

The Mystery Man

Understanding the Threat of Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida

“The confrontation that we are calling for with the apostate regimes does not know Socratic debates ..., Platonic ideals ..., nor Aristotelian diplomacy. But it knows the dialogue of bullets, the ideals of assassination, bombing, and destruction, and the diplomacy of the cannon and machine-gun. ... Islamic governments have never and will never be established through peaceful solutions and cooperative councils. They are established as they [always] have been by pen and gun, by word and bullet, by tongue and teeth.”¹ Ever since the inception in the early 1980s of al-Qaida, Osama (Usama) bin Laden, founder of al-Qaida, has used this network to kill thousands, spread terror throughout the world, and oppose every non-Islamic government. Who is Osama bin Laden? Is he real or just a mystery man that few have seen yet thousands follow? Who is al-Qaida and what do they intend to accomplish? As we explore the answers to these questions it will become very clear as to the present threat the civilized world is faced with as the level of terror increases.



Photo by Gerald Nino
Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) like the one shown are being used to find Osama bin Laden.

The man: Osama bin Laden

Osama bin Laden is an Arab male, 6’4” to 6’6” and weighs around 160 pounds. He has a dark olive complexion with brown hair and brown eyes. He is of a thin build and walks with the aid of a cane. He has lived in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Afghanistan.² He was one of 50 children. Osama was raised a devout follower of Islam and has studied many writings and teachings of the Islamic scholars of his day. Osama is also the owner of a very large and successful family owned construction company.³ He has used several different aliases including Usama Bin Muhammad Bin Ladin. Aside from the brief

description above, what really made Osama who he is, which Islamic scholars influenced him the most, and what were the major turning points in his life that placed him on the F.B.I.’s top ten most wanted list?⁴

The Islamic Influence

Osama bin Laden’s father was a very religious man who provided instruction and opportunities to be taught the principles of Islam.⁵ After the death of his father Osama looked to older Islamic radicals for guidance and teaching. These instructors had a great influence on his ideology.⁶

Two of these instructors were named, Abdullah Azzam and Muhammad Qutb.⁷ Osama became familiar with their teachings in 1979 when he attended King Abdul-Aziz University in Saudi Arabia.

Abdullah Azzam was a highly educated individual receiving a bachelor's and a master's degree in Shariah, which is interpreted as "Islamic Law." He later received a doctorate from the University of Cairo in the Islamic Jurisprudence.⁸ Azzam taught at several universities throughout the Islam world. In 1979 he decided to devote his life to Jihad. He preached, "...Jihad was an absolute necessity to restore the Khalifa, the dream that Muslims around the world could be united under one ruler." His motto was, "Jihad and the rifle alone: no negotiations, no conferences and no dialogues."⁹

Azzam, while in Peshawar, established a Muslim network called, "Bait-ul-Ansar." Its main focus was to offer any assistance to the Afghan Jihad by training the numerous volunteers that entered Pakistan from all over the Muslim world. Not receiving full satisfaction from this, Azzam headed to the front.¹⁰ Witnessing the war first hand, he became an avid promoter of the war and traveled extensively encouraging young Muslims to join the cause.

"Taken from 'Defending Muslim Territory is the Most Important Duty,' written by Azzam, he stated, 'This duty will not end with victory in Afghanistan; Jihad will remain an individual obligation until all other lands that were Muslim are returned to us so that Islam will reign again: before us lie Palestine, Bokhara, Lebanon, Chad, Eritrea, Somalia, the Philippines, Burma, Southern Yemen, Tashkent and Andalusia (Southern Spain).'"¹¹

Azzam's teachings had an extensive and powerful effect on the Jihadist movement throughout the Muslim world, particularly in three main areas: "the creation of a global network of radical Muslim terrorists, the creation of a mystique of invincibility and the creation of a broad-based cadre of highly motivated and experienced warriors."¹²

Muhammad Qutb taught that Muslims were in a state of ignorance, which he termed "Jahiliyyah." The only way for any Muslim nation or people to emerge from Jahiliyyah would be to fight an aggressive Jihad against the enemies of Muslim societies. These societies were defined as non-Islamic countries or Muslim countries that assisted apostate nations such as America.¹³

The Afghan War The Birth of al-Qaida

"The Afghan War was a bloody battle fought between the Soviet Union and the people of Afghanistan. The war was unprovoked by the Afghans and yet millions died under the attack of the Russians. The peasants rose up in rebellion in the name of Islam, thus the beginning of the Afghan Jihad."¹⁴

Armed with the teachings of Azzam and Qutb, bin Laden, at age 22, was ready to put into action what he had been taught his entire childhood and drive out the infidel Soviet nation. “Within months of the invasion, bin Laden went to Pakistan and eventually crossed into Afghanistan to help that country fight against the Soviets. With construction equipment from his family’s company, he helped the Afghan mujahedin — Muslim guerrillas — build rudimentary shelter, tunnels and roads through the mountainous regions across Afghanistan. He also fought in the battlefield.”¹⁵

