1) Rackstraw's Sister Linda Loduca recounting 1/24/78 FBI visit -- TJC video & in 10/13/78 Sacto Bee:

FILE #DBC-16
HALF-SISTER LINDA LODUCA
DBC DOC (interview shot 7/13/13)

12:37:53 LINDA LODUCA: Oh, they were knocking at my door. The most interesting one at that time was when the FBI agent came to my door.

12:38:17 LINDA LODUCA: And, but in the conversation what he asked me was did I know where Bob was Thanksgiving Day 1971. (LAUGHS) Said, "You know, I really don't and, you know, why?" And he told me, you know, did I know about D.B. Cooper. So that was the first reference to Bob and D.B. Cooper that I had heard.

16.01.02 LINDA LODUCA: Um, I learned from the FBI agent, actually. He, uh, the one that came to me and told me, was asking me about, you know, where Bob was. And said, you know, '71, the one in '77. And he told me he read, um, a letter Bob had sent to the army after he had been discharged. And it was a angry letter. He was angry in that letter.
2) BHI Security’s 2/20/78 synopsis on fugitive Rackstraw in Iran, noting FBI 10 times (Here’s 3):

FILE #DBC-16
HALF-SISTER LINDA LODUCA
DBC DOC (interview shot 7/13/13)

14:20:19 LINDA LODUCA: “Bob had told me that they had come, the FBI had come and they wanted his palm print. And so Bob said, ‘Talk to my attorney [Dennis Roberts].’ And the attorney said [to FBI], ‘Yeah, I’d be pretty stupid if I let you do that.’”

3) Rackstraw’s Sister recounting 3/28/78 FBI attempt to get Rackstraw’s palm print (1 of 2 sources):

FILE #DBC-16
HALF-SISTER LINDA LODUCA
DBC DOC (interview shot 7/13/13)

14:20:19 LINDA LODUCA: “Bob had told me that they had come, the FBI had come and they wanted his palm print. And so Bob said, ‘Talk to my attorney [Dennis Roberts].’ And the attorney said [to FBI], ‘Yeah, I’d be pretty stupid if I let you do that.’”
4) Defense Attorney’s 1978 response memo reveals FBI just learned Rackstraw took a leased car when discharged from military in 1971 – in Calaveras County, CA, DA’s 4/15/78 court petition:

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majority of the “missing” decorations are listed on an additional DD 214. However, rather than force his incarceration at this present bail to continue, counsel respectfully requests that bail be set using only the decorations attached to the Sueyres declaration as Exhibit “A”.

The second point made in said declaration is that Rackstraw was discharged as First Lieutenant and not Captain. The record of the habeas hearing held before this Court will reflect that counsel stated that Mr. Rackstraw was discharged as a First Lieutenant and never represented otherwise.

✓ The third point made is that FBI agents allegedly have spoken with the Sheriff of Houston County who advises that an arrest warrant for petitioner is outstanding. My client advises me that this is the result of a lease surrender on a leased automobile, which events took place in about 1971. Assuming, arguendo, the validity of the warrant, and setting aside speedy trial considerations, this Court need not concern itself with this matter.
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5) Rackstraw’s Uncle tells reporter that FBI had questioned him – in Stockton Record, 2/2/79:

An FBI spokesman in Seattle declined to confirm or deny that Rackstraw was a “Cooper” suspect, other FBI sources acknowledged that friends and relatives of Rackstraw had been questioned on that subject recently.

A brother of Rackstraw’s late stepfather, Phillip Rackstraw, contacted in San Jose by telephone, confirmed that investigators identifying themselves as FBI agents had questioned him in the recent past about the D.B. Cooper case.

William Rackstraw, the brother, said he was unable to help the agents.

6) Cop’s quote about FBI’s interest in just-recaptured Rackstraw -- in San Jose Mercury News, 2/3/79:

Fullerton police sergeant Ken Davis said Friday that the FBI had requested and received fingerprints of Rackstraw during his stay in the Fullerton jail.

“I do understand they think he might be this person (D.B. Cooper),” Davis said.
7) Two cops paraphrase FBI’s 2/28/78 Cooper question to Rackstraw – in Stockton Record, 2/3/79:

The two Stockton investigators said they have since learned that FBI agents questioned Rackstraw about being D.B. Cooper when they arrested him as he stepped off the airplane in New York after being deported from Iran. He reportedly demanded an attorney and the questioning on the subject was halted, they said.

