

# Should we be Afraid of Terrorism? (Or – the Luckiest Terrorists That Ever Lived)

There are almost certainly terrorists who want to kill us; there are almost certainly people in the world who would murder us to take our wallets; everyday cars whiz by us that could lose control and end our lives on the spot; we could choke on a peanut and die. We could, and eventually will, die in any number of unusual (or far more likely – mundane) ways.

But the knowledge that any one of these fates could befall us has never caused us to willingly accept that the rules of how society conducts itself has changed radically forever. The fact that something bad could conceivably happen to us has never led us to accept a way of doing things which, as a people, take us back hundreds of years in terms of personal freedom and human rights, all in order to keep us safe.

Never before 9/11...

Many have been convinced that the spectre of 9/11 is always over us; that it's not over yet and any second of any day this could happen again. These people happily trade their freedom for security and accept that the government must do anything they can to protect us and we should leave our rights and our dignity at the door and place our blind faith in our leaders pockets for safe keeping.

We knew about terrorists before; they'd blown up some embassies, attacked a boat - they didn't prey heavily on our minds – but that was before we knew what they could do – hellfire, Hollywood explosions, bodies falling from a quarter of a mile to their fate, steel buildings crumbling spontaneously; Armageddon.

But it is essential that we are sure – could 9/11 happen again? Because key to this society-wide acceptance is a notion of capability; the idea they are protecting us from another 9/11 is at the heart of too many people's willing surrender of their rights.

I will argue that through sober eyes it is clear that the atrocities of 9/11 happening in the first place relied on a lot of luck, so much so that these 19 men should be remembered as the **Luckiest Terrorists That Ever Lived**.

The first stroke of luck is that since two of these terrorists Al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi had been known to be associated with al-Qaida from early 1999 by the National Security Agency it's a wonder they ever even got into the country in the first place [1]. In addition, Mohammed Atta, the ringleader of the attacks, had been under CIA surveillance since 2000, while he was in Germany, and along with three other hijackers his name was known as a terrorist within the USA by the Able Danger programme [2]. But none of these men were put on a no fly list– this was especially lucky when you consider the pre-warnings the government had been receiving. George Tenet told the 9/11 Commission that "The system was blinking red" [3] there had been no less than 26 intelligence warnings of the attack, 10 of them specifically mentioning the use of aircraft and warnings from Russia, Germany and the UK specifically stating that aircraft would be used as weapons to crash into targets [4].

So with the "system blinking red" several known terrorists got visas to enter the US; lucky them. Luckier still is that with multiple warnings of a huge terrorist attack involving flying planes into targets the authorities chose not to hike up security in US airports, not even just a little. According to the US government the pre-intelligence could not have helped them stop the attack because it did not give a time or date, or specific targets. OK, but maybe some guideline on stopping 19 Arabs armed box cutters or Stanley knives through airport security might be an idea? A simple "you'll have to put any sharp items in your stowing luggage sir" and a friendly smile would have prevented the 9/11 attacks completely, lucky for them that no one thought of that one. So they boarded their planes with just their blades, of course this isn't really being well prepared to hijack a major airliner, but as we said, they had super human

luck that day, and each team of terrorists successfully entered the cabins of and commandeered the aircraft.

Were they worried at all about their flying skills? The man described by the US authorities as the most skilled pilot among the hijackers was Hanni Hanjour. Hanni, who supposedly had a commercial pilots licence, tried to get some practice in a one engine plane – a Cessna 172 - a few weeks prior at Freeway Airport in MD. Two separate instructors, Baxter and Conner, took Hanni with them. Both found that Hanni had trouble controlling and landing this easiest to pilot of planes at 65 knots. Bernard, the Chief CFI, refused to rent him the 172.

*"I couldn't believe he had a commercial license of any kind with the skills that he had"*

- said Peggy Chevrette, the JetTech manager. Flight Schools tend to keep going till you "get it" if you are a bit rusty, and then rent you the plane – they are in the business of making a profit after all. But the Chief CFI considered Hanni a hopeless case and refused any further lessons. [5]

Weren't they worried? Might they veer off course? Might they lose control of the jet or miss their targets? No; these were the **Luckiest Terrorists That Ever Lived**, remember, and each of the planes heading for the WTC and the Pentagon arrived at their targets without the aid of air traffic control and did so with pinpoint accuracy and ease. Hanni Hanjour fought off some demons that day. It was no doubt a compulsion to prove his critics wrong as much as his super human luck that led him to perform a 400 knot 330 degree spiralling dive at 2500 fpm, only gaining 30 knots, then 30 knots more descending from 2200 feet at full power, with a very steady hand as to not overshoot or hit the lawn, at 460 knots impact speed, all done in a huge commercial jet [5] (a manoeuvre highly skilled career pilots refer to as incredibly difficult) just a few weeks after his humiliating failure to control a one engine plane.

