

The Appendix from
***War Crimes:
The Left's campaign to destroy our military
and lose the war on terror***
by Lt. Col. Robert "Buzz" Patterson (USAF, Ret)

WHY WE FIGHT

FEBRUARY 1, 1979 - THE FIRST RADICAL ISLAMIC TERROR STATE IS BORN:

With encouragement from President Jimmy Carter, Iranian shah Reza Pahlavi, a long-time American ally, is forced from power. Radical cleric Ayatollah Khomeini assumes the Iranian leadership. "We will export our revolution to the four corners of the world" Khomeini declares only ten days later "Islam makes it incumbent on all adult males, provided they are not disabled or incapacitated, to prepare themselves for the conquest of countries so that the writ of Islam is obeyed in every country in the world. But those who study Islamic Holy War will understand why Islam wants to conquer the whole world." Carter's decision to support Khomeini's ascension leads directly to the first radical Islamic state-sponsored terrorism and will launch a series of cataclysmic events in the Middle East.

FEBRUARY 14, 1979 - ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS KIDNAP AND KILL THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN: Ambassador Adolph Dubs is taken hostage by Islamic extremists attempting to secure the release of several "religious figures." He is killed in a rain of gunfire between Afghan police and his captors.

JULY 16, 1979 - SADDAM HUSSEIN BEGINS HIS MURDEROUS REIGN IN IRAQ: In a ruthless coup within his Baath Party, Saddam Hussein seizes power from his frail older relative President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr. His first act of leadership is to identify all "spies" and "conspirators" among his party and have them assassinated - the first of some 2 million people his regime will murder or torture.

NOVEMBER 4, 1979 - KHOMEINI DECLARES WAR ON THE UNITED STATES: Under Ayatollah Khomeini's direct control, a mob of approximately 500 Iranian students calling themselves the "Imam's Disciples" overrun and seize the American Embassy in Tehran. Sixty-six American diplomats are taken hostage in this act of war, and one of the most humiliating foreign policy disasters in American history unfolds over 444 days. Carter's bumbling foreign policy and betrayal of the Shah has launched a series of cataclysmic events in the Middle East and Islam's war with America has begun.

Immediately Iran positions itself on the front lines in the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, establishing the terror group Hezbollah ("The Party of God") in Lebanon. It also begins attacks on the United States. "We are at war with America as our Prophet was at war against the corrupt regimes of his time," Khomeini declares. "Because we believe that Islam is the one and only true faith, it is incumbent on us to fight until the entire humanity either converts or submits to Islamic authority."

NOVEMBER 20, 1979 - ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISTS SEIZE THE GRAND MOSQUE IN MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA: Just days following the storming of the American Embassy in Tehran, hundreds of well-armed Islamic fundamentalists seize the Grand Mosque, the holiest site in Islam. Juhayman al-Utaybi, the leader of the insurgents, is a direct descendant of the Wahhabi warriors who helped the Al Saud family assume power in the 1920s.

Al-Utaybi's radicals call for a return to pure Islam and denounce modernization, accusing the Saudi royal family of corruption and loss of legitimacy because of dealings with the West. Saudi and French forces eventually retake the mosque in a battle in which 250 are killed and 600 wounded.

Iran's new ruler, Ayatollah Khomeini, blames the United States for the takeover, inflaming the Muslim world. The U.S. embassies in Pakistan and Libya are attacked and torched, and four are killed.

The House of Saud is forced to increase its religious standing in the kingdom by implementing a more fundamental Islamic agenda. Saudi Arabia begins pumping millions of dollars into religious education, creating new theological schools designed to produce large numbers of Wahhabi clerics.

DECEMBER 25, 1979 - THE SOVIET UNION INVADES AFGHANISTAN: Once the United States loses its strategic foothold in Iran, the Soviets invade neighboring Afghanistan.

The war will last until 1989, when the Soviet Union finally is forced to retreat. More important, the conflict will establish the epicenter for young Muslim jihadists from across the world. Between 1980 and 1989, approximately 35,000 Muslim radicals from forty Islamic countries will come together in Afghanistan to fight the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands more will come to study in Pakistani madrassas. Eventually, more than 100,000 foreign Muslim radicals will be directly influenced by the Afghan jihad, including Saudi national Osama bin Laden.

