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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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DOJ

Event: Department of Justice briefing on cell and phone calls from UA Flight 175

Type of Event: Briefing

Date: May 13, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Bill Johnstone

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy

Location: U.S. Department of Justice, Room 1137; Washington, DC

Team: 7

Participants (non-Commission): Dave Novak, Assistant U.S. Attorney; [REDACTED]
Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation; Ray Guidetti, New Jersey State Police.

Participants (Commission): Bill Johnstone and John Raidt

[LES] Assistant U.S. Attorney Dave Novak and his team provided a briefing to Team 7 on the calls made from aboard UA Flight 175 on 9/11. This information was derived from a study of the GTE Airfone records from the flight (with expert technical assistance from GTE engineers), an examination of the cell phone records of each of the passengers aboard 9/11 who owned cell phones, and interviews with those who received calls from the flight, as well as with family members of the other passengers and crew. In this way, the briefers were confident that they had identified all completed calls from the four hijacked flights. (All of the calls from Flight 175 were made via the Airfone system.) This work was conducted in support of the U.S. Justice Department's criminal case against Zacarias Moussaoui.

[LES] Because of the capacity limits of the GTE Airfone service only eight outgoing calls could be made from the aircraft at any one time.

[LES] The briefers indicated that the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) for American Airlines Flight 77 was found, but its contents were destroyed by the intense heat it had been subjected to.

[LES] Commission staff was provided with a spreadsheet titled "UA 175 GTE Airfone Records." From left to right, the spreadsheet columns are:

- "Call Date Time"
- "Time Zone" (On Flight 175, all calls were from within the same time zone, so this is blank. On #93, two calls occurred when the plane was in the Central Time zone.)

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- "ACIS Call ID" which is a unique, computer-assigned identification number for each Airfone call
- "Aircraft ID"
- "Billed Card Type" which designates the name of the credit card used for the call (AX = American Express; MC = MasterCard; AS = internal United Airline calling code; VI = Visa)
- "Swiped Card" is the credit card number
- "First Name;" "MI" (Middle Initial); and "Last Name" are included on this spreadsheet only where known from within the United system. (For #175, only "United Airlines-Flite Attndt" is noted in these columns. For #93, Todd Beamer is included because of his employment by a related entity.) On other versions of this data, the Department added the names based on interviews with the individuals who were called.
- "Destination Number" is the number called from the plane.
- "Last Dialed Number" is the last number dialed from the individual Airfone. For #175 it is the same as the previous column, except for the three flight attendant calls, where the three digit code they dialed (349) to reach the *fix office is listed.
- "Manual Entry Indexing" indicates whether the number was entered manually, in which case T (for "True") is entered, or not where F (for "False") is listed. In all the cases on #175 an F is entered because the calls were made by either swiping a credit card (for all passenger calls) or entering a special code (for the flight attendant calls).
- "Validation Approval Code Decoded" indicates whether a Credit Card was "Apprvd" or not. All of the #175 credit card calls were "Approved" and the Flight Attendant calls are left blank in this column.
- "Call Date Time" for this flight is all Eastern.
- "RBS ID" (Radio Based Station ID) is blank for this flight, because none of the calls were long enough to have to be "handed off" from one ground receiving station to another)
- "RBS ID LCP" (Radio Based Station Last Call Path) designates which radio station handled the call last (in these cases, it was the only station involved because there were no "handoffs.") For #175, the two relevant stations are 066 (NWCM) and 053 (LGDA).
- "Terminal Unit" and "Distribution Unit" combined provide the location of the Airfone on the plane, noted in "Seat Location" (which provides the bank of seats served by the particular Airfone).
- "RBS ID" is a repetition of "RBS ID LCP" in this case, because of no "handoffs."
- "Number of Handoffs" refers to transfers of an in-progress call as the aircraft moves into and out of range of the various radio receiving stations. (Once again, note that there were no handoffs for #175 because of the short duration of the calls.)
- "Operator ID" is used when an Airfone operator is involved in the call (none for #175).

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- “Weight on Wheels” indicates whether the call takes place when there is none (which is entered as “2” and indicates the flight is airborne) or some (entered as “1” and indicates the flight is on the ground).
- “Duration Connect” refers to the amount of time (in seconds) it took for the call to be connected to the dialed number.
- “Duration Operator” is the time an operator is on the line (none for the 175 calls).
- “SCP (Switch Control Processor) Duration” indicates the time (in seconds) the call was connected to the dialed number.

[LES] GTE Airfone Calls (all Times Eastern AM):

SEATS	TIME	CALLER	NUMBER CALLED	RECIPIENT	LENGTH OF CALL
30 CDE	8:52:00	Peter Hanson	[REDACTED]	Lee Hanson (father)	99 sec
30 CDE	9:00:03	Peter Hanson		Lee Hanson (father)	192 sec
31 AB	8:58:45	Brian Sweeney		Julie Sweeney (wife)	27 sec
31 AB	9:00:02	Brian Sweeney		Parents	60 sec
31CDE	8:52:01	flight attendant		Star-fix (United)	75 sec
31 FG	8:56:19	flight attendant		Star-fix (United)	31 sec
31 FG	8:57:28	flight attendant		Star-fix (United)	No Conn
32 CDE	8:52:07	Garnet Bailey		Residence	22 sec
32 CDE	8:54:14	Garnet Bailey		Residence	No Conn
32 CDE	8:57:39	Garnet Bailey		Residence	25 sec
32 CDE	8:58:57	Garnet Bailey		Residence	9 sec

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