

Birmingham UK Al Qaida Manual (excerpt)

Provided by US Department of Defense

Referenced in DOD News Release No. 497-02, October 2, 2002.

See http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2002/b10022002_bt497-02.html
(available as of June 10, 2004)

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TWELFTH LESSON

ESPIONAGE

(2) INFORMATION-GATHERING USING COVERT METHODS

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Information needed through covert means: Information needed to be gathered through covert means is of only two types:

First: Information about government personnel, officers, important personalities, and all matters related to those (residence, work place, times of leaving and returning, wives and children, places visited)

Second: Information about strategic buildings, important establishments, and military bases. Examples are important ministries such as those of Defense and Internal Security, airports, seaports, land border points, embassies, and radio and TV stations.

General security measures that should be taken by the person gathering information: During the process of gathering information, whether about governing personalities or establishments, the person doing the gathering must take the following security measures:

1. Performing the exercises to detect surveillance while executing the mission. These exercises are not well defined, but are dependent on the time, place, and the ability to be creative. These exercises include the following:
 - a. Walking down a dead-end street and observing who is walking behind you. Beware of traps.
 - b. Casually dropping something out of your pocket and observing who will pick it up.
 - c. Walking fast then stopping suddenly at a corner and observing who will be affected.
 - d. Stopping in front of store windows and observing who is watching you.
 - e. Getting on a bus and then getting off after it departs and observing who will be affected.

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- f. Agreeing with one of your brothers to look for whoever is watching you.
2. When receiving the gathered information, let the informants travel as far as possible from their place of residence and yours. Let each of them get there using secondary roads, preferably at night.
3. Gather what information you can without emphasizing any particular part. Do not rush or show urgency because your excitement may uncover you and the degree of importance of the information.
4. Avoid anything that reveals your identity quickly. Do not attempt to be too creative or inventive. Remember what Taliran [PH] said to his political emissaries, "Do not be anxious."
5. Move slowly and travel a great distance. The one who is successful in gathering information is the one who is not known or conspicuous.
6. Do not accept events at their face value. Do not overlook a quick friendship or an apparent dispute. Evaluate the importance of events and do not judge them by their appearance.
7. Do not speak vaguely or act mysteriously except when wanting to get a "blabber mouth" to talk about what he knows.
8. Carry personal credentials and know all their contents.

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9. Prior to collecting the information, make sure that all necessities related to the mission, especially money, are ready.
10. Study the area where information-gathering takes place carefully: Open and closed streets, residents' customs, ways of dressing, and accent.
11. It is not permitted to carry any weapons during the information-gathering process.
12. Finding a cover prior to gathering the information.

Further, review all security measures concerning members of the Military [Organization] which are covered in prior lessons.

Methods of Gathering Information Using Covert Means: The Military Organization may obtain secret information using: A. Surveillance, intelligence, and observation; B. Theft; C. Interrogation; D. Excitement; E. Drugging; F. Recruitment.

A. Surveillance, Intelligence, and Observation: Civilian and military targets (personalities). The monitoring may be done on foot or by car.

Surveillance on foot:

1. The brother or brothers performing the surveillance operation on foot study the available information about the target (height, weight, way of walking, looking at a recent photograph)
2. Knowing the target's habits, places he visits, and communications
3. Studying carefully the area where observation will take place: names of through and dead-end streets, residents' habits and way of dressing.

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4. Prior to the start of the surveillance mission, making sure that all needs related to the mission, especially money, are met.
5. Agreeing on how communications with the leaders will take place in case the surveillance plan is uncovered (telephone, a person used for that purpose). The telephone number should not be written but memorized.
6. Agreeing on special signals to exchange orders and instructions among the surveillance team members.
7. Knowing the measures to be taken when the target is lost, such as contacting the leaders or something else agreed upon.
8. It is not permitted to carry any weapons during the information-gathering process.
9. It is preferable to have a camera with the surveillance man in case the target is to personally contact others.