DECEMBER 26, 1979 - OSAMA BIN LADEN GOES TO AFGHANISTAN TO FIGHT THE SOVIETS: Only days after the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan, bin Laden sets up a base in Peshawar, Pakistan, and begins raising funds to provide the mujahedeen with logistical and humanitarian aid. He forms the Maktab al-Khadarnat (the "Office of Services") with his mentor Abdullah Azzam.

From 1986 on, bin Laden fights in numerous battles as a guerrilla commander, including a fierce battle at Jalalabad that ultimately leads the Soviets to withdraw. It is in Peshawar that bin Laden first meets Egyptian doctor Ayman al-Zawahiri.

OCTOBER 6, 1981 - ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS ASSASSINATE EGYPTIAN

PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT: Three years after making peace with Israel, President Sadat is assassinated by Muslim extremists as he presides over Egypt's annual military parade. Cleric Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the "Blind Sheikh," who will later be convicted for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, issued the fatwa sanctioning Sadat's assassination.

JANUARY 18, 1982 - LEBANESE TERRORISTS MURDER U.S. ARMY LIEU-

TENANT COLONEL CHARLES RAY: Ray, a military attaché to the American Embassy in France, is shot and killed outside of his Paris apartment by the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction.

AUGUST 11, 1982 - PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS BOMB PAN AM FLIGHT 830 TO

HONOLULU, HAWAII: A Pan Am jet traveling from Tokyo, Japan, to Honolulu, Hawaii, explodes at 36,000 feet as the plane prepares to descend. A Japanese student is killed and 15 people are injured. The bomber is Mohammed Rashid, a member of the radical Palestinian organization known as the 15 May Organization. Rashid will eventually be captured and tried for his role in the 1986 bombing of TWA Flight 840 near Athens, Greece.

APRIL 18, 1983 - HEZBOLLAH BOMBS THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BEIRUT,

LEBANON: Sixty-three people, including the CIA's Middle East director and 16 other Americans, are murdered, while 120 are injured, when an explosives-laden vehicle laden is detonated in the U.S. Embassy compound. U.S. intelligence intercepted a pre-attack cable from the Iranian foreign ministry to the Iranian Embassy in Syria approving payment for a terrorist attack in Beirut. The attack is carried out by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas operating in Lebanon using "Islamic Jihad" as a cover name.

This marks the first of several Hezbollah attacks on the United States.

OCTOBER 23, 1983 - HEZBOLLAH BOMBS THE U.S. MARINES HEADQUARTERS

IN BEIRUT: Hezbollah terrorists send a large truck loaded with 2,500 pounds of TNT through the main gate of the U.S. Marine headquarters, killing 241 Americans. The Marines are part of a multinational force sent at the request of the Lebanese government to assist in separating warring factions.

Two minutes later, another truck packed with explosives slams into a French paratrooper base two miles away, killing 58 soldiers and the driver.

Thirteen individuals are connected to the attack, including Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the leader of the Hezbollah group, and Hussein Musawi (Mussavi), a leader of the Islamic Amal group, also linked to Iran. Syrian officers and the then-Iranian ambassador to Lebanon, Ali Akbar Mohtashami, are also implicated in the bombings.

DECEMBER 12, 1983-IRANIAN - SPONSORED TERRORISTS BOMB THE U.S.

EMBASSY ANNEX IN KUWAIT: An explosives-laden truck crashes into the compound of the U.S. Embassy Annex in Kuwait, killing 6 and wounding 80. The Embassy Annex is one of six installations attacked in Kuwait that day, including the French Embassy, the control tower at the airport, the country's main oil refinery, and a residential area for employees of the American corporation Raytheon.

Seventeen terrorists who are members of the Iranian sponsored Al Dawa ("The Call") Party are arrested and convicted for the attacks. One of those convicted is Mustafa Youssef Badreddin, the cousin and brother-in-law of Hezbollah senior officer Imad Mughniyah. Saddam Hussein's forces will release all seventeen terrorists after Iraq invades Kuwait in 1990.

1982-1992 - HEZBOLLAH KIDNAPS AND MURDERS NUMEROUS U.S. OFFICIALS

IN LEBANON: The kidnapping of American University of Beirut president David Dodge in July 1982 commences a series of kidnappings and murders of Americans conducted by Hezbollah. In all, 30 Westerners are kidnapped over ten years, including Americans Dodge; William Buckley, the CIA Beirut station chief; Terry Anderson, a journalist; Peter Kilburn, an American University of Beirut librarian; Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister; Edward Tracy, a businessman; Jesse Turner; Thomas Sutherland; and Alann Steen.