So they are now no longer the **Luckiest Terrorists Who Ever Lived**. But their luck still grows; now they are the **Luckiest Terrorists Who Ever Died**, because what happened next represents the kind of luck which in Terrorist terms would mirror picking the winner of the Grand National every year of their adult lives.

Over the space of an hour both of the twin towers completely collapsed, each one in seconds, and thousands of people died. Now if there is one thing I really do fear it is the Zombie Terrorist as any sane man would, and if reports from the BBC that several of these hijackers are walking around the Middle East today are accurate then perhaps we really should be scared. [6]

You see the three reports charged with explaining what happened on 9/11 struggled immensely with why this complete high speed collapse should happen, to the extent that none of the three offers any analysis to explain the event in its entirety at all. The closest to it is the NIST report which, with millions of dollars and a ten thousand page report to explain how to avoid such a collapse happening in the future managed to rustle up little more than: "It was inevitable", and have since explicitly admitted that they "cannot completely explain the total collapse of the twin towers" [7]. So if this happening was so hard to explain, it cannot be said to be expected by the terrorist master minds. Surely they'd looked into how the buildings were designed to react to plane crashes and heard that the Twin Towers had been specifically designed to withstand high speed impacts of jet liners? A three page White Paper on the design of the towers stated that:

*"The buildings have been investigated and found to be safe in an assumed collision with a large jet airliner (Boeing 707—DC 8) travelling at 600 miles per hour. Analysis indicates that such collision would result in only local damage which could not cause collapse or substantial damage to the building and would not endanger the lives and safety of occupants not in the immediate area of impact."*

While a 707 is smaller than a 767 (707- 152.92 ft long; 767- 159.17 ft long) it would in fact have had a lower kinetic impact as it was travelling a lot slower than 600 miles per hour and was loaded with less than half its maximum amount of fuel [8]. Some have suggested that the

jet fuel was not accounted for and that is why the buildings collapsed. Had the terrorists thought of this perhaps? If they had then just as those who make these claims they clearly hadn't done their research. John Skilling, the tower's designer stated quite clearly:

*"Our analysis indicated the biggest problem would be the fact that all the fuel (from the airplane) would dump into the building. There would be a horrendous fire. A lot of people would be killed," he said. "The building structure would still be there.[9]*

This information was publicly available, so their plan couldn't have involved the collapse of these towers, which ironically is what they will forever be remembered for. Their plan would have been to kill all the passengers and as many in the building as they could, the resulting revolting body count was in fact to their old friend lady luck; an outcome these murderers had never expected but were blessed with.

But did they even realistically plan for casualties in the buildings?

Think about it for a second:

Why did they have targets at all?

We have been told this was a masterminded plan. Surely some small planning session was put aside to studying the publicly available information on NORAD procedure? So they would have known, for example that it is NORAD standard operating procedure (SOP) to scramble jet fighters whenever a jetliner goes off course loses its transponder signal or radio contact with it is lost. This would be a part of the emergency procedure to determine what the cause of the unusual behaviour of the plane was, and in most cases there would be no suspicion that a hijacking was occurring. The average response time was 10 – 15 minutes and between September 2000 and June 2001, interceptors were scrambled 67 times. In the year 2000 jets were scrambled 129 times [10]. Needless to say in those periods of time there were not 67 or 129 hijackings reported; there were none.

All three of the above criteria were established for each of the planes on 9/11, yet no scramble occurred. Had SOP been followed and when it became clear that this was a hijacking, and when it became clear that the hijackers had no demands, but intended to use the planes as missiles, they would most likely be shot down. Maybe the terrorists had hopes that the first plane would hit as their NORAD interceptor might not realise they were planning to hit a building before it was too late. But for three planes to hit their target and for there to be no interception at all of any one of them was an unlikely outcome they would not have imagined in their wildest dreams.

Their planning of targets to strike was frankly odd; only a moron or a hopeless optimist would conceive of a plan which involved having planes collectively fly for an hour and forty five minutes off course through US air space and hit the Pentagon, or the WTC towers. Having targets at all made it a plan which was reliant on the complete failure of US air defence, and not their own success. Why plan on such an off chance, did they somehow know how lucky they were going to be, or was it an "in-joke" between them – a "best case scenario" they never realistically considered would happen but amused them to speak of?

