

Section 6

KHOBAR TOWERS AFTER ATTACK

Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia



On June 25, 1996, a terrorist truck bomb exploded outside the northern perimeter of Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, a facility housing U.S. and allied forces supporting the coalition air operation over Iraq, Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

This was a brutal and cowardly terrorist attack on a multi-national peacekeeping force leaving 19 dead and hundreds injured.

These peacekeepers were enforcing United

Nations sanctions and the dead and injured represent citizens from several nations. Peace in our time can only be assured in a world free from terrorism and the loss of innocent lives.

Estimates of the size of the bomb range from the equivalent of 3,000 to more than 30,000 pounds of TNT. The Task Force estimated that the bomb was between 3,000 and 8,000 pounds, most likely about 5,000 pounds. While U.S. Air Force Security Police observers on the roof of the building overlooking the perimeter identified the attack in progress and alerted many occupants to the threat, evacuation was incomplete when the bomb exploded. Nineteen fatalities and approximately 500 U.S. wounded resulted from the attack.



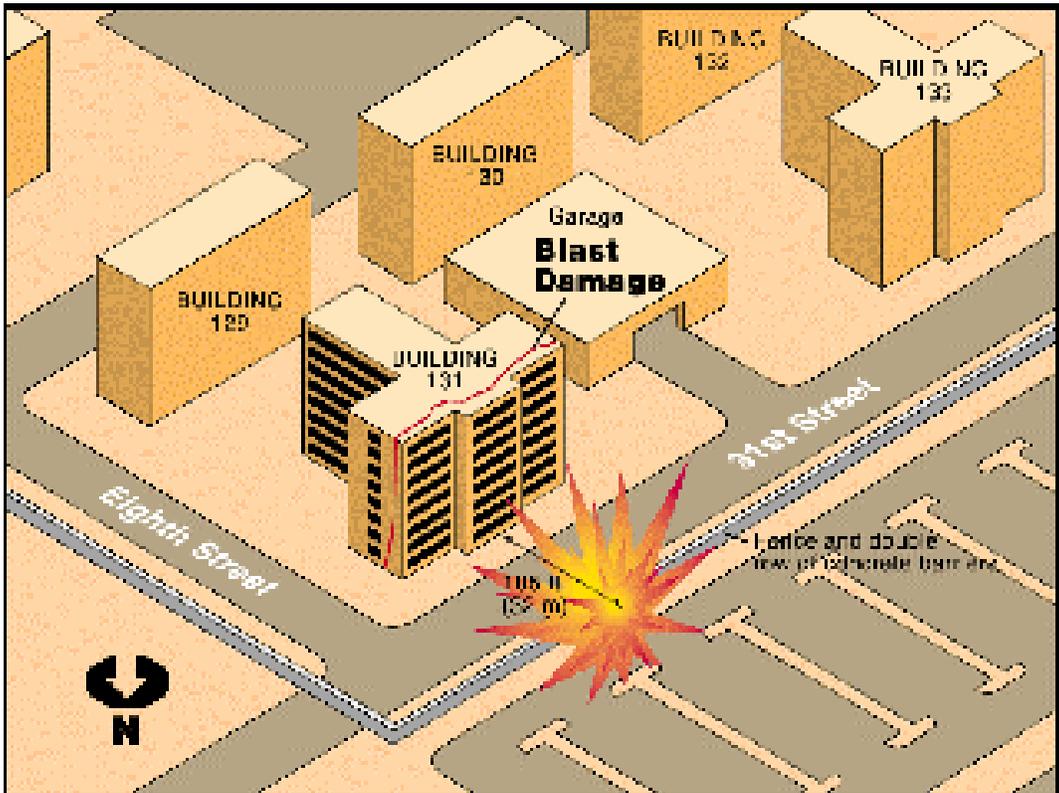
85-foot deep blast crater

The perpetrators escaped.

