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The Little Rock, Arkansas Recruiting Station Shooting

Report #18 in a NEFA series, "Target: America"
A NEFA report on the Little Rock, Arkansas Recruiting Station Shooting
June 2009

The Attack

On June 1, 2009, Muslim convert Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammed, formerly known as Carlos Bledsoe, loaded his Ford Sport Trac with three weapons – a Mossberg rifle with a scope and rifle sight, an SKS assault rifle, and a Lorein model L380 semi-automatic handgun¹ – and drove to a U.S. Army/Navy recruiting center inside the Ashley Square Shopping Center at 9112 North Rodney Parham Road in Little Rock, Arkansas.²

According to a report by Little Rock Police Detective Tommy Hudson, Muhammed "stated that he...saw...two U.S. Soldiers smoking outside the building. Mr. Muhammed stated that he pulled onto the parking lot in front of the Recruiting Station, stopped his vehicle, and began shooting at the soldiers standing outside smoking. Mr. Muhammed stated that he fired several rounds at the soldiers with the intent of killing them." Pvt. William Long was killed in the attack, while Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula suffered non-life threatening injuries.³ The police report noted that Muhammed "would have killed more soldiers if they had been on the parking lot."⁴

Muhammed fled the scene before surrendering to police near the Interstate 30/630 interchange.⁵ Although he claimed a bomb was in his car, no traces of explosives were detected. However, 562



The shooting scene; FOX

¹ Little Rock Police Department, Search Warrant Inventory: Incident Number 2009-67198, June 1, 2009.

² "Shooter, Victims Identified in West LR Shooting," *katv.com*, June 1, 2009.

³ Long's father told the media, "They weren't on the battlefield, but apparently the battlefield's here." See: James Dao and David Johnston, "Suspect in Soldier Attack Was Once Detained in Yemen," *The New York Times*, June 4, 2009.

⁴ Little Rock Police Department, Officer's Report - Detective Tommy Hudson, Arrest of Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammed, June 1, 2009.

⁵ "Shooter, Victims Identified in West LR Shooting," *katv.com*, June 1, 2009.

rounds of ammunition, homemade silencers, binoculars, and military books were found in his car.⁶ At his residence, authorities seized a quart of lighter fluid, a sawed off gun barrel, and ammunition magazines.⁷

Muhammed faces state charges of capital murder and engaging in a terrorist act; the FBI is investigating and federal charges may follow.⁸



Muhammed's Ford Sport Trac; katv.com

The Motive

In comments made shortly after his arrest, Muhammad explained to Little Rock Police Detective Tommy Hudson that “he was mad at the U.S. Military because of what they had done to Muslims in the past.”⁹ A Little Rock Police Department document revealed that, after admitting to the shootings, Muhammed “advised that his intent was to kill as many people in the Army as he could.”¹⁰ Moreover, he told police that he “recently viewed a video pertaining to subversive activities which spurred him to commit this act.”¹¹

On June 9, 2009, Muhammed made a collect call from prison to an Associated Press reporter and further explained his motivations. He labeled the attack “an act of retaliation, and not a reaction on the soldiers personally”; for Mohammed, the shooting was an “act, for the sake of God, for the sake of Allah, the Lord of all the world, and also a retaliation on U.S. military.”¹² He continued, “I do feel I’m not guilty. I don’t think it was

⁶ Little Rock Police Department, Search Warrant Inventory: Incident Number 2009-67198, June 1, 2009 and Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Recruiter Shooting Suspect Had Ties to Extremist Locations,” *ABC News*, June 3, 2009.

⁷ Little Rock Police Department, Search Warrant Inventory: Incident Number 2009-61198, Location: 12201 Mara Lynn #4205, June 1, 2009.

⁸ “Arrest of Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammed,” FBI Little Rock Press Release, June 2, 2009.

⁹ Little Rock Police Department, Officer’s Report - Detective Tommy Hudson, Arrest of Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammed, June 1, 2009. Note: Little Rock Police Chief Stuart Thomas asserted that Muhammed had “political and religious motives for the attack.” See: “Source: More Targets Found on Arkansas Shooting Suspect’s Computer,” *Associated Press*, June 2, 2009.