Surveillance by car:

Surveillance by car requires taking certain measures:

1. Inspecting the car's fuel, water, and lights.
2. The car should be of a common type so it would not attract people's attention.
3. The car should be in good condition and the driver should be experienced.
4. The car plates should not contain real numbers. It is important to use a false license plate and small numbers in order to prevent anyone from spotting and memorizing it.
5. The car's interior light should be disabled in order to hide the identity of the surveillance team members sitting inside.
6. The number and appearance of the car surveillance team members should match those of the target's car.

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Performing Surveillance by Car:

1. The car being used for surveillance should keep up with the target's car during the surveillance operation, especially in crowded areas and on side streets. The distance between the two cars depends on the circumstances.
2. If the target gets out of his car and starts to walk, one of the surveillance team members should get out and observe him.
3. Follow all aforementioned measures for surveillance on foot.

Exercises to detect surveillance by car:

1. The surveillance car speeds up then stops suddenly while observing which other car is affected (this is done where there is not a lot of traffic).
2. The surveillance car enters a dead-end street.
3. The surveillance car goes in the opposite direction of traffic.
4. The surveillance car stops and goes backwards.
5. [The surveillance car] enters a parking lot and immediately goes out.
6. [The surveillance car] takes a side road and stops.

A. Surveillance, Intelligence, and Observation (Information about the enemy places)

The Organization's command needs detailed information about the enemy's vital establishments, whether civilian or military, in order to make safe plans, reach firm decisions, and avoid surprises. Thus, the individual who gathers information about a desired location should, in addition to drawing a diagram, describe it and all its details.

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The Drawing: The brother should draw a diagram of the area, the street, and the location which is the target of the information-gathering. He should describe its shape and characteristics. The drawing should be realistic so that someone who never saw the location could visualize it. It is preferable to also put on the drawing the directions of traffic, police stations, and security centers.

The Description: It is necessary to gather as much information about the location as possible. For instance:

1. Traffic directions and how wide the streets are
2. Transportation leading to the location
3. The area, appearance, and setting of the place
4. Traffic signals and pedestrian areas
5. Security personnel centers and government agencies
6. Embassies and consulates
7. The economic characteristics of the area and traffic congestion times
8. Public parks
9. Amount and location of lighting

It is preferable to photograph the area as a whole first, then the street of the [desired] location. If possible, panoramic pictures should be taken. That is, the collection of views should be continuous in a such way that all pictures are taken from one location and that the ending of one picture is the beginning of the next. The photographer should be experienced with and proficient in film processing and developing. It is risky to use an outside film processing service. When observing a military installation or camp, we discourage taking pictures where it is forbidden. The brother/photographer should use a

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modern camera that can photograph at night or from a distance, and only the lens of the camera should be visible. When gathering information about a military camp, the brother should draw a diagram of the camp's overall area, the camp itself, and its interior, if possible.

The description of the base or camp must contain the following:

1. Location
2. Exterior shape
3. Transportation to it
4. Space [area]
5. Weapons used
6. Unit using the camp
7. Fortifications and tunnels
8. Guard posts
9. Amount and periods of lighting
10. Number of soldiers and officers. Officers' ranks
11. Ammunition depot locations
12. Vehicles and automobiles
13. Leave policy
14. Commander's name, rank, arrival and departure times
15. Degree and speed of mobilization
16. Brigades and names of companies
17. Sleeping and waking times
18. Telephone lines and means of communication

The brother gathering the information may start a friendship with one of the soldiers or officers of that base. Information may be collected gradually and easily from soldiers when giving them rides from the camp to the bus or train stations, etc.

- B. Gathering Information Through Interrogation: Security personnel in our countries arrest brothers and obtain the needed information through interrogation and torture.

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The Military Organization must do likewise. On one hand, the Organization can obtain important information about enemy establishments and personnel. On the other hand, that is a form of necessary punishment.

