

# TIMELINE PART I

## 01 • October 6, 1981 (page 7)



Mohamed

Egyptian president **Anwar Sadat** is assassinated by radical army troops loyal to the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. One EIJ member associated with the unit that killed Sadat is Major **Ali Abdel Saoud Mohamed**. His alibi at the time is that he is on an officer exchange program studying at the JFK Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where Green Beret and Delta Force officers receive advanced training.



Sadat assassination

## 02 • 1981 (page 9)

One of more than three hundred radicals jailed for the assassination is young surgeon **Ayman al-Zawahiri**. The English-speaking son of a prominent Egyptian family, al-Zawahiri emerges as the spokesman for the EIJ suspects and becomes a celebrity in the growing ranks of radical Islam.



al-Zawahiri in 1981

## 03 • April 18, 1983 (page 13)



Marine barracks

The U.S. embassy in Beirut is bombed, killing 63, including 17 Americans. On October 23, suicide truck bombers hit the **U.S. Marine barracks** and a French garrison. 321 die. Hezbollah takes credit for all three attacks. The following March 16, Hezbollah operatives kidnap the CIA's Beirut station chief, William Buckley. He's tortured and held captive for more than a year before his execution in mid-1985.

## 04 • 1984 (page 16)

Forced out of the Egyptian army for his radical views, **Ali Mohamed** is assigned by al-Zawahiri to learn how to hijack airliners for the EIJ. He takes a job as "security advisor" with Egyptair, the state airline. After Buckley's kidnapping, desperate to get human intelligence (HUMINT) inside Hezbollah, the CIA's Hamburg station recruits Mohamed to infiltrate a Shiite mosque. Later, the Agency alleges that Mohamed blows his cover, causing CIA to cut their ties with him. But some analysts believe Mohamed maintains his CIA ties.



Mohamed

## 05 • September 6, 1985 (page 23)

Flying TWA from Athens to JFK airport in New York, Mohamed slips past a State Department Watch List, a fact that will later bolster suspicions about ongoing links to the CIA. On the flight he meets Linda Lee Sanchez, a 43-year-old medical technician from Santa Clara, California. Six weeks later they're married at the **Chapel of the Bells** in Reno, Nevada.



Chapel of the Bells

## 06 • 1986 (page xvi)

FDNY firefighter **Ronnie Bucca** falls five stories during a rescue attempt at a burning West Side tenement. He breaks his back and is not expected to live, but Bucca, an ex-Green Beret paratrooper, vows to return to Rescue One, the "special forces" of the FDNY. A year later, he qualifies back into the company.



Ronnie Bucca

**07 • 1986** (page 30)

Ali Mohamed moves into Linda Sanchez's home in **Santa Clara**, California. From there he recruits **Khalid Dahab**, a former Egyptian medical student who enters the U.S. on a student visa. Together they set up a "sleeper cell" of at least ten Islamic radicals. Dahab uses his one-bedroom apartment as an al Qaeda communications hub. His al Qaeda brothers refer to Mohamed as Ali Amiriki, "Ali the American."

**Santa Clara home****Dahab****08 • August 15, 1986** (page 34)

Ali Mohamed enlists in the U.S. Army at Oakland, California. After basic training he is transferred to the JFK Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg. **Lt. Col. Robert Anderson**, his commanding officer, later likens the odds of a radical ex-Egyptian army officer with EIJ ties getting posted at the highly secure SWC to winning the lottery.

**Anderson****09 • 1987** (page 18)

In Afghanistan, the Islamic Mujahadeen have been battling the Soviets since 1979. The CIA sends more than \$3 billion in covert aid to the rebels. Saudi billionaire **Osama bin Laden** arrives to support the struggle, soon joined by EIJ leader **Ayman al-Zawahiri**. They forge an alliance with **Abdullah Azzam**, who runs a worldwide fundraising network for the Muj called the Services Office for the Mujahadeen, a.k.a. the MAK. The flagship MAK base in the U.S. is at the Alkifah Center in the al Farooq Mosque in Brooklyn, New York.

**Azzam****bin Laden  
& al-Zawahiri****10 • 1987–89** (page 39, 50)

At Fort Bragg, **Ali Mohamed** works as a supply sergeant, with no formal security clearance, but he is able to obtain top secret records and other key intelligence, including a list of the locations of Special Forces and Navy SEAL units worldwide and a JCS Warning Order, a top secret communiqué from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to all strategic Pentagon commands. See Appendix **TK**, pp. **TK**.

**Mohamed****11 • 1988** (page 41)

During Operation Bright Star, a semi-annual U.S.-Egyptian war games exercise, **Ali Mohamed** is identified as a radical Islamic sympathizer by Egyptian military officers. The discovery almost forces a shutdown of the exercise before he is ordered sent home to Fort Bragg. Despite his known sympathy for Islamic extremists, Mohamed is thereafter used to make training videos at the JFK SWC.

**Mohamed****12 • 1988** (page 43)

Ali Mohamed informs his commanding officer at Fort Bragg that he intends to use his annual leave to fight with the Mujahadeen against the Soviets in Afghanistan—an action that could be a disaster if he is caught or killed during the CIA-supported covert war. Although Lt. Col. Anderson balks, Mohamed makes the trip anyway. He returns with war trophies: the belts of two elite **Soviet Spetsnaz commandos** he claims he killed.

**Spetsnaz commandos**

**13 • July 1989** (page 47)

Ali Mohamed travels from Fort Bragg to train the al Qaeda cell that will later execute the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and the Day of Terror plot to blow up the U.N., the FBI's New York office, and the bridges and tunnels into Manhattan. Over four weekends, an FBI surveillance team follows Ali's trainees **Mahmud Abouhalima, Mohammed Salameh, El Sayyid Nosair, Nidal Ayyad,** and Clement Rodney Hampton-El from the Al Farooq Mosque to a shooting range in **Calverton, Long Island.** They are photographed by the FBI firing thousands of rounds from automatic weapons.



**Calverton FBI photo**



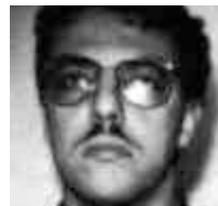
**Abouhalima**



**Salameh**



**Nosair**



**Ayyad**

**14 • 1989** (page 00)

At an Islamic conference in Oklahoma City, Mahmud Abouhalima meets Wadih El-Hage, a Lebanese Christian convert associated with the Al Bunyan Islamic Center in Tuscon, another Services Office outpost. El-Hage agrees to supply AK-47s to Abouhalima.

**15 • November 1989** (page 46)

As the Soviets leave Afghanistan, a dispute breaks out among the "Afghan Arabs" over the best use of the fortune that continues to pour in. **Azzam** wants to use the money to set up an Islamic regime in Kabul. **Osama bin Laden** wants to use it for a worldwide jihad against the West. Mysteriously, Azzam and his two sons are murdered in a car bombing. Though bin Laden professes grief, intelligence analysts believe he was responsible. Within months, with the support of his Egyptian allies **Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, Mohammed Atef,** and **Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman,** bin Laden takes over Azzam's Services Office network, using it as a grid for his new terror network, al Qaeda.



**Azzam**



**bin Laden**



**al-Zawahiri**



**Atef**



**Rahman**

**16 • 1990** (page 101)

Abdul Basit, a Baluchistani who grew up in Kuwait, graduates from a U.K. engineering school. He enrolls at the University of Dawa and Jihad, an al Qaeda training camp in Pakistan. Adopting the name **Ramzi Yousef,** he begins studying bomb making.



**Yousef**

**17 • July 1990** (page 53)

The CIA helps **Sheikh Rahman** enter the United States by approving his visa in Sudan even though he is on a U.S. Watch List. When he arrives at JFK airport he's picked up by Mustafa Shalabi and **Mahmud Abouhalima**, who becomes his chauffeur and aide.



Rahman



Abouhalima

**18 • November 5, 1990** (page 56)

**Rabbi Meier Kahane** is murdered by **El Sayyid Nosair**, another Ali Mohamed trainee. **Abouhalima**, known as "the Red," is slated to drive the getaway car.



Kahane



Nosair



Abouhalima

**19 • November 6, 1990** (page 58)

Later, at Nosair's New Jersey house, FBI agents and NYPD detectives seize 47 boxes of evidence, including bomb recipes, Arabic writings threatening the WTC, and Ali Mohamed's top secret memos stolen from Fort Bragg. **Abouhalima** and **Salameh** are seized as material witnesses but later set free.



Abouhalima



Salameh

**20 • November 13, 1990** (page 74)

A week after the Kahane killing, Detective Lou Napoli of the FBI-NYPD Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) follows up on a document seized at Nosair's house linking him to Raymond Murteza, an ex-cop who engaged in weapons training with Ali Mohamed's cell members at a Connecticut gun range. Napoli learns that on successive weekends from 1988 to 1990, the "Mid-Eastern" men fired thousands of rounds from AK-47s and other semiautomatic weapons. But when the NYPD declares the Kahane murder a "lone gunman" shooting, the FBI terminates the investigation. See Appendix II, p. **XXX**.

**21 • 1990** (page 54)

The FBI discovers that **El Sayyid Nosair**, the killer of Rabbi Meier Kahane, has a mailbox at **Sphinx Trading**, a Jersey City check-cashing store four doors away from the **al-Salaam Mosque**, where Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman holds court and where **Ali Mohamed** showed videos from Fort Bragg to the cell members behind the 1993 WTC bombing.



Nosair



Mohamed



Sphinx mailboxes



Sphinx business card



Sheikh's mosque

**22 • 1991** (page 66)

A power struggle breaks out between Sheikh Rahman and **Mustafa Shalabi**, Abdullah Azzam's hand-picked imam, who runs the Alkifah Center. Shalabi appeals to **Ali Mohamed** for help. Ali drives Shalabi's wife to the airport as Mustafa plans to escape home to Cairo. But he never makes it. Shalabi is later found shot, stabbed, and bludgeoned with a baseball bat at his Seagate, Brooklyn, home. Abouhalima IDs the body for the NYPD, but is never charged. The voice of **Wadih El-Hage**, a Lebanese Christian convert to Islam, is heard on Shalabi's answering machine. Thousands of dollars in Alkifah funds are missing from the crime scene. Ali Mohamed has secreted away most of the Alkifah's most incriminating documents. The murder in the NYPD's 61st Precinct remains unsolved.



**El-Hage**



**Mohamed**



**Shalabi's home in Brooklyn**

**23 • 1991** (page 76)

**Osama bin Laden** chooses **Ali Mohamed** to handle security as he makes the treacherous move from Afghanistan to the Sudan with his 25 wives and children. **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, **Mohammed Atef**, and the al Qaeda Shura Council make the move under Ali's supervision, along with two thousand "Afghan Arabs" loyal to al Qaeda.