One of the most gruesome atrocities is the abduction, torture, and killing of U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins, a United Nations official observing the peace in Lebanon. Higgins is kidnapped in February 1988 and is interrogated and tortured before his murder. In a videotape distributed by the terrorists, Higgins's body is shown hanging from a rope. Hezbollah dumps his body onto the street in Beirut in 1991.

JANUARY 18, 1984 - HEZBOLLAH MURDERS AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF

BEIRUT PRESIDENT MALCOLM KERR: Two Hezbollah gunmen shoot and kill Kerr while he walks to his office.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1984 - HEZBOLLAH BOMBS THE U.S. EMBASSY ANNEX IN

AUKAR, LEBANON: The Iranian-sponsored terror group strikes once again, sending an explosive-laden van into the compound at the U.S. Embassy, which has been relocated from Beirut. The resulting explosion 30 feet from the embassy annex kills 9 and injures 58.

APRIL 12, 1985 - TERRORISTS BOMB A RESTAURANT NEAR TORREJON AIR

BASE IN MADRID, SPAIN: A bomb is detonated in a restaurant popular with American servicemen near the U.S. Air Force Base outside of Madrid, Spain, killing 18 and

wounding 82 (including 18 Americans). It is the worst act of terrorism in Spain since the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939. Spanish authorities determine that Hezbollah is responsible. No arrests are ever made, however. According to Spanish officials, it is the only major terrorist attack in the country's modern history that has not been solved.

JUNE 14, 1985 - TERRORISTS HIJACK TWA FLIGHT 847: TWA Flight 847, bound for Rome with 39 Americans aboard, is hijacked over the Mediterranean Sea by members of Hezbollah and forced to land in Beirut, Lebanon. The hijackers, demanding the release of hundreds of Shiite Muslim prisoners held by Israel, single out U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, beat him, shoot him in the head, and throw his body onto the tarmac. The four hijackers are eventually set free after being offered transportation to Damascus and the release of the 435 Lebanese and Palestinian Shiite prisoners in Israel.

In 1987 German officials will arrest hijacker Mohammed Hamadei at the Frankfurt airport with a suitcase containing liquid explosives. German authorities convict Hamadei and sentence him to life imprisonment for the murder of Stethem. The remaining three terrorists are never captured and their whereabouts remain unknown.

Hamadei will be released by Germany in 2005.

AUGUST 8, 1985-LEFT - WING TERROR GROUP BOMBS RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE IN FRANKFURT, GERMANY: A car bomb detonates at the main U.S. Air Force base in Germany, killing 2 and wounding 20. The next day a U.S. serviceman's body is found; he apparently was killed for his identification card. The terrorists responsible for the bombing come from the Red Army Faction, or Baader-Meinhof Group, a radical left-wing German terror organization that trained at a Palestinian terror camp in 1970.

OCTOBER 7, 1985 - PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS HIJACK THE ACHILLE LAURO: Four Palestinian hijackers commandeer the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro off the Egyptian coast and hold more than 700 tourists hostage. Demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel and elsewhere, the terrorists shoot and kill elderly wheelchair-bound New Yorker Leon Klinghoffer and push his body overboard.

The Palestine Liberation Front's Abu Abbas facilitates the terrorists' surrender and release. The four hijackers and Abbas fly out of Egypt for safe haven but are intercepted by four U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcat jets and forced to land at Sigonella Naval Air Base in Sicily, where U.S. special operations forces await them.

Italian authorities arrest the four hijackers but refuse to hold Abbas, who is allowed to fly to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, under diplomatic cover. Abbas will be arrested by U.S. forces in Baghdad in April 2003.

NOVEMBER 23, 1985 - TERRORISTS HIJACK EGYPT AIR FLIGHT 648: The Abu Nidal Organization hijacks Egypt Air Flight 648 en route from Athens to Cairo, forcing it to land on the island of Malta. The terrorists shoot 3 Americans and 2 Israelis in the head and dump their bodies onto the tarmac. Egyptian commandos storm the plane,

and 60 more are killed in the ensuing battle.

Abu Nidal, perhaps the most ruthless terrorist in the world and "the father of the struggle;" will receive safe haven in Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 1999. But in late 2002 Saddam's security forces will assassinate him, because they knew the United States was coming and they were covering up their terror ties.