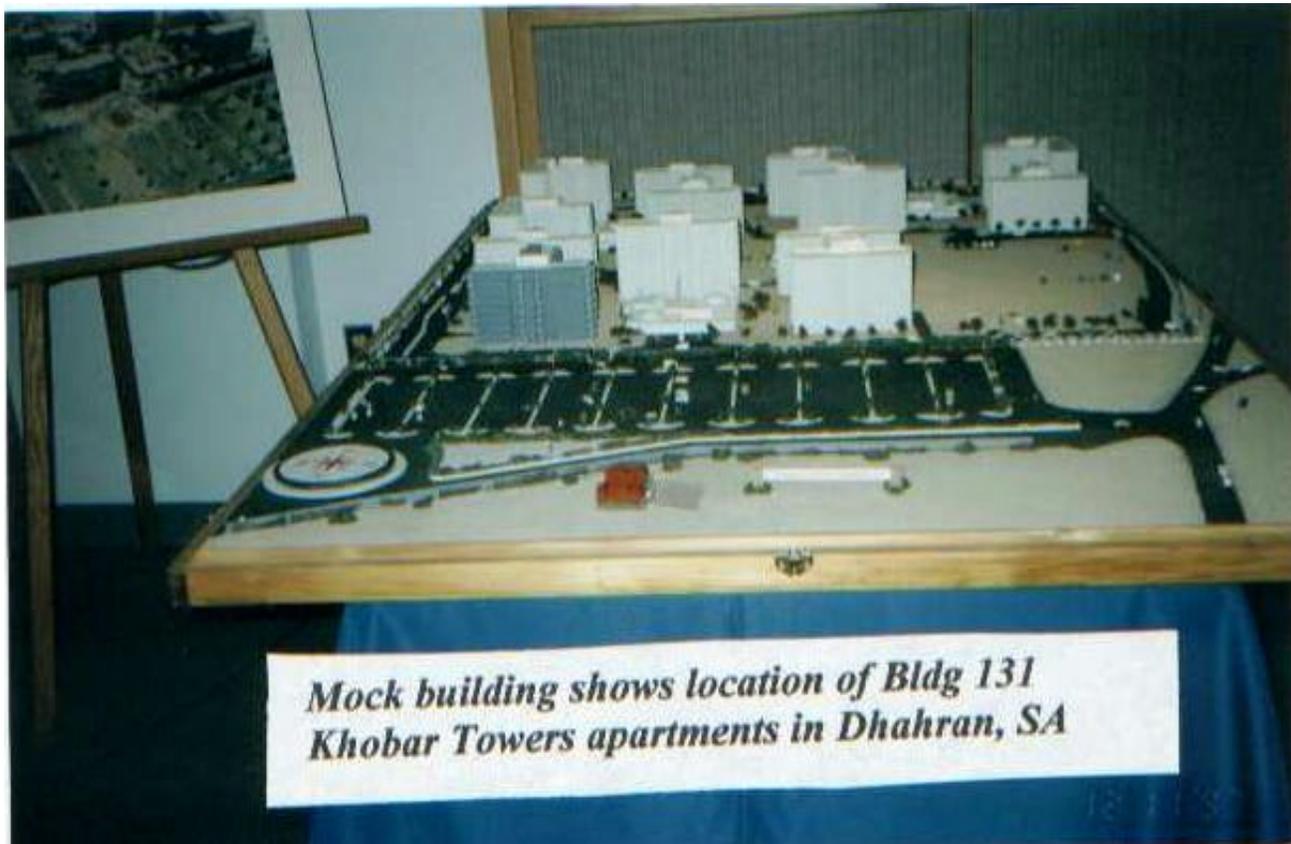




AERIAL VIEW OF THE KHOBAR TOWERS COMPLEX



KHOBAR TOWERS COMPLEX BUILDING 131



This is a photo of The Khobar Towers apartment complex. The shaded building represents Building 131. This gives an idea of the size of the buildings and also how close they were located to the road. This display was first introduced to us at our FBI briefing in Quantico, VA December 1997, 18 months after the blast!

Saudi bombing victims offered briefing at government expense

By Frank Oliveri
FLORIDA TODAY

Next month, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and Defense Secretary William Cohen will brief family members of those killed in the 1996 Saudi Arabia bombing.

Government officials will open their investigation files to the survivors of the 19 dead airmen — five from Patrick Air Force Base.

The Dec. 10 briefing at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., was initiated after family members complained that little was being accomplished in the investigation, and they were being kept in the dark.

For Fran Heiser of Palm Coast, whose son Master Sgt. Michael Heiser died in the blast, get-



RENO

ting to the bottom of the terrorist attack is about closure.

“This is what we have to do,” she said.

“They can't bury their heads in the sand. It has been a year-and-a-half, and there has been nothing.”

Family members are to be escorted by the FBI at the government's expense for two days.

“It is our intent to provide you with an overview of the ongoing FBI investigation, address concerns you may have and outline our procedures for keeping you informed as the investigation develops,” stated Cohen in a letter

sent to family members.

Shyri Johnson of Melbourne, whose husband Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson was killed in the blast, will attend, along with Jenny Haun of Cocoa Beach, wife of the late Capt. Leland Haun.

“I think it is nice,” Johnson said. “I'm really interested to know what is going on.”

