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## Able-Danger Officer Disciplined

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30, 2005

James Smith, left, and Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer  
listen during a Senate hearing, Sept. 21, 2005, on  
"Able Danger" and intelligence information sharing  
prior to the Sept. 11 attacks. (AP)[PREVIOUS IMAGE](#)[NEXT IMAGE](#)

## FAST FACT

**Shaffer was one of the first people to  
publicly link Sept. 11 leader Mohamed  
Atta to the unit code-named Able Danger.**appear Sept. 21 before the Senate Judiciary Committee to discuss the unit's  
findings.The military revoked Shaffer's top security clearance this month, a day before he  
was supposed to testify to a congressional committee.Mark Zaid, Shaffer's attorney, said the Pentagon started looking into Shaffer's  
security clearance about the time in 2003 he met in Afghanistan with staff  
members of the bipartisan commission that studied the Sept. 11 attacks and told  
them about Able Danger.Zaid said he can't prove the Pentagon went after Shaffer because he's a  
whistleblower, but "all the timing associated with the clearance issue has been  
suspiciously coincidental."Citing concerns with the privacy act, Cmdr. Terry Sutherland, a Defense  
Intelligence Agency spokesman, declined to release any information on Shaffer.Shaffer says he received a Bronze Star medal for work on a classified operation  
in Afghanistan in 2003. According to papers provided by Zaid, the military is now  
questioning whether he deserved it, including challenging whether at least one  
person who backed Shaffer's nomination for the medal had firsthand knowledge  
of his actions.Shaffer says he showed his government credentials during two incidents in  
1990, when he was drunk, and 1996, when he was pulled over by police. The  
military says he misused his credentials, but Shaffer says he was not told he  
should not have used them. He also said he has joined Alcoholics Anonymous  
and has been sober for 13 years.As for the pens and other office supplies taken, he blamed that on "youthful  
indiscretions" more than 20 years ago.According to the paperwork, Shaffer also faces other infractions including falsely  
claiming mileage reimbursement, obtaining personal mobile phone charges,  
going over the chain of command to brief superiors and having a credit card  
debt.

Shaffer, now a member of the Army Reserves, has been on administrative leave

(AP) An officer who has claimed  
that a classified military unit  
identified four Sept. 11 hijackers  
before the 2001 attacks is facing  
Pentagon accusations of  
breaking numerous rules,  
allegations his lawyer suggests  
are aimed at undermining his  
credibility.The alleged infractions by Army  
Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, 42,  
include obtaining a service  
medal under false pretenses,  
improperly flashing military  
identification while drunk and  
stealing pens, according to  
military paperwork shown by his  
attorney to The Associated Press.Shaffer was one of the first  
people to publicly link Sept. 11  
leader Mohamed Atta to the unit  
code-named Able Danger.  
Shaffer was one of five witnesses  
the Pentagon ordered not to

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since March 2004. During the same time, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel on Oct. 1, 2004.

Shaffer has said he tried three times to meet with the FBI to convey the Able Danger unit's findings before Sept. 11, but was ordered not to by military attorneys.

Shaffer's assertions on Able Danger have been supported by Rep. Curt Weldon, a Republican. If correct, they would change the timeline as to when authorities first learned of some of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

The Sept. 11 commission has dismissed the claims. The Pentagon has acknowledged some employees recall seeing an intelligence chart identifying Atta as a terrorist before the attacks, but said none have been able to find a copy of it.

By Kimberly Hefling

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