

Intelligence Community has had with sharing information and “connecting the dots” – particularly where the FBI is concerned.

The FBI special agent in Phoenix who sent the EC to headquarters on July 10, 2001, addressed his memorandum to the Usama bin Laden Unit (UBLU) and the Radical Fundamentalist Unit (RFU) within the Bureau’s counterterrorist organization. Headquarters personnel, however, decided that no follow-up was needed, and no managers actually took part in this decision or even saw the memorandum before the September 11 attacks.⁴⁵ The CIA was made aware of the Phoenix special agent’s concerns about flight schools, but it offered no feedback⁴⁶ despite the information the CIA possessed about terrorists’ interest in using aircraft as weapons. Nor did the new FBI officials who saw the Phoenix EC at headquarters ever connect these concerns with the body of information already in the FBI’s possession about terrorists’ interest in obtaining training at U.S. flight schools.⁴⁷ The full contents of the “Phoenix Memo” have yet to be made public, but it is astonishing that so little was made of it, especially since it drew readers’ attention to certain information *already in the FBI’s possession* suggesting a very specific reason to be alarmed about one particular foreign student at an aviation university in the United States.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 24, 2002), at 2.

⁴⁶ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 24, 2002), at 6.

⁴⁷ JIS, written statement presented to SSCI/HPSCI joint hearing (September 24, 2002), at 11-13.

⁴⁸ FBI Special Agent in Phoenix, Arizona, electronic communication addressed to Radical Fundamentalist Unit *et al.* (July 10, 2001), at 5. The FBI declined to declassify any more specific an account of this information.