

MEMORANDUM OF INVESTIGATION

TYPE OF ACTIVITY : Personal Interview
DATE AND TIME : September 8, 1995 - 10:23 a.m.
LOCATION : Savannah, GA
CASE NUMBER : 95-1-028-I
CONDUCTED BY :
ALSO PRESENT : n/a

[REDACTED]
Office of Investigation (OI)
U.S. Customs Service (USCS)
[REDACTED]
Savannah, GA 31401
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed concerning [REDACTED] attendance at the Good O' Boy Roundup (GOBR). [REDACTED] began [REDACTED] employment with the Federal Government as a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) in [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] [REDACTED] then transferred to USCS-OI in Savannah, GA. [REDACTED] has been [REDACTED] with USCS since [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] attended the GOBR in 1983 and then in 1985 through 1988. [REDACTED] could not recall if [REDACTED] attended the GOBR in 1984, but [REDACTED] did not think that [REDACTED] did.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] had heard about the GOBR and called some other agents to find about the details of the activities at the GOBR. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] signed up to go in 1983. The following years [REDACTED] received an invitation in a regular envelope not a Government franked envelope. The invitation did not have BATF letterhead. The invitation was on folded pieces of paper.

In 1983 [REDACTED] BATF Agent, Charlotte, NC, accompanied [REDACTED] to the GOBR. In 1985, both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the Atlanta, GA, office when they went to the GOBR. [REDACTED] is now in the Greenville, SC, office. [REDACTED] Miami, FL, also accompanied them. In 1986 or 1987, [REDACTED] invited [REDACTED] Columbus, GA, and they both went to the GOBR. [REDACTED], who is now in Miami, FL, also accompanied [REDACTED] to the 1986-88 GOBRs.

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█████ said that █████ did not go back to the GOBR in 1989 or thereafter. █████ said that █████ moved to Miami, FL, and █████ did not have anyone to go with so █████ did not return. According to █████ there was nothing that happened at the GOBR that kept █████ from returning. █████ thought █████ may have gotten an invitation in 1990 but █████ was not sure. █████ did not receive an invitation after 1990. RC

█████ said that █████ saw Gene Rightmyer, █████ (BATF Agent), █████ (BATF Agent), █████ (BATF Agent), █████ (BATF Agent), █████ (US Customs Agent), █████ (BATF Agent) during the various years █████ attended the GOBR. █████ also met some Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents but █████ could not recall their names. RC

█████ said that █████ usually drove █████ truck but one year █████ rode with █████ in █████ van. █████ denied that █████ drove a Government Owned Vehicle (GOV) to any of the GOBR. █████ also said that █████ took annual leave to attend the GOBR. RC

█████ recalled that one man (name unknown) took █████ wife to these events almost every year. █████ could not recall seeing any women at the 1983 event but █████ thought that █████ saw women at the 1985 and subsequent GOBRs. █████ did not recall seeing any blacks or hispanics at these events but they could have been there and █████ might not have noticed them. █████ assumed that if minorities were there then they were welcomed at these events. RC

█████ did not observe any conduct that █████ considered racist. █████ did not observe any racist signs, skirts, hunting licenses, or shirts. █████ also did not see any illegal activity at these events. █████ recalled that if there were any fights then those individuals involved would be asked to leave. RC

█████ said that █████ went on the raft trips every year during the GOBRs. █████ also went to Grumpy's once and █████ did not see anything illegal or improper. █████ recalled that the owners and employees at Grumpy's were invited to the steak dinner one year on Saturday night. █████ did not know them but █████ did recognize them. █████ assumed that they were invited but █████ did not know if they signed in. RC

█████ did take some pictures and █████ said that █████ would try to find them. █████ did not take any family members and none of the others who accompanied █████ took their families. RC

Parker said that when █████ received █████ invitation █████ would post it on the bulletin board for everyone in the office to see. █████ said that there were two female agents, █████ RC

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and [redacted] in [redacted] office at the time. [redacted] never discussed this event with either of them because the invitation was self-explanatory. 7C

