

The submission outlined our Counterterrorist Center's offensive operations and noted the goal to "render the masterminds, disrupt terrorist infrastructure, infiltrate terrorist groups, and work with foreign partners."

The FY 2000 budget submission prepared in early 1999 described Bin Ladin as "the most significant individual sponsor of Sunni Islamic extremist and terrorist activity in the world today."

- ▶ It noted the Agency's use of a wide range of offensive operational techniques against the targets. These included the creation of dedicated counterterrorist units in key countries, joint operations with liaison partners to apprehend wanted terrorists, recruitment of well-placed agents, and penetration of terrorist support groups.<sup>13</sup>

### *Runup to September 11—Our Operations*

The third period of peak threat was in the spring and summer, 2001. As with the Millennium and Ramadan 2000, we increased the tempo of operations against al-Qa'ida. We stopped some attacks and caused the terrorists to postpone others.

- ▶ We helped to break up another terrorist cell in Jordan and seized a large quantity of weapons, including rockets and high explosives.
- ▶ Working with another foreign partner, we broke up a plan to attack US facilities in Yemen.
- ▶ In June, CIA worked with a Middle Eastern partner to arrest two Bin Ladin operatives planning attacks on US facilities in Saudi Arabia.
- ▶ In June and July, CIA launched a wide-ranging disruption effort against Bin Ladin's organization, with targets in almost two-dozen countries. Our intent was to drive up Bin Ladin's security concerns and lead his organization to delay or cancel its attacks. We subsequently received reports that attacks were delayed, including an attack against the US military in Europe.
- ▶ In July, a different Middle East partner helped bring about the detention of a terrorist who had been directed to begin an operation to attack the US Embassy or cultural center in a European capital.
- ▶ In addition, in the summer of 2001, local authorities, acting on our information, arrested an operative described as Bin Ladin's man in East Asia.
- ▶ We assisted another foreign partner in the rendition of a senior Bin Ladin associate. Information he provided included plans to kidnap Americans in three countries and to carry out hijackings.
- ▶ We provided intelligence to a Latin American service on a band of terrorists considering hijackings and bombings. An FBI team detected explosives residue in their hotel rooms.<sup>14</sup>