

In early March 2000, the CIA learned that al-Hazmi had arrived in Los Angeles on January 15. Despite having just learned of the presence in this country of an Al-Qa'ida terrorist, the CIA told no one about this. The internal cable transmitting this information, in fact, contained the notation: "Action Required: None, FYI."³⁵ This information came at the height of the U.S. Intelligence Community's alarm over Al-Qa'ida's "Millennium Plot," and al-Hazmi's arrival had occurred at about the same time the CIA knew that Al-Qa'ida terrorist Ahmed Ressam was also supposed to have arrived in Los Angeles to conduct terrorism operations.³⁶ Still, however, the CIA refused to notify anyone of al-Hazmi's presence in the country.

By this point, both al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi – both terrorists known to the CIA – were living in San Diego under their true names. They signed these names on their rental agreement, both used their real names in taking flight school training in May 2000, and al-Mihdhar even used his real name in obtaining a motor vehicle identification card from the State of California.³⁷ In July 2000, al-Hazmi even applied to the INS for an extension of his visa, sending in this application using both his real name and his current address in San Diego (where he would remain until that December).³⁸ INS, of course, had no reason to be concerned, since the CIA had

³⁵ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 20, 2002), at 7; *see also generally* CIA officer, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 20, 2002), at 3.

³⁶ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 20, 2002), at 8 & 10.

³⁷ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 20, 2002), at 8.

³⁸ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 20, 2002), at 8-9.