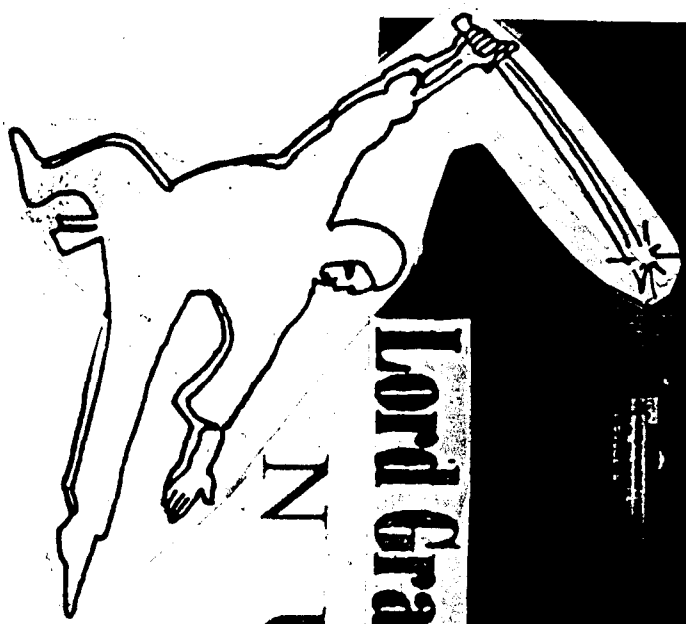


Lord Gracefull Food For Thought

N E W Y O R K



HITOR

BIRTH PAINS

MAT 14,194.8: ISRAEL BECOMES A

NATION From the ashes of Hitler's Holocaust, in the harsh sands of byliddle Eastern deserts, on land sacred to its scattered people for two millenniums of wandering, the tiny nation of Israel was born in 1948, elbowing itself into being in a hostile part of the world by combining

its own energy and the world's sympathy. Israel willed its existence defiantly-by force of arms and by proclaiming independence for itself, by defeating five encircling armies and forcing the signatures of neighboring Arab nations to a U.N.-sponsored armistice.

Shortly after sunrise on May 14, the Union Jack flapped down from its staff over Government House, on Jerusalem's Hill of Evil Counsel, ending the British mandate over Palestine after 26 years. At 4 p.m. **David Ben-Gurion**, the longtime leader of the Jewish settlers, or Zionists, who had flocked to Palestine from Europe, proclaimed 'the establishment of the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called Israel' In the two hours left before sundown, when the Jewish Sabbath would begin, the i t

the new nation with an attack, as troops moved in from Transjordan and Lebanon. Egypt and Syria. But the tough Jewish underground army, the Haganah, hardened



FIRE! Arab heft pound a kwbb4wM house in Jerusalem

streets, paraded with blue-and-white Star of David flags, prayed in their synagogues.

The United States immediately recognized Israel Its Muslim neighbors, however, united as the **Arab League**, welcomed