Information is collected in this method by kidnaping an enemy individual, interrogating him, and torturing him. This source of information is not permanent. Also, caution should be exercised about being deceived by misinformation from enemy individuals. Thus, the brother who interrogates the hostage should possess the following characteristics:

1. Should have knowledge and expertise about people's behavior and morals.
2. Should have a strong personality.
3. Should possess a sixth sense based on practice and experience.
4. Should be extremely patient.
5. Should be able to act, pretend, and mask himself.
6. Should be intelligent, observant, analytical, and deductive.
7. Should be able to establish an investigative plan.

- C. Gathering Information Through Recruitment: Recruiting agents is the most dangerous task that an enlisted brother can perform. Because of this dangerous task, the brother may be killed or imprisoned. Thus, the recruitment task must be performed by special types of members.

There are a number of motives that might entice an uncommitted person to take part in intelligence work. These motives are:

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1. Coercion and entanglement
2. Greed and love for money
3. Displaying courage and love of adventure
4. Love of amusement and deviance
5. Mental and political orientation
6. Fear of being harmed

The Organization may use motives No. 2, 3, 5, and 6 in recruitment.

Candidates for Recruitment Are:

1. Smugglers
2. Those seeking political asylum
3. Adventurers
4. Workers at coffee shops, restaurants, and hotels
5. People in need
6. Employees at borders, airports, and seaports

Types of Agents Preferred by The American Intelligence Agency [CIA]:

1. Foreign officials who are disenchanted with their country's policies and are looking towards the U.S. for guidance and direction.
2. The ideologist (who is in his country but against his government) is considered a valuable catch and a good candidate for American Intelligence Agency [CIA].
3. Officials who have a lavish lifestyle and cannot keep up using their regular wages, or those who have weaknesses for women, other men, or alcoholic beverages. The agent who can be bought using the aforementioned means is an easy target, but the agent who considers what he does a noble cause is difficult to recruit by enemy intelligence.

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4. For that purpose, students and soldiers in Third World countries are considered valuable targets. Soldiers are the dominating and controlling elements of those countries.

Recruitment Stages: Suppose the Islamic Organization, with its modest capabilities, wants to obtain information about an important target (important personality, building, camp, agency, ministry). It has to do the following:

1. Finding the Agent: In this stage, the Organization picks the suitable person for supplying the information. The Organization learns about that person: His financial condition, his family status, his position regarding the government, and his weaknesses and strengths.
2. Evaluating the Agent: In this stage, the agent is placed under continuous observation to learn the times of his departure to and return from work, the places he visits, the individuals he meets, and his social interaction with those that he meets in coffee shops, clubs, etc.
3. Approaching the Agent: After gathering information about him, a relationship with him is developed under a certain cover, such as:
 - a. Family connection and tribal relations.
 - b. Developing a friendship with him in the club, coffee shop, and workers union. The [recruiting] brother develops the friendship as if it were unpretentious and unplanned. The relationship should develop naturally and gradually in order not to attract the target's attention.

Important Note: In case the first brother fails to develop a friendship with the target, another brother takes over

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after learning from the first about the target's weaknesses (motives that can be exploited) such as his love for money, opposition to the government, love for adventure, or display courage.

4. Recruiting the Agent: After finding, evaluating, and approaching a target, comes the second stage of recruiting him. Recruiting may be direct, that is, telling the agent frankly about working for the Organization for a specific and agreed-upon salary. A promise is secured in writing or verbally.
Or recruitment may be indirect, that is, information may be taken from the target without informing him that he is an agent. That may be accomplished by giving him gifts, sharing his joys and sorrows, and attempting to solve his problems.
5. Testing the Agent: In this stage, the agent is assigned certain tasks in order to test his ability, loyalty, and dependability. The agent does not know that the Organization already has the sought information. If the information supplied by the agent does not match the Organization's existing information, then the agent may be an unreliable source of information or may be trying to mislead the Organization. During the testing stage, the agent should remain under careful observation to spot all his movements.
6. Training the Agent: This stage applies to the recruited agent, that is, the agent who has been recruited directly

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and is aware that he has been recruited by someone or some organization for money or other things. That agent may be trained on the following:

- a. Work secrecy and means of gathering and hiding information
- b. The method of passing information on to officials
- c. Concealment and disguising
- d. Interrogation and resisting the interrogation
- e. Explaining the assigned mission in utmost detail
- f. Photography

There might not be any training at all. The agent may be given freedom in his work, relying on his instinct, talents, background, and the capabilities of his superior brother.

