002

To: 

From: 

and mother, arrived in Prestancia Saturday evening.

Their friends, were in the house earlier in the week and turned lights on and also readied their three vehicles for operation. The Jeep Wagoneer is being used by 

just picked up another new cell phone and its number is Their home phone number is

You are aware that the Prestancia Community Association has filed the owner has been made in Saudi Arabia. Could be effected with a few days but we have put this on hold since have agreed that these matters will be properly resolved.

Eldest son has been in touch with our Attorney and the conversation got rather heated. Said they would pay the homeowners fees but wanted a breakdown of cost for portion.

I was asked by the Prestancia Board of Governors to make a return phone call to which I did last night, 26 June. He is a typical nuffy person who wanted me to know that he planned to file a lawsuit against our attorney for Racial Profiling. I explained to him that our conversation would be very short unless he limited the conversation to the issues of money owed to the Community Association. He did apologize and then he said they would be very happy to pay the dues but would withhold the fees. issues will follow.

They had the home mortgage and utilities on

SARASOTA-10
They are arranging to have the house listed for sale. All furniture is going to be moved from the house but a destination was not provided me. I believe that I can obtain this information at a later date.

There has been no unusual activity going through the gates to their residence.

Please let me hear from you if there is anything more specific you might need.

Regards,

[Signature]
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Precedence:** IMMEDIATE  
**Date:** 09/19/2001

**To:** TAMPA  
**Attn:** 

**From:** TAMPA

**Approved By:** JPL

**Drafted By:** 

**Case ID #:** 265D-NY-280350-TP - 2409

**Title:** WORLD TRADE CENTER

**Synopsis:** ICF #: TP2441

**Details:**

**INFORMATION CONTROL FORM**

Control Number: TP2441  
Priority: IMMEDIATE  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Method of Contact: Telephone/Radio

Source:

Affiliation: U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR (TAMPA)

Phone Number: (613) 261-5241

Information Received Date: 09/18/2001  
Time: 10:55 AM

Prepared By: 

Component/Agency: I&I/USC

**Event:** ABOVE POSTAL INSPECTOR CALLED TO PROVIDE SEVERAL LEADS ON SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS NEAR TAMPA. LEAD 1: HE ADVISED THAT AT TAMPA, A CARRIER REPORTED THAT THE HOUSE LOCATED AT THIS ADDRESS IS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY 4 MIDDLE EASTERN MALES. THE MALES HAVE BEEN RUDE TO THE CARRIER. THE INSPECTOR ADVISED THAT THEY ARE NOT SURE HOW LONG THEY HAVE BEEN RESIDING AT THAT LOCATION HOWEVER. THAT APPROX. 1 WEEK AGO, THE MAIL STARTED BACK LOGGING IN THE MAILBOX. ALSO THE 3 TO 4 CARS HE OBSERVED IN THE PARKING LOT WERE ALSO GONE. THIS WEEK (YESTERDAY) ON 9/17/2001, HE NOTICED THAT THE

SARASOTA-12
MAIL WAS PICKED UP AND THE CARS WERE BACK. THE CARRIER
REPORTED THAT THE 4 MALES (ALL OF MIDDLE EASTERN DECENT)
RECEIVED VERY LITTLE MAIL. ONE OF THE NAMES ON A
LETTER/DOCUMENT WAS OBSERVED TO BE [REDACTED]. THE
CARRIER ADVISED THAT THE HOUSE SEEMS TO BE LOCATED ON A
SINKHOLE. THE POSTAL INSPECTOR WILL TRY TO OBTAIN VEHICLE
TAG NUMBERS AND CALL BACK.

LEAD 2: THE SAME POSTAL INSPECTOR REPORTED THAT AT 4224
ESCONDITO CIRCLE, SARASOTA, FL 34238 THE BARTOW GROUP
(REALITY CO) POC: MRS [REDACTED] AT [REDACTED] REPORTED THAT
THIS HOUSE IS LOCATED AT AN Upscale Neighborhood
$350,000-$500,000 DOLLAR HOMES. ADVISED THAT THE PROPERTY
WAS LEASED TO [REDACTED] MIDDLE EASTERN TYPE) ASKED THE REALTOR HOW WOULD SHE FORWARD HER MAIL TO
SAUDI ARABIA. THE POSTAL INSPECTOR ADVISED THAT THE
PROPERTY LOOKS ABANDONED NOW AND THAT THE OCCUPANTS LEFT A HURRY. MRS [REDACTED] MIGHT HAVE THE OCCUPANTS EMAIL ADDRESS.

