

First I would like to thank you for this opportunity to personally meet with you and convey to you why I should be allowed to continue my career with the FBI. I have had many accomplishments in my 15-year career, some of which I would like to briefly discuss today.

After high school I worked in a factory for one^{year} before deciding to attend college. The only way I could afford to attend was with the assistance of Guarantee Student Loans and Pell Grants which were financed by the Federal Government. In return, I wanted to repay my government for giving me the opportunity to even attend college. I considered the FBI and the military since my father and two brothers were Marines.

On September 9, 1990, I entered the FBI Academy and upon successful completion I swore an oath to defend my country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I was assigned to the Kansas City Division.

During May 1993, I placed myself in mortal danger to prevent the escape of an extremely violent fugitive who vowed not to be taken alive and had killed two girls attending college during a high speed chase in the past. Ultimately, in self defense and to protect citizens in the immediate vicinity, I fired my weapon and took the life of the fugitive while he was trying to run me down with a tuck as he tried to escape while being fired upon by two other law enforcement officers.

After the FBI discovered someone had been offered \$10,000 to kill me for taking the life of the fugitive, for safety reasons, I was transferred to the Chicago Division's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). At the time, agents assigned to the JTTF were strictly conducting intelligence activity and no criminal investigations were conducted.

During 1994 I discovered suspected terrorist supporters were committing multiple criminal violations to help fund terrorism missions in America and overseas. The mission of the JTTF was to identify and neutralize the threats of terrorists. A key method of neutralizing terrorist is to cut-off their source of funding. I viewed the intelligence gathering as an important but reactive measure and believed to neutralize the real threat of terrorism criminal methods also needed to be pursued.

#7 In 1996 I convinced my supervisor a criminal investigation could aid in neutralizing the terrorists I had been pursuing. The criminal investigation was code named Vulgar Betrayal. With significant help from the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago, the investigation quickly linked Hamas to other terrorist organizations and their non-profit front groups based in the U.S. I had identified the initial funding from the Middle East that established the Hamas network in the U.S.

From 1994 through February 1998, I was the only agent assigned to the VB investigation which had consisted of over 400 files and over 600 subpoenas had been issued. In my April 1998 FBI Performance Appraisal, my new supervisor wrote, "The case has proven to be immense. The investigative resources required to fully pursue all logical leads which have been uncovered could easily swallow a small FBI field office. SA Wright has

spearheaded this effort despite an embarrassing lack of investigative resources available to the case such as computers, financial link analysis software, and a team of financial analysts. Although far from being concluded, the success of this investigation so far has been entirely due to the foresight and perseverance of SA Wright."

#1 I had averaged over four hours a day in overtime and worked virtually every weekend at home to pursue the logical leads of the case since I was working alone. I literally gave up my personal life to pursue the terrorists because I saw the danger to our economy and American lives. The investigation consumed my life, I knew people were going to die and I was doing all I could to stop the terrorists and save lives.

With the incredible assistance from the United States Attorney's Office in Chicago, in June 1998, the investigation succeeded in carrying out the first ever civil seizure of terrorist assets within the U.S.

I also realized that other Middle Eastern terrorist groups operating in the U.S. were out to harm the U.S. When I came across such groups, I would obtain their records to assist the FBI in the future once they were linked to a terrorist attack. For example, following the American Embassy bombings in Africa in August 1998, the NGO linked to the rental of the trucks used to bomb the embassies had been identified by the VB investigation at least two years before the bombings. In fact, I had obtained many records of this NGO, records which linked it to another NGO in another state. I had also obtained their records. I forward the records to the affected offices and immediately sent subpoena's for additional records which would aid the other FBI offices. As my supervisor told me then, due to my knowledge and ability to anticipate such NGO's would be involved in terrorism, the FBI was able respond very quickly during the opening of the two investigations regarding the bombings.

In late 1998, a U.S.-based HAMAS member was captured overseas with evidence proving he supported the two most wanted Hamas terrorists in the West Bank who were responsible for many suicide bombings and deaths. A year prior to his arrest, I had gathered evidence linking his terrorist support activities back to the late 1980's and early 1990's. With the arrest, we had current information to pursue our RICO investigation of the arrestee and two of his co-conspirators who were listed as Designated Terrorist by the U.S. Government in 1995.

Although the VB investigation was very successful, the FBI decided to close the investigation in August 1999. The result would be the terrorists would remain free and the \$1.4 million seized in 1998 would be returned to the terrorists. I realized the significant danger the Middle Eastern terrorists operating in the U.S. posed to our nations policies and the national security of the U.S. In August 1999, I began compiling what would become a 500 page manuscript complete with charts. The manuscript was completed on September 10, 2001. My intent was to get this document to members of Congress so they might address the dangers which existed before more innocent lives were lost in future terrorist attacks.