Bin Laden was seen as a hero. “He was seen as a symbolic martyr for leaving behind his multimillion-dollar lifestyle to support the cause in the Afghan war. In 1984 he volunteered to pay the living expenses for men that came to fight in Afghanistan. The sum was roughly \$300.00 per man per month, which added up to about \$25,000 per month.”¹⁶

In 1989 surrounding governments became uneasy about the movement of large numbers of people in the region. In response to

Part of the Founding Statement of al-Qaida 23 February 1998

“ . . . No one argues today about three facts that are known to everyone; we will list them, in order to remind everyone.

“First, for over seven years the United States has been occupying the lands of Islam in the holiest of places, the Arabian Peninsula, plundering its riches, dictating to its rulers, humiliating its people, terrorizing its neighbors, and turning its bases in the Peninsula into a spearhead through which to fight the neighboring Muslim peoples. . . .

“ . . . Second, despite the great devastation inflicted on the Iraqi people by the crusader-Zionist alliance, and despite the huge number of those killed, which has exceeded one million . . . despite all this, the Americans are once again trying to repeat the horrific massacres, as though they are not content with the protracted blockade imposed after the ferocious war or the fragmentation and devastation. So here they come to annihilate what is left of this people and to humiliate their Muslim neighbors.

“Third, if the Americans’ aims behind these wars are religious and economic, the aim is also to serve the Jews’ petty state and divert attention from its occupation of Jerusalem and murder of Muslims there. . . .

“ . . . All these crimes and sins committed by the Americans are a clear declaration of war on God, his messenger, and Muslims. . . . Nothing is more sacred than belief except repulsing an enemy who is attacking religion and life. . . .

“On that basis, and in compliance with God’s order, we issue the following fatwa to all Muslims. The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies — civilians and military — is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it. . . .

“We — with God’s help — call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God’s order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it. . . .

“Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place; but Him ye would not harm in the least. For God hath power over all things.”

governmental concerns, bin Laden organized al-Qaida to assist in documenting those who came to Afghanistan either to fight or to donate time in hospitals. Al-Qaida's other and possibly more malicious purpose was to visit, continue and promote additional holy wars throughout other parts of the world.¹⁷

Eventually the Soviet Union withdrew, and the Afghan mujahedin were found with a new identity and power never before known in the Muslim world. The war had taught the Muslim world several significant lessons that solidified the entire Jihad movement. First, the Afghan Arabs were taught, indoctrinated and witnessed first hand how the extreme Jihadist dogma was to be implemented. Next, militants received essential military skills and battlefield experience to carry out other Jihadist movements. Finally, Jihadists are capable of defeating a major superpower.¹⁸

Such a victory catapulted the movement onto the center stage and redefined the Jihadist movement from an Arab nationalism to an Islamic superpower sustained by Allah. They were no longer seen as an insignificant rebel movement in some far off country.

Resume of Terror

Objective



The primary objective of the al-Qaida military is to blast and destroy places of amusement, immorality and sin (like Las Vegas), embassies and to attack vital economic centers.

Since al-Qaida's inception during the Afghan Jihad it has evolved into a global network with cells (organized groups) all over the world. The first objective at the time of the Afghan Jihad was to assist in documenting those that came to fight and to drive the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan. Once the Afghan war ended, al-Qaida turned its efforts toward the United States. "One of the principal goals of al-Qaida was to drive the U.S. Armed Forces out of Saudi Arabia and elsewhere on the Saudi Arabian Peninsula, as well as out of Somalia."¹⁹ It is also the objective of the al-Qaida organization to kill at least four million Americans. Once the organization has accomplished this goal they may consider themselves victorious.²⁰

Why was the United States seen as a threat to al-Qaida, and why was it necessary to drive them out of Saudi Arabia and other locations? J. T. Caruso, acting assistant director of the Counter Terrorism Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, answered that question by stating four reasons why al-Qaida opposes the United States.

“First, the United States was regarded as an ‘infidel’ because it was not governed in a manner consistent with the group’s extremist interpretation of Islam. Second, the United States was viewed as providing essential support for other ‘infidel’ governments and institutions, particularly the governments of Saudi Arabia and Egypt, the nation of Israel and the United Nations organization. ... Third, al Qaeda opposed the involvement of the United States armed forces in the Gulf War in 1991 and in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia in 1992 and 1993, which were viewed by al Qaeda as pretextual preparations for an American occupation of Islamic countries. ... Fourth, al Qaeda opposed the United States government because of the arrest, conviction and imprisonment of persons belonging to al Qaeda or its affiliated terrorist groups. ...”²¹

Skills/Training/Education

In order to fulfill its objectives and increase the effectiveness of its terrorist efforts al-Qaida organized a military branch within its organization. The military branch consisted of a “commander, advisory council, soldiers (individual members) and a clearly defined strategy.”²²

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least four million Americans.

