

MFR04016230

Las Vegas Investigative Summary

From 01/04/2004 through 01/06/2004 professional staffers Marco A. Cordero and Quinn John Tamm, Jr., conducted investigation in Las Vegas, NV in an effort to resolve four issues related to the visits to Las Vegas, NV by 9-11 hijackers Marwan al-Shehhi, Ziad Jarrah, Hani Hanjour and Nawaf al-Hazmi. The issues are:

1. The relationship, if any between the motels utilized by the hijackers, and any other locations that may be significant.
2. Jarrah's residence while in Las Vegas, NV
3. An analysis of the rental car usage of al-Shehhi, Jarrah and Atta.
4. The identification of the unknown mid-eastern male who apparently accompanied Jarrah while he was in Las Vegas, NV.

Al-Shehhi was the first hijacker to visit Las Vegas, NV. He arrived on United Airlines (UA) Flight 2314 on 05/24/2001 from San Francisco, CA. He had flown to San Francisco from New York's JFK Airport on a Boeing 767, the same type of aircraft he would hijack on 09/11/2001 from Boston, MA. Al-Shehhi rented a Dodge Durango SUV from Enterprise Leasing at that company's off airport location. The location is approximately three miles from the airport and one mile west of Interstate 15, the major north/south interstate in the Las Vegas area. Al-Shehhi travels from Enterprise Leasing to the Travelodge at 1501 West Sahara Boulevard, Las Vegas. This motel is at a major interchange of the Interstate 15, and the sign for the motel is clearly visible from a distance. Al-Shehhi was a "walk-in" customer. Once he arrived he made eight "800" calls to other motels' and hotels' reservations lines. The establishments contacted were:

Budget Suites
Motel 6
Super 8
El Cid Hotel, Las Vegas
Villa Roma Hotel, Las Vegas
The Greek Isles Hotel, Las Vegas
Tropicana Resort and Casino, Las Vegas
Econo Lodge

On 05/25/2001, al-Shehhi checks out of the Travelodge and checks into the St. Louis Manor Motel at the intersection of 2000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas. This motel was slightly more expensive than the Travelodge, and located one block from the northern section of South Las Vegas Boulevard, (the Strip). The closest casino hotel is the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino at 2000 South Las Vegas Boulevard, one tenth of a mile from the St. Louis Manor. If al-Shehhi was evaluating Las Vegas buildings as potential targets for a terrorist attack, he relocated next to the highest structure in the city.

Interestingly, al-Shehhi is again a "walk-in" customer. He did not call the St. Louis Manor and make a reservation, and the motel room is slightly more than the room at the Travelodge. Although unknown at this time, al-Shehhi may have changed motels for operational reasons. He calls eight other motels but chooses not to stay at any of them. Several are cheaper than the St. Louis Manor (Super 8, Econo Lodge and Motel 6). Instead he checks into the St. Louis Manor, near the downtown section of Las Vegas.

Al-Shehhi also changes rental cars on this date (05/25/2001). Since the times that the rental vehicles are acquired and returned are known, an unusual sequence is noted. Al-Shehhi first rents a second vehicle, a Dodge Neon compact, from Budget Rent a Car at the airport location. This vehicle is acquired at 12:52 pm. Al-Shehhi returns the Dodge Durango at 3:58 to the Enterprise Leasing location at the airport. Budget Rent a Car reported that al-Shehhi had made a reservation for the Neon to be picked up a rental location adjacent to the Stratosphere Hotel, but actually acquired the vehicle at the airport location. He had to leave the Dodge Durango somewhere in the vicinity of the Budget agency. He operates the Dodge Neon for about 3 hours before returning the Durango to the airport location of Enterprise. There is a price difference; however this is probably not al-Shehhi's reason for changing rental vehicles. This may have been an operational tactic to frustrate physical surveillance. If he was only switching vehicles for to save money, he would have first returned the Durango, and then rented the Neon. Instead, he apparently drives the Durango to the vicinity of the airport, parks the vehicle and then rents the Neon, from a different location from where he made his reservation. He waits over three hours before he returns the Durango. The two airport rental locations, Enterprise and Budget are within one half mile of each other. Al-Shehhi would have been able to easily walk between the two locations.

An evaluation of the Durango's usage determined that 22 miles were unaccounted, if all other necessary travel was factored into the return mileage on the vehicle. The unaccounted mileage would have not allowed al-Shehhi to reach and return from any significant location outside of the immediate Las Vegas metropolitan area. A similar analysis of the use of the Neon accounts for 9 of the 18 miles the vehicle was driven, with the same conclusion. When al-Shehhi leaves Las Vegas, he returns the Neon to the airport location of Budget Rent a Car.

