





[REDACTED]

When one of the [REDACTED] was in the interrogation room, the others were in an adjacent room watching on a closed circuit television (CCTV) screen. Boris and CIA analysts monitoring and supporting the interrogations were in the room, too, and [REDACTED] quickly learned that Boris hated Frank. This was presumably because Frank was an actual interrogator, and by word and action made it clear that he disagreed with Boris and supported [REDACTED] approach to interrogation.

When Frank was in with Abu Zubaydah, Boris often made sarcastic remarks about Frank to the others in the room: "He's boring the hell out of him," he might say, or "You know what Abu Zubaydah is saying right now? He's saying, 'Just shoot me.'" Some of the young analysts would laugh at anything Boris said. [REDACTED] had no idea what he said about [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] were out of the room, but [REDACTED] could guess.

Ignoring Boris, [REDACTED] picked up with Abu Zubaydah where [REDACTED] had left off in the hospital. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

background, his friends, and of the international terrorist network—that we knew all about him and that it was just silly to lie to us. It would just embarrass him. And as we had formed a relationship with him, his lying would be an insult to us, his "friends."

When one of the three of us was in the interrogation room, the others were in an adjacent room watching on a closed circuit television (CCTV) screen. Boris and CIA analysts monitoring and supporting the interrogations were in the room, too, and I quickly learned that Boris hated Frank. This was presumably because Frank was an actual interrogator, and by word and action made it clear that he disagreed with Boris and supported our approach to interrogation.

When Frank was in with Abu Zubaydah, Boris often made sarcastic remarks about Frank to the others in the room: "He's boring the hell out of him," he might say, or "You know what Abu Zubaydah is saying right now? He's saying, 'Just shoot me.'" Some of the young analysts would laugh at anything Boris said. Stephen and I had no idea what he said about us when we were out of the room, but we could guess.

Ignoring Boris, we picked up with Abu Zubaydah where we had left off in the hospital. We began discussing plots and other important subjects, and pretty soon he began giving us a steady stream of intelligence. This was around April 20, 2002, and we led Abu Zubaydah to a discussion of his movements after 9/11.

He told us that he and other terrorists had been evacuated from Kandahar, and then Afghanistan in general, because of the Northern Alliance's advance on Taliban positions. He had traveled primarily with people connected to Khaldan. He had picked a group to travel with him from Bermel, on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, to guesthouses in Pakistan.

As a rule, for security reasons, Abu Zubaydah usually only traveled with people he knew. But on this occasion he had agreed to travel with two individuals he didn't know, because of the passports they carried. One was a man of Eritrean or Ethiopian origin who had a fraudulent British passport, and the second was someone who seemed to be from Latin America, with an American passport. Abu Zubaydah said he was "Hispanic" and looked "like he's from Peru."



Foreign passports, especially British and American ones, were a prized commodity. Having one meant that there was no need for visas or false documents; the holder of such a passport could get into countries easily. While the British passport was fraudulent, Abu Zubaydah told us that he had examined it, it was a very good fake, and he believed it would work. He viewed himself as an expert in fraudulent documents.

Abu Zubaydah's group was smuggled by Lashkar-e-Taiba. The group stayed for about ten days in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region, then traveled to Lahore, where they remained in one guesthouse for about another ten days and a second for about twenty days. From there they moved to the apartment building in Faisalabad. Abu Zubaydah had been in Faisalabad for about four weeks when he was captured during the U.S.-Pakistani raid and brought to the secret location.

In the guesthouse in Faisalabad, the situation was tense; Abu Zubaydah's group kept to themselves. They were out of their comfort zone and worried about being betrayed. Abu Zubaydah had his own room and avoided most of the others. Often he would go to other locations to meet other top operatives and find out what was going on in Afghanistan.

There were two Saudis in the guesthouse, Abdullah al-Muslim (alias al-Sharbi) and Jobran. They stayed up all night and slept during the day, interacting little with those in the guesthouse who had more traditional sleeping habits. Abdullah had studied in the United States and spoke English well. When the other operatives discovered this, they asked him to teach them English. One such operative was Mohammed Samir (alias Akrama al-Sudani), a member of the Khaldan *shura* committee.

Abu Zubaydah kept an eye on the two individuals with the British and American passports. They were constantly with each other, using the computer and talking behind closed doors. They sought out Abu Zubaydah and told him they had a plan to follow up on 9/11 and deal a devastating blow to America.

"What's your plan?" he asked, curious.

"We'll create a dirty bomb and strike at an American city," one of the men said.



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. [REDACTED] cabled this information straight to Langley, recommending that an international alert be put out for the two. This was done.

A message came back from the CIA station [REDACTED] that they had passport pictures of two individuals fitting those descriptions. A sharp CIA officer there had made the connection. The Pakistanis had detained the two as they tried to leave Pakistan, suspicious that their passports were fraudulent. The passports were sent to the [REDACTED] and American embassies, respectively, to check whether they were legitimate.

The U.S. Embassy responded that the American passport, [REDACTED], was legitimate, as indeed it was. The [REDACTED] said their passport, under the name Binyam Mohamed, was fraudulent—so much for Abu Zubaydah's estimate. As a result the Pakistanis had released Padilla and held Mohamed for further questioning.

The two passport photos were scanned and sent to [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

With their passports, they told Abu Zubaydah, they could easily get into the United States. "That's true," Abu Zubaydah said, "but how do you plan on getting uranium for your bomb?"