DECEMBER 27, 1985 - THE ABU NIDAL ORGANIZATION ATTACKS AIRLINE COUNTERS IN ROME AND VIENNA: Terrorists from the Abu Nidal Organization storm airports in Rome and Vienna, tossing hand grenades and firing automatic weapons at TWA and El Al airline ticket counters. They kill 20 and wound 110. Airport security forces kill 4 of the 7 terrorists.

In January 1986, Italy issues an international warrant for the arrest of Abu Nidal for mass murder. He will be tried in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1988.

APRIL 2, 1986 - THE ARAB REVOLUTIONARY CELL BOMBS TWA FLIGHT 840: A terror group calling itself the Arab Revolutionary Cell, with ties to Abu Nidal and Yassir Arafat, detonates a bomb on board TWA 840 as it descends into Athens for landing. Four Americans, including an infant, are sucked out of the fuselage to their deaths. Five others are injured.

APRIL 5, 1986 - ABU NIDAL, WITH THE HELP OF THE LIBYAN REGIME, BOMBS A WEST BERLIN DISCO: A bomb placed in the restroom of a discotheque frequented by U.S. military personnel explodes, killing 3 and injuring more than 200, including 44 Americans. Libya and Abu Nidal are responsible for the attack, and in response President Ronald Reagan launches Operation El Dorado Canyon, sending U.S. Air Force and Navy fighters and bombers to attack Tripoli and Benghazi, Libya. Forced to fly around French airspace, Air Force F-111s accidentally bomb the French Embassy in Tripoli.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1986 - ABU NIDAL HIJACKS PAN AM FLIGHT 73 IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Four terrorists from the Abu Nidal Organization storm Pan Am Flight 73. Jordanian terrorist Zayd Hassan Safarini shoots American passenger Rajesh Kumar in the head execution-style and pushes Kumar's body onto the tarmac. After dark, Safarini and the other hijackers order all of the passengers to the center of the aircraft, then say a martyrdom prayer and unleash a barrage of hand grenades and automatic weapons. Twenty passengers are killed and more than 100 are injured in the attack.

1988 - BIN LADEN ESTABLISHES AL QAEDA ("THE BASE"): Bin Laden starts al Qaeda, seeing the need to shift the fighting away from the Soviets and toward an international jihad that will reunite the Muslim world under a single leader and reestablish "the Caliphate." According to the CIA, al Qaeda will eventually establish terror cells in fifty countries.

APRIL 14, 1988 - TERRORISTS BOMB THE USO CLUB IN NAPLES, ITALY: A car bomb explodes outside of the United Service Organization club in Naples, killing 5 (including one U.S. naval sailor) and injuring 15 (including four U.S. sailors). The terror group Japanese Red Army, working at the direction of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, is responsible for the attack.

DECEMBER 21, 1988 - PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS AND THE LIBYAN REGIME BOMB PAN AM FLIGHT 103: Enroute from London to New York, Pan Am Flight 103 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 innocent people, including 189 Americans. The bomb was packed into a Toshiba radio-cassette recorder in the luggage compartment. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Libyan government are responsible for the attack. Libyans Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah will be indicted for murder. Libyan president Muammar Qaddafi will turn over the terrorists in 1999 and formally accept responsibility for the attack in 2003.

1989 - OSAMA BIN LADEN RETURNS TO SAUDI ARABIA: After the Soviets pull out of Afghanistan, bin Laden returns to Saudi Arabia as a hero. He opposes the Saudi monarchy while working for his family's construction firm, the Bin Laden Group.

JANUARY 18-19, 1991 - IRAQI AGENTS ATTEMPT BOMBINGS OF AMERICANS IN INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, AND THAILAND: In Indonesia, an Iraqi posing as a contractor plants a bomb at U.S. ambassador John Monje's residence. The bomb is discovered by a gardener before it detonates and is immediately defused.

In the Philippines, two Iraqi agents target Manila's Thomas Jefferson Cultural Center, but as they prepare the bomb it explodes, killing one of the terrorists. Iraqi diplomat Muwafak al-Ani is deported after Philippine investigators discover that an embassy car dropped the bombers off at the target and find al-Ani's card in one of the terrorist's pocket. Later, the Iraqi Embassy's second secretary, Husham Z Hussein, will also be expelled after it is determined that he was in close contact with members of the al Qaeda-associated terror organization, the Abu Sayyaf Group.