¹⁰ Affidavit for Search and Seizure Warrant of Detective Robert A. Martin, Little Rock, Arkansas, June 1, 2009.

¹¹ Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Recruiter Shooting Suspect Had Ties to Extremist Locations,” *ABC News*, June 3, 2009.

¹² Kelly Kissel, “Suspect: Recruiting Center Shootings Justified,” *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

murder, because murder is when a person kills another person without justified reason."¹³

Muhammed expressed rage that U.S. military personnel had allegedly desecrated the Quran and raped and murdered Muslims: "For this reason, no Muslim, male or female, sane or insane, little, big, small, old can accept or tolerate." He added, "U.S. soldiers are killing innocent Muslim men and women. We believe that we have to strike back. We believe in eye for an eye. We don't believe in turning the other cheek."¹⁴

Pre-Operational Planning

Muhammed told the Associated Press, "It's been on my mind for awhile. It wasn't nothing planned really. It was just the heat of the moment...."¹⁵

Research on Additional Targets

According to the FBI, during searches of Muhammed's computer, authorities discovered evidence that Muhammed had "conducted Google map searches related to Jewish entities, a Baptist church, a child care facility, a US post office and military recruiting centers in...Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Louisville, Kentucky; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Memphis, Tennessee."¹⁶ Expanding on this information, which was leaked to the media, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly acknowledged that images of Times Square were found on Muhammed's computer.¹⁷

Despite Muhammed's research, Little Rock Police Chief Stuart Thomas told the press that "At this point...there doesn't appear to be a wider conspiracy or, at this point in time, any indication that he's a part of a larger group or a conspiracy to go further."¹⁸

The Conspirator

Born in July 1985 as the second of two children to Melvin and Linda Bledsoe,¹⁹ Muhammed grew up in the Raleigh area of Memphis, Tennessee, graduating from Craigmont High School.²⁰ According to his attorney James E. Hensley Jr., Muhammed "played football...He mowed his grandmother's lawn. This was a normal kid."²¹ Neighbor Curnelia Crutchfield also reported that he "seemed like he was a good kid. He was a

¹³ "Recruitment Shooting Suspect Doesn't Think Killing Was Murder," *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

¹⁴ "Recruitment Shooting Suspect Doesn't Think Killing Was Murder," *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

¹⁵ "Recruitment Shooting Suspect Doesn't Think Killing Was Murder," *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

¹⁶ "Gunman Shoots Two at Arkansas Military Recruitment Center," FBI SAC Situational Awareness Message, June 2, 2009 and "FBI: Arkansas Suspect Researched Locations in U.S. Cities," *CNN*, June 3, 2009.

¹⁷ "Dead Soldier's Family Sought Quiet in Arkansas," *Associated Press*, June 4, 2009.

¹⁸ Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, "Recruiter Shooting Suspect Had Ties to Extremist Locations," *ABC News*, June 3, 2009.

¹⁹ Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, "GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

²⁰ Scott Noll, "Memphis Native At Center Of Domestic Terrorism Shooting," *wreg.com*, June 2, 2009.

²¹ Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, "GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

happy-go-lucky kid. I remember he had a white dog and they were the best of friends.”²² She added, “I can’t believe this...not the kid that...I’ve been knowing for a while.”²³

He moved to Nashville to enroll at Tennessee State University, attending the school from fall 2003 to fall 2005 and majoring in business administration.²⁴

In February 2004, Muhammed – then known as Carlos Bledsoe – was a passenger in a car that was pulled over in Knoxville, Tennessee. From the car, officers seized a loaded SKS 7.62mm assault rifle, a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun, and a 20-gauge shotgun. Muhammed, who acknowledged that he intended to sell the shotguns to the driver of the car, also possessed an ounce of marijuana. Although he faced weapon and drug charges, the case was dismissed on June 21, 2004.²⁵

Shortly after this incident, at the age of 19,²⁶ Muhammed converted to Islam. James Hensley reported that, “He met friends at the university who made him think in a new way, who showed him a path that he felt called to follow...He tried a lot of different things, some different religions, as college students will do, and this is the one that stuck with him.” Muhammed’s parents were supportive of his conversion.²⁷ Media sources indicate that Muhammed sporadically attended the Muslim Society of Memphis.²⁸