The primary objective of the military organization is to, “...overthrow ... the godless regimes and their replacement with an Islamic regime.”²³ To help accomplish the main objective, the military organization must: “gather information about the enemy, the land, the installations, and the neighbors. ... Kidnapping [sic] enemy personnel, documents, secrets, and arms. ... Assassinating enemy personnel as well as foreign tourists. ... Freeing the brothers who are captured by the enemy. ... Spreading rumors and writing statements that instigate people against the enemy. ... Blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality, and sin. ... Blasting and destroying the embassies and attacking vital economic centers. ... Blasting and destroying bridges leading into and out of the cities.”²⁴

Membership in the al-Qaida Military Organization is a privilege. The organization has been successful in recruiting qualified individuals from Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the West.²⁵ Those who are invited to join the organization must meet great demands and the following requirements for membership.

The potential recruit must be Muslim. Someone of another faith or background is not qualified nor could they protect and defend the goals of the organization if they are not a believer. The individual must be committed to the military organization’s ideology²⁶ and be willing to pledge their loyalty and confirm their allegiance by signature.²⁷ The recruit must also be of a mature age because of the physical, mental and spiritual demand the organization requires. The recruit must be willing to unconditionally sacrifice his own life to Allah.²⁸

The organization demands strict obedience to the military commander and those who represent him. It is expected that all orders be followed with precision. “That is what our religion urges. The Glorious says, ‘O, ye who believe! Obey Allah and obey the messenger and those charged with authority among you.’”²⁹ Closely associated with obedience is secrecy.

The new recruit must do all things in secret, even concealing items from his wife and other family members is essential.

A new recruit must be free of illness and patient in affliction, even if his enemies capture him. “He should not abandon this great path and sell himself and his religion to the enemies for his freedom.”³⁰ Along with patience a recruit must “have a calm personality that allows him to endure psychological traumas such as those involving bloodshed, murder, arrest, imprisonment, and reverse psychological traumas such as killing one or all of his organization’s comrades.”³¹



Aircraft courtesy of cbp.gov, Boat photo by James Tourtellotte
America is fighting the war on terror by air and by sea.

Recruits must also demonstrate intelligence, insight, caution and prudence. One should also be trustworthy. Trustworthiness is “vital in those who gather information and work as spies. ... Choose those whom you count on for their truthfulness and advice, whether Arabs or inhabitants of that land. Liars’ accounts would not benefit you, even if some of them were true; the deceiver is a spy against you and not for you.”³² Finally, the new recruit needs to have the ability to observe, analyze, act, change positions and conceal oneself.³³

Once an individual has been selected and they accept al-Qaida’s goals and have sworn allegiance to the agenda and bin Laden they are ready for the organization’s military training. Training is provided to recruits in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan.³⁴ Training focuses on how to inflict terror through the use of various types of firearms, explosives, chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The camps also are to experiment with different kinds of chemical and biological weapons.³⁵

Along with weapons’ training, recruits are taught security and counterintelligence methods on “how to blend in” in the Western world. They are also taught to monitor the Western media to measure the effectiveness of their activities.³⁶ Another tool they are instructed to use is how and where operation funds are to be used and managed. Forged identification cards, passports, travel papers and photographs are essential to “blending in” in the Western world, so each recruit is taught how to secure and protect these important documents.³⁷ Another key to “blending in” is selecting the right apartment or in other words, “hiding place.” They will be educated on how to select an apartment, what to look for, how to quickly vacate the hiding place, and how to keep the hiding place secret from the public authorities.³⁸

According to Mr. Thomas Wilshere, deputy section chief, International Terrorism Operational Section, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, al-Qaida has a group of trained core members that numbers in the hundreds. These members have completed al-Qaida's training and are responsible for the USS Cole bombing, the African Embassy bombings and the World Trade Center bombings. Mr. Wilshere also stated that there is a much larger group that has completed the al-Qaida training but are not as skilled as the core group.³⁹ That number, according to an Associated Press report dated May 25, 2004, is at least 20,000 fighters.⁴⁰

Experience: Military

In keeping with the objectives outlined in the al-Qaida training manual, its core military members are quite accomplished at bombing embassies, economic centers, and other populated areas with results of thousands of deaths and extensive damage to buildings, persons and the lives of those who are left behind. Members of al-Qaida have successfully injured thousands and have senselessly murdered hundreds during their campaign of terror against the Western world and more particularly against the United States. Their first success came on Dec. 29, 1992 when two al-Qaida trained Yemeni Muslims detonated a bomb in a hotel with the intent of killing the U.S. servicemen staying there en route to Somalia.⁴¹

