Day of Terror: Organizational And Activities Associations of Al - Qaeda Operatives Involved in the September 11 Attacks and Related Events

Timeline of Terror

1990s - Southeast Asian Islamic radical, Sheik Hambali is associated with a cell in the Philippines having connections to Al-Qaeda.

1993 - A terrorist cell, led by known Bin Laden associate Ramzi Yousef, detonates a vehicle borne explosive device in the underground parking garage of the World Trade Center.

1995 - Al-Qaeda connected terrorist and pilot, Hakim Murad admits to Manila investigators of a plot to blow up 12 US airliners over the Pacific and a plan to fly an airplane into CIA HQ in Virginia. One of his plot accomplices is Ramzi Yousef. Another is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, now identified as the key planner of the September 11 attacks.

1996 - 1999: Mohamed Atta, Ziad Jarrah and Marwan Al-Shehhi meet the Al-Aqsa mosque in Hamburg, Germany and eventually share a flat together along with at least three others, to include Ramzi Binalshibh.

1996 -- Hani Hanjour enters the US on a student visa to study English at a branch of ELS Language Centers in California.

Late 1997 --Atta disappears from the university in Hamburg for over a year. Intelligence reporting has now established that Atta traveled to Afghanistan, to the camps of Al-Qaeda and was followed there eventually by Al-Shehhi and Jarrah.

April 1998 -- Zacarais Moussaoui was present at the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Khalden Camp in Afghanistan.

Winter 1998 -- German intelligence miss an opportunity to detect the cell and spot their plot. In the aftermath of the Al-Qaeda bombings of the US Embassies in East Africa (August 1998). The Germans carry out surveillance on one of Atta's roommates who is suspected of having links to Bin Laden, but never focus on Atta or the other future pilots.

Late 1999 -- Atta, Al-Shehhi, and Jarrah all report their passports stolen. The old ones bore the evidence that they had all been to Bin Laden's camps. They apply for and receive new passports.

November 1999 -- Nawaf Al-Hazmi and Khalid Al-Midhar rent an apartment in San Diego, CA.

January 2000 -- At the behest of Sheikh Hambali, Yazid Sufaat, hosts a meeting of Al-Qaeda operatives at his Hazel Evergreen condominium in Malaysia. Two of those in attendance are Al-Midhar and Al-Hazmi. Both return to the US thereafter to enroll in flight school. At the request of US intelligence (and based upon information developed from a tap of a Yemini embassy facility), the meeting is surveilled by Malaysian security officials and Al-Midhar and Al Hazmi are eventually identified as possible Al-Qaeda operatives. However they are not placed on the Terrorism Watch List until after they had already entered the US and notification was not made until a month before the September 11 attacks.

Spring 2000 -- Al-Midhar and Al-Hazmi take flying lessons at Sorbi's Flying Club in San Diego, but are reportedly low performers and express an interest in only flying big jets.

May - June 2000 -- Al-Shehhi, Atta, and Jarrah arrive separately in the U.S. on tourist visas from Berlin. Al-Shehhi flies from Europe to Newark, N.J., on May 29, 2000. One month after Al-Shehhi enters the U.S., $4,760 is wired to him from the U.A.E. Jarrah arrives in Atlanta, Ga., on a June 27 flight from Munich, Germany. Atta arrives in Newark on or about June 3, on a tourist visa he had received in Berlin on May 18. Instead of traveling directly to the U.S., Atta first traveled to Prague in the Czech Republic, where he stayed for a day before traveling to Newark. The trio quickly make their way to Florida to learn how to fly. Atta and Al-Shehhi enroll at Huffman Aviation. As foreigners, they need student visas to take lessons, but they are accepted even though they both have only tourist visas.

May - June 2000 -- Atta visits an office of the US Department of Agriculture requesting a loan of $650,000 to purchase and covert a six-passenger airplane to a craft that would be fitted with a large chemical tank for spraying purposes. His request is denied.