**bin Laden**



**Mohamed**



**Atef**



**al-Zawahiri**

**24 • 1991** (page 65)

Nosair's cousin **Ibrahim El-Gabrowni** gets \$20,000 from **bin Laden** for Nosair's defense. The FBI later admits that this is the first time bin Laden's name comes up in association with the New York cell members around the blind Sheikh.



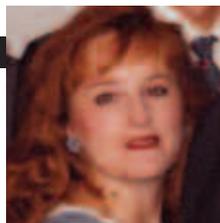
**El-Gabrowni**



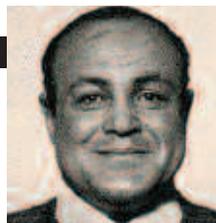
**bin Laden**

**25 • Fall 1991** (page 79)

FBI Special Agent **Nancy Floyd** recruits **Emad Salem**, an ex-Egyptian Army major, to infiltrate the blind Sheikh's cell. He's paid \$500 a week by the Bureau. The agreement with the FBI is that Salem will act as a pure intelligence "asset." He will not have to wear a wire or testify.



**Floyd**



**Salem**

**26 • 1992** (page 87)

While living in Santa Clara and commuting to Khartoum to assist bin Laden and al Qaeda, **Ali Mohamed** is opened as an informant by the FBI's San Francisco office. His control agent is John Zent, a twenty-one-year Bureau veteran. But within months of taking on Mohamed as a source, Zent is embroiled in a grisly triple murder case. He becomes the primary alibi witness for **Dana Ewell**, a young Santa Clara University student suspected by Fresno County Sheriff's office of conspiring to kill his father, **Dale**, his sister **Tiffany** and his mother, **Glee**, in a scheme to inherit the Ewell's \$8 million estate. Special Agent Zent's daughter **Monica** is Dana's fiancée.

**Mohamed****Souza, Ewell, Curtice****Monica Zent****Ewell family**

**Detectives John Souza** and **Chris Curtice** begin a two-year investigation of the crime, but Special Agent Zent is openly critical of the detectives and declares that **Dana Ewell** is innocent. While the detectives find no evidence connecting **Monica Zent** to the murders, she receives up to \$40,000 from Dana via his grandmother's trust fund. Monica continues to live with Dana, sharing bank accounts with him and proclaiming his innocence even though police later find a yearbook picture of Monica with her eyes shot out at a secret Los Angeles apartment the couple shared. The multi-year investigation consumes much of John Zent's attention—at a time when he is responsible for monitoring al Qaeda spy Ali Mohamed.

**27 • 1991–1992** (page 120)

From November 1991 to July 1992, Yousef's oldest friend, fellow Baluchistani **Abdul Hakim Murad**, trains at U.S. flight schools in Texas, New York, North Carolina, and California. He obtains his commercial pilot's license and surveys the World Trade Center as a possible target.

**Murad****28 • 1992** (page 80)

**Nosair** is convicted in the Kahane shooting and sent to Attica. Meanwhile, Nancy Floyd's asset **Salem** has burrowed deep into the cell and is getting close to **Sheikh Rahman**. On a trip to Detroit, the cleric asks Salem to murder

**Nosair****Salem, Rahman**

Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak. Salem learns that Rahman is the leader of al Gamma'a Islimaya (IG), an Egyptian terror group that tried to assassinate Mubarak in 1990. Soon the FBI discovers that Nosair is also an IG member.

**29 • 1992** (page 324)

During renovations in the old inspection section of the FDNY, **Ahmed Amin Refai**, an Egyptian who works as an FDNY accountant, obtains the blueprints for the **World Trade Center**. Refai worships at the Al Farooq and Al Salaam mosques, where Rahman preaches.

**Refai****WTC**

**30 • 1992** (page 84)

Operating undercover without a wire, Salem complains to **Nancy Floyd** that he can't reach Special Agent **John Anticev** or his partner on the Joint Terrorist Task Force NYPD, Detective **Lou Napoli**. So Floyd, an agent in the Russian (GRU) branch of the FBI's NY office, works double time to debrief the Egyptian.



Floyd



Anticev



Napoli

**31 • May–July 1992** (page 85)

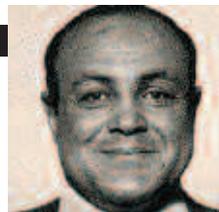
As Salem gets deeper into the bombing plot, **Carson Dunbar**, an ex-NJ State Trooper—and now FBI Asst. Special Agent in Charge of the NY office—takes over the Terrorism branch. In a meeting with Anticev, Napoli, and Salem, Dunbar's subordinate, Supervisor John Crouthamel, calls Nancy Floyd “a bitch” and says he wants her off the Salem investigation.



Dunbar

**32 • July 1992** (page 86)

As Salem gets closer to the bombing cell, Carson Dunbar demands that he wear a wire and testify in open court. Angry that the FBI is changing the terms of his undercover agreement, Salem withdraws. The FBI agrees to pay him \$500 for the next three months, and Nancy Floyd continues to meet with him. But by late July, Salem withdraws from the Sheikh's cell. The FBI now has no asset inside the bomb conspiracy.



Salem

**33 • July 1992** (page 117)

**Ronnie Bucca** is sworn in as a fire marshal with the FDNY's Bureau of Fire Investigation. From his military intelligence detachment in the Army Reserves, he hears that the FBI had a mole inside a bombing plot, but cut him loose.



Bucca

**34 • September 1, 1992** (page 102)

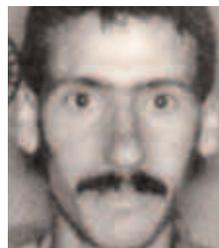
After Salem leaves the bomb plot, **Sheikh Rahman** calls Pakistan, and **Ramzi Yousef** arrives at JFK. With him is **Mohammed Ajaj**, carrying multiple passports and bomb books. He's arrested and gets the last INS cell. But Yousef is given an asylum hearing and set free.



Rahman



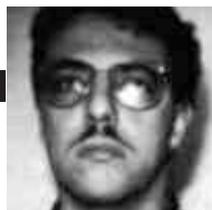
Yousef



Ajaj

**35 • Fall 1992** (page 108)

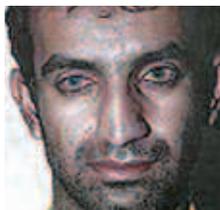
With the help of Ali Mohamed's trainees, **Yousef** builds the bomb in Jersey City. **Nidal Ayyad** supplies the chemicals. **Mohammed Salameh** helps construct the device, and **Mahmud Abouhalima** does reconnaissance runs to the WTC. Ayyad and Salameh set up bank accounts. Thousands of dollars are wired from the Mideast and Europe. During this period, the FBI misses multiple changes to interdict the plot.

**Yousef****Ayyad****Salameh****Abouhalima****Floyd****Salem****36 • Fall 1992** (page 109)

In his last meeting with **Nancy Floyd**, **Salem** pleads with her to make sure Anticev and Napoli follow Abouhalima and Salameh. But Floyd has effectively been removed from any terrorism investigative work by Dunbar. Salem's parting words: "Don't call me when the bombs go off."

**37 • Fall 1992** (page 112)

From November 1992 up until the bombing in February 1993, **Yousef** and his cell are highly visible. **Salameh** is in three car accidents. Yousef is hospitalized and uses a stolen phone card to order chemicals. He runs up \$18,000 in phone charges and is recorded by an ATM camera. He talks regularly to **Ajaj** in federal prison, using three-way calling via a Texas burger restaurant, but the Feds fail to monitor the calls in time. Yousef

**Salameh****Ajaj****Yousef**

reports his passport stolen to police and obtains a new one from the Pakistani Embassy in New York. Though he missed his asylum hearing, neither the INS nor the FBI discovers his presence as he builds the 1,500-pound bomb in an apartment on Pamrapo Avenue in Jersey City.

**38 • February 1992** (page 113)

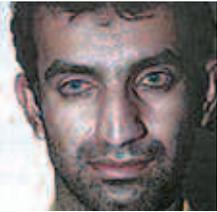
During this period Anticev and Napoli lose track of **Abouhalima** and **Salameh**. Napoli later says they weren't able to follow them because they fled to New Jersey. But the redheaded Egyptian is living openly with his German wife and four kids. The Feds know her name (Weber). In fact, they searched Abouhalima's house in 1992 after tracing calls to Weber from Nosair. But as Yousef builds the bomb, they fail to obtain wiretap or search warrants; nor do they use the FBI's Special Operations Group to follow the Red effectively.

**Abouhalima****Salameh**

If the FBI had sat on Abouhalima, he would have led them straight to Yousef and the bomb.

**39 • February 26, 1993** (page 114)

In the early morning hours of February 26, **Yousef**, **Abouhalima**, **Salameh**, and **Ismoil** load the bomb into the Ryder truck. A three-car convoy heads to Brooklyn, where Yousef spends the night with Salameh.



**Yousef**



**Abouhalima**



**Salameh**



**Ismoil**

**40 • 12:17 P.M.** (page 114)

Just after noon, Yousef parks the Ryder van outside Room 107 on the B-2 level between the **Twin Towers**. At 12:17:37 the bomb detonates, blowing a four-story crater down to the B-4 level. Monica Smith, a pregnant secretary in Room 107, is instantly killed along with her unborn child. The blast kills 5 others, injures 1,000, and causes half a billion dollars in damage.



**Bomb damage at the WTC**

**41 •** (page 116)

**Kevin Shea**, a close friend of Ronnie Bucca's from Rescue One, is almost killed after falling into the four-story crater. Early the next morning, after visiting Shea in the hospital, Ronnie goes down to the B-2 level to photograph the edge of the ramp from which Kevin had fallen.



**Shea**

**42 • 1993** (page 123)

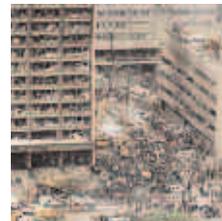
Within months of the World Trade Center bombing, **Ali Mohamed** is captured by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police while trying to smuggle al Qaeda terrorist **Essam Marzouk** into the U.S. During his interrogation by the Mounties, Mohamed says that he's working with the FBI and gives them John Zent's number. Zent vouches for Mohamed, securing his release. Months later, Mohamed is in **Nairobi** doing surveillance for the bombing of the **U.S. embassy** there. Bin Laden himself will use Mohamed's photos to target the suicide bomb that will kill 224 and injure thousands in 1998.



