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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: [redacted] Scottsdale Police Department, Phoenix JTTF

Type of Event: Interview

Date: October 20, 2003

Special Access Issues: None

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Team number: 6

Location: FBI, Phoenix Field Office

Participants Non-Commission: Bob Sinton, Assistant General Counsel, FBI

Participants – Commission: Michael Jacobson and Caroline Barnes

Background

After completing college [redacted] went to work for a law firm. He decided at that point not to go to law school, and applied to the Police Department in Scottsdale. He worked as a patrol officer for 3 years then was promoted to a detective spot. He has worked asset forfeiture, conspiracy, and narcotics during his time with the PD. He ran a Title 3 for one of his cases, in conjunction with the FBI, so he had worked with the FBI prior to coming to the JTTF. He also has a Masters degree in educational leadership and would eventually like to become a teacher.

He was assigned to the JTTF in July 2003 from the Scottsdale PD Intelligence Unit. When he came on the JTTF in July, the FBI was welcoming. Currently, there are 3 JTTF squads in Phoenix, of which 2 are intelligence squads and one is criminal. They will soon all become intelligence squads.

Attitude of Police Department Management Toward the JTTF

The Phoenix FBI has been very open to inviting local agencies to participate. The former Chief of the Scottsdale PD was reluctant to put someone on the JTTF. He was fired in March 2003. The current Police Chief wanted to put someone on the JTTF immediately.

In November 2002 [redacted] was working a conspiracy drug case which looked like it had a CT nexus. He placed a call to the Phoenix Division and spoke to the duty agent. The agent took the information and passed it on to [redacted] the DIA representative.

[redacted] called him and he worked with him on the case once he joined the JTTF. He thinks this experience is in part what led to his being selected for the JTTF position.

He doesn't think that, even now, the PD command staff is willing to back them up with resources (for CT purposes). He doesn't think that the PD management's eyes have been fully opened as to what CT is all about. Basically, there is an "out of sight, out of mind" feeling about it.

The FBI has encouraged his command staff (his Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief) to get security clearances. However, they have not been aggressive in pursuing clearances. He thinks that if they did have clearances they would be more satisfied with the information they were getting. He doesn't know why they haven't gotten clearances. His Chief does not have clearances. The Deputy Chief was complaining to him about information sharing, saying that she doesn't know what's going on in Scottsdale, but she hasn't put in for his clearance. He thinks that the sergeants, lieutenants, through the chiefs, should have clearances.

There have been cases when he gets great information at the JTTF but isn't able to pass it on back to his management (because of the lack of security clearances). He thinks that this type of information would help heighten their concern about CT issues. If they saw what he saw, they would be concerned.

The Captain was frustrated in a few instances not knowing about things. For example, there was a CT surveillance going on in Scottsdale. Citizens called into the Police Department concerned and the JTTF wouldn't tell the patrol officers what was going on. The captain was upset that he wasn't told about it. There was another instance when workers found some strange diagrams in a storage locker. They called the FBI, and the FBI did not respond. Personnel from Luke Air Force Base finally sent someone.

His experience has been that although no lead is left uncovered, but there are manpower and resource constraints.

Role of Scottsdale PD intelligence unit

The Scottsdale PD intelligence unit liaises with the FBI on CT issues. They have quarterly meetings led by the US Attorney's Office, in which they all participate. The intelligence unit handles only issues within the City of Scottsdale. They handle mostly vice crimes, domestic terrorism, and organized crime. Basically, anything of relevance to Scottsdale. His superior at the PD had a clearance, but his current supervisor does not. There is 1 detective currently going through the clearance process.

There are 6 detectives, 2 analysts, and a supervisor at the intelligence unit. He reports back to them. The analysts maintain database files. They will check the databases for the officers, and will run charts. They should be doing more reports setting forth trends and patterns and he hopes they will be doing this soon.

Current responsibilities

His assignment on the JTTF is open ended. The FBI has asked for at least one year. He would like to stay longer. His command staff was interested in the JTTF and he met with them a lot initially, but that interest has now "petered out." He doesn't think that there is more pressure on the PD to work drugs, etc, now that the FBI is less focused on these matters. There are a number of state and local PDs who are not on the JTTF. Scottsdale, the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Tempe and Mesa all are, but there are plenty of cities who are not. There is a DPS officer on the criminal JTTF squad. He doesn't deal with that person. He was the first local officer on his squad. Squad 23, on the other hand, was filled with state and local officers. There would be plenty of work for another person from the Scottsdale PD. He doesn't know if there is an invitation for another person. The state police intelligence branch lent analysts to Scottsdale for a specific investigation. He doesn't know whether the state police have CT investigations outside of the JTTF.

His role on the JTTF is both to find areas of common ground with the other personnel, and to share information as well.

He has been called back for police-related training while on the JTTF. This includes defensive tactics, firearms, etc. He really has no non-counterterrorism related responsibilities any more though. He is on the foreign dignitary protection detail. Otherwise, everything he is currently working on is JTTF related.

He thinks that he would be included on anything related to Scottsdale. The agent would either come to him and ask for help or just tell him about it. He has had some stuff given directly to him. He has no idea what's going on in the criminal squads, only in the intelligence squads. With the change to the 315 classification, all three JTTF squads will work criminal and intelligence.