Summer 2000 -- Al-Midhar leaves the U.S. and travels to various points in the Middle East and Southeast Asia not returning until Summer 2001.

Fall 2000 -- Jarrah begins attending the Florida Flight Training Center in Venice, Fla. He also tries to enroll another member of the Hamburg cell, Ramzi Binalshibh, in flight school. At the time, Binalshibh is still living in Hamburg. Binalshibh is from Yemen, however, which is considered a hotbed of terrorism, so the U.S. denies his visa four times.

Sept and Oct 2000 -- Moussaoui travels to Malaysia and in late 2001 is eventually linked to Sheikh Hambali as an outcome of those visits.

Nov. - Dec. 2000 -- Atta purchases flight-deck videos for Boeing 747 and 767 aircraft in a pilot store in Ohio. He then purchases more videos a little over a month later, this time for the Boeing 767 and Airbus A320 aircraft.

December 2000 -- Atta and Al-Shehhi visit a jet aircraft simulator in Opa-Locka, Fla. For $1,500, they buy six hours of simulator time. On Dec. 26, 2000, Atta and Al-Shehhi fly a small plane from Huffman Aviation to Miami International Airport and have a mechanical breakdown on a busy taxiway. They leave the airplane on the taxiway. FAA is notified.

December 9, 2000 -- Moussaoui flies from London, England to Pakistan.

Late 2000 -- Al-Hazmi meets with Hani Hanjour in Phoenix.

January 2001 -- Al-Hazmi flunks out of two California flight schools and relocates to Phoenix where he links up with Hanjour.

January 2001 -- Jarrah arrives at Dubai Airport in the United Arab Emirates. Under questioning, Jarrah tells local authorities that for two months he has been in Pakistan. Jarrah said he was a pilot, headed back to the United States. He had a valid U.S. visa, so Dubai released him.

January 2001 -- Atta flies from Miami to Madrid in January 2001 and returns to the U.S. six days later.

Jan - Mar 2001 -- Hanjour attends pilot training courses in Phoenix, Arizona, including at a school called Jet-Tech, an affiliate of the Pan Am International Flight Academy. Twice during his course of instruction, schools officials contacted the FAA to observe Hanjour (who possessed a commercial license), owing to his limited aviation skills and knowledge.

February 2001 -- Atta and Al-Shehhi took a flight check ride around Decatur, Georgia.

February 2001 -- Moussaoui flies from Pakistan to London, England, then two weeks later from London to Chicago, Illinois, declaring at least $36,000 cash on his Customs declaration. He then flies from Chicago to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. On February 26, 2001, opens a bank account in Norman, Oklahoma, depositing approximately $32,000 cash.

February 28 - May 28, 2001 -- Moussaoui attends the Airman Flight School in Norman, Oklahoma, ending his classes early.

March 19, 2001 -- Al-Hazmi purchases flight deck videos for the Boeing 747 Model 400, the Boeing 747 Model 200 and the Boeing 777 Model 200, and another video from the Ohio Pilot Store.

April 1, 2001-- Al-Hazmi is in Oklahoma. During his stay there, Al-Hazmi -- while in his private auto -- was pulled over for speeding. Oklahoma State Trooper C. L. Parkins ran Al-Hazmi's California driver's license through the computer, checked to see if the car was stolen and made ensured there were not outstanding warrants for Al-Hazmi's arrest. When results came back negative, the trooper issued Al-Hazmi two tickets, totaling $138, and then returned to routine patrol. (The tickets were not discovered until after September 11).

April 23 - June 29, 2001 -- Hijackers not already resident in the US travel from various points around the world to link up with other operatives.

Spring 2001 -- Atta receives a ticket in South Florida for driving without a license. He fails to show up for court and a bench warrant is issued for his arrest. He was never picked up. Jarrah and Atta are both issued Florida driver's licenses on May 2, 2001.