**Ali Mohamed**



**Essam Marzouk**



**Nairobi Embassy**

## PART II

### 01 • February 27, 1993 (page 117)

**Ronnie Bucca** is determined to investigate the bombing, but the FDNY is effectively shut out of the probe by the FBI. So Bucca begins his own investigation, which leads him to the discovery of an unpublished warning from the bombers: They know what they did wrong in failing to topple the WTC, they say, and they pledge to return and finish the job.



Bucca

### 02 • February 27, 1993 (page 116)

The morning after the blast, **Yousef** escapes to Pakistan. He is disappointed that the North Tower didn't snap at its base and crash into the South Tower; he had expected 250,000 deaths. A fragment of the unpublished threat letter later discovered by Bucca reads: "Our calculations were not very accurate this time. However we promise you that next time it will be very precise and the Trade Center will be one of our targets."



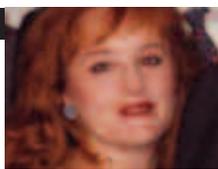
Yousef

### 03 • February 28, 1993 (page 114)

Immediately after the bombing, **Emad Salem** contacts **Nancy Floyd**. He tells her the FBI could have prevented the blast if they had just listened to him and followed Abouhalima and Salameh. He soon tips the Feds that Abouhalima has fled to Egypt, and the Red is captured.



Salem



Floyd

### 04 • March 4, 1993 (page 000)

A VIN number discovered in the rubble leads the FBI to the Ryder agency, where **Salameh** is arrested after demanding a refund of his \$400 deposit. He and **Abouhalima**, whom the FBI had under surveillance as far back as 1989, are now charged as coconspirators in the bombing.



Salameh



Abhouhalima

### 05 • 1993 (page 140)

**Ali Mohamed** brokers an historic summit in Khartoum between terror leaders from the two warring sects of radical Islam: **Osama bin Laden**, representing the al Qaeda Sunnis, and **Imad Mugniyah**, representing the Shiite "Party of God," Hezbollah. Known as the "faceless terrorist," Mugniyah is believed to be the mastermind behind 1983 Beirut bombings and the Buckley abduction, along with infamous acts of terror including the 1985 hijacking of **TWA Flight 847**.

As a measure of Ali Mohamed's clout, the summit produces a détente between Hezbollah and al Qaeda that some analysts believe resulted in the **Khobar Towers bombing** in 1996. It may have also paved the way for the Sunni-Shiite alliance in the Iraqi insurgency beginning in 2004.



Imad Mugniyah



TWA #847 hijacking



Mohamed



bin Laden



Khobar bombing



Bucca

### 06 • 1993 (page 117)

FDNY Fire Marshal **Ronnie Bucca** educates himself on the recent history of Islamic terror. With a Top Secret security clearance and operational experience as a Green Beret and decorated firefighter, Bucca wants to contribute to the Yousef hunt, but his application to the NYPD-FBI Joint Terrorist Task Force is rejected. The JTTF effectively excludes the FDNY.

### 07 • 1993 (page 128)

**Ali Mohamed** meets with his FBI control agent, **John Zent**, and reveals that **Osama bin Laden** is running an organization called al Qaeda that is dedicated to overthrowing the government in Saudi Arabia. Incredibly, Mohamed even confesses that he himself has been giving hijacking and intelligence training to al Qaeda operatives at camps in the Sudan. Zent contacts the Pentagon, and a group of investigators from Fort Meade, home of the National Security Agency (NSA), fly out to interview Mohamed. But nothing comes of the investigation, and the FBI later finds out that reports of the interview have been destroyed.



Mohamed



bin Laden

### 08 • June 1993 (page 119)

The FBI raids a bomb factory set up by Salem, exposing the plot to blow up a series of NYC landmarks including the UN, George Washington Bridge, and two tunnels into the city.

### 09 • June 1993 (page 209)

In the course of the sting **Salem** nets **Siddig Siddig Ali** (a Sudanese), **Clement Rodney Hampton-El**, and **Rahman** himself, plus nine others. Salem becomes the linchpin witness in the Feds' case.



Salem



Ali



Hampton-El



Rahman

### 10 • June 1993 (page 209)

But after the safe house takedown, **Salem**, now in Witness Protection, admits that in addition to the "bad guy tapes" he recorded his own "bootleg tapes" because he didn't trust FBI superiors. Carson Dunbar and the FBI's top NY lawyer order **Nancy Floyd** to go to Salem's apartment to retrieve the tapes. Knowing nothing about the unauthorized tapes, which include her own criticism of FBI superiors, Floyd visits the apartment and gets into an argument with FBI attorney Jim Roth over which tapes Salem has consented to release. The attorney takes them all, and Floyd is later heard discussing with Salem how FBI supervisors might have prevented the original WTC bombing if they had let him do his job the first time. She's also heard on tape calling her FBI bosses "gutless" and "chickenshits." In apparent retribution for her candor, the FBI opens up an OPR internal affairs investigation of Floyd. Rather than being rewarded as the heroine who recruited the FBI's key Day of Terror asset, Agent Floyd is isolated and chastised.



Salem



Floyd

**11 • July 3, 1993** (page 127)

After a siege outside a Brooklyn mosque the Feds take Sheikh Rahman into custody. Two of his loyal followers are Egyptian naturalized citizens and government employees: **Ahmed Amin Refai**, the FDNY accountant, and **Ahmed Abdel Sattar**, a U.S. postal worker.



Refai



Sattar

**12 • 1994** (page 210)

The FBI's New York office opens an internal affairs investigation (OPR) on **Roy Lindley DeVecchio**, a senior supervisory special agent known in the Bureau as "Mr. Organized Crime" for his success at getting Mafia convictions. Three agents under DeVecchio have presented evidence suggesting that he may have leaked key FBI intelligence to **Gregory Scarpa Sr.**, an underboss for the Colombo crime family during a two-year war between rival factions in which twelve people have died. Lawyers later contend that the Colombo war may have resulted from an "unholy alliance" between the G-Man and the hitman.



War victim

The investigation is complicated by the fact that **Scarpa Sr.**, a vicious killer nicknamed the "Grim Reaper," has been a Top Echelon (TE) FBI informant for many years. As early as 1964, FBI director **J. Edgar Hoover** recruited him to help solve the infamous "MISSBURN" case after **three civil rights workers** were kidnapped and murdered by the Ku Klux Klan. In thirty years of crime, Scarpa Sr. has spent only thirty days behind bars, leading some to suggest that the FBI has rewarded him with a de facto license to kill. By 1996 this growing scandal inside the FBI's New York office will intersect with the Bureau's probe of al Qaeda, leading to a cover-up of key intelligence that could have helped the FBI and CIA interdict the 9/11 plot.



DeVecchio



Scarpa Sr.



Hoover



Goodman, Chaney, & Schwerner

**13 • March 4, 1994** (page 209)



White

**Abouhalima, Salameh, Ayyad, and Ajaj** are convicted in the World Trade Center bombing. But Yousef and Ismoil are still at large. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, **Mary Jo White**, declares that the verdict should send "an unmistakable message that we will not tolerate terrorism in this country."



Abouhalima



Salameh



Ayyad



Ajaj

**14 • March 11, 1994** (page 210)



Floyd

Agent **Nancy Floyd** becomes the object of a story leaked to the *New York Post* suggesting that she is being investigated by the FBI for an alleged affair with Emad Salem. Later, under oath, Floyd vehemently denies the charge, and the bootleg tapes exonerate her. An ongoing OPR investigation finds no evidence to support the charge.

**15 • July 1994** (page 200)

By July 1994, **Ramzi Yousef** is the world's most wanted terrorist. **Brad Smith**, a Diplomatic Security Service Agent at the U.S. State Department, runs Rewards for Justice, a program that offers \$2 million for Yousef's capture. Diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, Smith is given just months to live, but he vows to stay alive until Yousef is arrested.



**Smith**



**Yousef Wanted Poster**

**16 • September 1994** (page 156)

Working out of the Philippines, **Yousef** conceives three plots. (1) He will kill **Pope John Paul II** on a visit to Manila in January 1995. (2) He will create an undetectable liquid-based bomb to be smuggled on board eleven U.S. jumbo jets entering the United States from Asia. Yousef names this plot **Bojinka**, after the Serbo-Croatian term for "big noise." (3) With **Abdul Hakim Murad**, the pilot trained at four U.S. flight schools, Yousef will coordinate the training of Islamic pilots at U.S. schools who will then commandeered airliners and fly them into buildings in America. This third plot becomes the blueprint for the 9/11 attacks.



**Yousef**



**Pope John Paul II**



**Murad**

**17 • December 1994** (page 187)

On Christmas Eve, in what may have been a dress rehearsal for Yousef's "third plot," Algerian Islamic terrorists with ties to Osama bin Laden hijack an Air France jumbo jet laden with fuel. According to witnesses, the suicidal hijackers intended to fly the plane to Paris to take down the **Eiffel Tower**.



**Eiffel Tower**



**Murad**



**Yousef**

**18 • 1994** (page 152)

To help execute his three plots, which he and **Murad** will stage from Manila, **Yousef** calls on his uncle **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**. The fourth conspirator is **Wali Khan Amin Shah**, an Uzbeki veteran of the Afghan war whom Osama bin Laden

calls "the lion." Wali sets up a front company in Malaysia called **Konsonjaya** to fund the three plots. On the board is an Indonesian cleric named **Riduan Isamuddin** (aka **Hambali**), who will later be linked to the 2002 Bali bombing. The money for the three plots will come from bin Laden's brother-in-law **Mohammed Jamal Khalifa**.



**Mohammed**



**Shah**



**Hambali**



**Khalifa**

**19 • November 1994** (page 150)

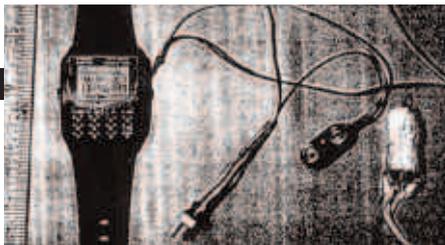
Using his Filipina girlfriend as a front, Shah rents a safe house at the **Dona Josefa Apartments** along the pope's parade route in Manila. Yousef later checks in to Room 603.

**20 • December 11, 1994** (page 152)

Creating a series of false IDs, **Yusef** mimics the identity of **Arnaldo Forlani**, an Italian government official. He buys a ticket from Manila to Cebu on PAL Flight 434, with ongoing service to Japan.

Using apparently innocuous parts consisting of a Casio DBC-61 watch as a timer and diluted nitroglycerine in a contact lens cleanser bottle, Yusef boards PAL Flight 434 and builds the bomb on the first leg of the two-leg flight. He puts the assembled device in the life jacket pouch under seat 26K by the center fuel tank of the 747, then deplanes in Cebu.