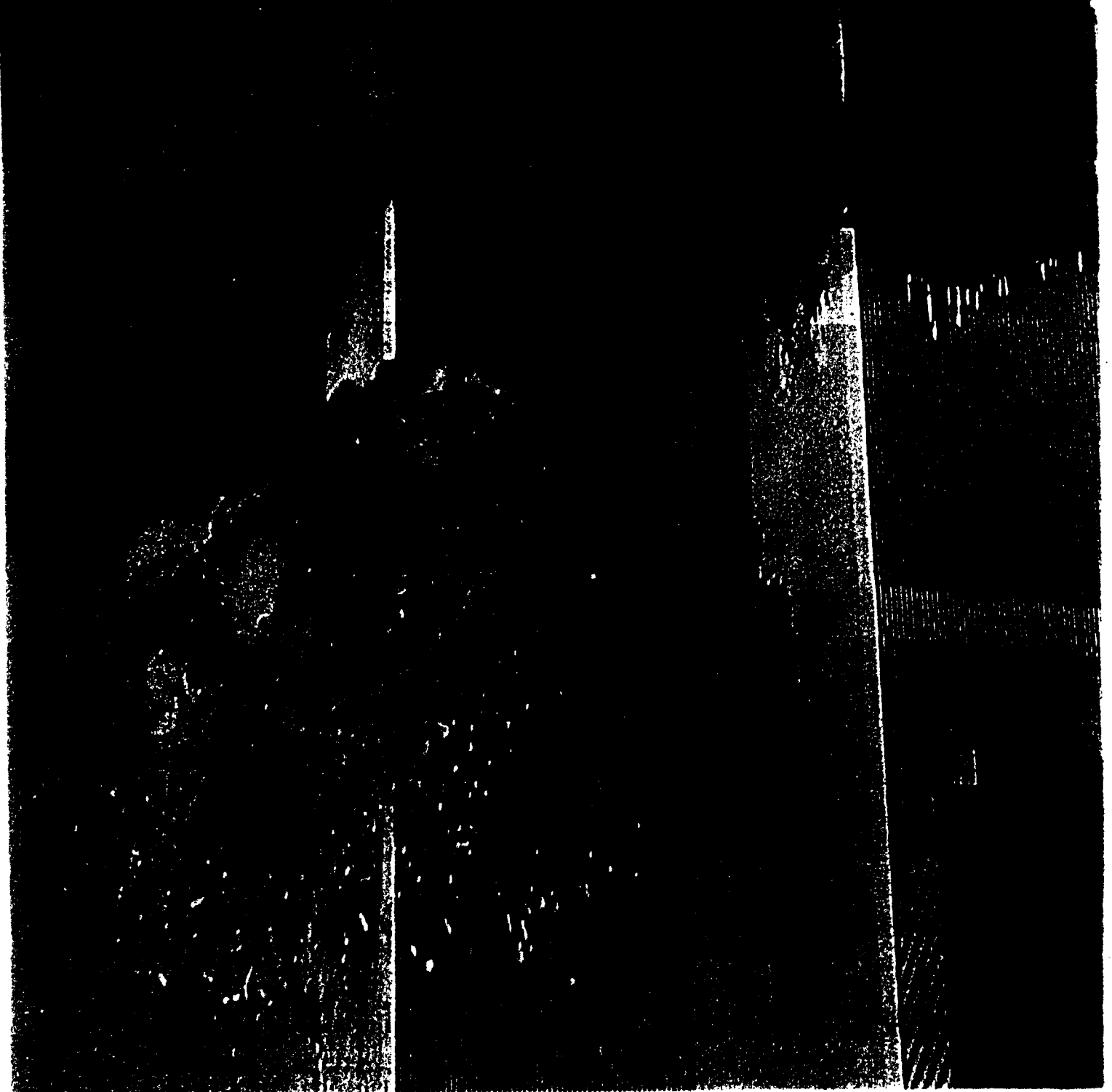
from years of fighting to protect Jewish settlements in Palestine, stymied the Arabs. By the summer of 1949 all its enemies had signed cease-fires brokered by the U .N., and Israel was secure-for the moment ~

THE FACTS

THE BASTARD

TERRORISTS BRING WAR TO OUR SHORES

SOLONON p3



FBI TEN 1VI0ST WANTED FUGITIVE

**MURDER OF U.S. NATIONALS. OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES;
CONSPIRACY TO MURDER U.S. NATIONALS OUTSIDE '1 'HE
UNITED STATES; ATTACK ON A FEDERAL FACILITY
RESULTING IN DEATH**

USAMA BIN LADEN



WASHINGTON - U.S. officials looking at targets in Afghanistan for a retaliatory strike aimed at eliminating the No. 1 suspect, Osama bin Laden, face two major hurdles: how to find the indicted terrorist and how to stop his associates from carrying on once he is removed. "We devote a lot of people and money attempting to monitor bin Laden's movements, but we simply do' not have real-time intelligence as to where he is," says Afghanistan analyst Julie Sirrs, a former Defense Intelligence Agency analyst. "And even if we get rid of him, that's not going to stop the attacks."