Haun said it is about time the government reveals something about the case.

“We have so many questions,” she said. “We need to know. They were supposed to tell us, and they never did. We have a right to know what is going on.”

Johnson agreed.

“I don't think I will have closure until they have someone guilty,” she said. “When we know that and they are captured, then we can have peace.”

EVERY OF FLORIDA TODAY AND/OR USA TODAY. CALL 259-5000; IF

The meeting lasted for 3 days where the families were given uninterrupted and undivided attention. We were guests at the FBI Academy at Quantico and lived in the dorms, away from the media and all outside contact. It was informative and we all came away with a renewed faith in ‘the system’ that appeared to have let us down.

Photo



Ops



We all had plenty time for one on one, for questions or whatever and everyone treated us nicely.

The evening dinner with Janet was one of the funniest conversations you could ever imagine. She seems



so stiff and proper at the podium but in person, she was very down to earth and could be a lot of fun. This weekend provided information and gave us contacts. Ms Reno was introduced by the then, Acting Secretary of the AF, Mr Whit Peters who has since become a friend.

A Father's Grief/ A Mother's Grief

Remember the best selling book, "Men are from Mars, Woman are from Venus?" Well the same is true for grief. Most men grieve on Mars and most woman on Venus. The statistics are grim. More than half the couples who experience the death of a child are divorced within two years. Why? There is a delicate balance that must be maintained in a relationship during the grief process. Life does go on, but normalcy is a tough task after the death of your child. How does a couple grieve differently? How do they renew their communication?

To understand how, we must first understand why. Most Men and Woman do grieve in different ways. As men and woman, the basic components of our psyche are so different. It makes sense that in stressful situations, we may not all react in the same manner. Most men see the "big picture" while most woman are detail oriented. He thinks and she feels. He is logical and realistic while she may be more intuitive and idealistic. He copes with stress and grief internally and she copes externally.

In many, but certainly not all, support group situations, woman attend for longer periods of time and are generally more communicative and verbal. While both will handle the grief intrinsically unique from the other, both need the opportunity to express their feelings. The love of both parents should transcend any gender differences. When it comes to the grieving process, many fathers express "making peace" within 3-9 months. Most mothers, however, do not report that feeling of acceptance until 9-24 months or even longer

How can you help a grieving mother, if she is your wife talk about the event a great deal. She is in the process of gathering every possible detail about your child's death. It is as if she is playing the tape in her mind and rewinding it over and over again. She will ask questions that may be unanswerable, such as how or why? be patient with her and listen. If you are frustrated with her, attend a support group meeting with her. It is a safe place for mom to review details of the event unconditionally. The mother

may want to visit the grave very frequently. She feels that this is her way "to take care" of her child. At the grave, she can care for and close the only physical part of your child that she has left. Allow her to visit as often as she needs to. You do not have to go with her, however, don't discourage her or tell her it is unhealthy. This may be detrimental to the lines of communications.

What about dealing with a father's grief? Many men, unlike woman feel uncomfortable discussing the death of his child. It is too deep and too emotional. Dad is the culturally recognized "Protector" and "Stronghold of the family. It is his duty to remain strong and unyielding. Even if his heart is breaking he may have difficulty expressing it openly. Encourage him by simply listening when he does choose to talk. If you attempt to comfort him while he is grieving, he may feel guilty for making you bear the burden of the "Protector" and quickly dry his tears. Just listening is an effective way to support a grieving father. Hugging and soft comforting words are an effective way to comfort a grieving mother.

Respect each others feelings don't expect the same grief that you have to be shared by your spouse. Share memories of your child, moments you both cherished. Most of all remember that this child was a gift that was given, but taken away before it's time.

from Dear Cheyenne A book for Bereaved parents and for those who Love them by Joan Cacciatore



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 8, 1998

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser
Coldwell Banker
39 Old Kings Road North
Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Dear Gary & Fran:

I received your note and articles and wanted to drop you a short note to say thank you.

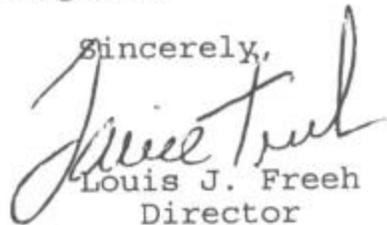
A great deal of effort and thought into the Khobar Towers Conference. We wanted the conference to be informative and beneficial to the families.

I have signed the picture you sent, and you will find it enclosed in this letter.