When PAL Flight 434, bound for Japan, reaches cruising altitude, the Casio alarm ignites the filament of a broken bulb Yusef has embedded in the nitrocellulose explosive. The bomb detonates—killing the passenger in seat 26K and narrowly missing the center fuel tank. The 747 is forced to make an emergency landing on Okinawa.



**Exclusive photo of Yusef's undetectable bomb trigger**



**Yusef**



**As Forlani**



**21 • December 11, 1994** (page 156)

That night in a Manila karaoke bar, Yusef celebrates his successful “wet test” of the undetectable Casio bomb with **Wali Khan Amin Shah** and his uncle **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**.



**Shah**



**Mohammed**



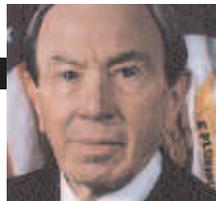
**Bucca**

**22 • December 1994** (page 149)

Since the 1993 WTC bombing, **Ronnie Bucca** has developed a database of Islamic terror groups. One of them is the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), which operates out of the Philippines. When they take credit for the PAL bombing, Bucca becomes convinced Yusef is involved.

**23 • December 16, 1994** (page 157)

In Morgan Hill, California, the hometown of Special Agent John Zent, Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law Mohamed Jamal Khalifa is arrested by INS agents. At the time, evidence from the Philippines National Police suggests that Khalifa is bankrolling the Ramzi Yusef-Khalid Shaikh Mohammed Manila cell. Khalifa's PDA contains evidence linking bin Laden to the two Yusef cells (in New York and Manila). Facing a death sentence in Jordan, Khalifa is motivated to talk and might make an extraordinary witness if the Feds push for his interrogation. A senior State Department official describes Khalifa as “engaged in serious terrorist offenses,” and predicts that his release will “endanger U.S. national security.” But Secretary of State **Warren Christopher** and Deputy Attorney General **Jamie Gorelick** soon advocate Khalifa's extradition to Jordan, thus losing a key potential witness against al Qaeda.



**Christopher**



**Gorelick**

**24 • January 6, 1995** (page 178)

On the night of January 6, while mixing chemicals in his Dona Josefa bomb factory, Yusef accidentally ignites a small fire that fills the room with smoke. The Manila police are called. Yusef and Murad tell a rookie cop that they are just playing with firecrackers. He buys the story and leaves.

**25 • January 6, 1995** (page 179)

But when the cop reports the firecracker story, veteran PNP Captain **Aida Fariscal** becomes suspicious and orders the young cop and a sergeant back to the Dona Josefa. There they confront Abdul Hakim Murad.



**Fariscal**

**26 • January 7, 1995** (page 180)

As the police escort Murad out of the Dona Josefa lobby, he takes off running. The patrolman pulls his gun and fires a shot that zings past the terrorist's ear. Murad suddenly trips and goes down, whereupon the cops arrest him. He tries to bribe **Fariscal** with \$2,000 in American Express checks, but she demands to see Room 603, where he's been staying. When she enters the room, Fariscal is shocked to find a picture of the pope, priest's cassocks, a map of the pontiff's parade route, and a laboratory of chemicals and bombs in various stages of construction. She also finds Yousef's Toshiba laptop, which lays out the entire Bojinka plot to blow up 11 U.S. jumbo jets. By playing a hunch, this local Filipina police captain has found the lair of Ramzi Yousef, the world's most wanted man.

**27 • January 7, 1995** (page 180)

But as Murad is led away by the police, **Ramzi Yousef** watches from across the street. Early the next morning he takes a flight to Pakistan, where he is joined by his uncle **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**. The Mozart of Terror escapes. Both men will go on to plan the 9/11 attacks.



**Yousef**



**Mohammed**

**28 • January 7, 1995** (page 182)

Telling PNP officials his name is Saeed Ahmed, **Murad** is taken to Camp Crame in Manila for questioning. Allegedly tortured, he refuses to talk until he is turned over to Col. **Rodolfo Mendoza**, an expert on Islamic terror groups. Murad soon confesses details of the WTC bombing. He also admits his role in the pope and Bojinka plots.



**Murad**



**Mendoza**

**29 • January 20, 1995** (page 183)

Two weeks after his capture, Murad confesses to a plan to fly a small single-engine plane into CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, but says the plot is just in the early planning stages.

**30 • February 1995** (page 184)

Finally, after Mendoza threatens to turn him over to the Israeli Mossad, Murad admits to Yousef's third plot, which is well into the planning stages. He tells Mendoza that ten Islamic terrorists are currently training in U.S. flight schools. The ultimate targets will be the **CIA**, the **Pentagon**, the **World Trade Center**, the **Sears Tower** in Chicago, the **Transamerica Tower** in San Francisco, and a U.S. nuclear facility.



**CIA Headquarters**



**Pentagon**



**World Trade Center**



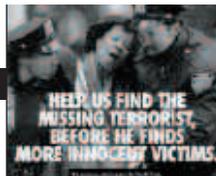
**Sears Tower**



**Transamerica Tower**

**31 • February 1995** (page 200)

Meanwhile, as the hunt for Ramzi Yousef intensifies, DSS agent Brad Smith amps up the Rewards program with **posters** and matchbooks with Yousef's image promising a \$2 million reward.



**32 • February 1995** (page 200)

But the master bomber remains undaunted. From hiding in Pakistan, Yousef recruits a young Islamic South African, Istaique Parker, and induces him to plant **nitrocellulose bombs** hidden in toy cars inside luggage to be checked onto United and Delta flights in Bangkok. Yousef's laptop seized at the Dona Josefa contains details of the Bojinka plot. Within hours after the Room 603 search, Delta and United Airlines are put on high alert. A number of flights are aborted, and some are forced to land.



**Exclusive photo of toy cars and nitrocellulose seized in a raid on Yousef's Islamabad lair**

But at the last minute, Parker gets cold feet. He returns to Islamabad and calls the U.S. Embassy. DSS agents debriefing him learn that Yousef will be returning to Islamabad in a few days. When Yousef calls Parker from the Su Casa, a guest house controlled by Osama bin Laden, DSS agents raid it with Pakistani authorities. The bomb maker is arrested. But his uncle Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, staying downstairs, escapes. Astonishingly, Mohammed gives an innocent-bystander press interview and is later quoted in *Time* magazine.

**33 • February 1995** (page 202)

On a 707 bound for the United States, **Yousef** confesses to FBI agents his role in the pope and Bojinka plots. He also gives minute details of the WTC bombing. But on his arrival back in New York, as he's being flown by helicopter past the WTC, Yousef delivers a chilling warning. An FBI agent eyes the Twin Towers and says, "You didn't get them after all." Yousef replies, "Not yet!"



**Yousef**

**34 • February 1995** (page 205)

A week before Yousef's capture, the Day of Terror trial begins. The Feds accuse **Sheikh Rahman** of leading a "jihad army" dating back to the first firing range sessions at Calverton, L.I. in 1989. Included in the ongoing plot are the slaying of Rabbi Kahane by **Nosair** (whose defense was funded by **Ibrahim El-Gabrowni**) and the WTC bombing. **Siddig Ali** admits to being the operational leader who chose the UN and the Lincoln and Holland tunnels as targets. He admits that he and **Clement Rodney Hampton-El** attended training sessions in Pennsylvania where Yousef's bomb was tested with the help of **Mohammed Abouhalima**.

This demonstrates further that the FBI could have stopped Yousef if they had followed Mohammed's brother **Mahmud**, "the Red," who was working directly with Yousef as he built the WTC device.



**Rahman**



**Nosair**



**El-Gabrowni**



**Ali**



**Hampton-El**



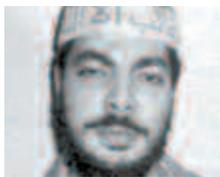
**Mohammed Abouhalima**



**Mahmud Abouhalima**

**35 • February 1995** (page 172)

**Ali Mohamed** is listed by assistant U.S. attorneys **Andrew C. McCarthy** and **Patrick Fitzgerald** as one of the 172 unindicted coconspirators in the Day of Terror trial. The attorney for **El Sayyid Nosair** subpoenas Mohamed to testify, but McCarthy flies to California to meet with Mohamed and reportedly discourages him from taking the stand. To make the California meeting, Mohamed has to fly back to Santa Clara from Nairobi, Kenya, where he is working with embassy bombing cell operative **Wadiah El-Hage**. Later, the audacious Mohamed fumes because he expected the Feds to pay for his airfare back from Africa.

**McCarthy****Fitzgerald****Rahman****Nosair****Mohamed****El-Hage****36 • 1995** (page 209)

Emad Salem, Nancy Floyd's recruit, is the Fed's linchpin witness. At one point in testimony he admits that the Day of Terror plot was almost foiled when Carson Dunbar ordered him to remove a timer from the safe house. Called as a defense witness, Floyd is heard on Salem's bootleg tapes pointedly criticizing FBI supervisors for undermining the first WTC bombing investigation. Meanwhile her OPR investigation continues. A fellow agent speculates that Floyd is being punished by her FBI superiors for telling the truth about the failure of the New York office to stop the first bombing.

**37 • March, 1995** (page 167)

Deputy Attorney General **Jamie Gorelick** signs the infamous "wall memo," in which she calls for a separation of intelligence between FBI investigators probing *past* terror crimes and agents seeking to prevent *future* acts of terror. Gorelick admits that the memo goes "beyond what is legally required." Some analysts see the memo as a legal justification for the disconnection of dots by DOJ officials, who may be seeking to hide past acts of negligence by the FBI and DOJ on the road to 9/11. See memo at Appendix **TK**.

**Gorelick****38 • April 1995** (page 186)

Col. Rodolfo Mendoza turns over the details of Murad's confession to the U.S. Embassy in Manila, including a list of Yousef's six targets in the airline hijack plot including the WTC and the Pentagon.

**39 • 1995** (page 196)

Ali Mohamed smuggles **Ayman al-Zawahiri** into the U.S. for his second fund-raising tour of U.S. mosques. Up to half a million dollars is reportedly raised on both coasts by the team, fraudulently using the name of the Red Crescent. Traveling incognito, al-Zawahiri is accompanied on one of the U.S. trips by San Jose obstetrician **Ali Zaki**, another Egyptian émigré, who later claims he didn't know the infamous al-Zawahiri was a terrorist.

**Mohamed****al-Zawahiri****Dr. Ali Zaki**

**40 • 1995** (page 197)

According to later testimony from Mohamed's protégé **Khalid Dahab**, some of the money from the U.S. tour goes to finance the bombing of the **Egyptian Embassy** in Pakistan, an act of terror linked directly to al-Zawahiri. Working as Ali Mohamed's protégé, Dahab helps set up a sleeper cell in Santa Clara in the middle of California's high-tech heartland.



