

HW 7: Visual Analytics

Amartya Dutta, Erin Wienke, Nabayan Chaudhury, and Timothy Kennedy

April 2024

1 Hypothesis

A laptop was captured in Afghanistan that revealed a lot of crucial information. In the laptop was a roster of trainees in an explosives training unit in Kandahar, 1996. Abu al Masri, a Yemeni who now goes by the alias Hans Pakes was listed on this roster. Reports stated that Pakes later moved to Netherlands.

From an investigation report in 14 April, 2003, a detainee in Guantanamo revealed that previously he trained daily with a man named Ziad al Shibh who now uses the alias Faysal Goba. Abu al Masri (Hans Pakes) and Ziad al Shibh (Faysal Goba) were most likely in the same explosive training roster. Faysal Goba who had the same explosive training as Hans Pakes later travelled to USA in Jan 2003 to meet Clark Webster. Upon further investigation we found that a report from April 21, 2003 reveals that there were frequent phone calls between Clark Webster (from Richmond, VA), Mukhtar Galab (from Charlottesville, VA), Bagwant Dhaliwal (from Queens, NYC) and Hans Pakes (from Amsterdam, Netherlands).

A report from April 18, 2003 reveals that Mukhtar Galab and Yasein Mosed were enrolled at the University of Virginia. Upon further investigation it was revealed that these students had not been attending classes since the last 2 semesters. They were also not found when the police searched for them in their residence. A check of rented storage facilities in the Richmond and Charlottesville areas reveals that a man giving his name as Abdulla Ramzi rented storage unit # 174 on 10 April, 2003 at the Budget Storage Units in Keswick, VA. Ramzi gave his address as 2932 University Drive, Charlottesville, VA. So most probably Mukhtar Galab and Yasein Mosed who were not found at their address were living at Ramzi's storage unit.

From the same laptop captured in Afghanistan it was learned that a Pakistani named Sahim Albakri, who fought with the Taliban in 1990 - 1992, travels using an Indian passport in the name Bagwant Dhaliwal who was in contact with Clark Webster. On this same computer was found the name Muhammed bin Harazi, who served with the Taliban from 1987 - 1993. Records on this computer reveal that Muhammed bin Harazi entered the USA in March, 1993 and uses the alias Abdul Ramazi. And we hypothesise that Abdul Ramazi and Abdulla Ramzi are the same people because there is only one report for the name Abdulla Ramzi.

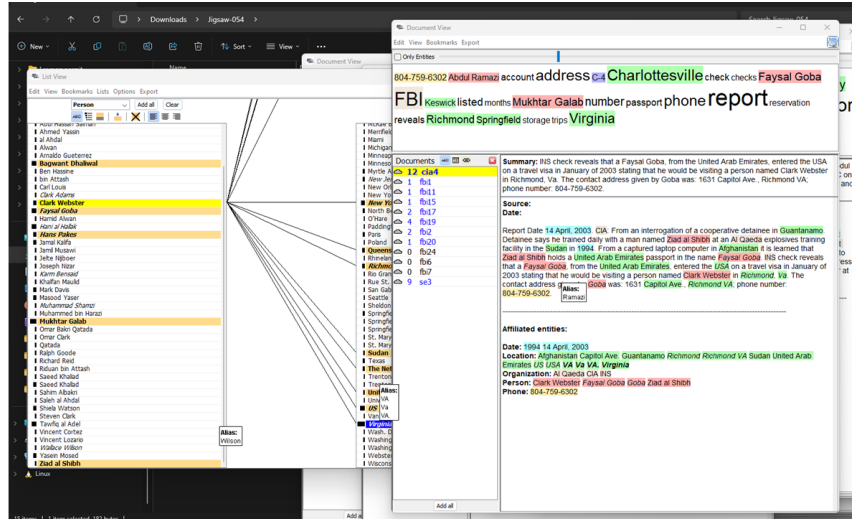


Figure 1: Report placing Faysal Goba in Richmond, VA.

Finally, a report from AMTRAK reveals a reservation, paid in cash in Charlottesville, and made by Faysal Goba on 23 April, 2003. Reservation is for three one-way first class tickets and one sleeping compartment from Charlottesville, VA to Atlanta, GA on 29 April, 2003. Reservation is on AMTRAK Train # 19, which runs between Penn Station NYC and New Orleans, LA. Reservations are in the names: Faysal Goba, Mukhtar Galab and Yasein Mosed.

Our hypothesis is that *the people named are planning a terrorist attack at Atlanta, GA using explosives on or after 29th April, 2003.*

2 Analytic Process

To start developing our hypothesis, we began by looking at reports related to organizations dated 27th April, 2003. By doing this, we could get an overview of people and their aliases associated with the Taliban and Al Qaeda. From here, it became easier to develop a general timeline and try and piece some of the information that was presented together. For example, we managed to connect several of these individuals to specific locations, skill sets and movements. This gave us a general sense of the people who could be staging a threat at a particular location, and what this threat would most likely be. This gave us the capability to reach a reasonable conclusion as to the location and nature of the attack, which could go into a anti-threat report.

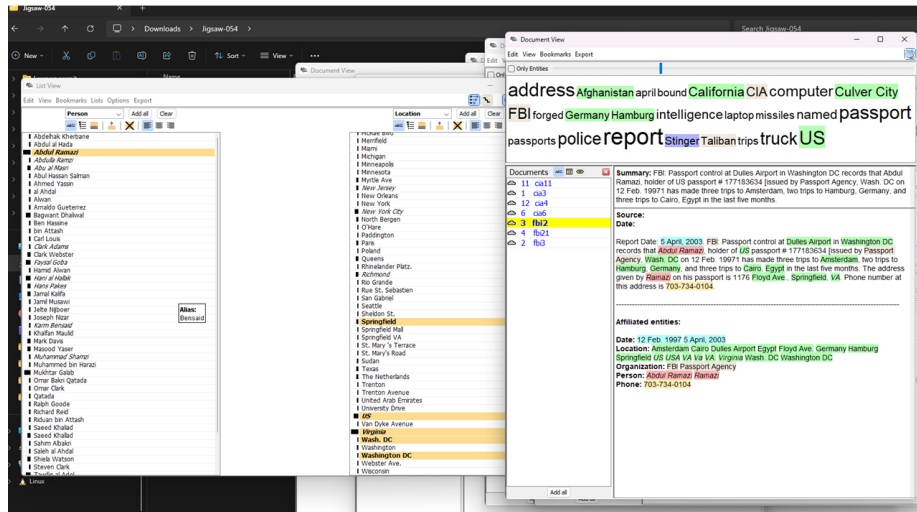


Figure 2: Travel history of Abdul Ramazi.

3 Jigsaw

By using Jigsaw, it was much easier to understand what was occurring in the entire scenario. With the large amount of textual data available, it would be impossible to parse them independently and reach any conclusion if no visual analytics software were available. We added a few screenshots from Jigsaw to demonstrate our information gathering process.