

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Interview of FBI Special Agent [REDACTED]

Type of event: Interview

Dates: January 5, 2004

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Michael Jacobson

Team Number: 1A

Location: FBI, Phoenix Field Office

Participants -- Non-Commission: Assistant General Counsel Sean O'Neill

Participants -- Commission: Hyon Kim, Michael Jacobson

[REDACTED] was the agent involved in the [REDACTED] investigation. [REDACTED] was the other agent involved in this investigation. [REDACTED] was a roommate of Hanjour and was also a student at Westwind Aviation and Arizona Aviation. He lived with Hanjour in the 1998-1999 time frame, with Bandar al-Hazmi. Rayed Abdullah did not live there at the time. [REDACTED] noted that Abdullah was the back up imam at the ICC. [REDACTED] said that they kicked Hanjour out of the apartment because he wasn't interacting with them. [REDACTED] didn't really comment on his relationship with Bandar al-Hazmi and Rayed Abdullah. [REDACTED] said that Hanjour did not engage in any suspicious behavior while they were living together. He was also surprised about Hanjour's involvement because he thought Hanjour was a horrible pilot. He couldn't believe that Hanjour could fly a plane into the Pentagon. [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] did pass a polygraph.

[REDACTED] is from Somalia, but has lived for longer in Saudi Arabia. He came to the US solely to become a pilot, and said that he dad was paying for his education. He got to the point in his training where he could operate a double engine plane, but then his dad could no longer afford to pay for his training. The last time he flew was in 1999. [REDACTED] said that his dad was very pious, and was displeased with [REDACTED] for not being religious enough and for not going to the mosque frequently enough. [REDACTED] noted that originally they were concerned that maybe [REDACTED] had the same type of guilt he ascribed to Hanjour (discussed below) but there is nothing to support this. There is nothing to indicate that he was studying to be a pilot for any nefarious purposes. [REDACTED] thinks that the FBI was able to determine that [REDACTED] father was paying for the flight lessons. [REDACTED] is very poor right now, and is living in a half way house. [REDACTED] has no real ties to the Somali Community in Phoenix.

He met Hanjour through Bandar al-Hazmi. [redacted] also attended the ICC, which was the mosque which Hanjour and the others attended. [redacted] thinks that [redacted] did attend the Saudi meetings. He told the FBI that he was more of an acquaintance of Hanjour than a friend or close associate. While Hanjour was in Tempe he didn't really socialize.

[redacted] thinks that Hanjour was recruited by al-Qa'ida in 1999. He thinks that Hanjour was recruited after he left the Phoenix area and returned to Saudi Arabia. He noted that Hanjour was a guilt filled person. He would go out drinking and then he would spend the next day praying. He did say that he noticed that Hanjour was enamored of UBL.

[redacted] said that he did not have much contact with Hanjour after he returned to Phoenix. He said that he only saw Hanjour once, but he couldn't give an exact time frame. On that one occasion, he said that Bandar al-Hazmi was trying to find Hanjour, and he asked [redacted] to call Hanjour for him. [redacted] said that Raissi also approached him looking for Hanjour.

[redacted] was arrested after 9/11 for being out of status. He was married to an American. He was not deported because they were not deporting people back to Somalia, given the conditions there.

9/11 Law Enforcement Sensitive

One point of suspicion was that [redacted] did have ties to Soubra. He was in jail with Soubra for about 2 months after 9/11. He also told the FBI that he thought Soubra was a great guy. [redacted]

9/11 Law Enforcement Sensitive

[redacted] is also pretty close to Akeel Collins. [redacted] was the one who reported that Akeel Collins had made the comment to him (well prior to 9/11) that he would like [redacted] to fly a plane into Air Force One when the President was out in Phoenix.

[redacted] has ties to Raissi, though he says that he hates him. He said that he last saw him pre 9/11.