AP file

Osama bin Laden is believed to be living in Afghanistan.

Aliases: Usama Bin Muhammad Bin Ladin, Shaykh Usama Bin Ladin, the Prince, the Emir, Abu Abdallah, Mujahid Shaykh, Hajj, the Director

DESCRIPTION

Date of Birth:	1957	Hair:	Brown
Place of Birth:	Saudi Arabia	Eyes:	Brown
Height:	6' 4" to 6' 6"	Complexion:	Olive
Weight:	Approximately 160 pounds	Sex:	Male
Build:	Thin	Nationality:	Saudi Arabian
Occupations:	Unknown		
Remarks:	Leader of a terrorist organization known as Al-Qaeda "The Base". He walks with a cane.		
Scars and Marks:	None		

CAUTION

USAMA BIN LADEN IS WANTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUGUST 7, 1998, BOMBINGS OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSIES IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA AND NAIROBI, KENYA. THESE ATTACKS KILLED OVER 200 PEOPLE.

THE TRUTH

ERRI Risk Assessment Services-DAILY INTELLIGENCE REPORT-Friday, July 25, 1997 Vol. 3 - 206

OSAMA BIN LADEN BIDES HIS TIME; TO STRIKE THE U.S. AGAIN?

By Steve Macko, ERRI Risk Analyst



Exiled Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden remains hidden somewhere in the mountains of Afghanistan. He is wealthy, elusive and an Islamic extremist who is plotting against the United States. In his eyes and of those of his militant followers, bin Laden and his army of mujahadeen fighters have already brought down one infidel superpower by destroying the Soviet Union in a ten-year-long war in Afghanistan.

Now, Osama bin Laden has set his sights on and has sworn to bring an end of U.S. influence in his native Saudi Arabia and the Islamic world. It is said that he has the money to do it. Security analyst Arnaud de Borchgrave, who has met bin Laden, estimates that he is worth more than US\$200 million. He is said to also have the ability to tap the fortunes of other wealthy sympathizers.

Counterterrorism analysts say that bin Laden is working with terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and its patron Iran. Kenneth Katzman, the terrorism analyst for the U.S. Congress, said, "I think you have an 'atomic bomb' brewing between bin Laden, Hezbollah and the Iranians. If these two huge forces are married, either could set off the spark. Sooner or later you are going to see more from these people."

The U.S. State Department calls bin Laden "one of the most significant financial sponsors of Islamic extremist activities in the world today." Just like the old E.F. Hutton ads, when bin Laden speaks, people listen.

This past February, bin Laden renewed his threat of a "jihad" or holy war against U.S. soldiers and civilians in Saudi Arabia. This led the U.S. State Department to issue a warning.

In speaking to an Arabic newspaper, bin Laden said, "We had thought that the Riyadh and al-Khobar blasts were a sufficient signal to sensible U.S. decision-makers to avert a real battle between the Islamic nation and U.S. forces, but it seems that they did not understand the signal."

Bin Laden reportedly made his militant contacts during the Afghan war. He then set up terrorist training camps in Sudan and financed attacks against the moderate governments of Algeria, Egypt, his native Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

His apparent partner, Hezbollah, has a history of terror against the United States and its allies. They are believed responsible for the 1983 attack on the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut that killed 241 Americans and more recently the 1994 bombing of a Jewish cultural center in Argentina that killed 95 people.

There is growing evidence that bin Laden has struck the United States with Hezbollah's help. The evidence is said to be strong that his followers were responsible for the November 1995 terrorist bombing in Riyadh that killed five U.S. service personnel and two Indians. It is said to be still unclear if bin Laden had any involvement in the 25 June 1996 terrorist truck bombing in Dhahran that killed 19 U.S. airmen.