Al-Shehhi returned to New York's JFK airport on 05/27/2001 by first flying to San Francisco on UA Flight 2307, a Boeing 737. Al-Shehhi occupied a first class seat, 1B, on the aisle. He then connected to UA Flight 844 for the return flight to New York. Al-Shehhi sat in seat 2B, first class aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 767. The time of year would have had all the flights operating in daylight. Assuming that the weather was clear, al-Shehhi would have been able to observe the approach by UA Flight 844 to the New York metropolitan area.

Ziad Jarrah's trip to Las Vegas is the most perplexing of the four pilots. Immediately prior to traveling to Las Vegas (06/02-05/2001), Jarrah is in Philadelphia, Pa., taking flight instruction at Hortman Aviation, a flight academy, located at the Northeast Philadelphia airport. Jarrah flies to the Philadelphia International Airport from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, rents a Chevrolet from the Alamo rental agency. He then drives to the Best Western motel on Roosevelt Boulevard (US Route 1), Philadelphia, PA and registers for a three day stay in his own name. Jarrah takes two days of flight instruction at Hortman Aviation. Jarrah is accompanied to the flight academy by an unknown mid-eastern male. Jarrah's whereabouts on 06/06/2001 are unknown. He does not use the "back-end" of his round trip ticket to Ft. Lauderdale, FL. On 06/07/2001 Jarrah drives the rented vehicle to the Baltimore/Washington International Airport, and flies to Los Angeles on UA Flight 299. The aircraft is a Boeing 757, and Jarrah is seated in seat 1C, aisle first class. He connects to UA Flight 2552 an Airbus 320 which arrives in Las Vegas at 2:07 pm Pacific time. Jarrah rents an automobile from Payless Car Rental as a "walk-in" without a reservation. When the vehicle is returned on 06/10/2001 at 6:05 am, it has "in excess of 200 miles," as the usage. The Payless Rental agency did not specifically record return mileage on vehicles with unlimited mileage contracts. Consequently, an analysis of the mileage was not conducted.

A comprehensive interview by the FBI is conducted of the employee at the Payless Car Rental agency at the Las Vegas International Airport, who handled the rental with Jarrah. This interview occurred on 10/01/2001. The employee reports that Jarrah rented a Daewoo from Payless at 3:13 pm, on 06/07/2001. Jarrah did not have a credit card, only a debt card, and was required to make a cash deposit of \$280.00, and leave his return airline ticket as collateral for the rental. The employee remembers this transaction, because he was a new employee and this was the first transaction of this type that the employee conducted. The employee stated that Jarrah was accompanied by a mid-eastern male, who is otherwise unidentified. Jarrah and the unidentified male accompany the employee to the rental lot where both Jarrah and the unidentified male examine the Daewoo for any damage. The employee then observes Jarrah and the unidentified male enter the Daewoo and leave the lot together. The two FBI agents who conducted the interview, [redacted] and [redacted] found the witness to be credible. On 10/12/2001, they ask Las Vegas Police Detective Maurice Rodriguez to draw a sketch of the unknown mid-eastern male, based on the Payless employee's description.

A copy of the sketch was then forwarded to Philadelphia, PA to be shown to personnel at the Hortman Aviation flight school. Herbert Hortman, the owner of Hortman Aviation stated that the sketch "resembled" the unknown mid-eastern male that accompanied Jarrah at the Philadelphia flight school. Mr. Hortman further stated that "he could not be sure" that the person depicted was the same individual who accompanied Jarrah at the flight school.

During the transaction at Payless, Jarrah asks for direction to the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino on South Las Vegas Boulevard (the Strip) from the Payless employee. While giving the directions, the unknown male interrupts and suggests another route, indicating that he (the unknown male) may have been in Las Vegas on a previous occasion. Jarrah remains in the Las Vegas area until 06/10/2001. The FBI reports that extensive investigation was conducted to determine where he stayed, but no hotel or motel could be located. Jarrah uses his debit card three times while in Las Vegas, all at the same location. The first two times were at 4:07 and 4:08 pm respectively at the automated teller machine (ATM) at the Gambling Employees Federal Credit Union, 110 East Harmon Street. This location is immediately behind the Aladdin Hotel and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. The third transaction is the next day at 12:37 pm, at the same ATM. All three transactions were \$100.00 withdrawals. The area adjacent to the ATM is a commercial strip, but several low-end motels, such as Travelodge, Motel Six and Super Eight, are within walking distance. The ATM, however, is a "drive-up" type of facility. Jarrah either stayed in a private residence, or with the unknown male, who was the registrant at a motel or hotel. It is unlikely that Jarrah would have not used his true name at a Las Vegas motel or hotel. He had just registered at a motel in his true name in Philadelphia, while taking flight lessons. There does not appear to be any "trade-craft" or other operational reason for a failure to use his true name.