In 2005 and 2006, he spent time living in several low-rent apartments and frequently left without paying rent, which eventually spurred legal proceedings. On March 29, 2006, he formally changed his name and, five months later, received a summons for driving with an expired license.²⁹

Open source reporting indicates that for parts of 2006 and 2007, Muhammed attended a mosque in Columbus, Ohio that had also been frequented by convicted terrorists Nuradin Abdi, lyman Faris, and Christopher Paul.³⁰ According to ABC News, those three “were part of a larger group of jihadists and extremists who frequented the mosque,” though “it is unclear what,



Muhammed's booking photo

²² Dana Rebik, “Neighbors Shocked “Boy Next Door” Arrested for Little Rock Soldier Shootings,” *Eyewitness News Memphis*, June 2, 2009.

²³ “Accused Soldier Shooter Held, No Bond,” *MyFoxMemphis.com*, June 2, 2009.

²⁴ Dana Rebik, “Neighbors Shocked “Boy Next Door” Arrested for Little Rock Soldier Shootings,” *Eyewitness News Memphis*, June 2, 2009.

²⁵ J.J. Stambaugh, “Suspect in soldier’s slaying tried to sell illegal guns in Knox,” *Knoxnews.com*, June 3, 2009.

²⁶ Dana Rebik, “Neighbors Shocked “Boy Next Door” Arrested for Little Rock Soldier Shootings,” *Eyewitness News Memphis*, June 2, 2009.

²⁷ Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, “GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

²⁸ Scott Noll, “Memphis Native At Center Of Domestic Terrorism Shooting,” *wreg.com*, June 2, 2009.

²⁹ He went by “Hakim” socially. See: Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, “GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

³⁰ Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Recruiter Shooting Suspect Had Ties to Extremist Locations,” *ABC News*, June 3, 2009. Note: For more on Abdi, Faris, and Paul, see the NEFA Foundation “Target: America” report, “The Columbus Mall Plot” at http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/ColumbusMall_Plot.pdf.

if any, links he had to the individuals already convicted.”³¹ While in Columbus, Muhammed may have been the target of a law enforcement investigation.³²

In September 2007, Muhammed flew to Yemen, where he spent two months teaching English with the British Council in Yemen, according to Mohammed Albasha, a spokesman for the Yemeni Embassy. Albasha reported that he then moved on to Sana’a, Yemen, where he taught English and took Arabic courses at the City Institute.³³



Muhammed escorted by police; Associated Press

While Albasha did not confirm this information in his accounting of Muhammed’s time in Yemen, ABC News reported that “it is believed that Muhammed attended the Damaj Institute, an Islamic institute attended by a number of radicalized U.S. converts, which was once attended by John Walker Lindh.”³⁴ The U.S. Department of Defense has alleged that the Damaj Institute “was often used for indoctrination and recruiting grounds for foreign extremists/terrorists seeking entry into paramilitary or jihad organizations.”³⁵

In media interviews, Muhammed’s attorney James Hensley revealed that Muhammed “felt at peace” in Yemen and married a local³⁶ teacher in Sana’a.³⁷ He was

³¹ Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Exclusive: FBI Probes Muhammad’s Ties to Ohio Mosque,” *ABC News*, June 4, 2009.

³² Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Exclusive: FBI Probes Muhammad’s Ties to Ohio Mosque,” *ABC News*, June 4, 2009.

³³ “Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison,” *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009. Note: According to Muhammed’s attorney, he “was in Yemen to teach English at a camp for Afghan refugees.” See: James Dao, “Suspect’s Lawyer Outlines Defense in Killing of Soldier,” *The New York Times*, June 5, 2009.

³⁴ Pierre Thomas, Richard Esposito, and Jack Date, “Exclusive: FBI Probes Muhammad’s Ties to Ohio Mosque,” *ABC News*, June 4, 2009. Note: The Investigative Project on Terrorism asserted that Muhammed was interested in attending Yahya Hajuri’s Al-Dawah Center in Yemen. National Public Radio reported that Muhammed “was linked to a school...that was well-known for its terrorist ties.” See: “Arkansas Shooter Studied Under Yemeni Radicals,” *IPT News*, June 2, 2009 and Dina Temple-Raston, “FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen,” *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

³⁵ “Unclassified Summary of Evidence for Administrative Review Board in the case of Al Khadr Abdallah Muhammed Al Yafi,” Department of Defense, May 19, 2006.