There is also evidence that bin Laden may have been connected to the February 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City that killed six people and wounded more than 1,000 others. Ramzi Yousef, who is currently on trial for being involved in the World Trade Center bombing, is said to have received money from bin Laden's brother-in-law.

According to a top State Department official, "Bin Laden's activities were run through Islamic charities that we think extended as far as the Philippines and that is where Yousef planned out his attacks on U.S. planes." Yousef was captured in Pakistan at a guesthouse that was set up for Afghan war veterans by

Osama bin Laden.

Amado Carrillo Fuentes, the now dead head of the Juarez drug cartel in Mexico, was said to be worth much more than bin Laden. Carrillo was worth billions not millions of dollars. Authorities said that even though Carrillo was probably one of the wealthiest men in the world, he felt like a hunted man for most of this year. The Osama bin Laden problem needs to come to a similar end.

In 1945, a B-25 bomber smashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building. It caused an explosion and fire and killed 14 people but did not destroy the building. That plane was not loaded with the huge amount of fuel that Tuesday's jetliners carried.

The buildings housed about 55,000 workers employed by more than 700 firms the executive offices of the New York Stock Exchange and leading investment accounting firms.

The felling of the twin trade towers is a scene that no New Yorker will ever forget.

Shortly after 0900 local time thousands gathered on the sidewalks of New York to view an improbable scene. Two gaping, flaming holes in the side of both towers caused by planes flown deliberately and directly into them.

On the streets below crowds gathered wherever there was a view of the smoking towers. People's reactions ranged from stunned disbelief to weeping.

Others pitched in, doing what they could to direct traffic or assist people.

Along 6th Avenue, New Yorkers stood aghast as they watched the buildings burn, and a sudden shriek, went up when the south tower collapsed, sending a huge plume dust into the air.

People ran screaming

People ran screaming as a growing cloud of debris hit the streets of lower Manhattan and pushed them up the Avenue.

It was like the scene out of a movie as the huge ball of rubble grew behind a terrorised crowd, running for cover.

Shortly after the first tower went down, the second collapsed, sending more smoke and debris into the air.

Further uptown, trolleys formed outside St. Vincent's Medical Centre in Greenwich Village awaiting the injured.

Hospital staff went through the crowd pleading with people to donate blood.

Shopkeepers shut-up shop, while others remained open as employees gathered around televisions and radios to hear what had happened.

Major north-south thoroughfares were shut down for access to police and emergency vehicles only, as pedestrians made their way uptown.

AP

September 12, 2001

2 Planes Hit Twin Towers at the Weakest Spot

Collapse: Structural engineers say the terrorists apparently knew they had to hit the World Trade Center as low as possible to cause the most damage.

By USHA LEE McFARLING, Times Staff Writer

The terrorists who piloted two planes into the World Trade Center apparently managed--either by careful calculation or evil luck--to have hit the buildings at their weakest spot to cause their disastrous collapse, structural engineers said Tuesday.

"It's like hitting someone at the back of the knee," said Nabih Youssef, a structural engineer who heads the Tall Building Council in Los Angeles and is an expert on the design and strength of skyscrapers. "With enough weight above you, you take the entire building down."

Government officials believe the terrorists wrested control of the passenger jets, then skillfully steered the planes toward the doomed towers.

"Whoever took over the plane knew what they were doing," said Greg Fenves, a professor of civil engineering at UC Berkeley.

Had the buildings been hit higher up the towers, they would have sustained damage but probably would not have collapsed because the weight on the damaged portion of the building would not have been enough to overwhelm a tower's structural supports, engineers said.

Planes Had to Clear Nearby Buildings

The planes might have done more damage if they had hit the buildings lower, but they had to fly at a height of about 60 stories to clear nearby buildings. The first tower was hit at about the 80th story. The second tower was hit at about the 60th story.