LEAD 3: THE POSTAL INSPECTOR ALSO ADVISED THAT A LADY BY
THE NAME OF [REDACTED] RECEIVED A LETTER HAVING A SUDDAM
Hussein Stamp on it at her PO BOX in FL. SHE PROMPTLY RETURNED THE LETTER YESTERDAY TO THE CARRIER. SHE ADVISED THE CARRIER THAT THE LETTER DID NOT BELONG TO HER AND THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY SENT TO PO BOX BY MISTAKE. THE LETTER WAS NOT ADDRESSED TO ANYONE, IT JUST HAD THE PO BOX. THE POSTAL INSPECTOR ADVISED THAT HE OPENED THE LETTER AND IT WAS WRITTEN IN ARABIC. HE WILL HAVE THE LETTER DELIVERED TO THE FBI TAMPA FIELD OFFICE-5TH FLOOR THIS
AFTERNOON. WRITER INFORMED INSPECTOR TO ADDRESS THE PACKAGE CONTAINING THE LETTER TO SSA AT THE COMMAND CENTER.
SSA WILL ATTACH THE DOC/LETTER TO THIS INFORMATION CONTROL WHEN RECEIVED. LAST KNOWN ADDRESS FOR [REDACTED] (AS OF 1995) WAS FL 34652, PHONE [REDACTED].

NOTE RECEIVED LETTER ON 9/18/2001 AT 1240 HOURS.

Event Date: Time:

References:

Categories: INFORMATION

Event Reviewed By: JPL

Lead Required?: YES

SARASOTA-13
LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1:

TAMPA

AT TAMPA, FL

Lead Control Number: TR2141
Assigned To[Blank] on 09/18/2001 at 1:05 PM

ITEMS #1 AND #2 - NO FURTHER ACTION.
ITEM #3 - TRANSLATOR TO REVIEW MAIL PROVIDED BY POST OFFICE.
ADVISE WHETHER BELIEVED TO BE PERTINENT TO MAJOR CASE.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Date: 09/20/2001

To: TAMPA

From: TAMPA

Approved By: TDC

Drafted By: 

Case ID #: 265D-NY-280350-TP-26'41

Title: WORLD TRADE CENTER

Synopsis: ICF #: TP2844

Details:

INFORMATION CONTROL FORM

Control Number: TP2844

Priority: IMMEDIATE Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Method of Contact: Telephone/Radio

Source: 

Affiliation: U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR (TAMPA)

Phone Number: (813) 281-5241

Information Received Date: 09/19/2001 Time: 12:25 PM 

Prepared By: 

Component/Agency: I&I/USC

Event: POSTAL INSPECTOR ADVISED THAT HE HAS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE 4224 ESCONDIDA CIRCLF SARASOTA ADDRESS AND THE MIDDLE EASTERN FAMILY THAT MOVED QUICKLY FROM THAT ADDRESS AFTER THE ATTACK. SAID THAT HE CALLED ON 09/18/2001, YESTERDAY AND THAT HE WAS CALLING BACK TO PROVIDE THE TAG# OF THE SUV OBSERVED AT THAT ADDRESS (TAHOE) CHEVY - RESIDENT

Event Date: 

Time: 

SARASOTA-15
References:
Categories: INFORMATION
Event Reviewed By: TDC
Lead Required?: YES
LEAD (s):

Set Lead 1:

TAMPA

AT TAMPA, FL

Lead Control Number: TP2844
Assigned To: [Redacted]
on 09/19/2001 at 7:00 PM

CONTACT INSPECTION:

[Redacted]
Postal Inspector, Tampa, Florida, was advised of the identity of the recipient and the purpose of the interview. Thereafter provided the following information:

Advised that one of his mail carriers, First Name Unknown (FNU), Last Name Unknown (LNU), in Sarasota, Florida, advised him that mail was accumulating at 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida. Advised that the recipient of mail at the aforementioned address is provided a license plate number for a vehicle in the driveway at this address: .

Further advised that the U.S. Postal Service is no longer delivering mail to 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida. Advised that the U.S. Postal Service will hold on to the mail destined for this address for a period of thirty days. After that period, the mail will then be returned to sender.

Investigation on 09/20/25/01 at Tampa, Florida (telephonically)
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE
Date: 09/21/2001
To: TAMPA
From: TAMPA
Approved By: TDC
Drafted By: 
Case ID #: 265A-NY-280350-TP

Title: WORLD TRADE CENTER
Synopsis: ICF #: TP3181
Details: INFORMATION CONTROL FORM

Control Number: TP3181
Priority: ROUTINE
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Method of Contact: Telephone/Radio
Source: 
Affiliation: 
Phone Number: 
Information Received Date: 09/13/2001 Time: 11:38 AM
Prepared By: 
Component/Agency: I&I/FBI