May 2001-- Hanjour and Al-Hazmi show up in New Jersey and open a shared bank account with two other plotters, Ahmed Al-Ghamdi and Majed Moqed. The next month, Al-Hazmi helps two other hijackers, Salem Al-Hazmi and Abdulaziz Alomari, open their own bank accounts.

June 2001 - Atta and a number of the hijackers meet in an EconoLodge Motel in Las Vegas NV; one of two meetings the hijackers conducted there in 2001.

June 2001 -- In Norman, Oklahoma, Moussaoui makes inquiries about starting a crop dusting company.

June 20, 2001 -- Moussaoui purchases flight deck videos for the Boeing 747 Model 400 and the Boeing 747 Model 200 from the Ohio Pilot Store.

In all, over $500,000 was invested by Al-Qaeda to carry out the September 11 attacks in the U.S.

June 25, 2001 -- Mustafa Ahmed Al-Hasawi uses a cash deposit to open a checking account at a Standard Chartered Bank branch in Dubai, UAE.

June 26, 2001 -- At the same Standard Chartered Bank branch in Dubai, UAE, Fayez Ahmed Banihammad used a cash deposit to open a savings account and also opened a checking account.

June 26, 2001 - Intelligence agencies report a "spike" in reporting concerning possible terrorist attacks during the July 4 holidays.

July 2001 -- An officer in Delray Beach, Fla., issues Atta a warning for speeding during a traffic stop, although a warrant for his arrest had been issued in a neighboring county for failing to appear in court. He had been driving without a license.

July 2001 -- Moussaoui made credit card payments toward Pan Am International flight school's $19,000 course in piloting a Boeing 747 (school is located in Eagen, MN).

July - August 2001 - In the south Florida town of Belle Glade, a group of Middle Eastern men, including Atta, repeatedly visited a fertilizer company asking about crop duster planes in the weeks leading up to the attacks.

July 2, 2001 - FBI alerts law enforcement agencies of possible Al-Qaeda attacks overseas.

July 4, 2001 -- Al-Midhar returns to the US. During his absence his visa had expired but he was able to get it renewed despite being photographed and identified at the Malaysian Al-Qaeda meeting in January 2000.

July 4, 2001 -- Two Saudi members of the hijacking team fly to Newark, N.J., from abroad. They join the other Saudis who are renting an apartment above a convenience store in Patterson, N.J.

July 5, 2001 - Despite a safe July 4 holiday, the CIA briefs the White House that Al-Qaeda attacks this summer are still possible.

July 10, 2001 - An FBI Phoenix field agent sends a memo to FBI HQ concerning Middle East students attending an Arizona flight school. Agent theorizes that a terrorist group could be sponsoring them for use in a plot involving aircraft.

July 10 -11, 2001 -- Moussaoui makes credit card payments to the Pan Am International Flight Academy for a simulator course in commercial flight training.

Mid-July 2001 - CIA briefs the White House on a possible Al-Qaeda attack on the G-8 Summit (specifically targeting the President) in Genoa, IT July 20-22.

July 18, 2001 -- Banihammad gave power of attorney to Al-Hasawi for Fayez Ahmed's Standard Chartered Bank accounts in UAE.

July 18 - August 1, 2001 -- Al-Hasawi collects Banihammad's VISA and ATM whipe them to the latter in Florida. (The VISA card was then used for the first time on August 1, 2001, in Florida).

July 28, 2001 - Al-Qaeda operative, Djamel Beghal is arrested by local authorities in Dubai. Under questioning, Beghal reveals a plot to bomb the US Embassy in Paris.

July 29 - August 3, 2001 -- Moussaoui makes several telephone calls from public telephones to a number in Dusseldorf, GE. On July 30 in Hamburg GE, Binalshibh received two wire transfers, totaling approximately $15,000, from "Hashim Abdulrahman" in UAE. On August 1 and 3, 2001, Binalshibh wired approximately $14,000 in money orders to Moussaoui in Oklahoma from train stations in Dusseldorf and Hamburg, Germany.

