educated determination on the item.

Q. In your opinion, is there any substitute for actually physically seeing the strike itself as well, and being able to examine it with your hands?

A. I mean, that is the -- beyond the best case scenario is to actually look at it because there are so many variants that could be into play.

Q. Let me ask you now about your work in this case. How did you, the FBI, just generally, get involved in investigating the shooting incident in Nisur Square in September of 2007?

A. We were requested -- the evidence -- Washington Field Office -- Iraq is one of our areas of responsibility, and so if something happens there against the U.S. interest, a bombing of an embassy or whatever it happens to be, our field office is responsible for that area. So, New York has different areas, we have this area.

So, we were requested to go over there and process -- we were initially told a small shooting scene, so we only sent two evidence people along with investigators to go over.

Q. This event occurred on September 16th, 2007, do you know that?

A. Right.

Q. Do you recall when the FBI first got involved?

A. We arrived in Baghdad early October -- in the first
days of October.

Q. Do you recall when the FBI was first contacted and asked to support this investigation?

A. I was told a few days prior to our departure that we were going. Prior to that I was actually out of the country, so I didn't have any advance knowledge of what was going on until I got back into the area and then was told that I would be going on this team.

Q. Is it fair to say that when the FBI gets assigned something this large that somebody with ERT with WFO or one of the other field offices is going to be in that initial group going out to investigate?

A. That is our hope that, on the evidence side of the house, is that we get in in the initial phases so we can evaluate and review the stuff that's going to be looked on either by us or by a follow-on team.

Q. To your knowledge was ERT, your unit, involved in the initial phase of the investigation for this particular shooting?

A. Yes, myself and Agent Sercer were part of the initial team that went over to Baghdad in October 2007.

Q. Do you have any knowledge as to whether any other federal law enforcement agent had done any investigation prior to the FBI's involvement?

A. I know that there was some work done by the State