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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of Peter Brust**Date:** November 5, 2003**Special Access Issues:** None**Prepared by:** Dieter Snell**Team Number:** 1A**Location:** FBI Baltimore Field Office**Participants – Commission:** Dieter Snell, Hyon Kim**FBI Representative:** Bob Sinton

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Peter Brust has been with the FBI for 17 years. He was ASAC in charge of counter-terrorism from 9/11/01 to 10/16/01 and then again between 7/02 and 8/03.

Upon hearing of the 9/11 attacks, Brust immediately participated in setting up a command post, which operated around the clock over the next 16 days. The post initially concentrated on pursuing names on the manifests from the four targeted 9/11 flights and sought to determine whether anyone remained in the Baltimore area who might have provided support to the 5-7 hijackers who spent time there before the attacks. The post also devoted a great deal of attention to preventive measures, focusing on airports, storage facilities, means of public transportation, and crop dusters. Thousands of interviews were conducted.

Shortly after the attacks, a source contacted either OSI or someone at Andrews Air Base regarding bags belonging to the hijackers that had been left at the Ayah Islamic Center, where Said Rageah was the imam. Prior to 9/11, the FBI had no information regarding that mosque.

(u) (\$) During 2001 (i.e., before 9/11) the Baltimore office was beginning to ramp up its counter-terrorism effort, although it had only 4 special agents assigned to CT. [redacted] was brought in to be the counter-terrorism supervisor, and a few FISAs were in the works. Informants were scarce but sought after. An MOU was drafted to help set up a JTTF to operate out of Calverton under [redacted] supervision. Informants developed since 9/11 have provided significant leads, but none of those really relate back to Penttbom.

As currently constituted, the office's JTTF includes representatives of over 20 agencies. The Maryland Coordination and Analytical Center, also in Calverton, performs

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threat analysis. The FBI coordinates closely with the Maryland State Police regarding terrorism threat investigations and makes use of the computerized tracking center that handles calls about potential threats. The counter-terrorism effort also includes a maritime group that works with the Coast Guard. At present, there are two international terrorism squads plus a domestic terrorism squad. The FCI side has two squads.

[redacted] (one of the cases about which the Commission is inquiring) initially was suspected to be an important potential witness but subsequently appeared far less significant. Brust believes [redacted] was deported after satisfying his material witness obligations in the SDNY. [redacted] the other subject of interest, is still around, so his case remains open.

Brust believes that the Bureau maintains good relations with the Middle Eastern community in the Baltimore area and has pursued outreach efforts since 9/11.

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