Late July 2001 - FBI HQ analysts review the Phoenix memo and defer action.

August 4, 2001 -- Jarrah traveled from Germany to the United States.

August 6 - 9, 2001 - Moussaoui relocates from Oklahoma to Minnesota.

August 10, 2001 -- Moussaoui gives a school official $6,300 in cash toward the tuition balance.

August 15, 2001 - An Eagen MN flight school (Pan Am International) reports suspicions about Moussaoui, a new student at the school. Official cites Moussaoui's belligerent attitude when questioned on background and the fact that the student was not interested in learning how to take off or land, only how to fly the jumbo jet.

August 16, 2001 - Moussaoui is arrested on immigration charges. Field agents request permission to obtain a special warrant to search the suspect's laptop computer. FBI HQ denies the request.

Late August - Sept 10, 2002 -- Atta visits the Laurel MD motel where five of the hijackers stayed from late August through Sept. 10. The motel is less than a mile from another motel where Jarrah and Al-Hazmi were registered on separate nights in late August and early September.

August 22, 2001 - Banihammad uses his VISA card in Florida to obtain approximately $4,900 cash, which had been deposited into his Standard Chartered Bank account in UAE the day before.

August 22, 2001 -- In Miami, Florida, Jarrah purchases an antenna for a Global Positioning System ("GPS"), other GPS related equipment, and schematics for 757 cockpit instrument diagrams. (GPS allows an individual to navigate to a position using coordinates pre-programmed into the GPS unit.)

August 23, 2001 -- After a file review pertaining to an overseas-based Al-Qaeda operative, CIA analysts find the photos/files on Al-Midhar. The CIA requests that the INS put Al-Midhar on the Terrorist Watch List. INS informs the CIA that Al-Midhar re-entered the U.S. on July 4, 2001. CIA then sends out an urgent cable, labeled IMMEDIATE, to the State Department, Customs, INS and FBI, telling them to put the two men on the Terrorism Watch List.

August 28, 2001 -- Al-Midhar and Moqed purchase with cash tickets for American Airlines Flight 77, from Virginia to Los Angeles CA, scheduled for September 11, 2001.

August 26, 2001 -- Waleed Al-Shahri and Wail Al-Shehri make reservations on American Airlines Flight 11, from Boston MA, to Los Angeles, California, scheduled for September 11, 2001, listing a telephone number in Florida as a contact number.

August 27, 2001 - French authorities notify the US that French-born Moussaoui is a suspected Islamic extremist with ties to Beghal and an Al-Qaeda cell in France.

August 27, 2001 -- Reservations for electronic, one-way tickets are made for Banihammad and Mohand Al-Shehri, for United Airlines Flight 175, from Boston MA, to Los Angeles CA, scheduled for September 11, 2001, listing the same Florida telephone number as a contact number.

August 27, 2001 -- Nawaf Al-Hazmi and Salem Al-Hazmi book flights on American Airlines Flight 77.

August 28, 2001 -- Satam Al-Suqami purchases a ticket with cash for American Airlines Flight 11.

August 28, 2001 -- Atta and Abdulaziz Alomari reserve two seats on American Airlines Flight 11, listing the same Florida telephone number as used by the others as a contact number.

August 29, 2001 -- Ahmed Al-Ghamdi and Hamza Al-Ghamdi reserve electronic, one-way tickets for United Airlines Flight 175.

August 29, 2001 -- Ahmed Al-Haznawi purchases a ticket on United Airlines Flight 93 from Newark NJ, to San Francisco CA, scheduled for September 11, 2001.

September 3, 2001 -- In Hamburg, Germany, Binalshibh receives approximately $1,500 by wire transfer from "Hashim Ahmed" in UAE.

September 4, 2001 -- Atta sends a FedEx package from Florida to UAE.

September 5, 2001 -- Binalshibh travels from Dusseldorf GE, to Madrid SP, and does not return to Germany.

September 6, 2001 -- Al-Suqami and Alomari fly from Florida to Boston.