**Egyptian Embassy**

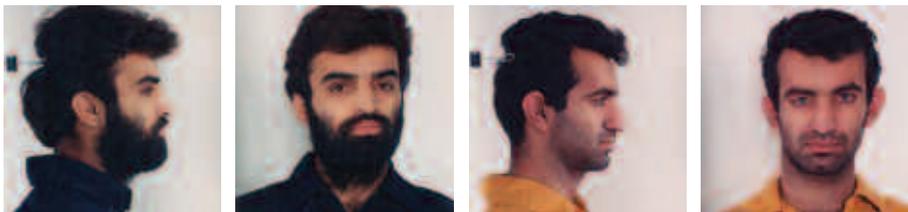


**Dahab**

**41 • 1995** (page 188)

The FBI acknowledges Mendoza's evidence in a memo classified as SECRET/NOFORN. The memo warns of potential "future attacks" by Yousef against the CIA and a nuclear facility. Later the FBI investigates two of **Murad's** U.S. flight schools. But the Bureau makes no other mention of **Yousef's** third plot, and, for unknown reasons, further investigation of the airliner hijacking scenario is dropped.

Even more surprising, while the FBI memo's author suspects Yousef of having links to Osama bin Laden, it describes his WTC bombing cell and the Day of Terror bombers as "a loose group of politically committed Muslims." The memo concludes that they do "not belong to a single cohesive organization." This finding conflicts with the U.S. attorney's allegation in the ongoing Day of Terror trial that Yousef and Sheikh Rahman are part of a "jihad army" wreaking a war of urban terror in New York.



**Bureau of Prisons booking mug shots of Abdul Hakim Murad and Ramzi Yousef**

**42 • April 12–13, 1995** (page 291)

Perhaps most incredible is an admission made by Murad to FBI agents during their flight to New York. As Special Agents Frank Pellegino and Thomas Donlon later record in an FBI 302 form, Murad advises them that "Yousef wanted to return to the United States . . . to bomb the World Trade Center a second time."

**43 • April 19, 1995** (page 162)

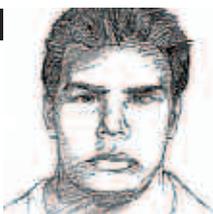
At 9:00 A.M. on April 19, a 5,600-pound bomb made of ammonium nitrate and nitromethane detonates in a yellow Ryder truck parked outside the **Murrah Federal Building** in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people, including 19 children. Eyewitnesses describe several suspects exiting the area, including a Middle Eastern man.



**Murrah Federal Building**



**Kling**



**John Doe No. 2**

**44 • April 19, 1995** (page 163)

Police sketches are released for a **Robert Kling**, described as a 180-pound, 5'10" white man, and **John Doe No. 2**, described as 5'9" with olive skin, a thick neck, and slicked-back hair.

**45 • April 19, 1995** (page 163)

Within hours of the blast, **Timothy McVeigh** is in police custody; **Terry Nichols** later surrenders. While McVeigh bears a striking resemblance to the eyewitness sketch, Nichols looks nothing like the swarthy John Doe No. 2. Yet within months the FBI drops its worldwide manhunt for the third suspect.

**McVeigh****Nichols****46 • April 19, 1995** (page 164)

Hours after the Oklahoma City bombing, Abdul Hakim Murad (now in federal jail in New York) takes credit for the blast in the name of Ramzi Yousef's Liberation Army. FBI agent Frank Pellegrino, who interrogated Murad on his trip from Manila, reports the terrorist's declaration in an FBI 302 later admitted at trial.

**47 • April 1995** (page 163)

A growing body of circumstantial evidence suggests that Ramzi Yousef may have designed the Oklahoma City device for Terry Nichols when he was in Cebu, Philippines, in 1994-95. Nichols's passport shows four trips to the Philippines since 1990; **Edwin Angeles**, a former leader of the Abu Sayyaf terror group, swears to police that Nichols, aka "The Farmer," met Yousef in the Philippines in the early 1990s.

**Angeles****48 • 1995** (page 163)

Passport records show that on November 3, 1994, Wali Khan Amin Shah and Ramzi Yousef applied for Philippines visas while in Singapore. On November 4, Terry Nichols applied for his Philippines visa in Chicago.

**49 • 1995** (page 164)

The most curious circumstantial evidence comes from Michael Fortier, the government's star witness in *U.S. v. Timothy McVeigh*. Fortier swears under oath that the only ammonium nitrate-fuel oil device McVeigh ever built was a dud. Then, after Nichols was in Cebu City at the same time as **Ramzi Yousef**, Nichols and McVeigh built the 5,600-pound ammonium nitrate-nitromethane bomb that destroyed the Murrah Building.

**Yousef****50 • May 8, 1995** (page 214)

The investigation of **Lin DeVecchio** threatens to undermine the prosecution of seventy-five Mafia cases stemming from the Colombo war. **Valerie Caproni**, head of the criminal division in the Eastern District of New York (EDNY), expresses concern that key intelligence has leaked. **Ellen Corcella**, the AUSA prosecuting many of the cases, is forced to disclose to defense attorneys eight instances in which DeVecchio may have revealed key intelligence, including the location of **Scarpa Sr.'s** chief rival, **Victor Orena Sr.** As a result, fourteen of the cases are dismissed. (See Corcella's letter at Appendix V, p. TK.)

**Caproni****Corcella****DeVecchio****Scarpa Sr.****Orena**

**51 • January 17, 1996** (page 279)

**Sheikh Rahman** is sentenced to life in prison for his role in the Day of Terror plot. But in a precursor of things to come, Egyptian U.S. postal worker **Ahmed Abdel Sattar** vows that “the man will never be silenced,” and the al Gamma’a Islamiya (IG)—the Egyptian terrorist group that the Sheikh heads—threatens to attack U.S. civilian targets.

**Rahman****Sattar****52 • January 1996** (page 219)

**Patrick Fitzgerald**, the head of Organized Crime and Terrorism in the SDNY, tasks FBI Squad I-49 in the New York office with building a criminal case against Osama bin Laden. Special Agent **Jack Cloonan** has the job of investigating bin Laden’s chief U.S. spy, Ali Mohamed. Meanwhile the CIA forms Alec Station, a dedicated bin Laden unit headed by analyst **Mike Scheuer**. Squad I-49 agent **Dan Coleman** is seconded there as the FBI’s man inside. As his knowledge of al Qaeda grows, Coleman earns the nickname “the professor.”

**Fitzgerald****Cloonan****Coleman****Scheuer****53 • 1996** (page 261)

Meanwhile, **Jamal Ahmad al-Fadl**, a young Sudanese who worked as an aide to the murdered Mustafa Shalabi at the **Alkifah Center**, walks into a U.S. Embassy and becomes CS-1, a secret informant for the Feds. In extraordinary testimony he confirms the existence of al Qaeda, describes how **Osama bin Laden** runs training camps for the worldwide jihad, and tells the FBI that one of bin Laden’s closest associates is Assad, aka “the lion,” the nom de guerre of Ramzi Yousef’s Manila coconspirator **Wali Khan Amin Shah**.

**al-Fadl****Alkifah Center****bin Laden****Shah****54 • 1996** (page 263)

For the New York office of the FBI, this intelligence completes a circle of evidence dating back to the surveillance photos of the Calverton shooting sessions in 1989—proving a direct link between al Qaeda, bin Laden, and WTC coconspirators **Abouhalima**, **Salameh**, **Nosair**, and **Ayyad** as well as Day of Terror defendant **Hampton-EI**. The revelation comes five years before 9/11, but the public doesn’t get a hint of the link until February 2001, and the FBI itself doesn’t understand the connection between Special Forces Sgt. **Ali Mohammed** and bin Laden until 1998, following two more al Qaeda bombings.

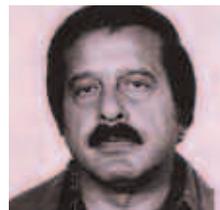
**Abouhalima****Salameh****Nosair****Ayyad****Hampton-EI****Mohammed**

**55 • March 1996** (page 226)

While awaiting trial in federal jail in lower Manhattan, Colombo crime family wiseguy **Gregory Scarpa Jr.**, son of the “Grim Reaper,” finds himself in a cell between **Ramzi Yousef** and **Abdul Hakim Murad**. Believing he can trust the mafioso, Yousef begins passing notes through Greg Jr. to Murad via holes in their cell walls. The notes include threats to a federal judge and prosecutor, and a prediction that Yousef’s people will put a bomb on a plane to get a mistrial in the upcoming Bojinka trial, in which Yousef will represent himself. The notes also include detailed schematics for Yousef’s Casio-nitro bomb trigger used on PAL Flight 434 in 1994. The FBI takes the intel so seriously they give Greg Jr. a camera to photograph Yousef’s notes and memorialize them in dozens of official FBI 302 memos. (See Appendix VII, pp. TK.)

**Yousef****Scarpa Jr.****Murad****56 • April 10, 1996** (page 229)

While Scarpa Jr. is providing the FBI with key al Qaeda intelligence from Yousef, the FBI’s New York Office grows concerned that the widening scandal of alleged corruption between Supervisory Special Agent **Lin DeVecchio** and **Scarpa Sr.** could derail the sixty remaining Colombo war cases in the EDNY. So **James Kallstrom**, ADIC of, the NYO, sends a memo to FBI director **Louis Freeh** suggesting that there is: “insufficient evidence to take prosecutive action” against DeVecchio. This despite the Corcella letter from a year earlier citing eight suspected leaks to Scarpa Sr. Pushing for a resolution of the OPR investigation, Kallstrom writes that the scandal is having a “negative impact” on LCN [La Cosa Nostra] prosecutions and “casts a cloud over the NYO.” (See Appendix VII, pp. TK.)

**Kallstrom****Freeh****DeVecchio****Scarpa Sr.****57 • 1996** (page 223)

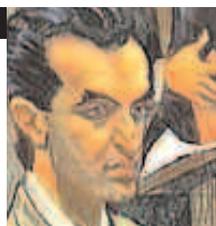
The Feds are so impressed by the quality of **Scarpa Jr.**’s intelligence on Yousef that they set up a phony Mafia front company, called the Roma Corp., and allow **Yousef** to make outside calls from jail. While Yousef believes that his calls to al Qaeda members in the U.S. and the Mideast are being patched through by Scarpa’s wiseguys, the phones are actually manned by FBI agents. But they only speak Arabic, and Yousef is talking in Baluchi and Urdu. At least one call goes to **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**, hiding out in Doha, Qatar, while perfecting his nephew Yousef’s planes-as-missiles plot. The FBI sends its HRT team to arrest KSM, but he escapes. Meanwhile, Yousef renews his threat to have his people put a bomb on a U.S. airliner to get a mistrial.

