AL QAEDA IN AMERICA

Volume One

A sourcebook for researchers

Court and FBI records, testimony and intelligence documents concerning Al Qaeda operatives in the United States

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Introduction

THE AL QAEDA IN AMERICA SOURCEBOOK

Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. Over the course of nearly two decades, Al Qaeda has placed as many as hundreds of operatives in the United States, and even more American citizens have been trained at al Qaeda-linked camps in Afghanistan and other locations. (Depending on the timing and motivation, this does not necessarily implicate them as criminals).

In July 2007, the U.S. intelligence community warned that "a terrorist cell has been dispatched to the United States." In fact, as you will see in these pages, multiple terrorist cells have almost certainly been on U.S. soil ever since September 11.

Each of the terrorists profiled in these documents relied on a support system. In some cases, just a handful of men. In other cases, dozens or hundreds. Too few members of this support system have been identified and neutralized -- the April 2007 indictment of Christopher Paul (aka Abu Malek) is a stunning example of this dynamic at work.

Malek was known to U.S. authorities for more than a decade. You will see questions concerning him in the 1997 grand jury testimony of Wadih El-Hage, the first and longest entry in this volume.

From a counterterrorism standpoint, there's nothing more directly useful than studying the sleeper networks used by al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations. This volume, and the next, offer specific, direct insight into how these cells operate.

--- J.M. Berger

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