Event: INDIVIDUALS HUSBAND/WIFE AT 4224
ESCONDITO CIRCLE, SARASOTA, FL ARE FROM MID-EAST. NEVER SPOKE TO PEOPLE/NOT FRIENDLY. A COUPLE DAYS AGO THESE PEOPLE SUDDENLY LEFT AREA AND DID NOT TAKE FURNITURE OR VEHICLE. SPOKE TO THE PROPERTY MANAGER OF THE HOUSE WHO INDICATED THAT IT WAS ODD

Event Date: Time:
References:

SARASOTA-19
Categories: INFORMATION
Event Reviewed By: TDC
Lead Required?: NO

NO ACTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE
Date: 09/21/2001

To: TAMPA
From: TAMPA

Approved By: TDC
Drafted By: 

Case ID #: 265A-NY-280350-TP-3771

Title: WORLD TRADE CENTER
Synopsis: ICF #: TP3167
Details:

INFORMATION CONTROL FORM

Control Number: TP3167
Priority: ROUTINE Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Method of Contact: Telephone/Radio
Source: 
Affiliation: 

Phone Number: 

Information Received Date: 09/14/2001 Time: 9:25 AM

Prepared By: 

Component/Agency: I&I/FBI

Event: ARAB FAMILY LIVING AT 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE, PRESTANCIA, 34238, LIVED THERE 3 OR 4 YEARS. ABOUT 2 OR 3 WEEKS AGO HEARD THAT HOUSE WAS FOR SALE. FOR LAST WEEK NO MOVEMENT AT HOUSE BUT THERE IS STILL A CAR IN THE DRIVEWAY. THE HOUSE IS STILL IN NAME OF FAMILY. THEY KEPT TO THEMSELVES OFTEN SAW OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS COME AND GO. THE WIFE DROVE A BEETLE. THERE WAS A GREY JEEP CHEROKEE AND GMC SUV. STILL SOME FURNITURE IN HOUSE AND LIGHT GO ON AUTOMATICALLY EACH NIGHT... OR LEFT ON ALL DAY. THERE ISN'T A 4-SALE SIGN B/C PRESTANCIA DIESN'T ALLOW SIGNS. LISTED WITH A REALTOR.

SARASOTA-21
PRESTANCIA WOULD HAVE RECORD.

Event Date: Time:

References:

Categories: INFORMATION NO ACTION

Event Reviewed By: TDC

Lead Required?: NO

**
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: IMMEDIATE Date: 09/25/2001

To: Counterterrorism Attn: UBLU/RFU

From: Tampa

Squad 6
Contact: SA

Approved By: 

Drafted By: 

Case ID #: 265A-NY-280350-TP (Pending)

Title: PENTTBOMB

MAJOR CASE 182

OO: NY

Synopsis: To report coverage of lead at Tampa, Florida.

Administrative: Tampa Control #2844

Enclosure(s): One photocopy of a bank deposit ticket One FD-302 of

and a debit authorization form for One FD-302 of

Details: Tampa Postal Inspector advised on 09/18/01 that one of his mail carriers indicated that mail was accumulating outside the residence located at 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida, 34238-4520, in the gated upper-scale community of "The Estates of Prestancia."

Telephonic contact during the latter part of the week of 09/17/01 with indicated that left his residence at the aforementioned address approximately two weeks before the terrorist attacks on 09/11/01, and left the residence one week before the attacks on 09/11/01.

Additional telephonic contact with Tampa Postal Inspector on 09/26/01 revealed that the U.S. Postal Service is no longer delivering mail to the residence. The Post Office will hold the mail for thirty days and then return their mail to the respective sender if the

SARASOTA-23
To: Counterterrorism  From: Tampa
Re: 265A-NY-280350-TP, 09/25/2001

Do not contact the postal service in the interim. The provided no forwarding address.

A 1995 four-door Chevrolet vehicle is registered to an at 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida, date of birth (DOB) is listed as

The telephone number for the residence is

SARASOTA-24
To: Counterterrorism  From: Tampa
Re: 265A-NY-280350-TP, 09/25/2001

LEAD(s):
Set Lead 1: (Adm)
    COUNTERTERRORISM
    AT WASHINGTON, DC
    For information.

**
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 09/25/2001

(1.)

[Redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I was advised of the identity of the contacting Agent and the purpose of the interview thereafter provided the following information:

- Advised that her company, the BARLOW GROUP, Inc., is the Managing Agent for "The Estates of Prestancia Homeowners Association, Inc." noted that The Estates of Prestancia consists of 524 homes in a gated, affluent community.

- Advised that the residents of 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, Florida 34238 vacated their residence several weeks ago. The family had resided at the aforementioned address for approximately six years. Indicated that the family's residence approximately two weeks before the terrorist attacks of 09/11/01, while his wife and left the residence approximately one week before the attacks. Advised that the family did not advise anyone of their destination, nor did they leave a forwarding address.

