

supposed al-Qa'ida operative who was trained in explosives. Barot was involved with high level al-Qa'ida planners, including 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

Barot entered the U.S. on a student visa in 2000 and conducted preoperational planning and surveillance of domestic targets. Following his 2004 arrest, plans were discovered that included the intended bombings of the NYSE, the IMF and other financial targets. [See Chapter 7 for a discussion of how the Prudential Company reacted to this threat.] His preoperational activities included surveillance of firefighting and other first responder agencies located near those targets. Barot's exploited documents detailed how he intended to implode the financial buildings and cause great loss of human life, while also crippling the western financial structure.

Barot conducted surveillance of the firefighting agencies located near his primary targets to gather information on what would limit the effectiveness of those agencies' response to the casualties, fires and implosion of the buildings. It is uncertain whether or not Barot would have used the planning information to choose primary targets that would have had a decreased response by emergency responders and the fire departments, and/or if he would have directly targeted them as a secondary node of the primary attack (i.e., through a simultaneous or secondary bombing of the fire stations themselves).

### *Case 2: Possible Surveillance at Northern CA Fire Stations*

Between July and September 2007, four possible preoperational terrorist planning activities were observed and reported at Northern California fire stations. Three incidents involved video taping and photography of fire stations in Campbell, Yuba and Sacramento by suspects of either Middle Eastern or Ethiopian decent. The fourth incident involved Fresno City firefighters questioning two suspicious male observers (of possible Middle Eastern decent); the two males reportedly were observing the activities of the firefighting training facility from their car.

*TLO Note: Terrorist organizations are most vulnerable to detection during preoperational planning stages. TLOs are strongly encouraged to report similar activity to their regional JTTF, regardless of how seemingly benign the activity may appear.*

### *Case 3: Firefighters Uncover Bojinka Terrorist Plot*

In 1995, Filipino firefighters uncovered activity that led to the discovery of the "Bojinka Plot," to blow up eleven airliners headed from Asia to the U.S., assassinate Pope John Paul II, and crash a plane into the CIA Headquarters. The plot was purportedly designed by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi Yousef, who planned the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

*(Continued)*