³⁶ “Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect ‘Brainwashed,’” *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

³⁷ He went by “Hakim” socially. See: Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, “GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

also deeply impacted by his interactions with children who had lost limbs in the war in Afghanistan and women who claimed U.S. troops had raped them.³⁸

On November 14, 2007, Muhammed was arrested in Aden³⁹ for overstaying his visa,⁴⁰ and was found to be in possession of a fraudulent Somali passport.⁴¹ Hensley tried to explain that the “Somali passport came into being because, I think he said, they are laying on park benches around Yemen. Somali passports were easy to get, and the whole reason he needed one was because he had overstayed his visa, he was married, and did not want to leave.” But as one media report noted, “Agents were concerned the Somali passport was a way for Muhammed to travel to places he didn't want U.S. authorities to know about — so when he returned to the U.S. his American passport wouldn't have stamps and visas from countries that bring suspicion.”⁴²

Hensley claimed that Muhammed was “brainwashed” in prison by the radicals with whom he was imprisoned⁴³: “For whatever reason, he winds up in a prison in Yemen around people who certainly don't appreciate America. And they start telling him, ‘Look what you have seen; look what's going on.’ And all this stuff weighs heavy on a young man, and he wants to do something.”⁴⁴ However, in his Associated Press interview, Muhammed contradicted his attorney, calling his claims “lies” and saying that his fellow prisoners were “very good Muslim brothers.”⁴⁵

Hensley also claimed that Muhammed was “slapped around” by his jailers and fellow prisoners.⁴⁶ Muhammed dismissed these allegations as well, asserting that “officials dealt with me in a gentle way.”⁴⁷

Yemeni government spokesman Mohammed Albasha has also fiercely rebutted Hensley's allegations, stating that the claims “are not credible because he is attempting to find any pretext to justify his violent actions ...He was not subjected to torture that has

³⁸ James Dao, “Suspect's Lawyer Outlines Defense in Killing of Soldier,” *The New York Times*, June 5, 2009.

³⁹ “LR Shooting Suspect Lying, Yemeni Says,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 6, 2009.

⁴⁰ “Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison,” *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009. Note: According to National Public Radio, “There is some debate over why, exactly, Muhammed ended up behind bars in Yemen. His parents say he told them that he was in for visa violations. Law enforcement officials said it was more than that, but declined to be specific.” See: Dina Temple-Raston, “FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen,” *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

⁴¹ James Dao and David Johnston, “Suspect in Soldier Attack Was Once Detained in Yemen,” *The New York Times*, June 4, 2009.

⁴² Dina Temple-Raston, “FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen,” *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

⁴³ “Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed',” *CNN*, June 5, 2009 and “Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison,” *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009.

⁴⁴ Dina Temple-Raston, “FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen,” *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

⁴⁵ “Recruitment Shooting Suspect Doesn't Think Killing Was Murder,” *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

⁴⁶ “Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed',” *CNN*, June 5, 2009 and “Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison,” *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009.

⁴⁷ “Recruitment Shooting Suspect Doesn't Think Killing Was Murder,” *Associated Press*, June 9, 2009.

driven him to become a terrorist against his own fellow American citizens. These allegations are absurd."⁴⁸

Hensley further alleged that Muhammed was visited in prison by an FBI agent who "believed that Carlos was some kind of hardened terrorist hellbent on doing violence to America."⁴⁹ The agent purportedly told Muhammed, "If you ever get out of this godforsaken place, we'll hound you till the day you die."⁵⁰ Hensley commented, "Here comes the FBI, who may be able to help this guy or save his life, and then they leave and then he's got to go back in with these hardened terrorists. He's got to survive, how do you live with that?..He absolutely feels that the FBI and anyone else associated with the United States government left him to the wolves, that's for certain."⁵¹

Muhammed's family reportedly involved a Tennessee state legislator in their quest to secure their son's freedom; Muhammed was deported to the U.S. on January 29, 2008.⁵²