In Thailand, two Iraqi diplomats are deported after they are found smuggling explosives into the country. According to former UN weapons inspector Richard Butler, their targets were the U.S., Israeli, and Australian embassies in Bangkok.

APRIL, 1991 - BIN LADEN FLEES SAUDI ARABIA FOR SUDAN: Bin Laden flees Saudi Arabia after his opposition to Saudi Arabia's alliance with the United States lands him in detention. After briefly staying in Afghanistan, he relocates to Khartoum, Sudan, where in 1992 he reestablishes al Qaeda headquarters. Hundreds of suspected terrorists and former mujahedeen also relocate to Sudan for safe haven, and bin Laden establishes a number of camps for training in firearms and explosives. In 1994, Saudi Arabia will revoke bin Laden's citizenship and his family will disown him.

DECEMBER 29, 1992 - AL QAEDA'S FIRST ATTACK: A bomb is detonated in a hotel in Aden, Yemen, where U.S. troops stayed on their way to the humanitarian mission in Somalia. The soldiers depart the hotel prior to the attack, but two Austrian tourists are killed. Two Yemeni Muslim militants who trained in Afghanistan are injured in the blast and arrested. They will eventually be released, only to collaborate in the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000.

JANUARY 25, 1993-A LONE GUNMAN ATTACKS CIA HEADQUARTERS IN LANGLEY, VIRGINIA: Pakistani Mir Aimal Kasi jumps from a car outside Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Langley and fires an AK-47 assault machine gun, killing two CIA employees and wounding three others. Kasi trained with Afghani jihadists during the war with the Soviet Union.

After the attacks at Langley, Kasi quickly boards a flight to Pakistan. After years of investigation, in 1997 the FBI will apprehend Kasi on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and return him to the United States to stand trial. He will be convicted of murder and killed by lethal injection on November 14, 2002.

In retaliation for Kasi's guilty verdict, four American oil company employees and their driver will be gunned down in the Pakistani port city of Karachi.

FEBRUARY 26, 1993 - THE FIRST WORLD TRADE CENTER BOMBING: Thirty-eight days into President Bill Clinton's presidency, an explosive laden Ryder van is detonated in a hotel parking garage beneath New York's World Trade Center, killing 7 people (including an unborn child) and wounding 1,040. The blast creates a 100-by-100-foot crater.

Al Qaeda associate Ramzi Yousef, also a veteran of bin Laden's camps in Peshawar, Pakistan, planned the attack. The morning after the blast, Yousef escapes to Pakistan, disappointed he hasn't had more success. He vows to return and finish the job. "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." Eventually, Yousef will move on to the Philippines at the direction of bin Laden and begin early preparation for Operation Bojinka - the precursor to the 9/11 attacks.

In the first of his many failures to confront terrorism, President Clinton cautions Americans not to overreact to the World Trade Center bombing, and in an interview for MTV he attributes the attack to someone "who did something really stupid." At first Clinton even downplays the possibility that terror was involved, preferring to believe that the explosion was the result of an electric generator-even though several radical Islamic groups claimed responsibility.

Fortunately, bomber Mohammed Salameh's stupidity tips off law enforcement. His incessant demands for a refund of \$400 for the van give the FBI the lead it needs. Salameh becomes the first of eight terror suspects arrested. Some are actually caught in the act of mixing explosive materials for attacks on the United Nations, the George Washington Bridge, and two tunnels into the city.

In July 1993, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind cleric who was behind the assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, is indicted along with fourteen other suspects.

In March 1994, four of the terrorists-Nidal Ayyad, Mohammed Salameh, Ahmad Ajaj, and Mahmud Abouhalima-are convicted and each is sentenced to 240 years in prison without parole.

In October 1995, Sheik Rahman and nine of his followers are convicted of plotting the bombings and planning other acts of terror in New York. In January 1996, Rahman is sentenced to life without parole plus 65 years and the others are given terms from 25 years to life.

APRIL 14, 1993 - IRAQI INTELLIGENCE AGENTS ATTEMPT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH: The Iraqi Intelligence Service attempts to assassinate former president Bush as he visits Kuwait to celebrate the coalition victory and the removal of Saddam Hussein two years earlier. Kuwaiti security forces uncover the plot to load 175 pounds of explosives into a Toyota Land Cruiser and detonate them in proximity to President Bush; the security forces immediately round up seventeen suspects associated with the plot.

