

Appendix A

Story 1

The New York Times

How Many Terrorist Sleeper Cells Are There?

Dateline: Washington DC: In response to reports of an al Qaeda-linked sleeper cell of Yemeni and Lebanese terrorist recruits in Dearborn Michigan, Air Force General Victor “Gene” Renuart said in an interview here today that “To think that the Dearborn terrorists are the only sleeper cells out there is naïve.” He noted that a national intelligence report released last week concluded that al-Qaeda is using its growing strength in the Middle East to plot attacks on U.S. soil. “We just don’t know how many cells there are and where they are. We lost track of some of these guys. The number of cells we have uncovered is worrisome.”

Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi, Director of the Center for Arab American Studies in Dearborn expressed skepticism about the estimate of dozens of sleeper cells. “There are five and a half million Arab Americans in this country and the great majority of them are hardworking, taxpaying, patriotic and loyal citizens.”



Canadian Arrestees

However, in one of the biggest antiterrorism operations in North America since the September 11 terrorist attacks, 17 Canadian residents were arrested by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and charged with plotting a series of attacks against targets in Canada and the US. The suspects include immigrants of Somali, Egyptian, Jamaican, and Trinidadian origin. They planned to storm government offices and behead the Canadian prime minister if the government did not pull its 2,300 troops out of Afghanistan and release Muslim political prisoners.

Police and intelligence officials, who had been monitoring the group for some time, said they decided to carry out the raids after the group arranged a delivery of three tons of ammonium nitrate, a fertilizer that can be made into an explosive when combined with fuel oil. The suspects

also operated training camps, according to authorities, although they would not disclose their locations. Just before the raids, two of the suspects, Mohammed Dirie, 22, and Yasin Abdi Mohamed, 24, were stopped by the Canada Border Security Agency attempting to enter the US after their rental car was pulled over and searched. Two loaded guns were found strapped to Dirie's thighs.

Of current concern is the revelation that a number of young Somali men in Minneapolis have gone missing in recent months, and authorities fear the youths are being recruited to return to their homeland to fight with terrorist groups. One of the men who disappeared is believed to have killed himself in an Oct. 29 suicide bombing according to a U.S. law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly about the case. That official confirmed the FBI and Justice Department were investigating. It is one of the first instances in which a U.S. citizen has acted as a suicide bomber.

Members of the Somali community in Minneapolis said small groups of young men have been disappearing over the last year. Anywhere from 15 to 20 have left Minneapolis in recent months, said Omar Jamal, executive director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center. "We know for a fact this is happening, but we don't know who is doing it," he said. Osman Ahmed, a Somali activist, said his 17-year-old nephew is among a group of at least seven people who went missing Nov. 4. Ahmed said his nephew was a high school senior and had a normal routine of going to school, going home then going to the mosque. "He was a very nice guy," Ahmed said. "He was very clever. Very shy. Very cool." On Nov. 4, he told his mother a friend would pick him up from school, but he never came home. It was later revealed that he had taken his passport and traveled to Kenya for what was alleged to be attendance at a terrorist training camp. His current whereabouts is unknown.



Al Qaeda Training Camp

The FBI spokesperson acknowledged that the number of these jihadist recruits currently in the US is unknown. "How can you know if those guys in the rental house down the street have just returned from a training camp? She asked"

help us focus the search where it needs to be.” The exact number of false alarms resulting from identical or similar names is classified, but one estimate reported in the Los Angeles Times was as many as 32,000 incorrect matches per year.

The third element of the Triple Safe Program is a high-tech x-ray inspection of air, sea and land cargo. “We can’t inspect every single package, truck and shipping container by hand, that would bring international trade and shipping to a stand still,” Mooney reported. Typically only 2 percent of incoming cargo has been visually inspected. “But with a combination of x-ray, gamma ray and ultrasound technologies, we will be up to 100% inspection of incoming cargo by the summer and it is more accurate and dependable,” he reported. DHS had originally be planning to double the number of customs inspectors, but the remarkable progress in high resolution imaging technologies may make that costly and time-consuming recruitment effort unnecessary.

Senate Homeland Committee Chairman, Joseph Lieberman in concluding remarks commented: “All in all, this is bad news for the bad guys, and good news for Americans.”

The news comes at a time when the House of Representatives is considering an expansion of the FBI's ability to interrogate terrorist suspects. The ongoing debate reflects some members' demands for a stronger effort. "The safety of all Americans depends on our ability to stay ahead of the terrorist threat. We cannot flinch in the face of evil," noted Congressman Bob Turly (R., Ga.).

Others have expressed unease with a further restriction on civil liberties when so few genuine terrorism cases have been uncovered. "It is time for America to reassess the balance between fighting terrorism and maintaining our democratic freedoms," said Melanie Stewart, of the nonpartisan think tank World Watch. "When we allow innocent people to be tortured in the name of national security, we are likely to lose the international war on terrorism."

The New York Times

Where Did Osama bin Laden Come From?



Osama bin Laden was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 50 years ago the 17th of 55 children borne by the 10th of his father's 22 wives. Osama became intensely pious and anti-Western as a teenager and criticized his siblings for their interest in music and dancing. As a young man he migrated to Afghanistan to help the local tribesmen with their war against the Soviets. His support through his inherited wealth was welcomed but it is not clear that Osama contributed measurably to the military effort. After the Afghan war it appears he turned his anger and frustration against the West especially Americans in their support for Israel. He denounced the royal Saudi family which was the source of his wealth and his Saudi citizenship was revoked in 1995.