Again, thank you for attending, and we will keep you and your entire family in our prayers.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,



Louis J. Freeh
Director



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

DEC 23 1997

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North
Palm Coast, FL 32317

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Heiser:

I wanted to thank you personally for coming to the FBI Academy last week. Although the discussions raised many sad memories, I hope you found the meetings to be helpful and supportive.

Michael was a precious member of your family. He was also a very important and respected member of our military family, and had a considerable role in sustaining world peace. Michael leaves each of us with his enduring legacy of duty...honor...country.

The Department of Defense and our nation recognize that you bear the terrible sorrow of the ultimate sacrifice. We stand with you in your loss, and will do all that we can to support you.

It was an honor to meet you. Please know that you and your family are very much in my thoughts.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



The signature is difficult to read, it says, Bill Cohen.

The Attorney General
Washington, D.C. 20530



Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heiser
39 Old Kings Road North
Palm Coast, FL 32137



THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

1/2/98

Dear Mr. + Mrs. Heiser,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful note. I enjoyed our chance to visit over dinner. I do hope you will keep in touch + let me know if there is anything we can better assist and support the victims of Khobar Towers and their loved ones. Your strength + courage inspire me.

Sincerely,
Janet Reno



A few miscellaneous old news clippings that might explain why we get so upset and can't let go

By David H. Hackworth

... Saudi blast shows what's wrong

Once again, flag-draped caskets arrived at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware. Once again, American families were shattered by the loss of their loved ones.

Once again, our nation is numbed by a terrorist attack. Once again, our president was outraged by an atrocity and vowed to get the "cowards who committed this murderous act."

And once again, none of the brass hats is standing tall and taking responsibility or being held accountable for the death of 19 Americans and the wounding of over 400 from the latest terrorist attack in the Middle East.

Military leaders are again circling the wagons as they go into an it-wasn't-my-fault mode and pass the buck, claiming they took all the precautions necessary to defend the Saudi base where the airmen died against terrorism.

Florida-based Army Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, the top U.S. commander for Saudi Arabia, says the bomb was a big one and not part of "normal types of terrorism." That is pure spin. There is no such thing as a "normal" terrorist operation. Terrorists aren't into following some neat military handbook.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Kurt Anderson, commander of the Joint Task Force in Saudi Arabia, implied in a New York Times interview that his hands were tied because our forces are in Saudi Arabia.

He said, "We do not own this country. We are here living on the facilities they have provided us. That sets up certain constraints that our security measures must operate within."

What nonsense. U.S. commanders are responsible for the security of their troops wherever they are. Our forces were not there for rest and recreation but rather, according to Army Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to provide "stability to the region."

Any leader worth his stripes or stars should have demanded that our people be correctly secured or threatened to move them where they would be adequately protected.

The airmen who died were billeted in a building no more than 30 yards from where the truck bomb exploded. Even a raw recruit would have realized a fanatic could have thrown a hand grenade that far.

It doesn't take a genius

Nor does it take a military genius to figure out that some madmen might steal a big truck, fill it with explosives, park it by fence and so replicate the 1983 Marine barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 241 U.S. servicemen. A terrorist bombing, incidentally, for which the brass — from the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. P.X. Kelly, right down to the commanding officer — took the rap even though they personally knew beforehand that the security stank.

Air Force personnel who lived in the blasted building knew they were hanging out. It was common scuttlebutt they were billeted too close to the street and were at high risk to car bombs. Many joked about reducing the danger by sleeping in their offices.

Only last November, at another U.S. facility

in Saudi Arabia, five Americans were killed and 60 wounded by a car bomb. Four terrorists were tried and beheaded.

After this hit, you'd think the brass would have gotten the word. Especially since this latest assault was not a surprise attack. In fact, the maniacs said months ago they'd even the score for their headless pals.

Under the circumstances, the top guys should have personally checked out the billet, talked to the airmen and found out what was worrying them.

Peay did review the security plan. Anderson did increase alertness and put lookouts on top of the buildings. But neither general set up a no man's land of at least 500 feet between the billets and potential bombers.

The guards on the roof saw the truck park and the goons run to a waiting car and zoom off. They tried to alert everyone, running down the stairs shouting, "Get out of the building."

But surely in the information age, the warning system could be a little more sophisticated than what our forefathers used in the trenches of France in 1918 when the Germans launched a gas attack.

Our commanders insist they did their duty. Try telling that to the families of the dead and those who survived.

Unlike Beirut, those responsible should not be allowed to sidestep their accountability this time around.

Retired Army Col. David H. Hackworth is a contributing editor of Newsweek magazine and author of the syndicated column "Defending America"



"Any leader worth his stripes or stars should have demanded that our people be correctly secured."