At the same time another al-Qaida trained group was arrested at the Aden, Yemen airport for attempting to launch rockets at U.S. military aircraft. These two events caused the U.S. military to quickly leave Aden, Yemen.⁴²

Seeing the hotel attacks as a success, Ramzi Yousef planned the first terrorist attack on American soil. Working along with several local Muslims, Yousef constructed a truck bomb in

UN Security Council Resolution 1328 *12 September 2001*

THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
REAFFIRMING the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,
DETERMINED to combat by all means threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,
RECOGNIZING their inherent right of individual or collective self defense in accordance with the Charter,

1. UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNS in the strongest terms the horrifying terrorist attacks which took place on 11 Sept. 2001 in New York, Washington (D.C.) and Pennsylvania and regards such acts, like any act of international terrorism, as a threat to international peace and security;
2. EXPRESSES its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and their families and to the People and Government of the United States of America;
3. CALLS on all states to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks and STRESSES that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harboring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these acts will be held accountable.
4. CALLS also on the international community to redouble their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts by increased cooperation and full implementation of the relevant international anti-terrorist conventions and Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 1269 of 19 Oct. 1999,
5. EXPRESSES its readiness to take all necessary steps to respond to the terrorist attacks of 11 Sept. 2001 and to combat all forms of terrorism in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations;
6. DECIDES to remain seized of the matter.

New Jersey and delivered it to the World Trade Center parking structure on Feb. 26, 1993.

The bomb exploded, killing six people and wounding 1,500.⁴³ Several men who were arrested and convicted were linked to al-Qaida's Office of Service's Al Kifah Center in Brooklyn, New York.⁴⁴ Ramzi was not captured, and later that summer he was injured during an assassination attempt when his roadside bomb exploded in his face.⁴⁵

In April 1993 several members of al-Qaida traveled to Somalia to assist in training the Somali warlords and their forces on how to effectively attack U.N. troops.⁴⁶ On Oct. 3, 1993 al-Qaida's training paid off when a 90-minute mission aimed at capturing warlord Mohammad Farah Aidid turned into a bloody street battle lasting 17 hours. Men, women and children ambushed U.S. Army Rangers and Delta Force soldiers with automatic weapons and grenades. After the 17-hour street fight 18 soldiers lay dead, 84 soldiers were wounded, and up to 1,000 Somalis were killed.⁴⁷

Additionally, in 1993 bin Laden sent Ali Mohamed to Nairobi to photograph, draft maps, diagrams and reports to help "identify potential American, British, French and Israeli targets to retaliate against the United States for its role in Somalia."⁴⁸ Mohamed said that, "bin Laden reviewed his files, 'looked at the picture of the American embassy and pointed to where a truck could go as a suicide bomber.'"⁴⁹ This destructive plan was put on hold for five years, until Aug. 8, 1998 when a window of opportunity was available. Al-Qaida targeted two U.S. embassies in Africa with truck bombs. The damage was horrific leaving 224 dead and 4,585 injured.⁵⁰ After a thorough investigation the bombings were directly linked to bin Laden.⁵¹



Photo by James R. Tourtellotte

In a post-Sept. 11 world, more precautions are taken with passengers and what they carry on airplanes.

In November 1994 bin Laden ordered al-Qaida to conduct extensive surveillance of President Bill Clinton during his visit to the Manila, Philippines. They used still cameras as well as video cameras to record the movements of the president and his secret service personnel. All photos, video, notes and maps were sent back to bin Laden for him to analyze and plan an assassination. The secret service was not aware of the surveillance at the time.⁵² Along the lines of an assassination, one month later Ramzi Yousef tried and failed to assassinate Pope John Paul II on his visit to Manila.⁵³

On Jan. 21 and 22, 1995 Ramzi Yousef orchestrated the Day of Hate. If successful, it would have killed more Americans than Sept. 11. The plan was to place 11 bombs on 11 different jumbo jets and detonate them while the planes were over the Pacific Ocean killing more than 4,000 people. The plan would have worked had it not been for a fire in Yousef's apartment, which destroyed his bomb making material. Later, Yousef's uncle modified the plan and took it to bin Laden. The modified plan became the blueprint for Sept. 11.⁵⁴

Statement
by
Suleiman Abu Gaiṭh

(Osama bin Laden spokesperson)

Given Oct. 9, 2001

Published in the Financial Times on Oct. 10, 2001

Between November 1995 and June of 1996, al-Qaida was busy setting off truck bombs in Saudi Arabia killing 27 people and injuring more than 400. Although the truck bomb in June was not claimed to be the work of al-Qaida, U.S. intelligence believed bin Laden was responsible for the blast based on a bin Laden interview given in 1997 when he stated, "Only Americans were killed in the explosions. No Saudi suffered any injury. When I got the news about these blasts, I was very happy."⁵⁵

