

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**Event:** Interview of FBI Special Agent Frank Texteira**Type of event:** Interview**Dates:** November 18, 2003**Special Access Issues:** DSM**Prepared by:** Michael Jacobson**Team Number:** 1A**Location:** FBI, San Diego Field Office**Participants – Non-Commission:** FBI Assistant General Counsel Randy Blair**Participants – Commission:** Hyon Kim, John Tamm, Michael Jacobson

Frank Texteira joined the FBI in August 1999 and has been assigned to the San Diego Division since that time.

Texteira is not overly familiar with Khalid Abdulrab. He recalls that his name originally came up in a Rapid Start lead. Someone from the FBI had already interviewed Abdulrab's host family. During the early stages of the FBI's investigation, Abdulrab's name came up several times (both as Abdulrab and as al-Yafai). Reports linked him to other individuals of interest to the FBI. It also appeared that he knew the 2 hijackers while they were living in San Diego.

The FBI determined that Abdulrab had made comments to his host family while he was living there (before 9/11) that his brother knew UBL. The FBI went back and questioned the host family about these allegations and about his other associates.

Abdulrab was a student at one of the language schools in San Diego. The FBI decided that they were interested in talking to him based on his links to other individuals. By that time, however, Abdulrab was back in Saudi Arabia. The FBI let the Saudi Government know that they were interested in talking to him. He's not sure that it ever happened. They have also provided Abdulrab's name to the Intelligence Community and has never heard anything back.

Abdulrab knew al-Midhar and Hazmi and associated closely with Hashim al-Attas. Al-Attas returned to the US on September 10, 2001. He was scheduled to fly from JFK to the West Coast on 9/11. There were initial reports that he could have been a hijacker. Attas was friends with at least 2 hijackers in San Diego. Texteira thinks that Attas had an apartment which he subleased to the 2 hijackers. Attas was allegedly

introduced to the 2 hijackers through Abdulrab. As to the reporting that Attas was turning over his apartment to the hijackers as a "favor" to Abdulrab, Texteira is not sure what that reporting even means. He knows that in this community they will do favors for each other without even knowing each other. This type of activity is accepted much more readily. Or, it's possible, that it could mean something more sinister.

The host family told the FBI about 2 of Abdulrab's associates. They provided the names [redacted] Through other reporting that found out that there was a "Khalid" who was working at Broadway Pizza and introduced the hijackers to Al-Attas. To Texteira's knowledge, this is the only reporting directly tying Abdulrab to the hijackers. Abdulrab's email address also came up as being in contact with Bayoumi. He is also an associate of Omar Bakarbashat.

The FBI has determined that Abdulrab has 2 brothers. He is from Yemen, and has lived in Saudi Arabia. According to the host family, he left to go back to Saudi Arabia because his whole family had just gotten Saudi citizenship, and they needed him to go back to work. The FBI doesn't know anything else about his brothers and haven't discovered additional intelligence or information tying his brother to Bin Ladin. The host family said that Abdulrab made the comment about his brother in passing after the USS Cole bombing. He didn't elaborate on this.

As far as the reporting that Abdulrab came into town suddenly, he thinks that it was actually that Abdulrab departed suddenly. His host family thought it was odd that he departed so suddenly. He left on short notice. He claimed that his father called him and needed help.

Abdulrab ended up with the [redacted] through a school placement program. The [redacted] hosted a number of people as well. There was another individual there for several weeks at the same time as Abdulrab.

Texteira is unfamiliar with Abdulrab and Bayoumi's relationship.

Bakarbashat told the FBI that he had met Abdulrab and that he was a friend of his through the language school.

Texteira is not sure whether or no [redacted] has ever been interviewed by the FBI. The [redacted] had met [redacted] In fact [redacted] went to a function that [redacted] put on at an Officer's club. Texteira doesn't recall whether [redacted] visited Abdulrab in Saudi Arabia or not.

As far as the flight on 9/11, there were several other names on the Watchlist who were traveling with al-Attas. He doesn't know whether al-Attas was ever interviewed. Al-Attas was in contact with Abdulrab after Abdulrab left for Saudi Arabia. Texteira does not know whether Abdulrab and al-Attas had a relationship or knew each other before both lived in San Diego.

Texteira does not recall reporting about Abdulrab getting money from a company in Yemen.

He doesn't know whether Abdulrab had a relationship with [REDACTED] He's not sure who al-Attas's girlfriend was. He is aware that al-Attas was friends with Mohdhar Abdullah.

Texteira thinks that Abdulrab is a potentially significant person. He introduced the hijackers to Attas and is linked to too many people. They need to find out more. They have reviewed his emails and nothing significant stood out.

Osama Owadallah's name came up through several angles. His phone number was found in the hijackers' car. His name also came up locally. Owadallah worked at the same gas station as Hazmi. He knew the hijackers. One of the associates said that Owadallah had a chip on his shoulder while he was working at the Texaco station. One time a customer "looked down on him" because he was from the Middle East. Owadallah then threw the change at the customer. Bakarbashat also told the FBI that he was living with Owadallah and asked him to leave the apartment because he kept on getting into fights. Owadallah lived at Saranac Street apartment, a location frequented by the hijackers. Texteira is not sure whether Owadallah had other roommates.

During the interview with the FBI, Owadallah appeared to be cooperative. He let them search his place.

9/11 Closed by Statute

During the search the FBI found a notebook of Owadallah's from his English class. In one of the documents, he said that he had two friends named Nawaf and Khalid.

Texteira is not familiar with the reporting about the September 10th meeting at the gas station or with Mohdhar's reported change in behavior prior to the attacks.

Owadallah went to the Saranac Street mosque. The reports varied as to how religious he was. Some said he would regularly attend the mosque while others said that he wasn't as regular.

9/11 Personal Privacy

Owadallah lived with Ahmadi in El Cajon. It came up during the interview that Owadallah had videos and that they came from Ahmadi. The videos seemed like propaganda. Owadallah also admitted that he had gone shooting in the desert with

Ahmadi. There were numerous other people there, but Owadallah claimed that he couldn't remember any of their names. Ahmadi would tell stories of fighting in Afghanistan. He had one story about destroying 2 tanks at once. Ahmadi showed him photos of Afghanistan.

9/11 Personal Privacy

Texteira does not know whether Ahmadi had a direct connection to the hijackers.

Once Owadallah was fired from the gas station, he got a job as a security guard for Guardsmark. He was doing security for Intuit at their data center. An employee saw him taking hard drives and CDs out of the garbage cans at work. The FBI found huge quantities of hard drives and CDs in his possession. They are not sure what he was trying to do with these. He left the job abruptly right around 9/11. A fellow employee thought it was odd the way that he was acting around that time.

Owadallah had two cars in his name, and one worked. There was nothing suspicious about it.

They have received no information of note from the USIC or from foreign intelligence services.

Texteira participated in the interview and search of Bakarbashat and in the interviews of Modhar Abdullah. We should ask [redacted] about those investigations.

9/11 Law Enforcement Privacy