"They showed some knowledge of physics in the attempt to make the hits as low as possible," said Ron Hamburger, chief structural engineer for ABS Consulting in Oakland and a past president of the Structural Engineers Assn. of California.

To many who saw the buildings fall on television, the collapse resembled a planned demolition, especially in the way that the twin towers imploded--tumbling in on themselves. But engineering experts discounted the notion that additional explosives had been planted around the base of the buildings to ensure that they came down.

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Demolition of a building the size of the ones in the World Trade Center would require "literally hundreds of charges around the building," Hamburger said. "It's inconceivable to me anyone would be able to place that many charges--even with years of planning."

Instead, the impact of the planes themselves, and the tremendous heat generated by tons of burning jet fuel--upward of 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit--would suffice to destroy the buildings, said Scott Gustafson, owner of Demtech Inc. of Blue Springs, Mo., one of the world's leading demolition experts.

A Boeing 767 has a fuel capacity of 20,000 gallons. A Boeing 757 has an 11,000-gallon fuel capacity. Because the planes were scheduled for transcontinental flights, they would have been fully loaded with fuel.

Plane Was 'a Highly Explosive Bomb'

"The plane probably made its way halfway to the core of the structure," Gustafson said. "The fuel went through a couple of floors, loaded them with fuel, and the impact opened a corridor to the outside for air. Some fuel probably got into the elevators and spread the fire. One thing led to another, and it just kept snowballing."

"It was very well thought out," said Hank Koffman, who directs the construction engineering department at USC. "These guys were evil geniuses."

"The plane was really a highly explosive bomb," he said. Terrorism experts were calling the attack "low-tech and high-concept."

Even though structural steel used in buildings is coated with a fireproof material, extreme amounts of heat cause the steel to soften and lose its strength. The weight of the floors above then causes them to crash.

"The technical term is progressive collapse--the slang term is pancaking," said Ron Klemencic, president of Skilling Ward Magnusson Barkshire, the Seattle firm that engineered the World Trade Center. "What basically happens is that one floor falls on top of the floor below it, and with one floor falling on top of another there's no way to stop it."

The steel is protected to certain temperatures and for certain periods of time, but "an explosion of this magnitude would have exceeded all those limits," said James C. Anderson, a professor of civil engineering at USC. "Buildings are not designed for this. Not in their wildest dreams."

"Buildings are designed thinking of internally generated heat," added Jon Magnusson, the chairman and chief executive of the Skilling firm. "Nobody anticipates putting jet fuel in a building. If you had to build buildings to withstand this sort of event, you wouldn't be able to build any buildings."

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2 #

FBI Checks Countless Attack Leads

By PETE YOST, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Attorney General John Ashcroft ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) said Thursday the FBI ([pews](#) - [web sites](#)) was working on "thousands and thousands of leads" in the investigation of Tuesday's terror attacks in New York and Washington.

[Reuters Photo](#)

[Terrorists Attack U.S.](#)

[Audio Mdeo](#)

a [FBI Investigating Several Leads](#)
([ABCNEWS.com](#))

While there have been no arrests, he said, authorities have interviewed many people in connection with the hijacking of four airliners and the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon ([pews](#) - [web sites](#)).

A total of 18 hijackers were on the planes, Ashcroft said. There were five on each of two planes and four each on the other two.

Ashcroft said he had been heartened by the public's interest in tracking down those responsible.

"The FBI is working thousands and thousands of leads," he said.

Ashcroft said the FBI's 800-number hot line had received 2,055 calls. In addition, its Web site had received more than 22,700 tips, he said.

"Some of these leads have been helpful to the investigation," Ashcroft said.

He said authorities are still searching for the "black boxes" - flight-data and cockpit voice recorders - of the four planes that crashed - two in New York, one at the Pentagon and the other in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Ashcroft said authorities were most hopeful that the recorders of the plane that crashed in rural Somerset County, Pa., United Airlines Flight 93, would be found first.

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Mueller said all 18 hijackers on the four planes were ticketed passengers.

