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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 01/15/2002

b7C [redacted] were interviewed at the DUNEDIN ACADEMY, 1408 County Road (CR) 1, Dunedin, Florida (FL) 34698, telephone number 727/733-9148, after being advised of the official identity of the reporting Special Agent (SA) and that the interview would concern CHARLES BISHOP (deceased). [redacted] is the [redacted] of the DUNEDIN ACADEMY (DA), while his wife [redacted] is [redacted] [redacted] are [redacted] and [redacted] of the corporation that owns and operates the DA.

b7C At the specific request of [redacted] [redacted] was present during the interview. [redacted] is a teacher at DA and also serves as the [redacted] and [redacted] voluntarily provided the following information:

BISHOP was described as a very bright, enthusiastic, and personable young man who completed the eighth grade at DA. BISHOP appeared to be mature beyond his years and handled himself well with adults and fellow students. BISHOP was patriotic to his country, volunteering to be the flag bearer for the eighth grade. Each school day at DA begins with the presentation of the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of the National Anthem or other patriotic songs. BISHOP sang with gusto, if not particularly well.

The DA is a privately funded school for which parents or guardians pay tuition for students to attend. The DA offers small class sizes and more individual attention to students than public schools. BISHOP's eighth grade class had 22 students and was typical in size and make up of other classes at DA. BISHOP's tuition was \$3,900 plus various fees, totalling approximately \$4,100. The DA offers scholarships, but BISHOP was not on scholarship nor receiving outside financial assistance, to the school's knowledge. Records indicated BISHOP's tuition was paid in full through a ten payment installment plan.

b7C BISHOP was an active participant both academically and in sports. [redacted] surmised it may have been the first time BISHOP participated in organized sporting events, but his enthusiasm was apparent. None of those interviewed recalled seeing [redacted] b7C

Investigation on 01/08/2002 at Dunedin, FloridaFile # 149A-TP-55348Date dictated 01/09/2002

by SA [redacted] mbl b7C

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[REDACTED] nor other relatives at sporting events, parent-teacher meetings, or other venues at which a parent might attend. No one recalled ever seeing or hearing of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] provided for review a Registration Form by which [REDACTED] initially enrolled him at the DA. The form was dated August 23, 2000 and was for the school year 2000-2001. The form was completed by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Tampa, FL 33626, telephone number [REDACTED] employment [REDACTED] CHARLES BISHOP's Date of Birth (DOB) was listed as February 8, 1986 at Boston, Massachusetts, Social Security Account Number (SSAN) [REDACTED]. The family physician was listed as [REDACTED] Belleair Bluffs, FL, family dentist as [REDACTED] Tampa, FL. The form listed emergency contacts for BISHOP as [REDACTED] Palm Harbor, FL, telephone number [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] work telephone number [REDACTED] home telephone number [REDACTED]. Persons authorized to pick-up BISHOP from the DA were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] also provided an addendum to the information on file for BISHOP. The addendum was typed on the letterhead of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] said BISHOP was pre-registered for the ninth grade at DA. [REDACTED] made available a Registration Form for BISHOP's enrollment for school year 2001-2002, noting that the form while not dated was mailed to parents or guardians of students approximately February 2001 and was supposed to be returned within a month or two.

A review of BISHOP's Registration Form for the ninth grade, school year 2001-2002, reflected the same identifying information as the prior year and listed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Palm Harbor, FL 34685, telephone number [REDACTED] was listed as employed as a [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] BISHOP's emergency contact was listed as [REDACTED] Palm Harbor, FL 34685, telephone number [REDACTED]. Persons authorized to pick-up BISHOP from the DA were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The family doctor was listed as [REDACTED] Belleair Bluffs, FL and the family dentist as [REDACTED]

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The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] described BISHOP as an A student who displayed initiative by coordinating the publication of

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an eighth grade literary magazine to which he contributed an essay. [REDACTED] provided copies of the front cover of the magazine titled "THE HOLIDAY COLLECTION 2000" and BISHOP's essay titled "True Christmas Spirit".