The U.S. and Jordanian governments in December 1999, before the New Millennium, discovered numerous plots to blow up tourist areas frequented by Americans, which resulted in the arrest of 20 people including Ahmed Ressam who had planed to annihilate the Los Angeles International Airport on New Year's Eve.⁵⁶ Although these plots were discovered before death and massive damage could be done, the bombing of the USS Cole on Oct. 12, 2000 was a sober reminder of the serious destruction that al-Qaida was capable of inflicting. The USS Cole was in the port of Aden, Yemen when a small boat full of explosives came near the destroyer and exploded. Seventeen American sailors were destroyed and 39 were wounded.⁵⁷ Other activities al-Qaida participated in during 2000 was kidnapping 11 people from U.S. companies such as, Haliburton, Shell, Chevron,

Peace be upon Mohammed our prophet and those who follow him. I direct this message to the entire Islamic nation, and I say to them that all sides today have come together against the nation of Islam and the Muslim.

This is the crusade that Bush has promised us, coming toward Afghanistan against the Islamic nation and the Afghan people. We are living under this bombardment from the crusader, which is also targeting the whole Islamic community.

We have a fair and just case. The Islamic nation, for more than 80 years, has been suffering. The Palestinian people hate terror and the terror of the United States is only a trick. Is it possible that America and its allies would kill and that would not be called terrorism? And when the victim comes out to take revenge, it is called terrorism. This must not be acceptable.

America must know that the nation will not keep quiet any more and will not allow what happens against it. . . . God says fight, for the sake of God and to uphold the name of God. . . .

I want to talk on another point, that those youths who did what they did and destroyed America with their airplanes did a good deed. They have moved the battle into the heart of America. America must know that the battle will not leave its land, God willing, until America leaves our land, until it stops supporting Israel, until it stops the blockade against Iraq. The Americans must know that the storm of airplanes will not stop, God willing, and there are thousands of young people who are as keen about death as Americans are about life.

The Americans must know that by invading the land of Afghanistan they have opened a new page of enmity and struggle between us and the forces of the unbelievers. We will fight them with the material and the spiritual strength that we have, and our faith in God. We shall be victorious.

The Americans have opened a door that will never be closed. At the end, I address the sons and the young Muslims, the men and women, for them to take their responsibility. The land of Afghanistan and the mujahidin are being subjected to a full crusade with the objective of getting rid of the Islamic nation. The nation must take up its response and in the end I thank God for allowing us to start this jihad. This battle is a decisive battle between faithfulness and faith. And I ask God to give us victory in the face of our enemy and return them defeated.

Mobile and others. They also bombed a McDonalds in France, the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, a Citibank in Greece, and caused property damage to PT Newmont Mining Company located in Indonesia.⁵⁸

The most devastating al-Qaida attack occurred on Sept. 11, 2001 when three jumbo jets were used as missiles to demolish the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon. “The death toll is nearly 10 times greater than any other terrorist attack in history. ... At least 3,044 people are killed.”⁵⁹ The United States was awakened to a real sense of insecurity. This was the first time in American history that such an attack was attempted and successfully carried out, resulting in a tremendous amount of loss. The oceans no longer isolated and protected the United States. What was next?



Photo by James Tourtellotte

The United States is constantly training to prepare for anything. (cbp.gov)

Experience: Additional Bombings, Violence and Terror

Al-Qaida was on a roll after Sept. 11. From March 2002 to May 2004 al-Qaida launched numerous attacks all over the world — starting in Lima, Peru with a car bomb; and then to the islands of Djerba; over to Karachi; Bali in Indonesia; Riyadh in Saudi Arabia; Morocco; Istanbul; then to Moscow; back to the Philippines; over to Madrid, Spain for a subway bombing; then to Saudi Arabia and various other locations too numerous to mention — killing around 822 and wounding at least 408 people.⁶⁰ Amidst the terror and destruction, al-Qaida’s training camps continued to produce

serial killers and have trained several groups who have been carrying out sizeable attacks in India. Larry C. Johnson, former deputy director, Office of Counterterrorism of the State Department, stated, “Almost one of every five international terrorist attacks in 2000 occurred in India. India accounted for almost 50 percent of all deaths (187) and injuries (337) from terrorist attacks during 2000.”⁶¹

Experience: Business and Politics

In order to successfully operate an organization that spans the globe, a large sum of money, weapons, land and other resources are needed in order to properly function. In 1990 bin Laden and others purchased land for training camps and guesthouses in Afghanistan. They purchased enough land to establish five camps for use by al-Qaida members and their affiliate groups. In order to store their firearms, explosives and biological weapons, bin Laden also purchased warehouses. Bin Laden also orchestrated the transfer of money and weapons between associates.⁶²