[redacted] never saw anyone playing chicken shit bingo and [redacted] did not observe any bestiality. [redacted] did see the Biggest Liars Contest and the Redneck of the Year contest. However, [redacted] did not see anything racist about these contests. [redacted] said that the contestants were telling stories and lies. [redacted] thought that Gene Rightmyer, [redacted] and [redacted] judged these contests. [redacted] was not aware of the management structure of the GOBR. 7C

[redacted] said that [redacted] originally heard about the GOBR in the early 1980's. [redacted] characterized this event as being a bunch of cops who got together and drank beer, went white water rafting, played volleyball, tug of war and horseshoes. [redacted] also said that this was get away weekend. [redacted] thought that in the Southeastern U.S. this was a well-known event at the U.S. Customs Service. [redacted] first heard about this event while [redacted] was employed with BATF. 7C

In 1988 [redacted] attended the GOBR while [redacted] was a manager and [redacted] thought that [redacted] was the [redacted] when they both attended in 1985. According to [redacted] [redacted] was the [redacted] in Charleston, SC, when they attended together. To [redacted] knowledge, the GOBR was not an issue with management. [redacted] did not hear this event characterized as a BATF Klan rally. [redacted] thought that [redacted] managers knew that [redacted] attended this event and they did not react either positively or negatively. 7C

To [redacted] knowledge, there was no Government time, materials and/or facilities used for this event. [redacted] only knew Rightmyer as an acquaintance. 7C

[redacted] thought that the activities at the GOBR had been blown out of proportion. [redacted] said that what [redacted] saw on television news [redacted] did not see while [redacted] was at the GOBR. 7C

[redacted] taped this interview and [redacted] provided a copy of the tape for Treasury OIG. [redacted] said that the quality of the tape was poor and some of the interview was not taped. 7C

U.S. Department of the Treasury
Office of Inspector General
INVESTIGATION

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TYPE OF ACTIVITY : Investigative Interview
 DATE AND TIME : September 20, 1995 - 9:30 am
 LOCATION : Houston, TX
 CASE NUMBER : 95-1-028-I
 CONDUCTED BY : [REDACTED]
 ALSO PRESENT : N/A

Steven W. Hooper
 Deputy Special Agent in Charge, GS-15
 U.S. Customs Service
 Houston, TX
 Telephone Number [REDACTED]

On September 20, 1995, Steven Hooper was interviewed at his place of employment with the U.S. Customs Service (USCS) in Houston, TX. Hooper was advised of the identity of the interviewer and was questioned regarding his knowledge of the "Good O' Boy Roundup" (GOBR). Hooper provided, in substance, the following information:

Hooper advised that he has been employed with the USCS since May 25, 1970. From 1978 to 1982 he was assigned to USCS Headquarters; From 1982 to 1987 he was assigned in the Atlanta Field Office; From 1987 to the present, he has been assigned in Houston, TX. Hooper advised that while he was assigned in Atlanta, GA, in 1983, he heard of the GOBR through word of mouth and decided to attend. He stated that since he was new to the area, he thought it would be a great way to meet individuals from various agencies considering the fact that ATF was sponsoring the event. Hooper advised that he only attended in 1983 and has never received an invitation. Hooper recalled that Joseph Webber, DSAIC, USCS, El Paso, TX, [REDACTED], USCS, Atlanta, GA, and [REDACTED], USCS, Gulfport, MS, were also in attendance in 1983.

Hooper advised that he drove his personal vehicle to the GOBR while he was on annual leave. He stated that he only stayed approximately 3-4 hours because of bad weather. Hooper could not recall if minorities were present. He stated that it was not something he noticed. Hooper stated he had the impression that anyone who wanted to attend could. According to Hooper, he did not participate or

observe any racial conduct, racial signs, skits, racist t-shirts, chicken shit bingo, nigger hunting license, nigger check points, mouth to mouth tobacco swapping or drinking of motor oil. Also, Hooper stated he could not recall a beer truck at the event but stated alcohol was available. Per Hooper, he did not take any pictures or videos and had not heard of the establishment called Grumpy's. Hooper stated he never had the impression that Blacks or Hispanics were not welcomed. He stated that he did not have any knowledge of the Redneck of the year contest, President or Executive Committee.

