

Moussaoui was unhappy with the training and, at the end of May, contacted Pan American International Flight School in Minneapolis. While Airman provided flight lessons in piloting Cessnas and similar small aircraft, Pan Am provided ground training and access to a Boeing 747 flight simulator used by professional pilots.

Most of Pan Am's students were newly hired airline pilots, who used the flight simulator for initial training, or active airline pilots, who used the equipment for refresher training. Although anyone can sign up for lessons at Pan Am, the typical student has a pilot's license, is employed by an airline, and has several thousand flight hours. Moussaoui had none of these qualifications.

On August 11, Moussaoui and his roommate, Hussein al-Attas, arrived in Egan, Minnesota and checked into a hotel. Moussaoui began classes at Pan Am on August 13. On Wednesday, August 15, a Pan Am employee called the FBI's Minneapolis Field Office because he and other Pan Am employees had become suspicious of Moussaoui.

Before September 11, the FBI determined that Moussaoui had paid approximately \$6,800 in cash for training on the Boeing 747 simulator, but met none of the usual criteria for students at the flight school. Moussaoui had no aviation background and, apparently, no pilot's license. It was also considered odd that Moussaoui simply wanted to learn the most challenging elements of flying, taking off and landing a 747, which he referred to as an "ego boosting thing."

Based on information from the flight school, the FBI field office opened an international terrorism investigation of Moussaoui. Agents within that office saw him as a threat to national security. Because the FBI field office in Minneapolis hosts and is part of a Joint Terrorism Task Force, INS agents, who share space and work closely with the FBI in Minneapolis, were able to determine immediately that Moussaoui had been authorized to stay in the United States until May 22, 2001 and, thus, was "out of status" when the FBI began to investigate him in August.

[Page 333] On the day the Minneapolis field office learned about Moussaoui, it asked both the CIA and the FBI's legal attaché in Paris for information about him. The FBI field office also informed FBI Headquarters about the investigation.