He founded al-Qaeda in 1988 declaring that it is the individual duty of Muslims to kill Americans, both civilians and military, in every country where such killing may be possible and to continue doing so until Israel is in Arab hands. He focused on America because it was seen as the center of Christian power and a threat to Islam. He later revised the edict to legitimate the killing of Muslims as well if they associated with, did business with, or were in the vicinity of Christians.

Al Qaeda helped to fund the World Trade Center bombing of 1993 in which 6 were killed and 1,042 were injured. The car bomb, however, failed to collapse the tower. In November 1995 al Qaeda was associated with a truck bombing at the US-operated Saudi National Guard training center in Riyadh killing five Americans and two Indian nationals. Bin Laden denied involvement but praised the attack.



In 1996 19 American servicemen died in the truck bombing of Khobar Towers military barracks Saudi Arabia. It is not clear if bin Laden was responsible, although he was seen being congratulated by colleagues the day of the attack.

In August of 1998 al Qaeda car bombs next to two American embassies in East Africa were detonated simultaneously. In Nairobi, Kenya the downtown embassy explosion killed 213 and injured 4000; in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania the more remote embassy attack resulted in 11 killed and 85 wounded. Although the attacks were intended to kill employees of the United States government, almost all of the victims were African civilians. In 1999 bin Laden is quoted as saying "If the instigation for jihad against the Jews and the Americans in order to liberate ... shrines in the Middle East is considered a crime, then let history be a witness that I am a criminal."



An al Qaeda attack on a munitions ship the USS Sullivan was unsuccessful, the overloaded suicide motorboat sank before detonating, but a similar attack against the U.S. Navy destroyer USS Cole visiting a Persian Gulf port in October 2000 was more successful killing 17 sailors and nearly sinking the warship.

The most well known and dramatic example of bin Laden's livid obsession with the United States, of course, has become known by the date 9/11 2001 when 19 terrorists under bin Laden's command hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners crashing two into the World Trade Center towers in New York and a third into the Pentagon. In total 2,992 souls lost their lives that day as an immediate result of the attacks. The FBI later released a report that 11 of hijackers apparently had not been informed that they were on a suicide mission.

Reactions to bin Laden have influenced the House of Representatives' current evaluation of the FBI's ability to interrogate terrorist suspects. The ongoing debate reflects some members' demands for a stronger effort. "The safety of all Americans depends on our ability to stay ahead of the terrorist threat. We cannot flinch in the face of evil," noted Congressman Bob Turly (R., Ga.).

Others have expressed unease with a further restriction on civil liberties when so few genuine terrorism cases have been uncovered. "It is time for America to reassess the balance between fighting terrorism and maintaining our democratic freedoms," said Melanie Stewart, of the nonpartisan think tank World Watch. "When we allow innocent people to be tortured in the name of national security, we are likely to lose the international war on terrorism."



Appendix B

Measures used in the Knowledge Networks Survey

Table 1B: Interest in Novel Information Battery

"My Googling these issues and events to find out more is"

"My looking for websites that present new and different views on these issues and events is"

"My looking for websites that might challenge my points of view on these issues and events is"

"My looking for websites with which I strongly disagree on these issues and events is"

Table 2B: Measures of the Two Judgment Orientations

Self-Confident Resolve (SCR)

“These issues and events provide no room for compromise.”

“I am certain that my point of view on these issues and events is the right one. It's time to move on.”

“In dealing with these sorts of issues and events listening to everyone is going to get us entangled and produce endless debate”

Social Open-Mindedness (SOM)

“These sorts of issues and events have two sides and I want to look at both of them.”

“These sorts of issues and events should be resolved so that everybody's needs are met.”

“To solve these sorts of issues and events everyone's concerns should be heard.”

“These sorts of issues and events are best resolved by listening to everyone's concerns.”

Table 3B: Measures of Need for Cognition

Need for Cognition Statements

I would prefer complex to simple problems.

I feel relief rather than satisfaction after completing a task that required a lot of mental effort.

I like to have the responsibility of handling a situation that requires a lot of thinking.

I find satisfaction in deliberating hard and for long hours.

Thinking is not my idea of fun.

I only think as hard as I have to.

I usually end up deliberating about issues even when they do not affect me personally

Table 4B: Measures of the “big five” personality traits.

Ten Item Big Five Statements

- is reserved
 - is generally trusted
 - tends to be lazy
 - is relaxed, handles stress well
 - has few artistic interests
 - is outgoing, sociable
 - tends to find fault with others
 - does a thorough job
 - gets nervous easily
 - has an active imagination
-

Table 5B: Measures of Partisan and Ideological Self Identification

Partisan Self-Identification

Where would you place yourself on the following scale regarding political parties?
[strong republican, weak republican, independent leaning republican, independent,
independent leaning democrat, weak democratic, strong democrat]

Ideological Self Identification

Where would you place yourself on the following scale politically speaking?
[very conservative; conservative ; leaning conservative; moderate, middle of the road;
slightly liberal; liberal; very liberal]