Hooper stated his idea of the GOBR was like any other law enforcement event (i.e. A Sheriff's bar-b-que for law enforcement and friends). He stated that he thought the GOBR was well known throughout the Southeast and surrounding areas. He was not sure if USCS management was aware of the event. However, he stated that no action was taken by his management to discourage his attendance. Per Hooper, he did not observe any government equipment being utilized at the GOBR. Further, he stated that he was not an organizer of the event and does not know Gene Rightmyer. He stated that it was his understanding that ATF agents were the organizers of the event. Per Hooper, he did not participate in the rafting activity or any other activity due to the weather and could not recall any specific hat being worn in 1983.

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TYPE OF ACTIVITY: Telephonic Interview
DATE AND TIME : November 28, 1995 - 3:25 p.m.
LOCATION : Washington, D.C.
CASE NUMBER : 95-1028-I
CONDUCTED BY : [REDACTED]
ALSO PRESENT : None

[REDACTED] 7C
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS
UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
5019 NATIONS CROSSING ROAD, SUITE 203
CHARLOTTE, NC 28217

Between 3:25 p.m. and 4:05 p.m., November 28, 1995, [REDACTED] U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury was interviewed telephonically on telephone number [REDACTED]. This interview was conducted as a question and answer type interview concerning [REDACTED] knowledge of the Good O' Boy Roundup meetings occurring in Ocoee, Tennessee. 7C

Preceding this interview, [REDACTED] requested that [REDACTED] be provided with a written document outlining the allegations under investigation, [REDACTED] status as a suspect or witness and that [REDACTED] be provided with Beckwith Advisement of Rights. It was agreed that [REDACTED] supervisor would read [REDACTED] the Beckwith Advisement of Rights in a conference call and [REDACTED] would execute this document and send it by facsimile back to this office, prior to the interview. 7C

At approximately 3:15 p.m., November 28, 1995, a letter outlining the allegations under investigation which indicated [REDACTED] was considered a witness to the events surrounding the allegations under investigation with attached Beckwith Advisement of Rights Form were sent by facsimile to [REDACTED]. Upon [REDACTED] review of the letter and attached Beckwith Advisement of Rights Form, [REDACTED] consented to this interview without the execution of the Beckwith Advisement of Rights. 7C

Q: Who is your supervisor?

A: Resident Agent-in-Charge [REDACTED] 7C

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Q: Can you give me a brief biographical background on yourself?

A: [REDACTED] has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Appellation State University, Boone, N.C. [REDACTED] was a BATF Agent from 1970 until June 1982. [REDACTED] joined the U.S. Customs Service as [REDACTED] and was assigned to the Office of Investigation, Charlotte, N.C. [REDACTED]

Q: What is your current position?

A: [REDACTED], Office of Investigations, U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Charlotte, N.C.

Q: How many years have you been a Federal Law Enforcement Officer?

A: [REDACTED] has 20 years of Federal Law Enforcement experience with a break in service from [REDACTED]

Q: Have you been a Law Enforcement Officer, prior to being a Federal Officer?

A: No.

Q: You have indicated that you were aware of the Good O'Boys Roundup prior to July 11, 1995, when the story broke on the national media. When did you first become aware of the Roundup?

A: [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] believes that [REDACTED] first heard about the Good O'Boy Roundup by name in 1977 which is the year [REDACTED] first attended the event. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] memory is cloudy on the year that [REDACTED] first attended, but believes it was the first year it was held. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] attended the GOBR a total of three times during the period 1977 through 1982, but was not sure exactly which years [REDACTED] attended.

Q: What had you heard about the Roundup?