One of the notes Yousef passes to Scarpa Jr. is entitled “How to Smuggle Explosives Onto An Airliner.” It cites the explosive RDX and acetone peroxide, an ingredient that will show up in a reincarnation of the Bojinka plot by al Qaeda in 2006.

**Yousef****Scarpa Jr.****Khalid Sheikh Mohammed**

**58 • May 29, 1996** (page 227)

In the first of two prosecutions, **Yousef** goes on trial in U.S. Federal Court in Manhattan for the Bojinka plot and the murder of the passenger on PAL Flight 434. Judge Kevin T. Duffy allows Yousef to represent himself, with the assistance of attorney Roy Kulcsar. In his opening statement the bomb maker claims he was imprisoned in Pakistan at the time the Bojinka and pope plots were set in motion in Manila. There isn't a word, from federal prosecutors or Yousef, however, about his third plot—the plan to hijack airliners.

**Yousef at trial****59 • June 1996** (page 253)

Although eleven Philippine National Police officials testify, Rodolfo Mendoza, who elicited the 9/11 plot confession from **Murad**, is never mentioned. His own assistant, Maj. Alberto Ferro, testifies that he "cannot really recall" who questioned Murad. Though Murad's training in four U.S. flight schools is mentioned, there isn't a word in the nearly 6,000-page transcript of **Yousef's** plan to fly airliners into the WTC, the Pentagon, and other U.S. buildings. But the forensic evidence against Yousef is overwhelming. On July 18, 1996, the Feds are about to introduce part of Murad's confession giving details of the Bojinka plot, but then . . .

**The defendants****60 • July 17, 1996** (page 239)

On the night of July 17, **TWA Flight 800** bound from JFK to Paris crashes near Long Island, killing 230 people. The explosion takes place near row 26, adjacent to the center fuel tank—an area identical to the detonation point aboard PAL Flight 434. When the wreckage is assembled in a hangar, the high explosives RDX, PETN, and nitroglycerine are found near row 26. The explosion mimics the Bojinka plot; Yousef's attorney, Kulcsar, argues that the news event will prejudice the jury.

**TWA 800 wreckage****61 • July 17, 1996** (page 240)

**James Kallstrom**, ADIC of the FBI's NYO, immediately suspects terrorism, and Yousef is at the top of his list of suspects. Because of the multiple FBI 302s documenting Yousef's threat to bomb an airliner, Kallstrom deploys a thousand FBI agents to the crash site off Long Island. After the crash, the FBI picks up a message in Baluchi. It reads "TWA #800 . . . What had to be done has been done." As 96 percent of the aircraft (N 93-17119) is re-assembled, the FBI finds the high explosives RDX, nitroglycerine, and PETN in the area between the seventeenth and twenty-fifth rows near the center wing fuel tank. FBI chief metallurgist William Tobin declares "no indicia" of bomb damage, but he fails to consider Yousef's PAL 434 bomb damage as a precedent.

**Kallstrom****62 • August 22, 1996** (page 244)

The *New York Times* is about to run a story entitled "Prime Evidence Found That Device Exploded In Cabin of Flight 800," when Kallstrom is summoned to a D.C. meeting with Deputy AG **Jamie Gorelick** and FBI director **Louis Freeh**.

**Freeh****Gorelick**

**63 • August 22, 1996** (page 244)

Whatever is discussed at the August 22 meeting causes Kallstrom to do a 180-degree turn and seek an explanation for the presence of high explosives in the wreckage *that does not involve a bomb*. He tries to kill the *Times* story, and later accepts a specious theory that the explosive residue was spilled by a K-9 officer conducting a bomb sniffing dog test aboard the plane six weeks earlier. But the officer, Herman Burnett, later produces evidence that he did the test on a *different* aircraft (N 93-17116), negating the FBI's linchpin theory for how explosive residue got on TWA 800.

**64 • September 5, 1996** (page 260)

The question of whether **Yousef's** cell had a hand in the downing of TWA 800 becomes moot by Sept. 5, however, when he's convicted with Murad and Shah for the Bojinka plot. FBI Agent Frank Pellegrino, who interrogated Murad, calls his FBI supervisor to say, "It's over. We won." But even from federal lockup, Yousef continues to plot further terrorist acts.



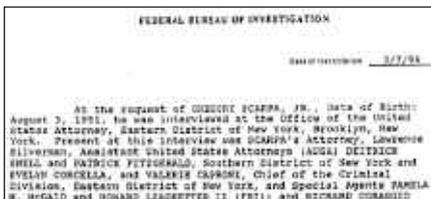
**Yousef**



**Kallstrom**

**65 • 1996** (page 265)

Half a dozen senior DOJ and FBI officials are a party to the treasure trove of al Qaeda intelligence from Yousef from March 1996 through February 1997, including **James Kallstrom**, **Patrick Fitzgerald**, and AUSAs **Dietrich Snell**, **Valerie Caproni**, and **Ellen Corcella**. Contained in dozens of FBI 302s, the intel demonstrates proof of an active al Qaeda cell in NYC, and a threat by bin Laden to hijack a plane to free Sheikh Rahman.



**FBI 302 on Fitzgerald's meeting with Scarpa**

But within months, reputedly on the word of a Mafia informant named John Napoli, the Feds label the "Scarpa Materials" a "hoax" and "scam."

A key agent in Fitzgerald's Squad I-49 claims that he never sees this intel on al Qaeda's active presence in NYC.



**Fitzgerald**



**Snell**



**Caproni**



**Corcella**

**66 • September 1996** (page 249)

The Feds close the **DeVecchio** OPR, allowing him to retire on a full pension even though he took the Fifth Amendment and answered "I don't recall" more than forty times *after* a grant of immunity. **Greg Scarpa Sr.** dies of AIDS in prison; his son **Greg Jr.** is ultimately sentenced to forty years for RICO violations. But at what cost? The ends/means decision by the Feds to preserve the Colombo war cases and bury the DeVecchio scandal results in U.S. intelligence agencies being walled off from crucial evidence of al Qaeda's active links in 1996 to New York City, the blind Sheikh and Ramzi Yousef.



**DeVecchio**



**Scarpa Sr.**



**Scarpa Jr.**

## PART III

### 01 • August 1997 (page 268)

Since his surveillance for the embassy bombing plot in late 1993, **Ali Mohamed** has been in constant touch with **Wadhi El-Hage**, one of the key Nairobi cell members, who had been in Brooklyn as far back as 1991 at the time of the Shalabi murder. The Feds have had a wiretap on El-Hage's phone since 1996, and in August 1997 Special Agent **Dan Coleman** from Squad I-49 finds contact information for Mohamed in a search of El-Hage's house. El-Hage is allowed to leave Nairobi even though al Qaeda turncoat Jamal al-Fadl had told **Fitzgerald** and Coleman in 1996 that El-Hage was **bin Laden's** personal secretary. El-Hage lies to a grand jury in New York, but the FBI lets him go.



Mohamed



El-Hage



bin Laden



Coleman



Fitzgerald

### 02 • October 1997 (page 274)

**Patrick Fitzgerald** meets face-to-face with Ali Mohamed, who has moved with his wife, Linda Sanchez, to Sacramento, California. Fitzgerald hopes to convince the al Qaeda spy to "turn." But in the company of Squad I-49 agent **Jack Cloonan**, Mohamed audaciously tells Fitzgerald that he is in touch with hundreds of people who are prepared to go "operational" on a moment's notice.

Mohamed also tells the Feds that he can disappear anytime, and spurns them. He admits that he trained bin Laden's personal bodyguard in Sudan in 1994. In fact he lived in the Saudi billionaire's house at the time. Ali even tells the Feds that he "loves" bin Laden, that he believes in him, and that he doesn't need a fatwa or Islamic decree to attack the U.S. Since bin Laden had told CNN seven months earlier that he had "declared jihad" against America, Mohamed's words amount to sedition—the same charge Fitzgerald used in 1995 to convict Sheikh Rahman. Yet again Fitzgerald allows Mohamed to remain free.

After the meeting, Fitzgerald tells Cloonan, "This is the most dangerous man I have ever met. We cannot let this man out on the street." They bug his computer and tap his home phone, but the Feds leave Ali Mohamed free.



Fitzgerald



Cloonan

### 03 • January 8, 1998 (page 284)

Calling Yousef "an apostle of evil," Judge Duffy sentences him to 240 years in solitary—one year for the combined ages of his WTC victims. Defiant to the end, the bomb maker says, "I am a terrorist and I am proud of it." The same day, the Feds unseal a secret indictment of Khalid Shaikh Mohammed dating back to 1996. For unknown reasons, the Justice Department has kept the hunt for Mohammed quiet for almost two years—in contrast to the well-publicized Yousef hunt, which helped trigger his capture.

### 04 • January 8, 1998 (page 285)

Now, as with his nephew, the announced reward is \$2 million. But by 1998 **Mohammed** is in the advanced stages of executing Yousef's third plot. As Islamic pilots train in U.S. flight schools, Mohammed prepares to establish a cell in Hamburg, Germany. **Mohammed Atta**, an Egyptian, will take the place of Murad as chief hijacker-pilot in what Mohammed will later call "Holy Tuesday."



Mohammed



Atta

**05 • January 1998** (page 326)

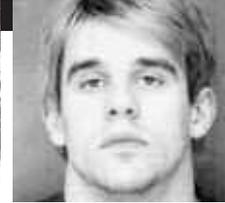
Despite Yousef's imprisonment, **Ronnie Bucca** believes the threat from the bomb maker's al Qaeda associates is ongoing. Now serving with the Army Reserve's 3413th Military Intelligence Detachment of the 800th MPs at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center in Washington, Bucca studies **declassified DIAC link charts** that show a direct connection between Ramzi Yousef and Osama bin Laden. He warns his colleagues and superiors in the FDNY of an ongoing threat to New York in general, and the WTC in particular. (See Appendix IX, pp. TK.)

**Bucca****DIAC link charts****06 • February 5, 1998** (page 286)

Testifying before Congress, **Dale Watson**, the FBI's assistant director for counter-terrorism, says, "Although we should not allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security, I believe it is important to note that in the five years since the Trade Center bombing, no significant act of foreign-directed terrorism has occurred on American soil."