OCTOBER 3-4, 1993 - "BLACK HAWK DOWN": The Battle for Mogadishu occurs, thanks to the miscalculation of President Bill Clinton. President George H. W. Bush originally deployed 28,000 U.S. troops to Mogadishu, Somalia, as part of a humanitarian mission to feed drought-stricken Somalis. But when President Clinton inherited the mission, he immediately reduced troop levels to only 4,500. In a demonstration of ignorance and tragic miscalculation, he also dramatically expanded the scope of the mission, moving from humanitarian aid to nation-building and targeting Somali warlord Mohammad Farah Aidid.

In the days leading up to the Battle for Mogadishu, U.S. Army General William Garrison, commander of the U.S. troops, formally requests much-needed armored vehicles, tanks, and AC-130 Spectre gunships. The Clinton administration, through Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, denies the request.

On October 3, members of the U.S. Task Force Ranger are ambushed as they raid the Olympic Hotel in Mogadishu, where a meeting of warlord Aidid's lieutenants is under way. The Somali fighters, who have been trained by al Qaeda and bin Laden, shoot down two Black Hawk helicopters and drag the American dead in the streets through wildly cheering mobs. Eighteen elite U.S. soldiers are killed and 84 wounded.

Democratic congressman John Murtha urges Clinton to begin an immediate and complete pullout of U.S. troops from the region. Clinton takes the advice and orders the withdrawal only four days after the battle.

Osama bin Laden learns a valuable lesson that day. He will later say that America's withdrawal was what convinced him that America could be attacked with impunity: "Our boys no longer viewed America as a superpower. So, when they left Afghanistan [after defeating the Soviet Union], they went to Somalia and prepared themselves carefully for a long war. They had thought that the Americans were like the Russians, so they trained and prepared. They were stunned when they discovered how low was the morale of the American soldier. . . . They realized that the American soldier was just a paper tiger. After a few blows, it forgot all about those titles and rushed out of Somalia in shame and disgrace, dragging the bodies of its soldiers."

DECEMBER 8, 1994 - OPERATION BOJINKA BEGINS IN THE PHILIPPINES: Al Qaeda member Ramzi Yousef joins his uncle Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Wali Khan Amin Shah, and Abdul Hakim Ali Hashim Murad in Manila to begin Operation Bojinka, the precursor to the 9/11 attacks.

The planned operation has three phases: (1) the assassination of Pope John Paul II, (2) the bombings of multiple commercial airliners as they head to the United States, and (3) piloting and crashing commercial airliners into U.S. targets: CIA headquarters, the Pentagon, the World Trade Center, the Sears Tower in Chicago, the Transamerica Tower in San Francisco, and a nuclear power plant. The money for the operation comes to the terrorists in Manila from Osama bin Laden through his brother-in-law Mohammed Jamal Khalifa.

The assassination of the pope is designed to be a diversion for the second phase. To prepare for the last phase, Murad has trained as a pilot in North Carolina, and several other al Qaeda operatives now attend flight schools in the United States.

On the night of January 6, 1995, a fire begins inside the terrorists' apartment as Yousef and Murad inadvertently cross bomb-making chemicals. Responding to the complaints of residents, the Philippine police stumble onto a treasure trove of terrorist evidence. Just two weeks prior to its implementation, Operation Bojinka is busted.

Murad confesses and is extradited to the United States, where he is sentenced to life imprisonment. Shah is arrested in Malaysia and extradited to the United States, where he also is sentenced to life imprisonment. Khalifa, bin Laden's brother-in-law and al Qaeda's moneymen, is arrested in Mountain View, California, as he prepares to fly to Manila; he is arrested for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

In March 1995, Philippine authorities forward the information about the foiled Bojinka plot to the U.S. government, including specific details that Khalifa was the funding source for the terrorist operation. The FBI argues to detain Khalifa for questioning, but the Clinton administration sides with the State Department and departs Khalifa to Jor-

dan, where he is acquitted on murder charges unrelated to the attack in the United States and is allowed to flee to Saudi Arabia.

In April 1995, the Clinton administration receives specific evidence of terror plans to hijack airliners and use them as flying weapons in New York and Washington, D.C. Nothing is done. Only a year later the president will personally turn down an offer from the Sudanese government for Osama bin Laden's arrest and extradition to the United States.

