

Community knew of KSM's support for terrorism since 1995 and later learned of his links to al-Qa'ida, he was not recognized as a senior al-Qa'ida lieutenant. In April 2002, the Intelligence Community learned that KSM and his group conceived the September 11 plot. KSM is also known as Mukhtar or "the Brain]."

The efforts the Intelligence Community took against KSM illustrate the difficulties it had in understanding al-Qa'ida's activities and structure and formulating a coherent response. The Community devoted few analytic or operational resources to tracking KSM or understanding his [page 326] activities. Coordination within the Community was irregular at best, and the little information that was shared was usually forgotten or dismissed.

A. KSM's Links to Terrorist Attacks before September 11

KSM and his followers played a major role in several Islamist extremist plots before September 11. These plots are notable for the large number of casualties they sought to create, the use of airplanes, and focus on symbolic targets such as the World Trade Center and U.S. government facilities, all characteristics of the September 11 attacks.

Investigators determined in 1995 that KSM was linked to the February 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. Federal prosecutors gave CIA a copy of a financial wire transaction for \$660 between Qatar and the U.S., dated several days before the blast, from "Khaled Shaykh" in Doha to Muhammad Salameh, one of four defendants convicted in the World Trade Center bombing. With additional information that emerged from the Philippines investigation described below, CIA was able to determine that Khaled was KSM, that KSM was an uncle of Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the first World Trade Center bombing plot, and that KSM had married the sister of Yousef's wife.

[In 1995, Yousef's plots to bomb twelve U.S. airplanes flying Asian routes, kill the Pope, and crash a plane into CIA Headquarters were thwarted by Philippine police when a fire erupted in an apartment where Yousef was preparing explosives. The police seized a list of names and telephone numbers and found a notation for "Khalid Doha" with telephone and facsimile numbers in Qatar. [_____]