September 6, 2001 -- Approximately $8,055 is wired from Banihammad's Florida SunTrust account to the Standard Chartered Bank account over which Al-Hasawi has power of attorney.

September 6, 2001 -- An Arab male retrieves the package sent by Atta at FedEx in Dubai, UAE.

September 8, 2001 -- Atta wires $2,860 to "Mustafa Ahmed" in UAE.

September 8, 2001 -- Atta wires $5,000 to "Mustafa Ahmed" in UAE.

September 9, 2001 -- Maryland State Trooper 1st Class Joseph Catalano stops Jarrah for speeding on northbound Interstate 95 shortly after midnight. At the time of the traffic stop, Jarrah was listed on the Terrorism Watch List, but Maryland State troopers did not have access to that information.

September 9, 2001 -- Waleed M. Al-Shehri wires $5,000 to "Ahmad Mustafa" in UAE.

September 10, 2001 -- Al-Shehhi wires $8,400 to "Mustafa Ahmad" in UAE.

September 11, 2001 -- In UAE, approximately $16,348 is deposited into Al-Hasawi's Standard Chartered Bank account.

September 11, 2001 -- In UAE, at about 9:22 a.m. local time (the early morning hours of Eastern Daylight Time), Mustafa Ahmed al-Hasawi moves approximately $6,534 from the $8,055 in Banihammad's Standard Chartered Bank account into his own account, using a check dated September 10, 2001 and signed by Banihammad. Al-Hasawi then withdraws approximately $1,361, nearly all the remaining balance in Banihammad's account, by ATM cash withdrawal.

September 11, 2001 -- In UAE, approximately $40,871 is prepaid to a VISA card connected to Al-Hasawi's Standard Chartered Bank account.

September 11, 2001 -- The hijackers possess a handwritten set of final instructions for a martyrdom operation on an airplane using knives.

September 11, 2001 -- Atta and Alomari fly from Portland ME to Boston MA.

September 11, 2001 -- Atta, Alomari, Al-Suqami, Wail M. Al-Shehri, and Waleed Al-Shehri hijack American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767, which had departed Boston at approximately 7:55 a.m. They fly Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan at approximately 8:45 a.m., causing the collapse of the tower and the deaths of thousands of persons.

September 11, 2001 -- Hamza Al-Ghamdi, Banihammad, Mohand Al-Shehri, Ahmed Al-Ghamdi, and Marwan Al-Shehhi hijack United Airlines Flight 175, a Boeing 767, which had departed from Boston at approximately 8:15 a.m. They fly Flight 175 into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in Manhattan at approximately 9:05 a.m., causing the collapse of the tower and the deaths of thousands of persons.

September 11, 2001 -- Al-Midhar, Moqed, Nawaf Al-Hazmi, Salem Al-Hazmi, and Hanjour hijack American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757, which had departed from Virginia bound for Los Angeles, at approximately 9:10 a.m. They fly Flight 77 into the Pentagon in Virginia at approximately 9:40 a.m., causing the deaths of 189 persons.

September 11, 2001 -- Saeed al-Ghamdi, Ahmed Al-Nami, Al-Haznawi, and Jarrah hijack United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757, which had departed from Newark, New Jersey bound for San Francisco at approximately 8:00 a.m. After resistance by the passengers, Flight 93 crashes in Somerset County, Pennsylvania at approximately 10:10 a.m., killing all on board.

September 11, 2001 -- Al-Hasawi leaves the UAE for Pakistan.

September 13, 2001 -- The VISA card connected to Al-Hasawi's account is used to make six ATM withdrawals in Karachi, Pakistan.

October 7, 2001-- In Afghanistan, Ayman Al-Zawahiri calls on Muslims to join the battle against the United States.

October 7, 2001 -- In Afghanistan, Usama Bin Laden praises the September 11 attack, and vows that the United States will not "enjoy security" before "infidel armies leave" the Saudi Gulf.