- Noted that the realtor, of Jennette and Rossi, Inc., telephone number (941) 263-2345, 6000, extension 4000, does not have a forwarding address for the family. Further advised that the family's furniture in the residence, and that their mail had not been collected for approximately two weeks.

- Noted that holds a degree in computer engineering and advised that employed as a at Ophelia's Restaurant, an upscale establishment on Siesta Key.

- Stated that recently graduated from the University of South Florida (USF) with a degree in interior design. Further advised that approximately two or three months ago.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is issued to your agency.
advised that parents are and provided an address for the
From: SEP-15-2011 16:22
To: SEP-15-2011 16:37

Sent: Thu Sep 08 14:59:52 2011
Subject: Fw: 7 on Miami Herald article and new info on 9/11 hijackers

Former SRA JTTF TFA and now FDLE ABAC [REDACTED] had this report. I am not in the office now to see how this incident was documented in ACS. Investigating agent [REDACTED] was a former SRA TFA. Also [REDACTED] (co'd) remembers that family leaving, but the rest of the story is news to him.

Thanks.

Sent via Blackberry

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 03-13-2013 BY NSICG F549M9K42

SARASOTA-28
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section 552</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>❑(b)(1)</td>
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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- Document(s) originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

- Page(s) contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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- Page(s) were not considered for release as they are duplicative of ____________________________.

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  Sarasota-29

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  Sarasota-30

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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

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Sarasota-31 through Sarasota-32

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Thank you all!!! Very much appreciated - ROCKS!!!

Hey
A request. I looked into the allegations made in the newspaper article over the weekend that a Saudi family living in the Sarasota area pre-9/11 may have assisted the hijackers and that the FBI knew this information and failed to report it to Congressional oversight or the 9/11 Commission.

The paper alleged that a Saudi Arabian family - who lived in the gated PRESTANCI A community at 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE in Sarasota - had phone contacts with 11 terrorist suspects, including 9/11 ringleader MOHAMED ATTA. The residents were said to be and his wife. The home was owned by father. The family is alleged to have left the US in haste around two weeks before the attacks. They are also alleged to have had contact with another hijacker who the newspaper identified as WALID AL-SHEHHRl, as well as AQ operative. The paper specifically says that phone records (my emphasis) linked the home of the family to the hijackers. The article further states that records of incoming and outgoing calls at the Escondito home were obtained from phone company under subpoena.

My research and conclusions:

I could not substantiate the allegations based on my research. I do not believe there is a connection between any of the above named members of this family and any of the 9/11 hijackers or based on phone records that I see in FBI and high-side systems as well as database searches.

I did confirm that after the events of September 11th, 2001, the FBI and the RDSTF looked into allegations that this family fled quickly before the attacks and was concerned that they had connections to the hijackers.

Specifically, on 09/25/2001, the Tampa Division drafted a response to a CTD lead (Tampa PENTTBOMB Control #2844). This document is a synopsis of two interviews, one with postal inspector who had reported on 09/18/01 that one of his mail carriers stated that mail was piling up outside the home at 4224 ESCONDITO CIRCLE. The second interview summaries is a 09/17/01 interview of of the BARLOW (also named in the newspaper article), who claimed that (note name variation) left the residence approx. two weeks before the attacks, while his wife left the residence one week before the attacks.

On April 16, 2002, the FBI opened up investigation of the owner of the property. The predication was as follows: "Based upon repeated citizen calls following September 11, the FBI and the Southwest Florida Domestic Security Task Force became aware of the family. Following an inspection of their home by agents of the Southwest Florida Domestic Security Task Force, it was discovered that left their residence quickly and suddenly. They left behind valuable items, clothing, jewelry, and food in a manner that indicated they fled unexpectedly without prior preparation or knowledge. Further investigation of the revealed many connections between the family members and individuals associated with the terrorist attacks on 09/11/2001. More specifically, a family member, also known as , last known address , DOB , was a flight student at Huffman Aviation."
The case file of the investigation only has three serials. SA interviewed [who returned to the US in 2002] in serial 3 and found no nexus to terrorism. The any connection to the hijackers or even knowing who the above named individual was. Perhaps SA would know more but it does not look like the investigation turned up anything.

In sum, while this matter was known to the FBI and RDSTF, it was investigated and found to be without merit. I ran all the domestic telephone numbers I had for the family and could find no connection to any of the 9-11 hijackers and almost no connections to any 1T cases. If the newspaper or complainants had phone records that show the connection I don't see it in our systems, nor do I see that the records were ever

Just for your notes I ran the following numbers through [plus three numbers I found not listed in EDIE's report; (listed below as of September 28, 2002)] and none had connections to the hijackers.

Finally, thanks to IA [who helped with some of the research above].

Hope this helps!