**Watson****07 • April 1998** (page 289)

**Dana Ewell** and **Joel Radovitch**, the dropout he hired to kill his family, go to trial. Despite overwhelming forensic and eyewitness evidence of their guilt, including the barrel of the AT-9 murder weapon and the testimony of a coconspirator, Ali Mohamed's control agent John Zent testifies as a character witness for Ewell. Still, the pair is found guilty and barely escape the death penalty. Zent's efforts to defend Dana Ewell occur even as an al Qaeda cell is preparing to execute Mohamed's plan to blow up the U.S. embassy in Nairobi. It was on Zent's word that Mohamed was released from the RCMP in 1993 and went on to do the surveillance for the upcoming bombing plot.

**Ewell****Radovitch****08 • 1998** (page 282)

In the months before August 1998, the U.S. receives three significant warnings of a possible attack on the Nairobi embassy. U.S. Ambassador **Prudence Bushnell** makes multiple appeals to the State Department to harden the embassy, but little is done. As late as November 1997, an Egyptian informant tells the CIA that a group is planning to detonate a truck bomb. **Ali Mohamed** even tells an FBI agent in Squad I-49 that a "target" in Africa is vulnerable.

**Bushnell****Mohamed****9 • August 1998** (page 292)

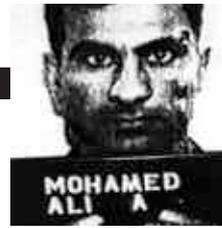
The most shocking dot comes on August 7, when the FAA and the Bureau pick up intelligence that unidentified Arabs are planning to fly "an explosive-laden plane" from an unnamed country into the World Trade Center. The FAA reportedly finds the plot "highly unlikely, given the state of the foreign country's aviation program." The FBI's New York office files the intel away without taking action.

**10 • 1998** (page 292)

More than two years after the FBI finds evidence of an al Qaeda bombing plot, the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania are simultaneously bombed. The suicide truck is located precisely where Ali Mohamed took the surveillance photos in 1993, and where bin Laden himself instructed the bomb to be placed. Two hundred and twenty-four people are killed and thousands injured. After the bombing, al Qaeda again demands the release of blind Sheikh Rahman.

**11 • September 10, 1998** (page 296)

Days after the bombing, **Ali Mohamed** confesses to the Feds what should have been obvious to them for years: that he knows who did the bombings. But the Feds don't search his house for several weeks. Finally, on September 10, the FBI arrests him after he lies to a grand jury. But for the next nine months he's held in secrecy on a "John Doe" warrant. The Feds are terrified that word of Ali's duplicity will get out and that the FBI's New York Office and the SDNY will be held accountable for the years they allowed al Qaeda's chief spy to remain free.

**12 • October 1998** (page 338)

By now, **Mohammed Atta** and **Ramzi Binalshibh** have set up a safe house at 54 Marienstrasse in Hamburg. Over the months to come it will serve as a combination crash pad and flight training center for the suicidal jihadis who will perfect Ramzi Yousef's third plot.

**Atta****Binalshibh****13 • October 1998** (page 307)

At trial, **Greg Scarpa Jr.** testifies about the eleven-month intelligence initiative in which he risked his life to provide the Feds with evidence of an al Qaeda presence in New York City. But **Judge Reena Raggi** believes **Patrick Fitzgerald's** contention that the Yousef/Scarpa evidence, contained in dozens of FBI 302s, was a "part of a scam." She sentences Scarpa Jr. to forty years for RICO violations; he is to be housed in the Supermax prison, along with convicted terrorists including Ramzi Yousef and **Terry Nichols**.

**Raggi****Fitzgerald****Scarpa Jr.****Nichols****14 • August 1999** (page 323)

Assigned to work on terrorism issues full-time for the FDNY, **Ronnie Bucca** learns that **Ahmed Amin Refai**, the Egyptian-American accountant with the FDNY, has submitted a false report for a lost ID.

**Bucca****Refai**

The second ID would have allowed access to fire department headquarters. After learning that Refai has told multiple lies to law enforcement officers relating to the "lost" ID, Bucca begins investigating. He learns that Refai has made frequent trips to Egypt (on a \$35,000 salary) and had obtained the blueprints of the WTC prior to the bombing in 1993.

**15 • August 1999** (page 325)

Bucca, who believes **Refai** may be an al Qaeda mole inside the FDNY, later discovers TV news footage showing Refai acting as blind **Sheikh Rahman's** personal bodyguard. Bucca turns over the file on the accountant to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task force, but Detective Lou Napoli dismisses the evidence. He's the same JTTF investigator who missed multiple meetings with Emad Salem in 1992, ended his probe of Islamic militant AK-47 training in Connecticut in 1998-90, and failed to follow Abouhalima and Salameh before the first WTC bombing.

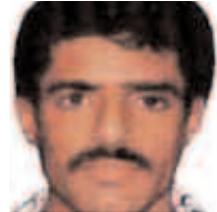
**Refai (l.) with Rahman**

**16 • December 1999** (page 330)

Operation Able Danger commences. It's a secret data mining operation ordered by Joint Chiefs chairman **Hugh Shelton** and General **Pete Schoomaker**, the head of the army's Special Operations Command (SOCOM). The Army's Land Information Warfare Facility (LIWA) searches the Internet for open-source intelligence on al Qaeda. The liaison to the DIA is Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, a decorated counterintelligence officer. The goal: identify al Qaeda targets for elimination.

**Shelton****Schoomaker****17 • January 5, 2000** (page 334)

During a summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, al Qaeda operations are planned by representatives from seven countries. Later dubbed the "9/11 planning session," the attendees include **Nawaf al-Hazmi** and **Khalid Al-Midhar**, two al Qaeda veterans who will later serve as "muscle hijackers" aboard AA Flight 77 on 9/11. Al-Midhar has been tracked to the meeting by CIA (via an FBI tip). The Agency asks the Malaysian Special Branch to photograph the attendees. Though **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed** is reportedly absent, his No. 2 on the planes-as-missiles plot, **Ramzi bin al-Shibh**, is there.

**Al-Hazmi****Al-Midhar****Mohammed****bin Atash****Hambali****Sufaat****al-Shibh****al-Quso****18 • January 5, 2000** (page 340)

Another top al Qaeda operative at the summit is **Khallad bin Atash**, who played a key role in the embassy bombings and will later direct the attack on the U.S.S. *Cole* with Yemeni **Fahad al-Quso**. Also present is **Riduan Isamuiddin**, a.k.a. **Hambali**, an Indonesian cleric who is the link to the **Yousef-KSM Manila cell**, since he served with **Wali Khan Amin Shah** on the board of **Konsonjaya**, the front company that funded the cell.

The conference takes place at the condo of **Yazid Sufaat**, who later entertains **Zacarias Moussaoui**, the alleged twentieth hijacker. After 9/11, FBI agents will accuse the CIA of withholding pictures of the summit attendees, thus preventing the FBI from capturing **al-Midhar** and **al-Hazmi**, who slip into the U.S. on January 15, 2000, when the CIA fails to get their names on a Watch List. But a key FBI agent in Squad I-49, **Patrick Fitzgerald's** bin Laden squad, is reportedly shown the surveillance photos in 2000, and at that point the two muscle hijackers are living openly in San Diego.

**Moussaoui****Fitzgerald**

**19 • February 2000** (page 332)

After several data runs, the Able Danger operation at LIWA gets four extraordinary hits that, if acted upon by the FBI, could have interdicted the 9/11 plot. The data harvest reveals the identity of lead hijacker **Mohammed Atta**, **Marwan al-Shehhi** (who will pilot UA Flight 175) and AA Flight 77 hijackers al-Midhar and al-Hazmi.

The operation also finds an active link between al Qaeda and the Brooklyn cell of Sheikh Rahman. This confirms al Qaeda's link (via Ramzi Yousef) to both attacks on the WTC (1993 and 2001) and vindicates the intelligence uncovered by Col. Rodolfo Mendoza of the PNP.

**Atta****al-Shehhi****al-Hazmi****al-Midhar****Rahman****Yousef****20 • March 21, 2000** (page 342)

Jacob L. Boesen, a contract employee with Orion Scientific, which produces many of the link charts visually representing the Able Danger data, builds a declassified chart on the two Yousef cells showing links to the WTC bombing.

The chart, which represents the most active intelligence known to the DIA and the Able Danger unit at that time, shows **Ali Mohamed** within al Qaeda's inner circle, along with **Osama bin Laden**, **Ayman al-Zawahiri**, **Mohammed Atef**, **Wadih El-Hage**, and **Mohammed Jamal Khalifa**, bin Laden's brother-in-law—the funder of the Yousef-KSM Manila cell, extradited to Jordan in 1995 with the support of Deputy A.G. Jamie Gorelick. (See Appendix IX, pp. TK.)

**Mohamed****bin Laden****al-Zawahiri****Atef****El-Hage****Khalifa****21 • April 2000** (page 346)

Weeks after Boesen's chart is declassified, the 2.5 terabytes of data gathered by the Able Danger operation are ordered destroyed by the Pentagon. **Lt. Col Anthony Shaffer** and **Cong. Curt Weldon (R-PA)**, who later investigates the data destruction, now believe that elements in the Department of Defense may have been embarrassed at the revelation that Ali Mohamed, honorably discharged as a U.S. Army sergeant after his service at the JFK SWC on Fort Bragg, was also a top-tier al Qaeda spy. Between April and September 2000, three separate meetings in which Shaffer seeks to brief the FBI on the Able Danger findings are cancelled by lawyers for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

**Weldon****Shaffer****22 • September 2000** (page 355)

On the 20th anniversary of the JTTF, U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White celebrates with Task Force members at Windows on the World, the restaurant atop the WTC's North Tower. Citing "the close to absolutely perfect record of successful investigations and convictions," White notes that in her seven years in the Southern District of New York she has put away twenty-five Islamic terrorists, including Ramzi Yousef and Sheikh Rahman. But in treating Osama bin Laden's jihad as a series of legal cases rather than a global threat to U.S. security, the Feds have made a serious miscalculation. Now, as very party, Ramzi Yousef's extended family of Islamic radicals begins finalizing a plot to take down the very building where the JTTF members are celebrating.

**23 • September 2000** (page 356)

If the Feds ever needed a reminder of al Qaeda's ongoing threat and the importance of **Sheikh Rahman** to **Osama bin Laden**, they get it a few days later, when the Saudi billionaire issues another video *fatwa*.

Wearing a dagger, surrounded by al Qaeda's Egyptian leaders **Mohammed Atef** and **Dr. Aymen al-Zawahiri** as well as **Refa'i Taha Musa**, the head of the IG, bin Laden sits next to Rahman's son, who calls on jihadis to "avenge your Sheikh" and "go to the spilling of blood." Bin Laden also tells his followers to remember **El Sayyid Nosair**, the man who spilled al Qaeda's first blood in New York in 1990 with the murder of Rabbi Kahane.