“... it is the duty of the Muslims to prepare as much force as possible to terrorize the enemies of God.”⁶³ When bin Laden relocated to Afghanistan in the 1990s uranium and nuclear bomb making materials were easy to come by in the Black Market. In Peshawar, a warehouse housed former Soviet Union canisters of uranium and access to the warehouse was fairly easy to obtain. However, despite access to these materials, in order to build a nuclear bomb bin Laden needed enriched uranium and plutonium.⁶⁴

In 1993, bin Laden began efforts to obtain nuclear bomb materials by sending Jamal al-Fadl to Khartoum City, which is near the Nile River in Egypt. Abu Fadhl al Makkee contacted al-Fadl and instructed him to contact Abu Abdullah al Yemeni who would be able to make arrangements for al-Qaida to purchase the material needed for a nuclear weapon. Al-Fadl did as instructed and was told to contact Moqadem Salah Abdel al Mobruk. Al Mobruk put al-Fadl in contact with a person named Basheer in Khartoum City. Basheer and al-Fadl met face-to-face and discussed what al-Qaida desired. Al-Fadl explained that al-Qaida wanted to know the quality of the uranium, the country it was made in and the asking price. After information was exchanged the price was determined to be 1.5 million dollars not counting commissions for Basheer and al Mobruk.⁶⁵ The information was relayed to bin Laden for discussion and a decision. According to al-Fadl's testimony he was not able to confirm if al-Qaida ever purchased the Egyptian uranium or not.

Some of bin Laden's political writings have come in the form of "fatwahs." Fatwahs are statements of instruction and political position. The fatwahs are distributed to al-Qaida members and their associates all over the world.⁶⁶ Between 1992 through 1993, bin Laden issued a fatwah that all soldiers in the United States military who were stationed in the Horn of Africa should be attacked. On Aug. 23, 1996 bin Laden declared war against the United States: "Message from Usamah Bin-Muhammad Bin-Laden to His Muslim Brothers in the Whole World and Especially in the Arabian Peninsula: Declaration of Jihad Against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Mosques; Expel the Heretics from the Arabian Peninsula."⁶⁷ On Feb. 22, 1998 another fatwah was issued stating, "in compliance with God's order, we issue the following fatwah to all Muslims: the ruling to kill the Americans and their allies, including civilians and military, is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it. . . . kill Americans — including civilians — anywhere in the world where they can be found."⁶⁸ In another statement from a fatwah directing members to murder nonbelievers it states, "...it was Islamically proper to engage in violent actions against 'infidels' (nonbelievers), even if others might be killed by such actions, because if the others were 'innocent,' they would go to paradise, and if they were not 'innocent,' they deserve to die."⁶⁹ Al-Qaida and bin Laden have made it clear that Americans have a price on their heads and they will go to any length to murder an American. Since 1993, al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden have been directly or indirectly responsible for the deaths of at least 4,209 people.⁷⁰

References

Over the years, al-Qaida has established ties with other networks including "Egyptian Islamic Jihad; Jamaat Islamiyya, also from Egypt; Libyan Islamic Fighting Group; the Islamic Army of Aden, in Yemen; Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, in Kashmir; the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan; the Salafist Group for Call and Combat and the Armed Islamic Group both of Algeria; and Abu Sayyaf Group, in Malaysia and the Philippines. . . . Intelligence officials and terrorism experts also say that al-Qaida has increasingly been



Photo by James Tourtellotte

The U.S. Visit program ensures every air passenger from another country is checked before entering the United States.

cooperating on logistics and training with Hezbollah, a radical, Iran-backed Lebanese drawn from the minority Shiite strain of Islam.”⁷¹

Many countries such as Sudan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Albania, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, India, Russia, Kenya, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States all have Jihad groups or cells working to destroy the ‘infidel’ nations.⁷² Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Cuba and North Korea have also supported terrorist activities by allowing different organizations to freely operate in their countries.⁷³ According to the testimony of Ali Mohamed, Hezbollah security chief and bin Laden have been working together on an Iranian backed plan to expel U.S. troops from the Middle East.⁷⁴

Conclusion

The specter who only appears on videotapes, who seems to elude the law and delights in murder and bloodshed truly is a man of mystery. Will the United States capture bin Laden? Only time will tell. However, much is being done between the U.S. military and its allies to track and locate bin Laden. Task Force 121 — which helped capture Saddam Hussein — has been assigned to respond in the event bin Laden is spotted. The United States is also tracking bin Laden with the latest technology. One helpful resource the military is utilizing is the capturing of bin Laden’s couriers. The couriers are a great wealth of knowledge in revealing bin Laden’s hiding places. The Task Force heavily relies upon the public’s personal sightings as well as any cell phone contact bin Laden may have with his associates. The final item the military has employed seems to have come right out of a comic book or a spy movie. It is the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle that is sent out to search for bin Laden.⁷⁵ The U.S. military and its allies have done much to narrow down where bin Laden is hiding, but with all of the caves and mountainous terrain it has been extremely difficult for them to find the Mystery Man, Osama bin Laden.