The Las Vegas Division of the FBI has been encouraged by Commission staffers to re-canvas the motel and hotel registration records, in the vicinity of both the ATM at 110 East Harmon Street, and the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino for all Arabic names during the period of 06/07-10/2001. This effort may disclose a name that could be investigated for connections to either Jarrah or other terrorists.

Jarrah at 7:02 am on 06/10/2001 flew from Las Vegas to BWI on UA Flight 1236, sitting in seat 1C, first class on the aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 757. After arriving at BWI, he flew US Airways Flight 2998 to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida at 4:00 pm. The aircraft was a Boeing 737, and Jarrah sat in coach class.

Las Vegas FBI determined that two individuals with connections to either the 9-11 hijackers or other terrorists were in Las Vegas during the summer of 2001. One was Lofti Raissi, who had an association with Hani Hanjour during his (Hanjour's) flight school days in the Phoenix, AZ area. Raissi apparently arrived in Las Vegas on 06/12/2001; two days after Jarrah left, and remained until 06/18/2001. Raissi had driven to Las Vegas from Phoenix, AZ in a rented Chrysler. Raissi, who was on his "honeymoon," with his wife Sonia, checked into the Rio Suites Hotel. Raissi only remained at the Rio Suites Hotel one day, complaining about the accommodations. He and his wife moved to the Luxor Hotel and Casino on 06/13/2001, for one day, but returned to the Rio Suites Hotel on 06/14/2001. Raissi remains at the Rio Suites Hotel until 06/18/2001, when he left Las Vegas in the rented Chrysler, and returned to Phoenix, AZ. No information was developed that Raissi was in contact with Jarrah.

A second individual, Zakaria Hassan Ibrahim, was identified through a separate investigation in Las Vegas. Ibrahim, who had recently been released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, was in Las Vegas for the majority of the month of July 2001. Ibrahim had been convicted of trafficking in fraudulent passports and visas. Prior investigations had determined that Ibrahim and his brothers provided fraudulent immigration documents to Mohammed Salameh and Mir Kansi, among others. No contact was detected between Ibrahim and any of the hijackers. However, Ibrahim may have previously been in Las Vegas. Ibrahim visited the ex-wife of his brother, Mohammed Hassan Ibrahim, in July 2001. Mohammed Ibrahim had been deported following his prison term for trafficking in fraudulent passports and visas. Prior visits by Zakaria Ibrahim may have been possible. The July 2001 visit is confirmed by an interview of the ex-wife of his brother. Additional investigation should be conducted to determine if Zakaria Ibrahim had traveled to Las Vegas on any other occasions.

Mohammed Atta flew from Boston, MA to San Francisco, CA on UA Flight 161 on 06/28/2001. The aircraft was a Boeing 767 and Atta sat in seat 2B, on the aisle in first class. Atta connected to UA Flight 955 from San Francisco, CA to Las Vegas, NV. The aircraft was a Boeing 777. Atta sat in seat 1C, first class on the aisle. The flight arrived in Las Vegas at 2:41 pm. At 4:25 pm, Atta rented a Chevrolet Malibu from the Alamo Rental agency at the airport location. The approximate two hours difference in arrival time and acquiring the rental vehicle is not considered significant, especially if Atta was observing pre-flight screening procedures, at the Las Vegas Airport, as they existed at that time.

At 6:40 pm Atta establishes an account at the Cyberzone internet café at 4440 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas. This location is within a 15 minute drive from the Alamo lot. The location is also across the street from the main entrance to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) campus. The business is located in a non-descript two story commercial building. The sign for the business is modest and would not be easily seen except from in front of the building. Special Agent [redacted] tracked Atta's travel in the Las Vegas area. She reports that the Cyberzone is advertised in the local US Sprint Yellow pages, but does not engage in any other advertisement at the Las Vegas airport. [redacted] also stated that investigation had been conducted at the Muslim Student organization at UNLV. No member of the Muslim Student organization admitted any contact with Atta, and no evidence was discovered that would suggest otherwise. Atta apparently locates the Cyberzone through the telephone directory. During his first session at the Cyberzone, Atta uses the computer for one hour and thirty five minutes. Atta activities are otherwise unknown. He checks into the Econo Lodge Motel at 1150 South Las Vegas Boulevard the next day, 06/29/2001 at 1:01 pm.