54 • Air Force Times • August 12, 1996

Above dated August 12, 1998

Right dated November 3, 1996

NOV 3-96 News Sunday

Suspects in bombing of U.S. base tied to Iran

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dozens of suspects detained in Saudi Arabia for the bombing of a U.S. military housing complex belong to a shadowy group inspired by Iran, Saudi security sources and Shiite Muslim dissidents said Saturday.

The little-known Shiite Muslim organization Hezbollah has links with the Lebanon-based Iranian-backed group of the same name, as well as connections with Iran's close Arab ally, Syria, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In a statement sent to The Associated Press, the group denied any involvement in the blast.

The statement predicted that authorities might try to pin the blame for the bombing on Hezbollah members. Other sources suggested the government was focusing on the Shiites and Iran but that majority Sunni Muslims were also among the suspects.

Security officials said the investigation still had not reached a conclusion. Speaking on condition of anonymity, they said that the probe focused on the Shiites in detention. An official announcement would be made soon, they said without elaborating.

Sunday happening

Below dated September 17, 1996
Right dated January 24, 1997

Echo of Beirut

THE JUNE 25 truck-bomb attack on U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, which claimed 19 American lives, "signaled that terrorism is now an ever-present and serious threat to U.S. forces overseas." So says Deputy Secretary of Defense John White. But Mr. White is wrong. The signal had come much sooner. Pentagon officials did not receive it correctly.

Retired general Wayne Downing has completed an investigation into the June 25 bombing; it documents the military's failure to defend against such an attack despite ample and specific warning of the danger. Gen. Downing found breakdowns in the chain of command, failures in the gathering and sharing of intelligence, failures to respond appropriately as the U.S. mission in Saudi Arabia changed, failures even in basic equipping and training of U.S. personnel for security duties.

As it happens, these findings mirror to an eerie and disturbing degree the findings of retired Adm. Robert L. J. Long, who 13 years ago investigated the terrorist truck-bombing that killed 241 U.S. servicemen in Beirut—an attack that truly "signaled that terrorism is now an ever-present and serious threat to U.S. forces overseas." In congressional testimony Wednesday, Gen. Downing acknowledged "an amazing amount of similarity" between his findings and those of Adm. Long.

The Beirut bombing was a long time ago, but a truck-bombing inside Saudi Arabia last November provided as much reminder as should have been necessary. Yet even then, commanders did not take obvious preventive measures, such as shatterproofing windows or extending their security perimeter. They continued to rotate security forces in and out every 15 to 90 days. Command

authorities from headquarters in Florida never inspected security measures at Khobar Towers where the bombers struck. And the Pentagon excuse that the June bombing took place on a whole new scale does not hold water; even a bomb of exactly the same power as the November attack would have claimed lives and wreaked serious damage at Khobar.

Who is culpable? In 1983, President Reagan preempted the Long report, accepted all blame and said no U.S. commanders "should be punished for not fully comprehending the nature of today's terrorist threat." Defense Secretary William Perry similarly announced that he is "responsible for the safety and the welfare of all our forces." But what does that really mean? Mr. Perry is not offering to resign, and he is quick to note that he "cannot inspect every security detail." He has asked an Air Force panel to examine whether disciplinary measures are called for, and he said he does not want to "prejudice their findings." Yet before Congress Wednesday, Mr. Perry expressed "full confidence" in the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in Gen. J. H. Binford Peay III, who heads the Central Command. That would seem to leave lower-ranking officers ripe for scapegoating.

Clarification

The broadcasting of indecent material on television is governed by criminal statutes, not by the Children's Television Act, as was implied in an editorial Sept. 17, 1996

New York Times 1/24/97
RENO SAYS SAUDIS

DID NOT COOPERATE IN BOMBING INQUIRY

ABRUPT SHIFT BY THE U.S.

Attorney General Faults Ally
for Failing to Share Data
on Attack in Dhahran

By DAVID JOHNSTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 — The Clinton Administration's top law enforcement official sharply criticized Saudi Arabia today for failing to cooperate in the investigation into the terrorist bombing last June in Dhahran that killed 19 American airmen.

The remarks by Attorney General Janet Reno marked an abrupt shift for the Administration after senior officials had for months praised the Saudi monarchy for pledging full cooperation in the inquiry.

Ms. Reno said that the Saudi Government had failed to turn over "very important information" from the investigation. Her comments followed those of the F.B.I. Director, Louis J. Freeh, who complained on Wednesday that the Saudis had provided little more than "hearsay" that made it impossible to evaluate the evidence.