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As further evidence of BISHOP's intellectual ability and development, [REDACTED] said BISHOP took one CTBS National Test in the eighth grade. [REDACTED] said the national norm for eighth graders taking the test was a score of 8.8. [REDACTED] said BISHOP across the board scored 13.0 or above, meaning he scored as would a high school graduate ready to enter college. BISHOP liked studying the sciences and was interested in aviation. BISHOP said he wanted to go to college and become an airline pilot.

BISHOP, however, did not talk much about his home life, other than about his beloved dog.

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[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] said DA was very open to interaction with and input from students and parents, however, [REDACTED] did not avail themselves of these opportunities to communicate with DA staff and teachers.

BISHOP was very interested in helping others less fortunate, as evidenced by his Christmas-time essay and active participation in the canned food drive sponsored by DA. BISHOP was very compassionate towards people and animals.

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[REDACTED] noted that BISHOP did not return to the DA for his ninth grade year of 2001-2002. [REDACTED] provided a copy of a letter dated May 14, 2001 written by BISHOP's mother indicating that a sudden, critical family illness would prevent BISHOP from returning to school for the remainder of the school year and that they were leaving town until the illness subsided. [REDACTED] requested that BISHOP's school records and test results be forwarded to their home address on [REDACTED] in Palm Harbor. In conclusion, [REDACTED] thanked DA for providing BISHOP a safe and happy school year and said they were sorry BISHOP would not be able to attend the eighth grade graduation ceremony.

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[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had no further information as to the nature of the critical family illness nor any other reason why BISHOP did not complete the school year and participate in the graduation ceremony, which was held about two weeks after the date of the letter.

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[REDACTED] recalled BISHOP was emotionally upset that he would not be able to attend the ninth grade at DA, where he was very happy and excelled. BISHOP cried when he told [REDACTED] his mother said it was too far to drive him to DA every day. BISHOP on his own determined there was no bus service or other means of public transportation from his new residence in Palm Harbor to DA. [REDACTED] said BISHOP was worried about going to EAST LAKE HIGH SCHOOL (ELHS), which has about 2,300 students. BISHOP enjoyed and thrived upon the small class sizes and personal attention students received at DA.

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[REDACTED] also recalled BISHOP cried when he told her he would not be able to come back to DA and was instead going to the much larger ELHS.

[REDACTED] provided photocopies of an Information Card and a Payment Record Card regarding BISHOP's eighth grade year at DA. These and other school records provided by [REDACTED] during the course of the interview are attached to the original FD-302.

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[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] said DA had been besieged with inquiries and requests from the media about BISHOP, to include pictures, interviews of students and staff, and other information. The school staff was not happy that photos of their students were published in the ST. PETERSBURG TIMES in stories about BISHOP.

From talking with staff and students who knew BISHOP, the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] said everyone was stunned and very saddened by the circumstances of BISHOP's demise and could not fathom how or why he came to that state.

However, [REDACTED] noted that BISHOP was a very bright and impressionable 15 year old whose mother had moved him around from state to state, from one residence to another, and from school to school throughout his young life, all with no apparent strong, stable father or other male figure evident anywhere. [REDACTED] said that alone would not explain why BISHOP ended his life the way he did, but it may have been a contributing factor.

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In conclusion, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] said there was no indication whatsoever that BISHOP was anything other than a patriotic young American. BISHOP did not say he had any ancestors from Syria or another Middle Eastern country. BISHOP did not express any affinity for or allegiance to a country or ideology that was against the United States government, military, or way of

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life. To the contrary, BISHOP appeared to be very pro-American, patriotic, and devoted to the United States. Although BISHOP attended DA prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11th, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] saw no indication that the attacks, USAMA BIN LADEN, or Al Qaeda could or would cause a radical change in BISHOP's feelings about the United States.

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