The Econo Lodge is located in a neighborhood of cheap motels, pornography outlets, massage parlors and wedding chapels. Prostitutes actively solicit customers in the environs of the Econo Lodge. It is approximately eight blocks north of the beginning of the Las Vegas strip. As with al-Shehhi's motel, the St. Louis Manor, the Econo Lodge is close to the Stratosphere Hotel and Casino. Atta pays for two days rental at the Econo Lodge with \$110.00 in cash. After checking into the Econo Lodge, Atta returns to the

Cyberzone. The Cyberzone is 4.10 miles from the Econo Lodge, by the most direct route. It can be inferred that Atta took this route, because on both 06/29/2001 and 06/30/2001 he makes telephone calls from pay telephones at businesses on the route. He uses a pre-paid calling card for the calls. Atta makes several telephone calls to the cell telephone of al-Shehhi. Atta also calls two telephone numbers in Houston, TX, while in Las Vegas. The numbers, one of which was unassigned during that period of time, were investigated by the FBI. The number that was valid was assigned to a cell telephone subscribed to by [redacted]. When interviewed [redacted] stated that the telephone was actually used by her husband [redacted] an automobile salesman. Neither of the [redacted] could provide an explanation as to why Atta called their telephone.

On 06/29/2001, Atta logs on the internet computer at 2:21 pm for one hour and twenty minutes. He then returns to the Cyberzone at 6:29 pm and used the account for another one hour and three minutes. [redacted] assumed that he returned to the Econo Lodge between these two times for the purpose of tracking the mileage on the rental vehicle.

On 06/30/2001 at 1:56 pm, Atta accessed his Cyberzone account for one hour and eighteen minutes, at 6:30 pm for one hour and five minutes and a 9:33 pm for one hour and twenty three minutes. Again, for the purpose of tracking the mileage on the rental vehicle, it is assumed that Atta returned to the Econo Lodge motel. The largest institution in the immediate vicinity of the Cyberzone is UNLV. The internet café is about 4 miles from the middle of the Strip. There are no gambling establishments within walking distance of the Cyberzone.

At 12:14 am on 07/01/2001 Atta called the front desk of the Econo Lodge and asked for a 3:30 am wake up call. The call was placed and answered at the requested time. Atta did not have to check out of the Econo Lodge because he had pre-paid his room. Atta returns the rental vehicle to Alamo at 5:12 am at the airport location. At 5:59 am Atta departed on UA Flight 2700 for Denver, CO. He sat in seat 1C, first class aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 737. Atta connected to UA Flight 1220 to Boston. He sat in seat 2C, first class aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 757. Atta then connected with Delta Airlines Flight 6191, and flies to John F. Kennedy (JFK) airport in Queens, New York. Other than cell telephone calls, his next detected activity is an attempt to obtain an identification card in Patterson, NJ on 07/03/2001.

The Chevrolet Malibu rented from Alamo is returned with 110 miles of usage. If Atta made four round trips from the Cyberzone to the Econo Lodge in downtown Las Vegas, this would account for 18 miles. One round trip between the Alamo agency and the Econo Lodge is 18.5 miles. This accounts for 36.5 miles. This leaves approximately 73 miles of usage that are not accounted. The only important facility within this 36.5 mile radius is the Hoover Dam.

The most logical route to the Hoover Dam was to leave the Econo Lodge and proceed south on South Las Vegas Boulevard to the intersection with Flamingo Road. Proceed east on Flamingo Road to the intersection with Interstate 515. One would take the ramp on to Interstate 515 south, which becomes US Route 93. A driver would

proceed east on US Route 93 through Boulder City, NV to the Hoover Dam. The parking garage was 35.2 miles from the Econo Lodge by this route. The return trip took a slightly more direct route. Take US 93 west, to Interstate 515 north. Exit at Charleston Road west. Follow Charleston Road west to South Las Vegas Boulevard. Turn south on Las Vegas Boulevard to 1150 South Las Vegas Boulevard. The mileage by this route was 33.9 miles. Both routes would have been within the 36.5 miles (73/2) that was left on Atta's rental vehicle.