It was highly unusual for a senior American official to openly criticize the United States' closest ally in the Persian Gulf. Their remarks appeared to reflect an Administration judgment that the polite approach had failed and was unlikely to produce real cooperation from the Saudis.

Mr. Freeh's and Ms. Reno's comments reflect deep antagonism within their agencies against the Saudi authorities. From the start of the investigation, the Saudis have promised full cooperation but operated largely in secret. Law enforcement officials said that Saudi security personnel provided F.B.I. agents with few specifics and turned over only summary reports, like the one last fall that concluded that the plot was the work of about 40 Shiite Muslim Saudi conspirators who were trained in Lebanon and backed by Iran.

Air Force insists general not at fault in Saudi bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force re-evaluated a report on a terrorist bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 airmen and came to the same conclusion, officials say: The commanding general was not negligent in protecting his base.

Potentially, the finding puts new Defense Secretary William Cohen in the sensitive position of having to act on an issue requiring him to weigh the wishes of Congress against those of senior military officers.

John White, the Pentagon's second-ranking official, demanded the review of the Air Force's initial report last February. A Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Saturday the Air Force has sent White a draft report reaffirming the finding.

The first study concluded that Brig. Gen. Terry Schwalier had done more than could have been expected of him to ensure the safety of the men and women at the Dhahran complex, known as Khobar Towers.

"There is no change from the first report," said the source, who is knowledgeable about its contents. "It repeats the same conclusion."

Another military source, also speaking privately, said the latest version of the Air Force report insists Schwalier "did everything he could have, and that what he did was reasonable and prudent to ensure the safety of his people, based on the intelligence ... available to him at the time."

Such a stand by the Air Force lobs a decision on the matter directly into the lap of the Pentagon's top civilian leaders.

Members of Congress are demanding more accountability for the losses in the June 1996 attack. Mil-

itary officers want some understanding of their position of being required to be diplomats, warriors and intelligence officers in countries such as Saudi Arabia where their activities are strictly limited.

Even Attorney Gen. Janet Reno and FBI Director Lois Freeh have complained about lack of cooperation from Saudi officials with FBI attempts to investigate the bombing.

At present, no one has been charged with the attack.

The Air Force's first internal study was done after an independent Pentagon commission led by a re-

tired Army general singled Schwalier for blame. It is Schwalier failed to respond adequately to clear danger signs the terrorist act was possible at an apartment complex.

The Air Force report could again be overruled in the next view by principal Pentagon civilian leaders.

The service's top officer, Gen. Ronald Fogleman, has staked his future on backing his man. The general, the Air Force chief of staff, has repeatedly come out behind Schwalier.

General to lose promotion

By Steven Komarow
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary William Cohen has decided to deny a second star to the general in charge of the Saudi barracks where 19 airmen died in a truck bombing last year.

Cohen's decision, confirmed late Wednesday by top aides, requires that President Clinton ask the Senate to reverse its earlier confirmation of the promotion.

Such action is rare but not unprecedented, and several lawmakers have been demanding it.

Brig. Gen. Terry Schwalier's promotion was put on hold after a special Pentagon review found numerous shortcomings in security at the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, where

thousands of troops lived.

But two Air Force reviews found that Schwalier, then commander of the air wing in Dhahran, had taken all prudent steps to protect his troops and could not have predicted the truck bomb that destroyed the high rise.

And Gen. Ronald Fogleman, the Air Force chief of staff, has backed Schwalier.

Fogleman cited the Schwalier case Monday in his decision to retire more than a year early from his seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Cohen, however, decided that while Schwalier should not face punishment, it was inappropriate to award him a promotion, aides said.

The troops have since been moved to a more secure desert compound.

► Suspect an enigma, 5A

**Above dated
September 17, 1996**

**Right dated January 24,
1997**

**There was and still is a lot of
controversy over the
General losing his second**

star but you will never get everyone to agree. Personally, I think he was singled out and others should have shared in the blame, but I do not agree with those who say he should not have been punished. Too many stood up and 'accepted blame' only to be allowed to retire with full pension and honor. As Mr Hackman so eloquently put it, "our commanders say they did their duty, try telling that to the families of the dead!" There should be accountability at all levels, all the way to the top when necessary. Isn't it a shame we are not all governed by the same set of rules?

