

In its written response, the FBI acknowledges “unexplained inconsistencies” in the informant’s reporting which continue to warrant ongoing FBI investigation].

[The CIA was aware in January 2000 that al-Mihdhar had a U.S. visa and in March 2000 that al-Hazmi had traveled to California. The FBI handling agent testified that, if he had access to the CIA intelligence concerning al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi when they were in San Diego]:

It would have made a huge difference. We would have immediately opened [———] investigations. We had the predicate for a [———] investigation if we had that information.... [page 175] We would immediately go out and canvas the sources and try to find out where these people were. If we locate them, which we probably would have since they were very close – they were nearby – we would have initiated investigations immediately....We would have done everything. We would have used all available investigative techniques. [We] would have given them the full court press. We would...have done everything – physical surveillance, technical surveillance and other assets.

[FBI Headquarters became aware in late August 2001 that al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar were in the United States. The San Diego field office did not receive this information until after September 11. The FBI handling agent stated that he believes that San Diego could have located the two hijackers, and he was critical of Headquarters’ failure to share information]:

We’d have immediately gone out to various assets who already work in the streets for us. We’d basically run the names by them and find out – we’d locate them...I’m sure. I’m sure we could have located them and we could have done it within a few days.

[The San Diego office was also generally unaware of the al-Qa’ida threat. As the FBI handling agent testified]:

We knew [al-Qa’ida] was an important person or organization. But we didn’t have any presence. We didn’t have any cases and we didn’t have any source information that indicated that these guys were here in San Diego at that time.

[The FBI handling agent said that he did not discuss Bin Ladin or al-Qa’ida with the informant before September 11 because that was:

. . . not an issue in terms of my assignments. [—————]
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