Earlier, the Justice Department (news - web sites) said that at least one hijacker on each plane was trained at a U.S. flight school and that well over 50 people may have been involved in the hijackers' well-financed operation.

A number of people that could be involved in the plot were detained overnight for having false identifications, Justice Department spokeswoman Mindy Tucker said earlier Thursday. She declined to say how many were detained or where they are being held.

Officials are close to releasing the names and possibly the-country of origin of the hijackers. Nearly all have been identified, Tucker said.

The FBI's massive investigation stretches from the Canadian border to Florida, where some of the participants learned how to fly commercial planes before the attacks. Tucker said flight schools in more than one state were involved in the training of the hijackers, several of whom had pilots' licenses.

Multiple cells of terrorist groups participated in the operation and the hijackers had possible ties to countries that included Saudi Arabia and Egypt, said law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Officials said authorities were gathering evidence that the terrorist cells may have had prior involvement in earlier plots against the United States, and may have been involved with Saudi exile Osama bin Laden (news - web sites). That includes the USS' Cole (news - web sites) bombing in Yemen and the foiled attack on U.S. soil during the millennium celebrations.

The identities of the men who hijacked the four planes with knives and threats of bombs have been ascertained, the officials said.

In Florida Thursday, FBI agents were interviewing three Saudi Arabian flight engineers who are taking classes at Flightsafety International's flight school in Vero Beach, Fla., company spokesman Roger Ritchie said. He declined to name the engineers.

The school does not have simulators for Boeing 767 and 757 aircraft such as the ones involved in Tuesday's attacks, Ritchie said.

Thomas Quinn, a New York-based spokesman for Saudi Arabian Airlines, said many of the airline's pilots came to the United States for flight training.

Ashcroft said the investigation was complicated by "the destruction of those who perpetrated the crime and much of the evidence being destroyed."

About 40 of the people involved in the attacks have been accounted for, including those killed in the suicide attacks, but 10 remain at large, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday night on its Web site, citing an unidentified source with knowledge of the investigation.

Some of those involved in the plot left suicide notes, but they are not believed to have been the hijackers, a government source told The Associated Press. It's unclear whether those who left the notes actually killed themselves.

The Times said authorities believe 27 suspected terrorists received pilot training.

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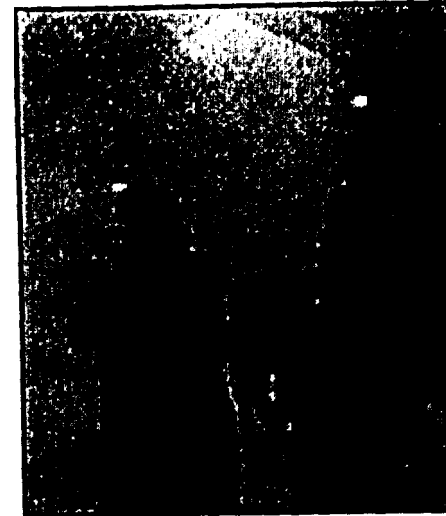
Tuesday, 11 September, 2001, 16:51 GMT

17:51 UK

Eyewitness: The twin towers fall



Panic stricken New Yorkers fled the collapsing World Trade Center



People choked in the dust cloud after the collapse of the twin towers

NEW YORK -The image of the World Trade Center's 110-story twin towers crumbling seemed a scene of impossible destruction. But the miraculous steel and concrete architecture that made them could not withstand the power of Tuesday's attack and ensuing fire. No building designed today could, said Masoud Sanayei, a civil engineering professor at Tufts University. Experts in skyscraper construction said video of the collapse led them to believe the towers were perhaps weakened by the initial impact of the airplanes that hit them Tuesday, but that heat from the resulting fire was likely the most punishing blow.