While many intelligence analysts continue to link Iraq with the WTC bombing, it is clear by now that al Qaeda's leadership under bin Laden is dominated by Egyptian radicals. Expelled from Sudan since 1996, the Saudi billionaire now operates from Afghanistan. As is often the case, his *fatwa* is a precursor of violence to come.



Rahman



bin Laden



Atef



al-Zawahiri



Taha Musa



Nosair

**24 • September 2000** (page 357)

In a data run in the late summer of 2000, a new configuration of the Able Danger unit finds an al Qaeda "hot spot" in Aden, Yemen. **Shaffer** alerts SOCOM, which reportedly alerts the U.S. Central Command. But the threat intelligence reportedly doesn't get to the skipper of the U.S.S. *Cole*, who docks his ship for refueling in Aden harbor.



Shaffer

**25 • October 12, 2000** (page 357)

On the morning of October 12, two al Qaeda suicide bombers load a device made of C-4 explosive into a small skiff and take off across the harbor in Aden, Yemen. **The U.S.S. Cole**, an advanced guided missile destroyer, is at the refueling dock. As the skiff approaches the ship, the jihadis smile and wave at *Cole* crew members, who wave back. Then, when the white fiberglass boat pulls alongside, the bomb detonates, blowing a four-story hole in the side of the ship. The two bombers and seventeen U.S. sailors are killed.



The U.S.S. Cole

Khallad bin-Atash, a coconspirator in the bombing, had attended the January 5, 2000, Kuala Lumpur meeting where the 9/11 attacks were planned.

**John O'Neill**, the FBI's chief bin Laden specialist, arrives in Yemen with three hundred agents determined to break the case, but he runs afoul of U.S. Ambassador **Barbara Bodine**, who demands a much lower Bureau profile. The career diplomat goes so far as to block O'Neill's return visa to Yemen after he flies to the United States.



O'Neill

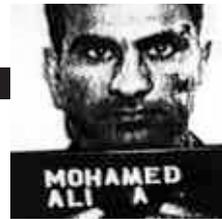


Bodine

Assistant FBI Director **Dale Watson**, the man who downplayed the U.S. al Qaeda presence before Congress, later tells the *Washington Post* that "sustained cooperation" with the Yemeni government "has enabled the FBI to further reduce its in-country presence." The same day, Yemen's prime minister tells the *Post* that no link has been established between the *Cole* bombers and al Qaeda.



Watson



**26 • October 20, 2000** (page 258)

After almost two years of protracted negotiations with the Feds, **Ali Mohamed** finally pleads guilty and admits his role as al Qaeda's top U.S. spy. Though he confesses to planning and supporting the embassy bombing plot, he is spared the death penalty. His plea deal, which remains under heavy seal, allows him to enter witness protection. Though he has separately been sentenced in absentia to death in Egypt, Mohamed manages not to give up the 9/11 plot to the Feds. The media speculates that he'll be the star witness in *United States v. bin Laden*, the embassy bombing trial Patrick Fitzgerald will prosecute in February 2001. But Mohamed never takes the stand, and the Feds are spared the embarrassment of a defense cross-examination in which Mohamed could have exposed years of negligence by the CIA, DIA, and FBI.

**27 • Fall 2000** (page 350)

Muscle hijackers **Nawaf al-Hazmi** and **Khalid al-Midhar** move into rooms rented to them by **Abdussattar Shaykh**, a San Diego Muslim leader who happens to be a "tested" undercover "asset" of the FBI. Al-Hazmi even lists his real name in the San Diego phone book, but the FBI seems powerless to detect the pair. (For phone book listings, see Chapter TK, p. TK.)



al-Hazmi



al-Midhar



Shaykh

**28 • 2001** (page 370)

In Phoenix, FBI Special Agent **Ken Williams** is embroiled in a dispute with **Harry Ellen**, a convert to Islam who worked as an FBI asset in Gaza. As a Phoenix newspaper prepares a series of stories regarding the dispute, Ellen claims that as early as 1996 he met with Williams at a location near a field in Phoenix (below) and told him to be wary of Islamic flight students. Shortly thereafter, **Hani Hanjour**, who will fly AA Flight 77 into the Pentagon on 9/11, begins taking pilot lessons at a Scottsdale, Arizona, flight school. Ellen later claims that Williams spurned his 1996 advice to monitor flight schools. By 2001 Hanjour is staying with **al-Midhar** and **al-Hazmi**.



Williams



Ellen



'96 meeting place



Hanjour



al-Hazmi



al-Midhar

**29 • July 5, 2001** (page 368)

Terrorism czar Richard Clarke calls a White House meeting with officials from the FBI, FAA, Coast Guard, Secret Service, and INS warning that "something really spectacular is going to happen here, and it's going to happen soon." The next day, Clarke chairs a meeting of the National Security Council's Counterterrorism Security Group (CSG) and orders a suspension of all nonessential travel by the staff.

**30 • July 10, 2001** (page 369)

FBI agent **Ken Williams** sends a memo to FBI Headquarters. He reportedly identifies eight Middle Eastern men studying at Arizona flight schools and urges the Bureau to do background checks. The communiqué, which will go down in history as the "Phoenix memo," is also sent to agents in the FBI's New York office, the Bureau's office of origin for all bin Laden-related terrorism cases. At least three people in the office see the memo, but no action is taken.



Williams

**31 • July 2001** (page 372)

**Khalid al-Midhar** and another of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers are sold fake IDs by **Mohammed El-Atriss**, an Egyptian who was co-incorporator of **Sphinx Trading**, the check-cashing store in Jersey City, located four doors from the blind Sheikh's al Salaam Mosque. El-Atriss's partner was Waleed al-Noor, one of Patrick Fitzgerald's unindicted co-conspirators in the Day of Terror trial with Sheikh Rahman. Sphinx is the same location where El Sayyid Nosair, one of **Ali Mohamed's** trainees, kept a mailbox discovered by the FBI in 1990. El-Atriss makes up to seven phone calls to Hani Hanjour as well. The Bureau could have seized al-Midhar, a key 9/11 hijacker, if they'd been monitoring Sphinx, but once again they fail to detect al-Midhar's presence, despite his move from San Diego to New Jersey, where he continues to live openly while the weeks count down toward the execution of Ramzi Yousef's return engagement with the WTC.



El-Atriss



al-Midhar



Sphinx Trading



Mohamed

**32 • August 6, 2001** (page 374)

A Presidential Daily Briefing to **George W. Bush** on vacation in Crawford, Texas, is entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Attack In the U.S." The PDB not only references a threat to hijack a plane to free blind **Sheikh Rahman**—a plan to which Greg Scarpa Jr. had alerted the Feds in 1996 after learning of it from **Ramzi Yousef**—but also cites "a senior EIJ member" living in California, a reference to **Ali Mohamed**. But the repeated references to the blind Sheikh and a hijack threat are ignored, even though by the first week in September the Taliban government in Afghanistan offers to exchange eight Christian missionaries in exchange for **Sheikh Rahman**. Ali Mohamed, now in witness protection, remains silent about **Yousef's** plot to hijack airliners and use them as missiles; only after 9/11 does he confess to Special Agent Jack Cloonan that he trained hijackers in the use of box cutters.



Bush in Crawford



Mohamed



Rahman



Yousef

**33 • September 11, 2001** (page 379)

Using box cutters and other short-bladed knives, nineteen hijackers seize control of four U.S. airliners. **Mohammed Atta** pilots AA 11 into the WTC's North Tower. **Marwan Al-Shehhi** flies UA 175 into the South Tower. **Hani Hanjour**, aided by **al-Midhar** and **al-Hazmi**, crashes AA 77 into the Pentagon—despite months of prior warnings to the FBI, CIA, and DIA via the Able Danger operation. FDNY fire marshal **Ronnie Bucca**, who warned for years that Yousef would attack the WTC again, dies on the seventy-eighth floor of the South Tower as he tries to beat back the flames, one of 343 heroic firefighters lost that day.



Bucca on 9/11



Atta



al-Shehhi



Hanjour



al-Midhar



al-Hazmi

**34 • Spring 2004** (page 397)

After briefing the 9/11 Commission about the Able Danger unit's 2000 report on the four hijackers and al Qaeda's ties to the blind Sheikh, **Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer's** testimony is ignored by **Dietrich Snell**, the former SDNY AUSA who is now a senior counsel to the commission. In the commission's final report, Snell pushes the origin of the plot forward two years and alleges that Ramzi Yousef was not involved—relying *solely* on the word of **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**, who has been tortured. Testifying before the Commission, **Patrick Fitzgerald** calls **Ali Mohamed** “one of the most chilling examples of al Qaeda’s espionage,” but says nothing about how Mohamed outgunned the FBI for years. Meanwhile, after talking openly about the Able Danger cover up, Shaffer has his security clearance pulled, and the Bronze Star winner becomes the target of a DOD witchhunt.

**Shaffer****Snell****Mohamed****KSM captured****Fitzgerald****35 • February 2005** (page 415)

In the Supermax prison, **Greg Scarpa Jr.** learns from Oklahoma City bomber **Terry Nichols** about an undiscovered cache of explosives from the Oklahoma City bombing hidden in Nichols's former home in Kansas. Forensic investigator **Angela Clemente** alerts Congress, and the FBI recovers the explosives precisely where Scarpa said they would be. Meanwhile, Brooklyn D.A. **Charles “Joe” Hynes's** Rackets Bureau begins to examine evidence on SSA Lin DeVecchio, investigated by Clemente.

**Scarpa Jr.****Nichols****Clemente****Hynes****36 • September 2005** (page 430)

Hynes empanels a grand jury to review the evidence on **Lin DeVecchio**. On March 30, 2006, DeVecchio is indicted on four counts of homicide relating to the murders of **Mary Bari**, Larry Lampesi, Joe DeDomenico, and **Patrick Porco**, all killed on the word of DeVecchio's Top Echelon informant **Greg Scarpa Sr.**

**DeVecchio****Scarpa Sr.****Bari****Porco****37 • September 11, 2006** (page 463)

All roads lead back to Brooklyn. On the fifth anniversary of the biggest unsolved mass murder in U.S. history, the Brooklyn D.A.'s case holds out the last best hope that a probe of the DeVecchio scandal will shed new light on the key al Qaeda intelligence from Ramzi Yousef to Scarpa Jr. in 1996. If congressional investigators take that line of inquiry seriously, it could lead to a new investigation into possible obstruction of justice by senior FBI and DOJ officials on the road to 9/11.