FEBRUARY 7, 1995 - RAMZI YOUSEF IS CAPTURED IN PAKISTAN: Operation Bojinka planner Yousef is apprehended while staying at a hotel in Islamabad, Pakistan, by members of the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service. After extradition to the United States, he will be convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment plus 240 years for his involvement in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed will successfully escape Manila and rejoin al Qaeda in Afghanistan, becoming the architect for future operations. He will propose turning Yousef's Operation Bojinka into a new attack on a grander scale. Mohammed's plot will be executed on September 11, 2001. Yousef will watch his plan unfold on cable TV from his cell in Colorado's "Superrnax" penitentiary.

MARCH 8, 1995 - AL QAEDA-AFFILIATED TERRORISTS MURDER U.S. DIPLOMATS IN PAKISTAN: Three armed gunmen in a stolen taxi step from their vehicle and begin firing on a U.S. Embassy van in Karachi, Pakistan. U.S. diplomats Jacqueline Keys Van Landingham and Gary C. Durell are killed and Mark McCloy is wounded.

The attack comes as retaliation for the capture of Ramzi Yousef a month earlier and is carried out by the al Qaeda-affiliated Abu Sayyaf Group.

NOVEMBER 13, 1995 - BIN LADEN-CONNECTED TERRORISTS BOMB THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING COMPLEX IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA: A powerful car bomb rips through an American military training complex in Riyadh, killing 7 people, including 5 Americans, and wounding 60 others.

Officials quickly arrest four Saudi nationals and will behead them in June 1996 in an effort to stem potential unrest and preserve relations with the United States. The terrorists involved are all veterans of the mujahedeen in Afghanistan and boast of their relationship to Osama bin Laden.

1996 - THE TALIBAN CONQUERS JALALABAD AND KABUL AND TAKES CONTROL OF AFGHANISTAN.

MAY 1996 - SUDAN EXPELS BIN LADEN; HE RETURNS TO AFGHANISTAN: Sudan expels bin Laden because of international pressure from the United States and Saudi Arabia and for his involvement in a failed assassination attempt on Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak in June 1995. President Bill Clinton turns down the offer from the Suda-

nese government to bring bin Laden to the United States, which allows the terror chief to return to Afghanistan and reestablish al Qaeda and jihadist training camps.

JUNE 25, 1996 - HEZBOLLAH BOMBS THE KHOBAR TOWERS AT DHAHRAN AIR BASE, SAUDI ARABIA: At about 10 P.M. a fuel truck loaded with 20,000 pounds of explosives detonates just outside the fence of the U.S. military complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 Americans and wounding more than 500. The blast creates a crater 85 feet by 35 feet.

On June 21, 2001, a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, will indict 13 members of the pro-Iran Saudi Hezbollah for the attack. The entire operation was planned, funded, and coordinated by Iran's security services on orders from the highest levels of the Iranian government. In 2004, the 9/11 Commission will note the possibility that Osama bin Laden was involved as well.

JULY 17, 1996 - TWA FLIGHT 800 EXPLODES ON DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK.

AUGUST 23, 1996 - OSAMA BIN LADEN ISSUES THE FIRST OF TWO DECLARATIONS OF WAR: Bin Laden issues his first fatwa, published in Al Quds Al Arabi, a London-based newspaper. The fatwa is titled "Declaration of War against the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places."

FEBRUARY 23, 1997 - A PALESTINIAN GUNMAN OPENS FIRE ON TOURISTS ATOP NEW YORK CITY'S EMPIRE STATE BUILDING: Ali Hassan Abu Kamal, a Palestinian teacher, kills a young Dutch tourist and wounds 6 other people before turning the gun on himself. A handwritten note on his body claims that the attack was in retaliation against the "enemies of Palestine."

NOVEMBER 12, 1997 - ISLAMIC TERRORISTS MURDER FOUR AMERICAN OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN: Thirty-six hours after Mir Aimal Kasi is pronounced guilty of the murder of two CIA employees at the front gate of CIA headquarters in 1993, two gunmen assassinate four Americans and their driver in Karachi. The Islamic Revolutionary Council and the Aimal Khufia Action Committee are responsible.