7. Treating the Agent: The brother who manages the agent should possess the qualifications of a perfect spy, a psychiatrist, and an interrogator. There are two points of view on treating the agent:

First Point of View: Maintaining a strong personal relationship with the agent. This technique provides the agent with the motivation that entices him to take chances in order to please his friend with the information. However, this technique has disadvantages. The barriers between the agent and his superiors are removed, and the agent may ask for many things that were not agreed upon.

Second Point of View: The person managing the agent treats him roughly and pushes him to the limits for the purpose of getting as much information as possible. This technique uses harshness, cruelty, and threats in order to keep the

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agent constantly active. I believe that the Islamic Military organization can combine the two techniques. The agent may be treated in a careful Islamic manner, while the managing brother appeals to the agent's conscience and his Islamic association with the work for majestic Allah's religion. He lures the agent with money and gifts, and uses cruelty and kindness when appropriate.

8. Terminating the Agent's Services: That should occur when any of the following take place: a. The recruitment mission terminates, b. Incapacity to work because of sickness or changes in the job situation, c. Repeated errors in security measures, d. The agent requests the termination.

Means for Testing the Recruit: 1. Requesting specific information that the Organization knows well, 2. Monitoring him while he performs his covert work, 3. Overpaying him in order to know his trustworthiness, 4. Giving him a chance to tamper with the work documents (unimportant documents).

Important Advice About Dealing with Agents:

1. Do not send sealed packages to the agent or receive them from him. These could be booby traps.
2. Leaving something for the agent should be done as quickly as possible. When transporting and giving an item to the agent at the agreed-upon location, it should not attract attention and lead to the agent's arrest.
3. The financial status of the agent should be controlled so that the agent does not suddenly show great wealth. A

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portion of the payment should be given to him, while the other should be deposited in his bank account.

4. When wishing to recruit an agent, events should occur naturally. You may agree with a friend that he invite the person to be recruited for dinner, or something similar. While that intermediary person is talking with him, he notices your arrival at your friend's, greets you, starts to converse with you, and invites you to sit down with the person you want to recruit.
5. When meeting with the agent, make sure neither you or the meeting place are being monitored. Do not enter a place to meet with an agent before he does. There could be a trap for you.
6. If you wait for your agent at the agreed-upon location, you could be a target for him. Be especially careful if he goes to the bathroom. Once, in Belgium, an Israeli Mossad officer met an Arab agent. A few minutes after they sat down, the Arab agent said that he had to go get something. When he returned, the Israeli intelligence agent was still there. The Arab agent then pulled out a pistol and shot the Mossad agent several times.
7. In order to communicate with the agent, it is necessary to specify locations such as parks, a university campus area, etc.
8. It is necessary to continuously communicate with the agent, to learn about his problems and requests, help him as much as possible, lift his morale, and renew his confidence.