He has handled the call-in complaints. He will get a nice lead report, written by an analyst and provided to him through the squad supervisor. He had heard rumors that on some JTTFs the state/locals were being tasked to do menial work. In contrast, from day one on the JTTF, he has been given full authority to handle cases. There are cases which he shares with an FBI agent. He has 1 large case that he brought with him to the JTTF and a lot of leads he's working on. He has 15-17 matters he is handling in all, which is a combination of cases and leads. He is allowed to handle a lead on his own. He would grab someone else to join him if he were going to do an interview.

He has gotten both leads and long-term investigations. He noted that there is so much paperwork at the FBI. It is much more paperwork than he had at the PD.

Training

He has gotten a fair amount of CT training. He has done on-line virtual training. He has attended [redacted] briefing, and has looked over manuals. He thinks he will be able to get additional training. The JTTF would pay for that. But the training he's had is not enough: the biggest frustration has been the huge jump from police work to CT. He jumped in with no class to take. He just had to ask people for help. He doesn't know a way around that. Maybe they should have a formal JTTF training program.

Analysts

He has a little bit of interaction with the FBI analysts. He thinks that this will get better. He looks at them as an information resource with historical knowledge. He specifically mentioned [redacted] as someone who took the initiative and came to him regarding his large case. He has a strong background in the issues that [redacted] is working so can organize the information coming in and put it in the proper context. [redacted] sees the analytical role as integral on this larger case.

Language Specialists

He hasn't dealt with the language specialists. He doesn't know much about them.

Disseminated products from Phoenix JTTF

He deals only with classified information. The FBI is good about putting out unclassified security briefings and updates. But they are pretty generic and lack specificity.

The detectives on the intelligence units are on an email list. They receive disseminated products from the FBI maybe weekly or maybe even more often than that. The information could be DT or IT related.

Analytic products

Department of Homeland Security sends out the same type of thing. It is generally law enforcement sensitive, and contains information about trends. He gets DHS emails a few times a week. The Arizona Dept of Public Safety Intelligence Squad disseminates all DHS information, they are the hub for this. The DPS Intelligence Squad is very large. DPS has lent analysts to the Scottsdale PD in the past and they were very professional people.

He doesn't recall getting TTIC products. He read an article about them.

His squad deals with the CT Watch Section at FBIHQ. They also tell CT Watch about leads generated in Phoenix.

SSA Ken Williams, his Squad Supervisor, is a wealth of information and is very helpful.

Access to databases

His squad is the only one with state and local. They also have ICE, Secret Service, and FBI SAs. The ICE agent has access to his own databases at the office.

He has access to ACS. He uses it a lot. He has the same access as the FBI agents. He uses it mostly for name checks. He has no access to the Scottsdale PD databases and thinks that having such access would be helpful. Currently he must call over to Scottsdale and have them run any searches he needs. He was issued a laptop which he brought with him to the JTTF. However, his department chose to take the laptop away from him saying they needed it for something else – probably a supervisor who felt slighted because he didn't have one. He would have had access to his department's databases if he'd had the laptop, and he thinks his Department may not have realized that. This would have allowed him to do utility checks, address checks, and arrest checks, etc. His Lieutenant was the one who made the decision to take the laptop away. There are Police Automated Computer Entry (PACE) terminals in the building but he cannot access them yet – he is working on that now. The local county attorney here has a laptop, and is able to tap into his database.

He doesn't have any Intelligence Community databases. It sounds to him like these would be important to have.

9/11 Classified Information

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The [redacted] are very busy. It has to be a high priority to get on their schedule. He's heard agents talk about how they can't get them. He doesn't know much about the distinctions between the two.

Role of patrol officers in CT

They have given training department wide to patrol officers. He's even been told to put together a 4-8 hour training block over the next six months for the patrol officers. The need has been recognized. They had pamphlets and index cards for state and local to give to the patrol officers, so they know what to look for.

Right after 9/11, the patrol officers were looking for CT-related activity. He doesn't think that they are looking for that any more; they probably are not as excited as they once were about CT matters. It's just like the rest of society, who have lost interest in these issues.

Funding for state homeland security matters

The Deputy Chief's job is to look at homeland security and coordinate such matters within the city. The statewide organization, the Arizona Counterterrorism Intelligence Center (ACTIC) has yet to come to fruition. The funding to carry this out isn't coming yet. The state has no money. He isn't convinced that they will get the money for this. Scottsdale has not yet gotten a federal grant, which some other cities have gotten for their efforts.

Interaction with FBIHQ

He has written ECs and sent them to HQ. He has gotten calls from HQ personnel about these ECs from HQ analysts and 1 agent. Another person has gotten far more calls from HQ than he has. When he first arrived on the squad, he felt his reports just went in to a black hole at FBIHQ. He has learned that HQ personnel do actually read his reports.

Trilogy

He hasn't seen the Trilogy demonstration, but hears the new system will be very helpful. They will get it in December or January.

Overall thoughts

The FBI agents are passionate about and dedicated to CT. If the PD was so passionate and dedicated, there would be no crime.