Waleed al-Sheri is also briefly in Las Vegas, NV on 08/01/2001. He flies to Las Vegas from San Francisco, CA. Al-Sheri had flown from Boston, MA to San Francisco on 07/31/2001 on American Airlines (AA) Flight 195. Al-Sheri sat in seat 3B, first class aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 767. He stayed at the La Quinta Motel at the San Francisco airport on the evening of 07/31/2001. On 08/01/2001, al-Sheri departed San Francisco for Las Vegas on Northwest Airlines (NW) Flight 7404. His seat assignment was not reported. In Las Vegas, al-Sheri connects with NW Flight 7973 for Miami, FL. The layover or connection time is 45 minutes. Both Northwest Aircraft are Airbus 319s. Al-Sheri checks out of the Crystal Cay Motel in Deerfield, FL on 08/02/2001, which is his next recorded activity.

Atta returns to Las Vegas on 08/13/2001. During the previous week, Atta stayed at the General Wayne Inn, Wayne, NJ, checking out on 08/09/2001. His whereabouts are unknown during the next three days. However, analysis of his cell telephone usage disclosed that Atta received an incoming call on his cell telephone from a cell site in Westchester County, New York. This telephone call was received on 08/10/2001. On 08/12/2001, Atta uses an internet computer at business known as Web Station in Ft. Lee, NJ. An examination of the computers' hard drives determined that Hani Hanjour was using an adjacent computer at Web Station at the same time. Both are searching websites for air travel to and from Las Vegas.

Atta departs Regan National Airport on America West (AW) Flight 244 at 7:09 am, on 08/13/2001. He is seated in seat 3B, aisle in first class. The flight arrives in Las Vegas at 11:58 Pacific time. The AW flight stops in Phoenix, AZ before traveling on to Las Vegas. The aircraft is a Boeing 757, the largest aircraft operating from Regan National. Atta returns to Alamo Rent a Car, at the airport location, and rents a 2001 Buick Century. The vehicle is acquired at 1:46 pm. The vehicle is rented for one day at a cost of \$41.35.

Nawaf al Hazmi and Hani Hanjour fly from Washington, DC's Dulles International Airport on 08/13/2001, to Los Angeles on UA Flight 57. Hanjour is seated in seat 1A, first class on the window, and al Hazmi in seat 1D, first class on the aisle. The aircraft is a Boeing 757, the same aircraft as American Airlines Flight 77. In Los Angeles, al Hazmi and Hanjour connect to UA Flight 2558, and again sit in seats 1A and 1D respectively. The aircraft was a Boeing 737. The flight arrives in Las Vegas at 11:18 am. No other activity is detected for al Hazmi and Hanjour during this period of time. It may be assumed that they met Atta when his flight arrived 48 minutes later from Washington, DC.

Atta checks into the Econo Lodge at 1150 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Las Vegas on 08/13/2001 paying \$55.00 in advance. He is assigned room 124 which has two beds. Atta first accesses the room at 2:55 pm, utilizing his key card to gain admittance. At 11:29 pm Atta returns to the Cyberzone internet café at 4440 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas. He logs on to an internet computer which he uses for 29 minutes. Atta returns to the Econo Lodge at 12:46 am and enters his room using the key card. At some time before noon on 08/14/2001 Atta checks out of the motel. Since he had paid for the room in advance, Atta was not required to check out with the front desk personnel.

On 08/14/2001 Atta returns the rented Buick to Alamo Rent a Car at 11:09 am. The vehicle had been driven a total of 37 miles. One round trip to the airport from the Econo Lodge is 18.5 miles and one round trip to the Cyberzone internet café from the Econo Lodge is 18 miles. Consequently, all mileage is accounted. Atta leaves Las Vegas on Continental Airlines Flight 1936 to Houston, TX. He sits in seat 23F, a window seat in the coach section. The aircraft is a Boeing 757. He has a one hour layover in Houston, where he connects to Continental Airlines Flight 1858 for Ft. Lauderdale, FL. He sits in seat 23A, a window seat in coach. The aircraft is a Boeing 737. The flight arrives in Ft. Lauderdale at 10:40 pm. Atta's next recorded activity is the rental of a 1996 Chevrolet from Warrick's Car Rental in Ft. Lauderdale, FL on 08/15/2001.

On 08/14/2001 Hanjour and Nawaf al Hazmi departed Las Vegas on NW Flight 714 at 11:29 am, to Minneapolis, MN. Hanjour sat in seat 35D and al Hazmi in seat 35C on the aisle in coach class. The aircraft was a Boeing 757. They connected to NW Flight 1764. NW Flight 1764 flew from Minneapolis to Baltimore International Airport. Hanjour sat in seat 25E, coach class in the middle. Al Hazmi sat in 25D on the aisle. The aircraft was a Boeing 757. Hanjour's next detected activity is an ATM transaction in College Park, MD. Nawaf al Hazmi's next activity is opening a mail box account at Mailboxes Etc. in Wayne, NJ on 08/17/2001.