"We'll hijack a truck that carries it to a hospital or a research facility in a university," one of the men told him. "We've worked it all out."

Abu Zubaydah was surprised at their ignorance. "It's not that easy. Anyway, after you get the uranium, how do you plan on enriching it?"

"That's the easy part. We've looked it up on the Internet. All we need to do is swirl it around quickly in a bucket." They showed him white extremist websites that explained how to do it.

Abu Zubaydah thought they were fools, but because of their passports they could be of use for another mission, so he didn't dismiss them. He packed the two off via train to KSM in Karachi, informing him that he "might be able to use them for something else because of their passports. If not, give them some money and I'll use them."

"What were their names?" I asked Abu Zubaydah. He didn't recall their real names, but gave me their aliases and a description of each man. The one with the British passport was known as Talha and the American as Abdullah al-Muhajir. We cabled this information straight to Langley, recommending that an international alert be put out for the two. This was done.

A message came back from the CIA station in another country that they had passport pictures of two individuals fitting those descriptions. A sharp CIA officer there had made the connection. The Pakistanis had detained the two as they tried to leave Pakistan, suspicious that their passports were fraudulent. The passports were sent to the British and American embassies, respectively, to check whether they were legitimate.

The U.S. Embassy responded that the American passport, belonging to Jose Padilla, was legitimate, as indeed it was. The British said their passport, under the name Binyam Mohamed, was fraudulent—so much for Abu Zubaydah's estimate. As a result the Pakistanis had released Padilla and held Mohamed for further questioning.

The two passport photos were scanned and sent to us, and the next morning I showed the two pictures to Abu Zubaydah. "Recognize these men?" I asked.



[REDACTED] that [REDACTED] had their pictures.

[REDACTED] An international search for Padilla began.

In the meantime, [REDACTED]

Abu Zubaydah also said he planned to attack gas stations across the country and a major bridge in New York. "[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] it was the Brooklyn Bridge.

"Yes," he replied, eyes wide open, shocked that we had their pictures.

"Didn't I tell you from day one that you do not know what I know?" I asked. An international search for Padilla began.

In the meantime, I asked Abu Zubaydah about his comment to KSM that if he didn't have a use for the two men, he, Abu Zubaydah, would use them. "What would you have used them for?"

"I planned to fill lots of apartment buildings across America with explosives. I would then tell [President] Bush to release all brothers who are prisoners in U.S. jails, including Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman [the Blind Sheikh], or I would blow up the buildings. Because no one would know how many buildings across the country had explosives in them, it would create chaos and confusion," he said.

"How did you plan to speak to President Bush?" I asked.

"I'd call the White House and say put me through to Bush. If they didn't, I would blow up buildings until they did."

"Just like that you'd call?"

"Yes," he replied, shrugging his shoulders, as if he didn't think it was a big deal.

Abu Zubaydah also said he planned to attack gas stations across the country and a major bridge in New York. "Which bridge in New York?" I asked.

"I don't remember the name," he said.

I started listing them: "Brooklyn, Manhattan, George Washington..."

"I've got it," he interrupted, snapping his fingers. "It's the one in the second *Godzilla* movie." We checked on the Internet and saw it was the Brooklyn Bridge.

"Why the Brooklyn Bridge?" I asked.

"We were watching *Godzilla* one day, and we saw what happened when *Godzilla* stepped onto the bridge, and we imagined the devastation we could cause by blowing it up."

While talking about Padilla, I asked Abu Zubaydah, "How do you refer to yourself? Are you a terrorist, a mujahid, a brother?"

"What's the difference?" he replied. "They're all the same."

"So you'd refer to yourself as a terrorist?"

"Sure, why not?"



[REDACTED]

Continuing with the combination of interpersonal, cognitive, and emotional interrogation strategies that had already yielded so much, [REDACTED] requested, and were granted, permission from Langley to use three classified wiretapped conversations involving Abu Zubaydah. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] started by asking questions that [REDACTED] knew the answers to, based on the recorded tapes. "[REDACTED]"

[REDACTED]

"Really?"

"Yes, sure. You're acting as if terrorism is a bad word," he said.

"Isn't it?"

"No," he replied, "terrorism was first mentioned by God." And he quoted a passage from the Quran: "Make ready for them whatever force and strings of horses you can, to terrorize thereby the enemy of God and your enemy . . ." (8:60). The passage really is saying to put fear into the enemy so that they don't attack you—it's about deterrence—but Abu Zubaydah took it literally.

Continuing with the combination of interpersonal, cognitive, and emotional interrogation strategies that had already yielded so much, we requested, and were granted, permission from Langley to use three classified wiretapped conversations involving Abu Zubaydah. I put the three tapes in the interrogation room. To give the impression that we had a full library of such tapes, we bought a few dozen blank tapes and labeled them. We set them up and brought in Abu Zubaydah.

I started by asking questions that I knew the answers to, based on the recorded tapes. "Do you know about ——?" I asked, naming a subject.

"No," he replied.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Why are you lying?"

"I'm not."

"Okay," I said, and played a tape with his voice speaking about the subject. He went red.

I asked another question, this time about certain funds being used by a terrorist organization. "I don't know anything about it," he said.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes."

"Again you're lying."

I then played a tape of him talking about it. He went red again. We repeated this one more time.

Finally, I asked him about a large amount of money coming from

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