But enough speculation, lets get back to the fable, because what happened next is simply incredible- even for the **Luckiest Terrorists Who Ever Died**: A 47 story sky scraper spontaneously collapsed, vertically and at free fall speed onto its own footprint without even being hit by a plane! Now you can say "well no-one was in WTC7 when it collapsed, maybe their luck was petering to an end" but ladies and gentlemen this was the New York Head Quarters of the CIA, The Secret Service and several other American government agencies – the sworn enemies of the Islamic Terrorist.

If only the **Luckiest Terrorists Who Ever Died** had been lived to see this- not only with the twin towers had they already caused THE most improbable building collapse in history by dumb luck, TWICE, but then the headquarters of their mortal enemies collapses as well! If I

suspect a terrorist is living next door to me before I make the appropriate phone calls I'll be sure to ask him to choose my lottery numbers first.

Now hardly anyone on the street knows that WTC7 collapsed or has even heard of it and the media and government don't seem to want anyone to know about it. Perhaps in America, a country of people who fervently believe in a God, they feared people would come to the conclusion that it was not luck, but God who wanted these attacks to take place? To the mind of the believer, God seems to have intervened at every point in the way to implausibly clear the way for their nefarious plan to succeed and therefore these hijackers must indeed be doing His work. The US government, no doubt, realised this could lead to a large proportion of the mid-west joining al-Qaeda and embracing the tenets of militant fundamentalist Islam – best to keep them unaware of all this "luck", or "divine intervention", then.

OK now this fable (the official fable) may all sound a bit unlikely but it's better than being called conspiracy theorists isn't it? We all know not accepting an unbelievable account of a serious crime leads people to ridiculing you – let's just accept that these were the Luckiest Terrorists Who Ever Lived and close the book on this shall we?

At least when the story involves such super natural luck, people will realise there is no need to change our way of life, no need to surrender our civil liberties or our democracy. We should not fear another 9/11 because that such an event happened even once is so unlikely that it cannot be considered to possibly happen again, or, it could be said, so unlikely that it cannot be considered to have happened at all.

The plan of the terrorists in the official conspiracy theory is not a "masterminded plan" as it is entirely reliant on complete US failure, not at all on complete Terrorist success.

Let's face it; 9/11 was a rubbish plan by incompetent and unfeasibly lucky terrorists:

"Let's hope they let our known-terrorist selves into the country.

Let's hope they let several known-terrorists get on planes with knives on the same day despite endless warnings about an upcoming terrorist attack involving planes.

Let's hope that these planes aren't much harder to fly than the one engine planes our best pilot couldn't handle.

Let's hope we can fly for miles without the assistance of air traffic control and arrive at our target.

Let's hope the whole of America's Air Defence just lets us hit the Twin Towers.

Let's hope that 35 minutes after this, when the whole world knows that was a terrorist attack NORAD still don't realise it and we can hit the most protected building in the world – the Pentagon.

While we're at it, let's hope the Twin Towers collapse contrary their design, and WTC7 crumbles for no reason as well."

Or, Ladies and Gentlemen, let's just call a spade a spade – the official account of 9/11 is not just a conspiracy theory, it is one so cheap and badly written that even a man who was the best man at David Icke's wedding and wore a three piece tin-foil tuxedo and top hat would smirk.

Let's ask for the truth instead.

[1]  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5485376>

[2]  
<http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/context.jsp?item=a0100ciaatta>

[3]

[http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report\\_Ch8.pdf](http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/911Report_Ch8.pdf)

[4]

[http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete\\_911\\_timeline&warning\\_signals:\\_specific\\_cases=foreignIntelligence](http://www.cooperativeresearch.org/timeline.jsp?timeline=complete_911_timeline&warning_signals:_specific_cases=foreignIntelligence)

[5]

<http://pilotsfor911truth.org/pentagon.html>

[6]

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/1559151.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1559151.stm)

[7]

<http://www.journalof911studies.com/volume/2007/AppealLetterToNISTGourleyEtAl.pdf>

[8]

<http://911research.wtc7.net/wtc/analysis/design.html#ref2>

[9]

<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsource.com/cgi-bin/txis/cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=1687698&date=19930227>

[10]

<http://911research.wtc7.net/planes/analysis/norad/>

© Stefan Souppouris 2007