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Lesson Eighteen

PRISONS AND DETENTION CENTERS

IF AN INDICTMENT IS ISSUED AND THE TRIAL BEGINS, THE BROTHER HAS TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. At the beginning of the trial, once more the brothers must insist on proving that torture was inflicted on them by State Security [investigators] before the judge.
 2. Complain [to the court] of mistreatment while in prison.
 3. Make arrangements for the brother's defense with the attorney, whether he was retained by the brother's family or court-appointed.
 4. The brother has to do his best to know the names of the state security officers, who participated in his torture and mention their names to the judge. [These names may be obtained from brothers who had to deal with those officers in previous cases.]
 5. Some brothers may tell and may be lured by the state security investigators to testify against the brothers [i.e. affirmation witness], either by not keeping them together in the same prison during the trials, or by letting them talk to the media. In this case, they have to be treated gently, and should be offered good advice, good treatment, and pray that God may guide them.
 6. During the trial, the court has to be notified of any mistreatment of the brothers inside the prison.
 7. It is possible to resort to a hunger strike, but it is a tactic that can either succeed or fail.
 8. Take advantage of visits to communicate with brothers outside prison and exchange information that may be helpful to them in their work outside prison [according to what occurred during the investigations]. The importance of mastering the art of hiding messages is self evident here.
- When the brothers are transported from and to the prison [on their way to the court] they should shout Islamic slogans out loud from inside the prison cars to impress upon the people and their family the need to support Islam.
 - Inside the prison, the brother should not accept any work that may belittle or demean him or his brothers, such as the cleaning of the prison bathrooms or hallways.
 - The brothers should create an Islamic program for themselves inside the prison, as well as recreational and educational ones, etc.
 - The brother in prison should be a role model in selflessness. Brothers should also pay attention to each others needs and should help each other and unite vis a vis the prison officers.
 - The brothers must take advantage of their presence in prison for obeying and worshiping [God] and memorizing the Qora'an, etc. This is in addition to all guidelines and procedures that were contained in the lesson on interrogation and investigation. Lastly, each of us has to understand that we don't achieve victory against our enemies through these actions and security procedures. Rather, victory is achieved by obeying Almighty and Glorious God and because of their many sins. Every brother has to be careful so as not to commit sins and everyone of us has to do his best in obeying Almighty God, Who said in his Holy Book: "We

will, without doubt, help Our messengers and those who believe (both) in this world's life and the one Day when the Witnesses will stand forth."

May God guide us.

[Dedication]

To this pure Muslim youth, the believer, the *mujahid* (fighter) for God's sake, I present this modest effort as a contribution from me to pave the way that will lead to Almighty God and to establish a caliphate along the lines of the prophet.

The prophet, peace be upon him, said according to what was related by Imam Ahmed: "Let the prophecy that God wants be in you, yet God may remove it if He so wills, and then there will be a Caliphate according to the prophet's path [instruction], if God so wills it. He will also remove that [the Caliphate] if He so wills, and you will have a disobedient king if God so wills it. Once again, if God so wills, He will remove him [the disobedient king], and you will have an oppressive king. [Finally], if God so wills, He will remove him [the oppressive king], and you will have a Caliphate according to the prophet's path [instruction]. He then became silent."

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEAM WORK:

1. Team work is the only translation of God's command, as well as that of the prophet, to unite and not to disunite. Almighty God says, "And hold fast, all together, by the Rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves." In "Sahih Muslim," it was reported by Abu Horairah, may Allah look kindly upon him, that the prophet, may Allah's peace and greetings be upon him, said: "Allah approves three [things] for you and disapproves three [things]: He approves that you worship him, that you do not disbelieve in Him, and that you hold fast, all together, by the Rope which Allah, and be not divided among yourselves. He disapproves of three: gossip, asking too much [for help], and squandering money."
2. Abandoning "team work" for individual and haphazard work means disobeying that orders of God and the prophet and falling victim to disunity.
3. Team work is conducive to cooperation in righteousness and piety.
4. Upholding religion, which God has ordered us by His saying, "Uphold religion," will necessarily require an all out confrontation against all our enemies, who want to recreate darkness. In addition, it is imperative to stand against darkness in all arenas: the media, education, [religious] guidance, and counseling, as well as others. This will make it necessary for us to move on numerous fields so as to enable the Islamic movement to confront ignorance and achieve victory against it in the battle to uphold religion. All these vital goals can not be adequately achieved without organized team work. Therefore, team work becomes a necessity, in accordance with the fundamental rule, "Duty cannot be accomplished without it, and it is a requirement." This way, team work is achieved through mustering and organizing the ranks, while putting the Amir (the Prince) before them, and the right man in the right place, making plans for action, organizing work, and obtaining facets of power