Upon his return to the U.S., the FBI paid him numerous visits⁵³ and the same FBI agent reportedly told Muhammed that the FBI would "do everything we can to cause you trouble."⁵⁴ The FBI's Joint Terrorism Investigation initiated a preliminary investigation, but, according to *The New York Times*, "that investigation was inconclusive...leaving the bureau with insufficient evidence to wiretap his phone or put him under surveillance."⁵⁵

Hensley reported that Muhammed's parents described him as "a different human," who was "fidgety" and "frustrated" when he came back to Tennessee. He was angry with the U.S. about the wounded children he encountered and bitter that immigration policy prevented him from living with his wife in America.⁵⁶ He then began "speaking openly about how the United States needed to leave Muslims alone and stay out of their countries and their business."⁵⁷

In April 2009, he moved to Little Rock because his father's company, Twin City Tours, was expanding.⁵⁸ The company operates tour buses and airport shuttles in

⁴⁸ "Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison," *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009.

⁴⁹ "Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed'," *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁵⁰ James Dao, "Suspect's Lawyer Outlines Defense in Killing of Soldier," *The New York Times*, June 5, 2009.

⁵¹ "Lawyer: Arkansas Military Center Shooting Suspect 'Tortured' by Islamic Terrorists," *Associated Press*, June 4, 2009.

⁵² "Yemen: Accused Recruit Shooter Not Tortured in Prison," *Associated Press*, June 5, 2009. Note: Muhammed told his lawyer he was incarcerated for four months. See: "Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed'," *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁵³ Dina Temple-Raston, "FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen," *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

⁵⁴ "Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed'," *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁵⁵ James Dao and David Johnston, "Suspect in Soldier Attack Was Once Detained in Yemen," *The New York Times*, June 4, 2009.

⁵⁶ "Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed'," *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁵⁷ Jacob Quinn Sanders and Amy Schlesing, "GI-Shootings Suspect Has Agenda, Lawyer Says," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 5, 2009.

⁵⁸ "Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect 'Brainwashed'," *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas.⁵⁹ At the time of the shooting, Muhammed was driving a sightseeing van that operated from a Little Rock Hilton hotel.⁶⁰

On May 23, 2009, Muhammed filed documents in Pulaski County to change his name to Abdulhakim Bledsoe for “religious reasons.”⁶¹

Muhammed’s attorney has announced that Muhammed “wants to be a martyr.”⁶² He added, “If this young man, grown up in Middle America, can be turned against his own country, if it happened to this young man, it can happen to any young man...It can happen to anybody.”⁶³

(On June 8, 2009, Little Rock District Judge Alice Lightle issued a gag order for “all parties, police, prosecutors, defense attorneys and their personnel.”⁶⁴ Concerned by Hensley’s media campaign, Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney Larry Jegley requested the order, writing, “Many...statements have been made in recent days, some attributed and some not. The State is concerned that any such statements could adversely impact Mr. Muhammed’s right to a fair trial.”⁶⁵ Jegley commented, “There has just been this incessant commentary since Mr. Hensley’s been on the case. I don’t see how that’s beneficial to his client.”⁶⁶)

Additional Information – Other Plots Targeting Military Facilities in the U.S.

Since 9/11, a number of indicted or convicted terrorists have considered launching attacks against military facilities in the U.S.

- In December 2008, after a twelve-week trial centered around a plot to attack the Fort Dix Army base in New Jersey, a New Jersey jury convicted five men of plotting to kill members of the U.S. military, but acquitted them of attempting to murder members of the U.S. military.⁶⁷ As a court filing notes, one of the suspects “explained that they could utilize six or seven jihadists to attack and kill at least one hundred soldiers by using rocket-propelled grenades (“RPGs”) or other weapons.” In a separate conversation, the same suspect declared his “intent is to hit a heavy concentration of soldiers...” The men considered Fort Dix an appealing target because one of the suspects had delivered pizzas there and thus knew “it like the palm of his hand.”⁶⁸

⁵⁹ James Dao and David Johnston, “Suspect in Soldier Attack Was Once Detained in Yemen,” *The New York Times*, June 4, 2009.

