

Golden Triangle Business Roundtable (GTBR)

Minutes

March 16, 2004

Walter Almon called the meeting to order and welcomed the 115 members, subscribers and guests in attendance. Walter also recognized plant managers and distinguished guests.

Committee Reports:

Walter Almon – Construction Industry Institute (CII)

Walter reported that skills assessments are in good shape.

Pat Avery – Safety Committee

Pat Announced that the Committee was preparing for the Thirteenth Annual Safety Awards. The Safety Awards Seminar is scheduled for Friday, April 2, 2004 at the Pompano Club. The deadline for submitting Safety Awards books is April 15, 2004.

Program:

Brit Featherston, Anti-Terrorism Coordinator with the U. S. Attorney's Office brought the program. He gave a brief synopsis about 9/11. On September 8, 2001 one of the pilots who flew his plane into the World Trade Center received a traffic ticket. He paid the ticket on September 9, 2001. He died on the September 11, 2001. Brit asked, why did the pilot do that? Brit said he would come back to this question later.

Brit spent fourteen months working in Washington, D. C. and while he was there he worked on Pennsylvania Avenue. He had been there about three weeks when he came out of the subway station and saw a man that captured his attention. The man was blind and Brit was wondering how this man was able to get around in a congested city all by himself. Brit was watching this man on 9/11. The man said to Brit someone just drove a plane into the World Trade Center and it must have been a Cessna and Brit agreed with him. Brit went on across the street to his building where he watched the second plane crash into the World Trade Bldg. His building was then evacuated. His wife had gone shopping that morning and she shopped close to the Pentagon. When she came out of the store she watched a plane crash into the Pentagon. Brit was finally able to reach her on their Texas cell phone and he let her know what was happening. The remainder of his day was spent trying to get home.

Brit returned to Texas to be a prosecutor. Post 9/11 changed his job duties and what he does. Being with the U. S. Attorneys Office carries the responsibility of prosecuting all federal crimes in the eastern district of Texas. This district is a huge land area and covers Beaumont, East Texas, Dallas, and Plano over to the Red River. Beaumont is a focus point because of the refineries and chemical plants. The Coast Guard is their most prominent homeland security agency. Brit's agency works with port security and plant security personnel. All of the bombings have occurred in the past seven years and terrorism has increased fifty percent around the world. The goal is to inform people about terrorism, who the targets are, understand and prepare for it and most of all prevent it.

Brit showed a list of different organizations. When Brit refers to Radical Islamic Organizations he is not referring to the peaceable people who practice Islam but to the

extremists. In the 60's, 70's and 80's we saw the old style of terrorism, single plight extremism that wants to change the culture in society. In the 90's a change in terrorism occurred and it is called fourth generation warfare. There are four main groups responsible for killing Americans. They hate us. These enemies have no army, uniform, or rules of engagement. They don't mind killing women and children and have no regard for human life including their own. These groups utilize propaganda. They have convinced millions of people that Americans are the evil ones. Islamic extremist are well trained and they view their actions as a way to kill Satan. Terrorism needs a broad base of support personnel, and money. Before 9/11 websites that supported terrorism were U. S. based. Most of those websites have been closed.

Brit shared information about the following Domestic Terrorism case. William Carr was on the gun show circuit and the documents he was creating were anything but legal. White Supremacy groups paid as much as \$5,000 for some of Carr's documents. The FBI was watching Carr. The FBI had a court order to review all of the envelopes in Carr's mailbox. They eventually discovered he was running a weapons business. On January 11, 2003 they found suspicious white powder and it was sodium cyanide in an extreme quantity, books, code plans that were obviously a sign that they were on a mission. They also found silencers, holograms, plans to seduce a wealthy man, blasting caps, a panel truck, clips full of ammo, machine guns and other dangerous items. The amount of cyanide found could kill everyone in a 30,000 square foot facility within ten minutes. Individuals are assisting law enforcement agencies by calling and reporting suspicious persons and activities. Terrorist groups are being forced to target smaller facilities. Brit informed the group that it is his job to stop terrorists long before they get close to a target. Their biggest challenge is electronic evidence. Technology has exceeded their capabilities. The Patriot Act has been helpful. Brit advised that we as citizens be vigilant and look at laws for ourselves and not let others feed us false information. In answer to the question at the beginning of the presentation Brit answered that the pilot didn't want to be traced. He didn't want a path to lead back to him and create an investigation. Brit fielded questions from the audience.

April 20, 2004 is the next GTBR luncheon.

Meeting adjourned.