Notes:

¹ The Al Qaeda Manual, trans. (Manchester, England, 2003), Available online: www.usdoj.gov/ag/manualpart1_1.pdf. 3.

² U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Usama Bin Laden’s Wanted Poster: Press Release, June 7, 1999. Washington D.C.: GPO, 2004. <<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel99/prbinlad.htm>.

³ Bergen, Peter. “Osama bin Laden: Portrait of a militant.”

<http://www.cnn.com/LAW/trials.and.cases/case.files/0012/embassy.bombing/bin.laden.html> (2001), 1.

⁴ U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. Usama Bin Laden’s Wanted Poster: Press Release, June 7, 1999. Washington D.C.: GPO, 2004. <<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel99/prbinlad.htm>. - When Osama bin Laden was placed on the FBI’s top ten most wanted list his reward was 5 million dollars. According to Michael Hirsh and John Barry of Newsweek World News in an article entitled, “The Hunt Heats Up,” published on-line at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4467755/>. (March 12, 2004) the reward has been increased to 25 million dollars.

⁵ Bergen, Peter. Osama bin Laden: Portrait of a militant.

<http://www.cnn.com/LAW/trials.and.cases/case.files/0012/embassy.bombing/bin.laden.html> (2001), 1.

⁶ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001), 47-48. Some of these radical teachers were Abdullah Azza, Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, and Ayman al-Zawahiri

⁷ Ibid, 47-48.

⁸ Fighel, Jonathan. Sheikh Abdullah Azzam: Bin Laden’s spiritual mentor. 27 September 2001.

<http://www.ict.org.il/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=388> 20 March 2004.

⁹ Ibid, 52-53.

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- ¹⁰ Figchel, Jonathan. Sheikh Abdullah Azzam: Bin Laden's spiritual mentor. 27 September 2001. <http://www.ict.org.il/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=388> 20 March 2004. According to Peter Bergen, author of *Holy War, Inc.*, Azzam's organization, Bait-ul-Ansar, was the first international Jihadist network.
- ¹¹ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001), 53.
- ¹² Figchel, Jonathan. Sheikh Abdullah Azzam: Bin Laden's spiritual mentor. 27 September 2001. <http://www.ict.org.il/articles/articledet.cfm?articleid=388> 20 March 2004.
- ¹³ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001), 47-53. Muhammad Qutb was the brother to Sayyid Qutb who authored 'Signposts' the key text of the jihadist movement
- ¹⁴ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001) 49.
- ¹⁵ Bergen, Peter. "Osama bin Laden: Portrait of a militant." <http://www.cnn.com/LAW/trials.and.cases/case.files/0012/embassy.bombing/bin.laden.html> (2001), 1.
- ¹⁶ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001) 56-57. - Men were recruited from Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Algeria and other Muslim nations to take part in the Afghan Jihad.
- ¹⁷ Ibid, 59-60.
- ¹⁸ Ibid, 56.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ The Associated Press, "Report: Al-Qaida has 18,000 ready to strike," MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5057703> 25 May 2004, 1.
- ²¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation. Congressional Statement: Al-Qaeda International. Washington D.C., December 18, 2001. <http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress01/caruso121801.htm> (12 April 2004), 1-2.
- ²² The Al Qaeda Manual, trans. (Manchester, England, 2003), 12. Available online: www.usdoj.gov/ag/manualpart1_1.pdf. – The al Qaeda Manual "was located by the Manchester (England) Metropolitan Police during a search of an al Qaeda member's home. The manual was found in a computer file described as 'the military series' related to the 'Declaration of Jihad.' The manual was translated into English and was introduced earlier this year at the embassy bombing trial in New York."
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Council on Foreign Relations, Terrorism: Q&A, http://www.terrorismsanswers.com/groups/alqaeda_print.html, (6 April 2003), 4.
- ²⁶ The Al Qaeda Manual, trans. (Manchester, England, 2003), 15.
- ²⁷ Bergen, Peter L. Holy War, Inc. Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden (New York: Free Press, 2001) 56-57. Jamal Ahmed Al-Fadl was approached in 1989 to "become a member of al Qaeda. He had to swear allegiance to the group's agenda and signed documents confirming his allegiance to bin Laden."
- ²⁸ The Al Qaeda Manual, trans. (Manchester, England, 2003), 15.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ "Inside the Terror Network: al Qaeda." Frontline, PBS. 2002, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/network/alqaeda/indictment.html>. (28 October 2003), 2-3.
- ³⁵ Ibid.
- ³⁶ Ibid, 2.
- ³⁷ The Al Qaeda Manual, trans. (Manchester, England, 2003), 22-23.
- ³⁸ Ibid, 25-26. – The Al Qaeda training manual has 23 different requirements for selecting an apartment or hiding place.
- ³⁹ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 13.
- ⁴⁰ The Associated Press, "Report: Al-Qaida has 18,000 ready to strike," MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5057703> 25 May 2004, 2.