⁶⁰ “Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect ‘Brainwashed,’” *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁶¹ James Dao and David Johnston, “Suspect in Soldier Attack Was Once Detained in Yemen,” *The New York Times*, June 4, 2009.

⁶² “Lawyer: Arkansas Shooting Suspect ‘Brainwashed,’” *CNN*, June 5, 2009.

⁶³ Dina Temple-Raston, “FBI Encountered Accused Ark. Shooter In Yemen,” *National Public Radio*, June 8, 2009.

⁶⁴ *State of Arkansas v. Abdulhakim Muhammed*, No. 2009-634 1-57, (District Court of Little Rock), Order, Filed June 8, 2009.

⁶⁵ *State of Arkansas v. Abdulhakim Muhammed*, No. 2009-634 1-57, (District Court of Little Rock), Motion for Gag Order, filed June 8, 2009.

⁶⁶ “LR Shooting Suspect Lying, Yemeni Says,” *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 6, 2009.

⁶⁷ “Five Radical Islamists Convicted of Conspiring to Kill Soldiers at Fort Dix,” Department of Justice Press Release, December 22, 2008.

⁶⁸ *U.S. v. Duka*, (D. N.J.), No. 07-M-2046(JS), Complaint, Filed May 7, 2007.

The group also conducted surveillance of Fort Monmouth (N.J.), Lakehurst Naval Station (N.J.), Dover Air Force Base (DE), and the U.S. Coast Guard Building in Philadelphia. The men even discussed attacking the Army-Navy football game and American warships that were docking in the Port of Philadelphia.⁶⁹



Convicted Ft. Dix plotter Shain Duka firing a CX4 Storm semi-automatic rifle; DOJ

- In December 2007, three California men – Kevin James, Levar Washington, and Gregory Patterson – pled guilty⁷⁰ to conspiring to levy war against the U.S. government.⁷¹ According to an FBI affidavit, one of the conspirators admitted that “the first group of targets considered...were military recruitment offices in the southern California area. The plan was to attack approximately 10 recruitment offices for which they estimated 30 to 40 casualties.”⁷² The same FBI affidavit cites an interview with another co-conspirator in which he laid out details of the planned attack:

“Samana said that the plan was for co-conspirator #1 to enter the military location selected as the first target, followed by co-conspirator #2 and Samana. All three participants would then begin shooting the people in the military location. The plan was not to become martyrs during this attack, but rather to attack and then flee in a car they drove to the location. Co-conspirator #1 told Samana that they would be ‘quiet’ about the attack while they planned their next action. In other words, the group would not claim credit for the attack.”⁷³

⁶⁹ U.S. v. Duka, (D. N.J.), No. 07-M-2046(JS), Complaint, Filed May 7, 2007. Note: Exhibits from the case can be seen at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/ftdixdocs.html>.

⁷⁰ Note: A fourth conspirator, Hammad Samana, was ruled mentally unfit to stand trial. See: “Two Plead Guilty to Domestic Terrorism Charges of Conspiring to Attack Military Facilities, Jewish Targets,” Department of Justice Press Release, December 14, 2007.

⁷¹ “Two Plead Guilty to Domestic Terrorism Charges of Conspiring to Attack Military Facilities, Jewish Targets,” Department of Justice Press Release, December 14, 2007.

⁷² U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

⁷³ U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

In preparation for the attack, members of the group conducted surveillance of U.S. military facilities in the Los Angeles area.⁷⁴

Modes of Attack.

* Options :-

already discussed ← - LAX
- Consulate of Zion 6380 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1700 LA
(323) 852-5500

Military Targets
Army Next Guard
Military Dept. - 1300 Federal Ave, LA 90025
army - 11301 Wilshire Blvd Ste 212, LA 90073.

Army Recruiting Centers throughout the county.

Document seized from the LA plotters' residence; DOJ

- Between 2003 and 2006, Derrick Shareef, who has pled guilty to plotting a grenade attack on a Chicago-area mall,⁷⁵ and Hassan Abujihad, who was convicted in 2008 of providing material support of terrorism and disclosing previously classified information relating to the national defense,⁷⁶ discussed a series of plans involving U.S. military targets.