FOOD

FOR

THOUGHT

TERROR SQUADS

HERE'S THE MATH ON SOME OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S MOST WANTED

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE between a terrorist organization and a revolutionary one? Terrorists attempt to coerce their opponent through a systematic campaign of violence. Revolutionaries may employ terroristic methods but are likely to consider a different strategy to achieve social, economic and political change. But whose job is it to separate the terrorists from the revolutionaries? Evidently, the United States of America. Every two years

since 1997, the State Department releases a list of terrorist organizations. This list prevents these groups from entering the country, fundraising here, or receiving private assistance. And there's no appeal process, so once a group makes the list, they have to wait two years for reassessment. Check out some of the best- and little-known organizations on the latest list.



HAMAS - Israel/Palestine

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Founded in 1987, Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist militant group that seeks the establishment of an Islamic state in Palestine. It is known for its use of suicide bombings and other acts of violence against Israeli civilians and military targets. The group's charter calls for the elimination of the Jewish people and the establishment of an Islamic state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



AL-QAIDA - Afghanistan

Al-Qaeda is a global Salafi jihadist militant group that was founded by Osama bin Laden. It is known for its use of suicide bombings and other acts of violence against Western targets. The group's charter calls for the establishment of a global Islamic state and the elimination of the Jewish people.



AUM SHINRIKYO - Aum Supreme Truth - Japan

Aum Shinrikyo is a Japanese religious group that was founded by Shoko Asahara. It is known for its use of chemical weapons and other acts of violence. The group's charter calls for the establishment of a global Islamic state and the elimination of the Jewish people.



REDAIR - Red Army Faction - Germany

The Red Army Faction (RAF) was a German militant group that was active from the 1970s to the 1990s. It is known for its use of suicide bombings and other acts of violence against Western targets.



ETA - Euzko Taaskasaren Askapenaren Erakundeak - Basque Country

ETA is a Basque nationalist and separatist organization that has been active since the 1950s. It is known for its use of suicide bombings and other acts of violence against Spanish civilians and military targets. The group's charter calls for the establishment of an independent Basque state.

THE INFAMOUS ...

During its first 10 years, Hamas waged an increasing campaign of suicide bombings against military targets and Jewish settlers. Dialogues between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat helped quell the assaults. After Rabin's 1995 assassination, the climate for peace deteriorated. In one of its most brutal attacks, three Hamas suicide bombers killed five and wounded 181 at Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda marketplace in September '97.

In August 1998, American embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, exploded within minutes of one another. 301 people were killed, 5,000 were wounded. American investigators linked the bombings to bin Laden through the arrests of Muslim suspects in Pakistan, Africa and the US. This past October, a former US Army sergeant pleaded guilty to conspiring with bin Laden on the attack.

In a country with more than 200,000 religious groups, Aum proved to be one of the most lethal. In 1994, followers released sarin nerve gas in the town of Matsumoto, killing seven people. And in March 1995, members planted containers of sarin on the Tokyo subway during rush hour. Twelve passengers died and at least 6,000 more were wounded.

MRJA's most headline-grabbing stunt—the longest hostage crisis in Latin American history—also hastened its decline. In December 1995, MRJA members took more than 450 people hostage at the Japanese ambassador's residence. Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori deployed special forces units four months later, releasing all but one of the 72 hostages. Peruvian soldiers killed the terrorists, including leader Nestor Cerna Cerón.

Since the early 1960s, the ETA has bombed or shot 100 people, including Spanish politicians, judges, soldiers and other Basques. In 1978, it assassinated Prime Minister Adolfo Suárez. In 1980, it killed Blanco. And ETA military leader Ignacio Garza Ariza (Geli) is suspected of masterminding a failed attempt to assassinate King Juan Carlos of Spain five years ago. The group announced its first ever ceasefire in September 1998.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE LATELY?

Hamas has continued its campaign of violence against Israeli civilians and military targets. In 1998, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Gaza. In 1999, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Gaza.

Al-Qaeda has continued its campaign of violence against Western targets. In 1998, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. In 1999, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Aum Shinrikyo has continued its campaign of violence against Western targets. In 1998, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Matsumoto. In 1999, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Matsumoto.