This Week

Saudi Arabia bombing jolts safe

Security tightens as U.S. military copes with unexpected blast

By William Matthews and Sean D. Naylor
Times staff writers

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials say a bomb blast that ripped through a Saudi Arabian military building, killing five Americans and wounding 37, should not be seen as a harbinger of a new era of danger for Americans serving in the oil-rich nation. For a half-century, American military personnel found Saudi Arabia an oasis of safety in an often treacherous region. But decades of tranquility were shattered Nov. 13, when 300 pounds of high explosives packed in a van were detonated next to a snack bar at lunchtime.

The blast ripped a wall off a nondescript, three-story office building where the U.S. Army maintains offices for advisers and trainers who work with the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

Wide repercussions

But the attack was felt far beyond Saudi Arabia. It stunned military leaders in Washington and in the Florida headquarters of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), which is responsible for military operations in the Middle East. They immediately ordered increased security at military facilities in Saudi Arabia and a review of security procedures. They said, however, the actions were routine after an attack of this kind and did not reflect a broader concern about the possibility of more anti-American attacks in Saudi Arabia.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon told reporters hours after the attack that military officials had begun discussing tighter security with their Saudi counterparts even before the explosion, although he would not offer any details.

"In retrospect, perhaps something different could have been done" to prevent such a terrorist attack, Bacon said. But, he said, that could be said of almost any situation like this one.

Peay orders threat analysis

At Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla., Army Gen. Richard Peay or-



Arabian nightmare: Bomb holes gape where U.S. advisers once worked in a Saudi military building that

dered a fresh analysis of security at individual sites in the Middle East to determine where improvements are necessary, according to Navy Capt. Mark Neubert, the command's spokesman. Peay also ordered a new "threat analysis" to see whether the on-scene U.S. commanders were taking appropriate precautions, he said.

Pentagon briefers, citing security concerns, refused to say how many American military and civilian personnel are stationed in Saudi Arabia. However, a report

issued June 30 by the department's public affairs office said 1,046 service members were stationed there.

In addition, hundreds of others are there on temporary duty. Most, according to officials, are based on Saudi military facilities at which the Saudi government has primary security responsibility.

In the Nov. 13 blast, most of the dead and injured were American civilians who work for the Army or for contractors who sell equipment to the Saudi military, ac-

ording to th

The victim, 34, who was manager of Wayne Wile who worked at the direct Command, a Army civilian Senior off

AF Times
Nov 27, 1995

Another
early
warning!!!

January
31, 1997

Is our
relationship
with Saudi
money
oriented ?!?!

Saudis may buy 102 U.S. jets, easing hard feelings

□ The deal would be a coup for Lockheed Martin and might make up for U.S. unhappiness over the truck bombing probe.

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Saudi Arabian military is preparing a request to buy 102 F-16 fighter jets from the United States worth between \$5 billion and \$15 billion, industry and diplomatic officials said Thursday.

Some industry executives and diplomatic officials speculated

Thursday that the Saudis are timing the purchase application to calm Clinton administration and congressional anger over what the Justice Department calls the kingdom's lack of cooperation in the investigation into the truck bombing there in June that killed 19 U.S. airmen.

Last week Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis J. Freeh complained that Saudi officials are not sharing results of their probe into the Khobar Towers bombing. Freeh had expressed similar frustration last summer but then stressed Saudi cooperativeness, until last week.

The deal, if consummated, would be a triumph for Lockheed

Martin Corp., which makes the F-16s at a plant in Fort Worth, Texas, but has never sold fighters to Saudi Arabia.

It would be a setback for McDonnell Douglas Corp., which has sold 168 F-15 jets to the Saudis and had hoped for more sales.

Israel may object to any sale, saying it may violate the U.S. commitment to maintain the Jewish nation's qualitative edge in military hardware over its Arab nations, according to American sources familiar with Israel's views.

Other objections may come from some U.S. officials, who contend that such Saudi weapons buying diverts resources from so-

cial programs needed to help preserve Saudi domestic stability. Some Pentagon officials also think the Saudis should modernize their army rather than spend billions more on their already potent air force.

Buying more U.S. weapons also leads to more American contractors and military personnel working in Saudi Arabia, which stirs up Muslim anger against the "infidels" and may threaten the regime.

The Saudis are expected to sound out the Clinton administration on the sale late next month, when Prince Sultan visits this country and speaks with new Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Industry officials said the Saudis apparently anticipated U.S. officials would express bitterness about the Khobar Towers investigation and wanted to offer the Americans a sweetener.

News of the deal was broken Thursday by The Washington Times. Several industry officials said they're nervous the leak will complicate the sale because the Saudis are notorious for demanding control over contract announcements. Several years ago they canceled a \$5 billion deal to buy jetliners from the European consortium Airbus Industrie after jubilant French officials prematurely announced the deal after returning from Riyadh.

