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Memorandum

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Event: Interview of Special Agent [redacted]
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Prepared by: Doug Greenburg
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Participants - FBI: SA [redacted] Pat O'Brien, Esq.
Participants-Commission: D. Greenburg, J. Roth, S. Wille

On October 28 2003, we interviewed FBI Special Agent [redacted] at the FBI's Detroit Division for approximately 30 minutes. This memorandum provides a summary of what we consider the most important points covered in the interview, but is not a verbatim account. The memorandum is organized by subject and does not necessarily follow the order of the interviews. All information in this memorandum was provided by [redacted] during the interview unless stated in brackets.

Background

[redacted] joined the FBI in 1991, after graduating from Western Michigan University, becoming a C.P.A. and working 4-5 years with Deloitte & Touche. With the FBI, he spent 6 years in Chicago doing white collar investigations before transferring to Detroit in 1997. He continued to work on white collar cases in Detroit, including financial institution fraud and a 2-3 year stint on the identity theft task force. In December 2002, he transferred to counter-terrorism, bringing with him a credit card "bust-out" case, with ties to Hizbollah. Several other of his fraud cases have potential terrorism connections.

JTTF Terrorist Financing Coordinator

[redacted] said he was designated the Detroit JTTF terrorist financing coordinator (TFC) in the Summer 2003. He understands his role to be serving as the point of contact at the division for terrorist financing issues and to coordinate and facilitate information to and from the Division and TFOS.

After becoming TFC, [redacted] attended a one-day conference at FBIHQ, where he was briefed on the position. Since his return, he is on the TFC distribution list, so he has been receiving ECs from TFOS, such as requests for information about certain types of cases (e.g., cases involving Hawalas) or information about TFOS capabilities and resources. He forwards the ECs to the relevant personnel or the entire JTTF.

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[redacted] has not been provided with specific criteria about when he should notify TFOS about a case, and he has not given any guidance to the JTTF on when they should notify him about a case. That said, [redacted] knows TFOS should be informed of any significant terrorist financing case, and all the JTTF supervisors know they should inform [redacted] of any such cases.

[redacted] said he sees the primary role of TFOS as providing resources and support to the field. For example, TFOS can help with foreign government contacts or CIA traces. TFOS also can provide analytical support. In one case in which he was involved, TFOS sent a financial analyst to Detroit to help analyze bank records. [Author's Note: [redacted] had a positive view of TFOS, its usefulness to the field agents, and the reasons TFOS wants to be informed of terrorist financing cases. In each of these regards, his views differed dramatically from the Minneapolis TFC, who essentially thought TFOS wanted to cherry pick the best cases and take them away from the field and had little understanding of what TFOS could do to support the field. See [redacted] MFR].

[redacted] recently attended a TFC training conference in Pittsburgh. He said it was generally useful. He learned some useful information from the presentations and made some good contacts.

[redacted] said he has no problem being TFC, as long as the role is limited to coordination. It makes some sense for him to fill the position, given his experience in financial cases, as well as his strong contacts with the local financial community, which is the result of his experience, and his desire to remain at in the Detroit FO for the long-term. He wants to continue working cases and has no desire to be a supervisor, so he hopes and expects the TFC position will not evolve into a more time-consuming role.

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