A: [REDACTED] stated that everyone talked about this get together which [REDACTED] knew as the name GOBR from the first time [REDACTED] heard about it. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] could not recall specifically who brought it to [REDACTED] attention, but it was portrayed as a social get together of law enforcement personnel both at the Federal level and at the local level. [REDACTED] described the GOBR as a picnic/barbecue where law enforcement personnel came together to meet each other and establish a professional relationship with each other.

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Q: How had you heard about the Roundup?

A: [REDACTED] stated that at the time [REDACTED] first heard about it and subsequently attended the event, [REDACTED] believes it was the first one that was ever held. [REDACTED] stated that it was common knowledge among all members of the office in Atlanta, GA where [REDACTED] was stationed as a BATF [REDACTED].

Q: Did you know anyone who had attended, and, if so, who?

A: Yes. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] memory is clouded of who actually attended due to the passage of time. [REDACTED] stated that the last time [REDACTED] attended was in 1982. [REDACTED] stated that the only person [REDACTED] could recall who [REDACTED] was sure actually attended was a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who rode with [REDACTED] to the first event [REDACTED] attended. [REDACTED] stated that there were local and Federal prosecutors in attendance and that when [REDACTED] went in 1982, the event appeared to be attended by large groups of civilians, not associated with law enforcement. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] recalled that there were people from Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and other states in attendance each year [REDACTED] attended. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] knows Gene RIGHTMYER personally and is a friend of [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] was the organizer of the event.

Q: Did you hear anything negative about the Roundup, including allegations of racism, sexual misconduct, use of narcotics, misuse of Government property, or excessive use of alcohol?

A: [REDACTED] stated that the first negative reports [REDACTED] heard about the GOBR occurred when the racist issues surfaced in the news media in the summer of this year. Prior to this [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] never heard or witnessed any of the above allegations. [REDACTED] stated that there was a lot of drinking of alcoholic beverages, but added that it was in a controlled environment, in that nobody was allowed to drive who had been drinking heavily. [REDACTED] stated that there were attendees getting drunk, but added that these people were cared for by members of their groups.

Q: Please explain?

A: [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] could not recall any incidents that were in poor taste as a result of people being drunk or out of control.

Q: Why did you attend the Good O' Boys Roundup?

A: [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] attended to meet and greet people and to establish friendships with other law enforcement personnel.

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Q: How commonly known was the Good O' Boys Roundup in the office you were in when you first heard of it?

A: [redacted] stated that it was common knowledge in the Atlanta, GA Field Office where [redacted] was stationed at the time. [redacted] stated that everyone talked about going to this, but that [redacted] could not recall who actually did attend. 7C

Q: If you were not in a management position then, did management know of it?

A: [redacted] stated that all individuals in management positions throughout the southeast knew about the GOBR. [redacted] stated that the event spread to everybody by word of mouth. 7C

Q: Do you know if management took any action to find out more about the Good O'Boy Roundup, or if management either encouraged or discouraged the activity?

A: [redacted] stated that [redacted] didn't know one way or the other. 7C

Q: Did you know the name of the event was the "Good O' Boy Roundup"?

A: Yes. [redacted] knew this was the name of the event right from the beginning. 7C

Q: If so, did you draw any negative inference from the term "Good O'Boy"?

A: No.

Q: Why, or why not?

A: [redacted] stated that the term has been used as a term of endearment to describe friends and associates. [redacted] stated that [redacted] has never considered this term as a negative. 7C

Q: Have you ever heard of minority law enforcement people ever attending this function?

A: [redacted] stated that [redacted] seems to recall blacks and latinos being in attendance, but could not provide any specific names of any of these attendees. 7C

Q: Did you ever receive any flyers, advertisements, etc, concerning the GOBR.

A: On one year [redacted] received a flyer in the mail, inviting [redacted] to the event. [redacted] stated that [redacted] thinks this occurred in late 1979 or early 1980 and could not recall any of the details of the flyer. [redacted] believes that it was sent to him by Gene RIGHTMYER, but [redacted] can't be sure. 7C