8) Captured fugitive Rackstraw tells his Iran “Getaway Gal” lover on 3/6/78 about Feds’ Cooper interest – in her 10/1/15 audio interview transcript (cut from documentary):

00305265 Reporter Jim Forbes, Getaway Gal phone conversation

00:45:09;20: Anonymous Getaway Gal revealed, “I went to see Bob, and he held a legal pad up against the window” of the jail conference room that said, “‘Do you remember this? D.B. Cooper.’ And I said yes. He said, ‘Well, they [FBI] are trying to prove I’m that person.’ And that was the first time that this came up.”

9) FBI paid 2/2/79 visit to Rackstraw’s former boss, Mike Narro, at his Novato, CA, warehouse:

After agents left, Narro told anonymous Ex-Wife (She recalled it to TJC on 8/2/16; Audio-taped with approval): “They think Rackstraw is D.B. Cooper, and they have evidence he was selling weapons to terrorists.”

10 & 11) Senior FBI Agent & anonymous FBI source paraphrased by 2 separate reporters -- in Stockton Record and S.F. Examiner, both printed on 2/4/79:

Rackstraw Still Suspect in Hijack

Local FBI sources said Saturday they are still investigating the possibility that Robert Wesley Rackstraw could be the parachuting hijacker D.B. Cooper, although the Seattle Times said he has been ruled out as a suspect in the nation’s only unsolved air piracy case.

While declining to discuss details of the Rackstraw case, Tom Kimberg, the senior FBI resident agent in Stockton, told the Record that he remains under investigation in the hijacking. Information developed by investigators here is still being forwarded to FBI agents in Seattle, he said.

Quoting unnamed law enforcement sources, the Seattle Times reported, however, that the 35-year-old Rackstraw was no more than one of more than 1,000 persons who have been considered — and rejected — as suspects since the infamous Cooper vanished from a plane over southwest Washington state on Nov. 21, 1971, with $200,000 in ransom strapped to his body.

The Seattle FBI office, which has directed the D.B. Cooper investigation, refused to comment Saturday on Rackstraw, a pilot and explosives expert.

Sources have told The Examiner that the FBI has investigated Rackstraw as a suspect in the hijacking to indict him or to eliminate him.
12) **Rackstraw’s 1st of 2 TV News jail interviews – in KNBC 3/21/79 transcript:**

KNBC NEWS FILE TAPE #9378 (3/21/79)
KNBC REPORTER DOUG KRIEGEL (Short Version)
RACKSTRAW / DB COOPER DOCUMENTARY

00.00.00 PICTURE UP

00.00.34 DOUG KRIEGEL: Do you think it’s legit that you could be one of the suspects, one of the thousand?

00.00.37 ROBERT RACKSHAW: Oh yes, if I was an investigator, definitely so. I wouldn’t discount myself. I wouldn’t, no, or a person like myself.

00.00.45 DOUG KRIEGEL: Were you in the Washington area at that time?

00.00.48 ROBERT RACKSHAW: I’ve been in the Washington area a number of times. The FBI has verified all that, that’s one of the reasons they keep hounding me. I’m sure of that.

13) **After three months of messages, FBI Seattle Case Agent Curtis Eng finally responds to TJC’s attorney, Mark Zaid, on 3/11/12 (Zaid then relays discussion highlights to TJC on phone; in notes):**

Eng told Zaid he had “better things to do” than work on this old hijacking. He then confirmed the Bureau “looked at the guy [Rackstraw] in 1979 and cleared him. We don’t have anything new” in his personal folder since. But Eng agreed to meet TJC and hear his evidence if he came up to Seattle.

14) **Public Affair SA Ayn S. Dietrich coordinates FBI meeting at Seattle Division – in 4/11/12 FBI Email:**

“Great, Tom. No need to provide that personal info ahead of time—just make sure you all have Government-issued IDs for the guards to review. I’ll pass the [Rackstraw] proposal to SA Eng.