According to Shareef, "in or about 2003," Shareef and Abujihad talked about attacking a U.S. military recruiting station in a Phoenix mall. At Abujihad's direction, Shareef visited the recruiting station, where he took the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. Sharing his observations with Abujihad, Shareef noted that recruiters from all four branches of the armed services were present, and that they "were very relaxed and...appeared to be unarmed." The men then pointed out that a recruiting station was an appealing target because "you could go in with a gun or a grenade and get them all at once."⁷⁷

The following year, in 2004, Abujihad purportedly developed a plan to attack U.S. military facilities in or near San Diego, California. Shareef told an FBI informant that that "Abujihad's plan called for diversionary fire that would draw soldiers from their barracks after which pre-positioned attackers would shoot the soldiers as they left

⁷⁴ U.S. v. Samana, (C.D. CA.), No. 05-16662M, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent James Clinton Judd, Filed August 2, 2005.

⁷⁵ "Rockford Man Pleads Guilty in Foiled Plan to Set Off Grenades in Rockford Shopping Mall," Department of Justice Press Release, November 28, 2007.

⁷⁶ "Jury Finds Former Member of U.S. Navy Guilty of Terrorism and Espionage Charges," Department of Justice Press Release, March 5, 2008.

⁷⁷ U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

their barracks.”⁷⁸ Then, in October 2006, Shareef and the FBI informant “discussed logistics for a possible attack” on the base; Shareef theorized that they “should be able to kill at least ten (10) people for each mujahideen fighter that they had.”⁷⁹

- In July 2006, Syed Harris Ahmed and Ehsanul Islam Sadequee were indicted for conspiring to provide material support to terrorists.⁸⁰ Ahmed was subsequently convicted in June 2009, while Sadequee’s trial is upcoming.⁸¹ During interviews with FBI agents, Ahmed admitted that while in Canada meeting with “like-minded Islamic extremists”⁸² who have since been charged with terrorism offenses,⁸³ the men “discussed strategic locations in the United States suitable for a terrorist strike, to include...military bases.”⁸⁴ The indictment notes that after returning from Canada, Ahmed and Sadequee specifically talked about “the possibility of attacking Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta, Georgia.”⁸⁵ Significantly, another FBI affidavit in a different case reveals that Ahmed had sustained contact with two members of a Chicago/Toledo cell who pled guilty “in connection with their efforts to travel abroad in order to murder or maim U.S. military forces in Iraq or Afghanistan.”⁸⁶
- In May 2009, the NY JTTF arrested four men for conspiring to “detonate explosives near a synagogue in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, New York, and to shoot military planes located at the New York Air National Guard Base at Stewart Airport in Newburgh, New York, with Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles.” In support of the plot, the conspirators conducted surveillance on the Air Base, taking photographs and attempting to identify the ideal location to shoot at military planes. One of the men was angry “that many Muslim people were being killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan by the United States Military forces.”⁸⁷

⁷⁸ U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

⁷⁹ U.S. v. Abujihad, (D.C. CT.), No. 3:07-CR-57, Motion in Limine and Memorandum in Support of the Admission of Evidence Pursuant to Federal Rules of Evidence 801(d)(2)(E) and 801(d)(2)(A), Filed October 19, 2007.

⁸⁰ U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

⁸¹ “Defendant Found Guilty of Conspiracy to Support Terrorists,” Department of Justice Press Release, June 10, 2009.

⁸² U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006

⁸³ “Seventeen Arrested on Anti-Terrorism Charges,” Royal Canadian Mounted Police Press Release, June 3, 2006.

⁸⁴ U.S. v. Sadequee, (E.D. N.Y.), No. M-06-335, Affidavit of FBI Special Agent Michael Scherck in Support of Arrest Warrant, Filed March 28, 2006

⁸⁵ U.S. v. Ahmed, (N.D. GA.), No. 1:06-CR-147-CC, Indictment, Filed July 19, 2006.

⁸⁶ “Chicago Cousins Plead Guilty to Conspiracy to Provide Material Support to Terrorists,” Department of Justice Press Release, January 15, 2009.

⁸⁷ U.S. v. Cromitie, (S.D. N.Y.), Complaint, Filed May 9, 2009.