FEBRUARY 23, 1998 - BIN LADEN AND AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI REUNITE AND DECLARE WAR ON THE UNITED STATES: Bin Laden and Zawahiri of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad reunite in Afghanistan. Zawahiri has just recently returned to Afghanistan from Baghdad, where he met with Saddam Hussein and other Iraqi leaders on February 3, 1998. According to U.S. News & World Report, Saddam provided \$300,000 in funding for al Qaeda and Zawahiri. Three weeks later, bin Laden and Zawahiri declare war on the United States, saying, "We-with God's help-call on every Muslim who believes in God and wishes to be rewarded to comply with God's order to kill the Americans and plunder their money wherever and whenever they find it. We also call on Muslim ulema, leaders, youths, and soldiers to launch the raid on Satan's U.S. troops and the devil's

supporters allying with them, and to displace those who are behind them so that they may learn a lesson. The ruling to kill the Americans and their allies-civilians and military-is an individual duty for every Muslim who can do it in any country in which it is possible to do it."

AUGUST 7, 1998 - AL QAEDA BOMBS THE U.S. EMBASSIES IN NAIROBI, KENYA, AND DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA: A small pickup truck packed with explosives is driven to the delivery entrance of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi and detonated. The blast destroys the left and rear of the embassy and the adjacent business building. At the same time, a vehicle containing a large explosives cache approaches the main gate of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam and explodes. The east wing of the concrete block building is destroyed and debris rains on streets and houses for a mile in every direction.

The two near-simultaneous attacks kill 224 and wound more than 5,000.

Within days Pakistan announces the arrest of Palestinian Mohammed Sadiq Odeh, who admits his role in the blasts and that he was recruited and financed by Osama bin Laden. Odeh describes al Qaeda as a terror network of 5,000 with intent to attack American interests abroad. He also details a litany of attacks on the United States, including the ambush in Somalia. He confirms al Qaeda's involvement in the attacks against the American military in Riyadh and Dhahran in 1995 and 1996.

Federal officials publicly charge bin Laden's al Qaeda with the Kenya bombing in a complaint made public on August 28. In November, a federal grand jury returns an indictment against bin Laden and his top military commander, Muhammed Atef, also believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. In December 1998, an unnamed bin Laden aide - identified only as "Confidential Source1" - confesses that he participated in a plot to attack American military facilities around the world, implicating the Saudi millionaire and his disciples in the embassy explosions in Africa, according to reports.

DECEMBER 1998 - IRAQI INTELLIGENCE PLOTS TO BOMB RADIO FREE EUROPE IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC: Jabir Salim, the Iraqi Consul in the Czech Republic and the head of its intelligence operations, oversees a plot to bomb Radio Free Europe. The bombers plan to use a truck bomb loaded with explosives to collapse the headquarters. Salim has received \$150,000 in two payments from Saddam's government to purchase untraceable explosives and recruit terrorists. Later that month, however, Salim defects and furnishes details of the plot to Western intelligence services.

DECEMBER 28, 1998 - YEMENI TERRORISTS KIDNAP AND MURDER WESTERN TOURISTS: Sixteen Western tourists-12 Britons, 2 U.S. citizens, and 2 Australians-are kidnapped outside of Aden, Yemen, by the radical jihadist Aden Abyan Islamic Army. Four of the hostages are killed the next day during a raid by Yemeni security forces.

NOVEMBER 12, 1999 - ROCKET ATTACKS TARGET U.S. INSTALLATIONS IN ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN: Six rockets are fired from improvised launchers in three vehicles at American and United Nations offices in Islamabad. The rockets are all fired within minutes of one another. The attacks are aimed at the U.S. Embassy in the Diplomatic Enclave, the UN headquarters inside the Saudi Pak Tower, and the American Center. Rockets also land on a parked vehicle outside of the UN World Food Program.

AUGUST 12, 2000 - ISLAMISTS KIDNAP AMERICANS IN UZBEKISTAN: Four American mountain climbers are kidnapped by members of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. They are able to escape six days later.

OCTOBER 12, 2000 - TERRORISTS BOMB THE USS COLE IN THE PORT OF ADEN, YEMEN: Two men guide a tender boat alongside the USS Cole, a U.S. Navy Aegis destroyer docked in the port of Aden, and detonate explosives, blowing a hole 20 feet high and 40 feet wide in the hull of the ship. Seventeen sailors aboard the Cole are killed and 39 are injured.

DECEMBER 30, 2000 - THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MANILA SURVIVES MULTIPLE BOMBINGS: Members of Jemaah Islamiyah, the South Asian terrorist operation for al Qaeda, explode five bombs in Manila, killing 22 people. One of the bombs detonates across the street from the U.S. Embassy.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001