

**Special Bombing Review Commission
Howard Office Building 700 2nd Avenue
South Sonny West Conference Room
Nashville, Tennessee 37210**

August 24, 2021

MINUTES

Present:

Mario Avilla
Darrell Talbert
Brenda Sanderson
Lashaun Oliver
Margie Quin
Paul Summers
Jennifer Gamble
Andres Martinez

Absent: Jamie Hollin

1. Call to order and welcome - Chairman Paul Summers
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of allegiance
4. Approval of agenda – Gamble moved/Avilla seconded - carried
5. Approval of minutes of July 2021 meeting – Gamble moved/Martinez seconded - carried
6. Welcome and introduction of guests - Chairman Summers
7. Reports from the leadership of various committee/working groups
 - Commissioner Martinez – working to secure letters to be sent to the agencies requesting AAR's
 - Commissioner Oliver – created spreadsheet to organize the response public/private, investigation, timeline; 37 entities with 15 who have submitted AAR's; some entities overlap, so working now to reduce redundancy; will make recommendations about which agencies to request information.
8. Introduction by Secretary Quin of the TBI Director, Fusion Center and staff
9. Presentation by the TBI and Fusion Center

Report to the commission by TBI Director Rausch –

- Initial response began once TBI was notified; SAC over TBI Criminal Intelligence Unit responded to the scene to determine needs;
- K9 responded to the scene from TBI Fire Division;
- As day unfolded, team began to engage as the Fusion Center, Intelligence Analyst provided intelligence information;
- TBI Criminal Investigative Division assisted on the scene;
- Director Rausch spoke with the FBI and they advised they would take the lead on the investigation;
- Air assets were deployed to obtain early aerial photography of the scene;
- As the day progressed, a more coordinated effort to determine investigative needs was undertaken;
- TBI personnel helped to determine the identity of the RV;
 - TBI Special Agent Forensic Scientists deployed to attempt techniques to reveal numbers and identification;
- End of day one, discussions were had between TBI and FBI – TBI advised they could identify DNA samples within 8 hours of collection;
- TBI SA Forensic Scientists collected tissue samples at the scene to determine a confirmative match – information provided to FBI;
- Once identification was made, personnel conducted a deep dive into the background of the responsible party – no one had this individual on the radar;
- FBI also confirmed familial DNA – identity of the bomber was released.
- The TBI Criminal Intelligence Unit worked closely with the FBI to sort evidence;
- TBI Special Agents participated in team interviews;
- On communications with leadership, briefings, Director stated it was a very impressive example of an information sharing event between partner agencies.

AD Richard Littlehale:

- TBI and state Homeland Security worked together;
- TBI responds to requests for support and assistance; other unit Technical Services Unit engaged to process electronic evidence and investigative efforts;
- The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF) specialist agents were in the center of the investigation; laid the groundwork for the excellent collaboration that occurred.

SAC Alicia Rutherford:

- The Tennessee Fusion Center created in the wake of 911 to enhance communication between law enforcement agencies;

- TFC is one of 80 centers in the US – only one that is co-directed by TBI and Homeland Security – prevent and respond to criminal activity;
- TFC is an “all crimes” center;
- TBI side provides criminal investigative assistance, AMBER Alert/BLUE Alert, Sex Offender Registry (SOR)

10. Questions and Answers

Q&A:

- Chairman Summers – asked the Director to qualify the communication between agencies: Director rated it a “10” on a scale of 1-10. Chairman asked about the timeframe of the investigative response.
 - Director advised that 32-40 hours in they knew they were on the right track and felt like they knew what happened; at that point, efforts turned to determining whether any other co-conspirators were involved. It really was “a couple of months” before they could definitively say that the responsible party acted alone.
 - The RV was very full and it took quite a while to determine the type of bomb – many different types of bomb components in the RV.
 - FBI’s behavioral team was on scene to analyze evidence and information – aided in the analysis of evidence.
 - DNA gave them the opportunity to focus the investigation – never know the real intent because the “actor” is gone.
- Chairman asked for the motive.
 - Director advised that the actor had a fixation on “lizard people” who would come to earth, go through the AT&T switching system to become human and take over the earth.
- Captain Oliver asked for AAR from TBI.
 - Director Rausch advised they are an investigative support agency and because that is their natural role, they do not have a formal AAR;
 - TBI’s information is included in the FBI’s AAR and timeline;
- Captain Oliver asked about lessons learned.
 - Director Rausch advised that relationships and communication were critical;
 - Many new leaders at MNP, ATF and FBI, but had already engaged and had begun meetings to develop relationships;
 - Director said they met at the command post – and teams saw that the leaders had relationships and that trickled down and set the tone for the interaction;
 - Director Rausch stressed the importance of leadership interactions;
 - Largest challenge is always communication;

- Hampered by the physical structure – learned lessons around diversity of resources, telephone communications were challenging with the loss of the AT&T facility;
- Utilize other forms of communications; other platforms and networks;
- Previous efforts to hone in on one type of platform revealed the need for diversification of resources.
- CM Gamble asked about the development of drone assets.
 - Director Rausch stated there was great advantage to utilizing drone capabilities and have since replaced their drones and the asset is up and running;
 - FBI had a team that was collecting evidence and watched how the FBI collected and put together the evidence;
- Secretary Quin asked for additional information on drones:
 - Director stated they learned about diversity in your technology;
 - Need to know where the single points of failure exist; talking with AT&T about putting in place protections for infrastructure;
 - AD Littlehale: discussion about load bearing infrastructure.
- Brenda Sanderson asked about the investigation into the individual and why TBI/Fusion Center didn't know.
 - Director Rausch stated they weren't provided the information, and MNPD didn't ask for assistance or any kind of work up on this individual;
 - Fusion Center had no information on this individual even had they been asked

11. Set date of next meeting (last Tuesday on the month) September 28th

12. Adjourn - Chairman Summers – 11:10

Chairman Paul Summers: _____ *Signature on File* _____ Date: _____