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- ⁴¹ “The man who knew: timeline-al Qaeda’s global context,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/etc/cron.html> (16 July 2004), 3.
- ⁴² Windrem, Robert, “The Hunt for bin Laden,” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4677978/> (21 July 2004), 1.
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ “The man who knew: timeline-al Qaeda’s global context,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/etc/cron.html> (16 July 2004), 3.
- ⁴⁵ Windrem, Robert, “The Hunt for bin Laden,” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4677978/> (21 July 2004), 1.
- ⁴⁶ “The man who knew: timeline-al Qaeda’s global context,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/etc/cron.html> (16 July 2004), 3.
- ⁴⁷ “Frontline: Ambush in Mogadishu: synopsis,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ambush/etc/synopsis.html> (16 July 2004), 1.
- ⁴⁸ Bergen, Peter. Osama bin Laden: Portrait of a militant. <http://www.cnn.com/LAW/trials.and.cases/case.files/0012/embassy.bombing/bin.laden.html> (2001), 1.
- ⁴⁹ Ibid.
- ⁵⁰ “The man who knew: timeline-al Qaeda’s global context,” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/knew/etc/cron.html> (16 July 2004), 7-8.
- ⁵¹ Ibid, 8. “A group calling itself the Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places faxes claims of responsibility for the attack to different media organizations in France, Qatar and the UAE. According to a document published by the British government, a later investigation reveals that the fax was sent from a telephone number linked to Osama bin Laden...Intelligence officials intercept calls between two bin Laden lieutenants implicating them in the embassy bombing.”
- ⁵² Windrem, Robert, “The Hunt for bin Laden,” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4677978/> (21 July 2004), 2.
- ⁵³ Ibid.
- ⁵⁴ Ibid, 3.
- ⁵⁵ Ibid.
- ⁵⁶ Ibid, 5.
- ⁵⁷ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 22.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid, 20.
- ⁵⁹ Windrem, Robert, “The Hunt for bin Laden,” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4677978/> (21 July 2004), 5.
- ⁶⁰ Ibid, 7-12.
- ⁶¹ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 20.
- ⁶² “Inside the Terror Network: al Qaeda.” Frontline, PBS, 2002, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/network/alqaeda/indictment.html>. (28 October 2003), 3. Khalden, Derunta, Khost, Siddiq, and Jihad Wal were the five camps set up by al Qaeda.
- ⁶³ Ibid. These are the words of Osama bin Laden taken from a statement that was prepared on or about May 29, 1998. Long before the statement was issued bin Laden had been trying to secure a Nuclear bomb.
- ⁶⁴ “How Close Has Bin Laden Come to Acquiring N-Bomb?” The Guardian Unlimited, http://www.news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2001/11/1107_wirenbomb.html. (2001 November 7), 2. Experts are not too concerned about Osama bin Laden building a sophisticated nuclear bomb, as they are bin Laden building a dirty bomb. A dirty bomb would have uranium attached to a conventional bomb which when detonated would release a cloud of radioactive particles into the air, thus have a much more devastating effect than a traditional bomb.
- ⁶⁵ “Hunting for bin Laden: Testimony from bin Laden’s Associates,” Frontline, PBS, 2002, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/binladen/bombings/trial.html>. (28 October 2003), 3-6.
- ⁶⁶ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 6.
- ⁶⁷ “Inside the Terror Network: al Qaeda.” Frontline, PBS, 2002, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/network/alqaeda/indictment.html>. (28 October 2003), 4.

⁶⁸ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 6.

⁶⁹ “Inside the Terror Network: al Qaeda.” Frontline, PBS, 2002, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/network/alqaeda/indictment.html>. (28 October 2003), 4.

⁷⁰ Windrem, Robert, “The Hunt for bin Laden,” <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4677978/> (21 July 2004), 1-12.

⁷¹ Council on Foreign Relations, Terrorism: Q&A, http://www.terrorismsanswers.com/groups/alqaeda_print.html, (6 April 2003), 4. According to Larry C. Johnson, former deputy director of the Office of Counterterrorism, Hezbollah has killed more Americans than any other terrorist organization.

⁷² U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 24.

⁷³ Council on Foreign Relations, Terrorism: Q&A, http://www.terrorismsanswers.com/groups/alqaeda_print.html, (6 April 2003), 4.

⁷⁴ U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, The Global Reach of Al-Qaeda: Hearing held before the Subcommittee on International Operations and Terrorism, December 18, 2001 (Washington D.C.: GPO, 2002). Available online: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate> , 24.

⁷⁵ Hirsh, M. and Barry, J., The Hunt Heats Up, Newsweek, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4467755>, (12 March 2004), 3.