In June 2001, AUSA Joe Ferguson saw me in the hallway and asked me to step into his office. He closed the door and asked me why I wanted to pursue the manuscript and expose those responsible for the closure of the VB investigation. I explained that I had taken an oath to protect our citizens against our enemies, that many people had died, including Americans as a result of actions of Middle Eastern terrorists, and that some of those terrorists are walking the streets of the U.S. due to FBI failures. I wanted to save lives, and to do so, I believed Congress and the President needed to know the truth about the failures. It was my opinion at that time that terrorism responsibilities needed to be taken from the FBI and given to a new agency which had as its sole mission, to pursue terrorism matters. After explaining my motives, I noticed a look of relief on the face of Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson explained that he was relieved because he feared I was out for revenge or had become disgruntled. Because of this conversation, on June 9, 2001, I drafted a mission statement. I wanted a permanent record of my motive to pursue changes which would better protect American lives and the security of the U.S.

Approximately one month following the 9/11 attacks, Yassin Kadi, the source of the \$1.4 million seized in June 1998, was designated by the United States as a financier of Osama bin Laden. The Sunday edition of the Chicago Sun Times published a front-page story about Kadi and my investigation of him which led to the seizure.

In September 2002, I was re-assigned by the Chicago SAC to the new Chicago JTTF due to my knowledge and expertise regarding Middle East terrorism. Many of the my new squad members had little to no terrorism experience. My supervisor also had little terrorism experience and told me he was going to seek my assistance and asked if there was anything I could do to assist teaching the other squad members. I coordinated a series of speakers from the Jewish Community, Muslim Community and members of the media with first hand knowledge of the Middle East issues. I also invited a reporter who was on assignment for 60 Minutes at the World Trade Center on the morning of the attacks. I also arranged for my squad members to visit a Chicago Mosque and have a question and answer session with the Imam who happened to be a known leader of a Middle Eastern terrorist group.

#4 During the year following my May 2002 press conference, there were constant request for me to speak with the media and appear on news programs. I needed to bring closure to my concerns so that I could move forward with my life and my FBI career. I decided to participate in what would be my last press conference and comments to the media on June 1, 2003. This date was chosen since it was the anniversary of the first press conference.

Since the June 2003 press conference, I have moved on in a positive manner and have remained a productive agent in the FBI's terrorism program. For example in August 2003, I volunteered for a four month TDY assignment at the FBIHQ Terrorism Unit. Upon completion of my TDY, the Unit Chief and a supervisor I worked for sent a two page letter to Chicago regarding my performance. The letter stated in part, "SA Wright performed his responsibilities admirably and conducted himself in a professional manner throughout his assignment. SA Wright's diligence and work ethic were a tribute to the

Chicago Field Office. Please express our sincere appreciation to SA Wright." While on this assignment, the supervisors informed me they were warned about me before my arrival; however, they were so impressed with my work ethic and dedication, they requested I apply for a supervisor position within their unit.

Upon my return to Chicago, my supervisor made multiple request for me to become a relief supervisor on the JTTF. I finally agreed and on February 12, 2004, I was approved by my ASAC and the Chicago SAC as a relief supervisor. Months later, I spoke to my ASAC about becoming a supervisor at FBIHQ and inquired about returning on a TDY within a year to determine which unit I would like to be assigned.

In August 2004, the Attorney General announced the indictment of several of the VB subjects I had expressed concern about that were free on U.S. soil. The US Attorney informed the media the most recent information relied upon to indict the terrorists had been collected in August 1999, the same month the VB investigation had been closed. Of course the media began asking why it took five years and questioned the US Attorney about my comments that the investigation should never have been closed in 1999.

- #4 I had no intention of ever making any comments to the media following the June 2003 press conference; however, in order prevent the media from focusing on my past comments and not to diminish the fine work performed by the FBI agents and the United States Attorney's Office to achieve the indictments, I desired to make a positive comment to the members of the media. I drafted a statement, and with the permission of the SAC, I provided the media with a positive statement regarding the indictments and commended the FBI and United States Attorney's Office for their fine efforts. FBI management and the case agents thanked me for making a positive statement to the media.
- #5 On January 4, 2005, I returned to FBIHQ for another four month TDY to decide which unit I would like to apply for a supervisor position. I was assigned to the new terrorism center and worked for two units. During this assignment I was utilized as the acting supervisor on Sundays and trained new TDY personnel as they arrived. Also during this TDY I was approached by supervisors from other units and requested to apply for a supervisor position within their units.
- #6 During the past several months I have had lunch and dinner with members of my squad and would like nothing more than to return as soon as possible to my squad. I love the FBI, its mission, my squad and my squad mates, it's not a job, it's my life. That's what would be taken from me. I promise, if you allow me to return, you will not be sorry. I will conduct myself in the same manner I have during these past two years since the June 2003 press conference.