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DATE 04-12-2016 BY J36J55T41 NSICG

(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 [redacted] Sarasota, FL. One of the callers, the [redacted]

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[redacted] Interviews of the [redacted] of the gated community in which this residence was located identified the residents of the house to be [redacted]

(U) [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 [redacted])

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advised that [redacted] family left the United States in late August/early September 2001 on a planned departure. [redacted] denied that they had fled, advised that [redacted] and provided a contact telephone number for them in [redacted]

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).

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(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.

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OTHER INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. [redacted]

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(U) In 2002, there was reporting that a "family member" of [redacted] known as [redacted] Hijackers Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi attended Huffman Aviation. [redacted] was interviewed multiple times after 9/11 and identified Atta and Al-Shehhi as individuals [redacted] However, investigation did not reveal any other connection

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between [redacted] and the hijackers and the 9/11 plot. In addition, [redacted] denied knowing [redacted]. There is no further information to substantiate the claim that [redacted] was a relative of the [redacted] family.

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