ETA has continued its campaign of violence against Spanish civilians and military targets. In 1998, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Barcelona. In 1999, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Barcelona.

ETA has continued its campaign of violence against Spanish civilians and military targets. In 1998, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Barcelona. In 1999, it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Barcelona.

Threads of U.S. Action Against Bin Laden Revealed



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - As the United States conducts an all-out hunt for those behind the attacks on New York and Washington, threads of its efforts to target Islamic militant Osama bin Laden ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) have come to light.

The CIA ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) has had presidential approval since 1998 to conduct covert operations targeting bin Laden, who Washington believes masterminded the bombings of two U.S. Embassies in East Africa that year, government sources said.

The president must authorize covert operations, and the highly secret directive is detailed in what activities the intelligence agency is permitted to engage in against a particular target.

The directive, issued by former President Bill Clinton and retained by President Bush ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), underwent some changes over the years but allows for dealing with bin Laden "harshly," one government source said.

The directive determined that bin Laden, who is the prime suspect behind last week's attacks by hijacked airliners on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon ([news](#) - [web sites](#)), was a threat to U.S. interests, sources said.

ENCOURAGING OTHERS

While the order allows the covert operation to contribute to bin Laden's death, that does not mean the CIA would actually try to kill him. Rather, the spy agency could prompt others to carry out a lethal attack, sources said.

Last year, a group of foreign nationals said they had tried to attack bin Laden with a rocket-propelled grenade while he was on the road in Afghanistan ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) but had missed, sources said.

The CIA apparently had let it be known in the region that it would not mind if bin Laden were brought to justice, if he was taken into custody or if something unfortunate happened as he attempted to resist capture, sources said.

There was no evidence, however, that the apparent failed attack on bin Laden by the foreign nationals had actually occurred, sources said.

Bush said on Monday the United States wanted bin Laden "dead or alive" and warned Afghanistan's ruling Taliban it would be held accountable for giving him safe haven.

Asked if he wanted to see death for bin Laden, Bush said: "I want justice. And there's an old poster out West that says, 'Wanted: Dead or Alive.'"

U.S. intelligence knows locations bin Laden frequents, but has found it difficult to keep track of his movements in the mountainous terrain with the precision needed to target him.

OPPOSITION BACKING

The CIA in the past has provided financial support to the opposition Northern Alliance, which controls about 5 percent of Afghanistan.

But the group's military leader, Ahmad Shah Masood, who had obstructed the Taliban's drive to control all of Afghanistan, died last week in an attack by suicide bombers posing as journalists.

The Afghan opposition guerrilla group pledged to support any U.S. strike against camps run by bin Laden in Afghanistan.

A 25-year executive order bans U.S. involvement in assassinations overseas, so the directive authorizing covert operations does not bluntly instruct the CIA to send a team of assassins to kill bin Laden, another government source said.

But it permits operations to be conducted in such a way that harm befalls the Islamic zealot.

U.S. intelligence has had suspected affiliates of bin Laden under surveillance outside Afghanistan, as the United States tried to determine who was involved in the suicide bombing attack on the warship USS Cole (news - web sites) in Yemen in October 2000.

One of the suspected hijackers in Tuesday's attack, Khalid al-Midhar, was observed in **a surveillance tape in January 2000 meeting with a** group in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, that included people suspected of links to the Cole bombing, an intelligence official f said.

The highly coordinated precision attack on America has stirred calls for beefing up CIA operations that run covert activities and recruit foreign spies, to get information on extremist cells that are small, closed, and hard to monitor.

Experts estimate that bin Laden's group al-Qaeda operates in 35 to 60 countries.

The CIA's most recent graduating class from **its clandestine service training program was the largest, although the number of new case officers is classified, and there were 22 different languages represented among them, one official said.**

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2#



Our highest happiness will be best attained through our understanding of conscious co-operation with natural laws.