15) **TJC’s recall of 5/18/12 meeting with Seattle Division Case Agent Eng and PA Dietrich – via notes:**

On May 18, 2012, I flew to Seattle for a meeting with the FBI Cooper case agent, Curtis Eng. I asked a former Portland detective-sergeant (and future cold case team member), John Bocciolatt, to join me with the background he’d collected on Rackstraw’s alleged crime-partners. After shaking hands, the case agent asked if we had “physical evidence”; if not, any witnesses’ statements of being involved in the crime would be “hard to prove.” Then, a problem: The secure computer promised for my Power Point, featuring the only ’70s video left of our suspect, had no sound. I verbalized its content, then handed the agent an 8-page summary. Eng stated he wasn’t going to “question” the findings of ’79 agents in clearing Rackstraw, but he had “no problem” if we pushed ahead on a TV doc. Still, Bocciolatt and I implored Eng to just say the word, and we’d email a prepared report featuring 33 pieces of new evidence linked to the events along the Columbia River in 1980. But he just wanted a departure handshake.
16) Public Affair SA Ayn S. Dietrich followed up meeting with status of interest – 5/22/12 FBI Email:

After requesting a copy of our archived 1970 Army ID photo of Rackstraw, Dietrich emailed back to TJC that she and Case Agent Eng “**will let you know how we would like to proceed. I estimate it could be two to six weeks before we can get back to you. As agreed, we’ll let you know if the FBI would or would not like to receive further information**” from our investigation.

17) FBI Headquarters gives TJC awaited permission to forward more evidence – in 8/15/12 FBI Email:

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**NORJAK**

1 message

McKee, Susan T. &lt;Susan.McKee@ic.fbi.gov&gt; To: Tom Colbert &lt;tcolbert@commstatim.com&gt; Cc: "Schweil, Katherine V." &lt;Katherine.Schweil@ic.fbi.gov&gt; , "Grassie, Steven E." &lt;Steven.Grassie@ic.fbi.gov&gt; , "Dietrich, Ayn S." &lt;Ayn.Dietrich@ic.fbi.gov&gt; , "Eng, Curtis J." &lt;Curtis.Eng@ic.fbi.gov&gt; , "Kotian, Michael P." &lt;Michael.Kotian@ic.fbi.gov&gt;  

Mr. Colbert,

The FBI investigation of the 1971 Northwest plane hijacking—“NORJAK”—remains open but is not active. However, when tips come in to the FBI, investigators assess each one and, if credible, pursue the lead accordingly. Several FBI entities have reviewed the information you provided regarding Robert Rackstraw and consulted with the case agent, Special Agent (SA) Curtis Eng, in the Seattle Division. It is the understanding of all FBI entities that SA Eng will continue to pursue leads as he indicated at your May 18th meeting. The timing of investigative actions is based primarily on resource allocations among prioritized threats. This timing likely will not complement your own production timeline.

✔ The FBI cannot offer partnership on your documentary but we do respect the confidentiality of your project. SA Eng will use the materials you provided (e.g., Rackstraw photographs and video) for investigative purposes only and not provide it for use by any entity outside the FBI.

✔ The FBI welcomes any further information that you uncover, and you can provide that to SA Eng through Public Affairs Specialist Ayn Sandalo Dietrich in the FBI Seattle Division.

Wishing you all the best,

Susan

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Susan McKee

Unit Chief

Investigative Publicity and Public Affairs Unit

FBI Office of Public Affairs
22:14:17;01: This is just the most outstanding example that I've ever seen of a professional investigation...[Rackstraw] very well could have been and very probably is [Cooper], and as you've mentioned, means, opportunity, motive...proximity, the capabilities, all the things that we've heard about him. What bothers me about the case is just strictly, what does the FBI know that caused them back then to exclude, you know, adamantly exclude Rackstraw as a subject?

And what we've heard and from [his sister] Linda when she's contacted by agents and others... when they're contacted, that the FBI told them, we're looking at Rackstraw as being DB Cooper and so that's basically saying, we're trying to make the case that he is.

My recommendation would be to the FBI now... would be to have the agents involved in this investigation sit with you and really start comparing notes. I think the FBI should give you a hearing where you come in, explain.

There are so many pieces of information and/or evidence that you've obtained that you have to believe they don't even have in their possession, they don't even know, and you've been able to assemble the team, actually able to out-resource them over the years.

In hearing former agents [on Cold Case Team] say that they give this a ten, just personally, I would give it eight or nine out of the ten.

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