"We'd obviously be pleased to receive U.S. authorization to sell F-16s in Saudi Arabia," Lockheed spokesman Norman Robbins said. "That would come from ongoing government-to-government discussions."

One reason some U.S. officials favor the sale is it would bring more work to Lockheed's Fort Worth plant, lowering costs on the Air Force's planned \$73 billion 122 jet.

An F-16 sells for about \$30 million, which would peg this deal at about \$3 billion. But the Saudis typically strike long-term deals for spare parts, maintenance, crew training and missiles. That could raise the price as high as \$15 billion.

WORLD

Terrorist's billionaire family has U.S. ties

Construction firm wins bid to replace Khobar Towers

By ANNE E. KORNBLUT and AARON ZITNER
Of The Boston Globe

Long before the bin Laden name was associated with international terror, it stood for wealth, and students at Harvard University needed to look no further than their guidebooks to understand why.

As a result of the "generosity of the Binladin family," two graduate fellowships were established at the university in 1992. Both are devoted to Islamic studies, and both are named after the prominent Saudi Arabian family, worth about \$5 billion. (The name appears as 'Binladin,' one of several spellings, on a Harvard University Web site.)

But it was from this dynasty that Osama bin Laden, accused of funding the bombing of two embassies, arose, inheriting approximately \$250 million before he fled to Sudan. He departed the family construction empire nearly a decade ago — taking with him, U.S. officials believe, the business savvy of his father.

Now, Osama bin Laden threatens to cast a shadow on not only the Harvard fellowships but also a variety of the connections other members of the bin Laden family have with the United States.

In addition to the Harvard fellowship,



Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind behind a string of terrorist attacks, threatens to cast a shadow on a variety of connections other members of the bin Laden family have with the United States.

one of bin Laden's brothers is currently attending Harvard Business School, according to a report in the London Independent. That brother shares the same father with bin Laden but has a different mother.

In a greater irony, the bin Laden family construction company has won a \$150 million contract to replace Khobar Towers, the US military residence in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, that was destroyed by a terrorist bomb in June, 1996, killing 19 and injuring another 160. Some US officials believe Osama bin Laden was involved in that attack.

Bin Laden beneficiaries have already begun to mount their defense. Harvard spokesman Alex Huppe differentiated between the family and the alleged terrorist, saying "its clear the Saudi bin Laden money is being put to good use here."

A spokesman for the Pentagon, Major Joseph LaMarca, pointed to the near-

monopoly of construction contracts the bin Laden family has won in Saudi Arabia, noting, referring to Osama, "You can't say he has any role in this."

"It's like, did people stop buying Hearst newspapers when Patty Hearst was part of a terrorist organization?" he said. "You can't tie one to another."

Osama bin Laden was officially banned from Saudi Arabia in 1991, while he was living in Sudan. While one former Central Intelligence Agency analyst said the family link is now tenuous at best, several U.S. experts say he is still in contact with some of his brothers. Officials believe he may have as many as 52 siblings.

"They're still a family, just like Ted Kaczynski still has family," Kenneth Katzman, a former CIA analyst, said. "Some of the brothers are still in active contact with him, just because he's family."

Bin Laden, 41, stands accused of master-

mind twin explosions at US embassies in East Africa that killed 257 on Aug. 7.

The explosions took place on what, to bin Laden, may appear to have been a crucial date: the anniversary of the first wave of the 1990 U.S. military operation "Desert Shield," in which thousands of American troops were deployed to the Persian Gulf to combat Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Now, following the African attacks, as well as further threats made by a spokesman for bin Laden in the days following the bombings, intelligence officials have announced their intent to strike at the heart of his operation: his fortune.

But first, they are trying to piece together exactly what, and where, it is, a task U.S. analysts describe as far more daunting than last week's military strikes.

Some of his financial interests are known: Bin Laden poured \$50 million into the Al-Shamal Islamic Bank in Khartoum, for example. He also established Wadi al-Aqiq Company Ltd., a Sudanese import-export company that markets agricultural products, according to the State Department.

The problem, said Yossef Bodansky, director of the U.S. House Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, is that "there is no bin Laden Incorporated."

"That doesn't exist," he said. "There is not something you can go to and say, 'That belongs to him 100 percent.' He is very smart and sophisticated. . . . He also knows that everyone will go after him, so he has carefully concealed what he has."

This is probably the worst slam of all! To allow bin Laden Construction to rebuild Khobar Towers! After reading some of the articles and information we have shared, it might give you a better insight as to the attitude problem we know so well.

Khobar Tower Pictures

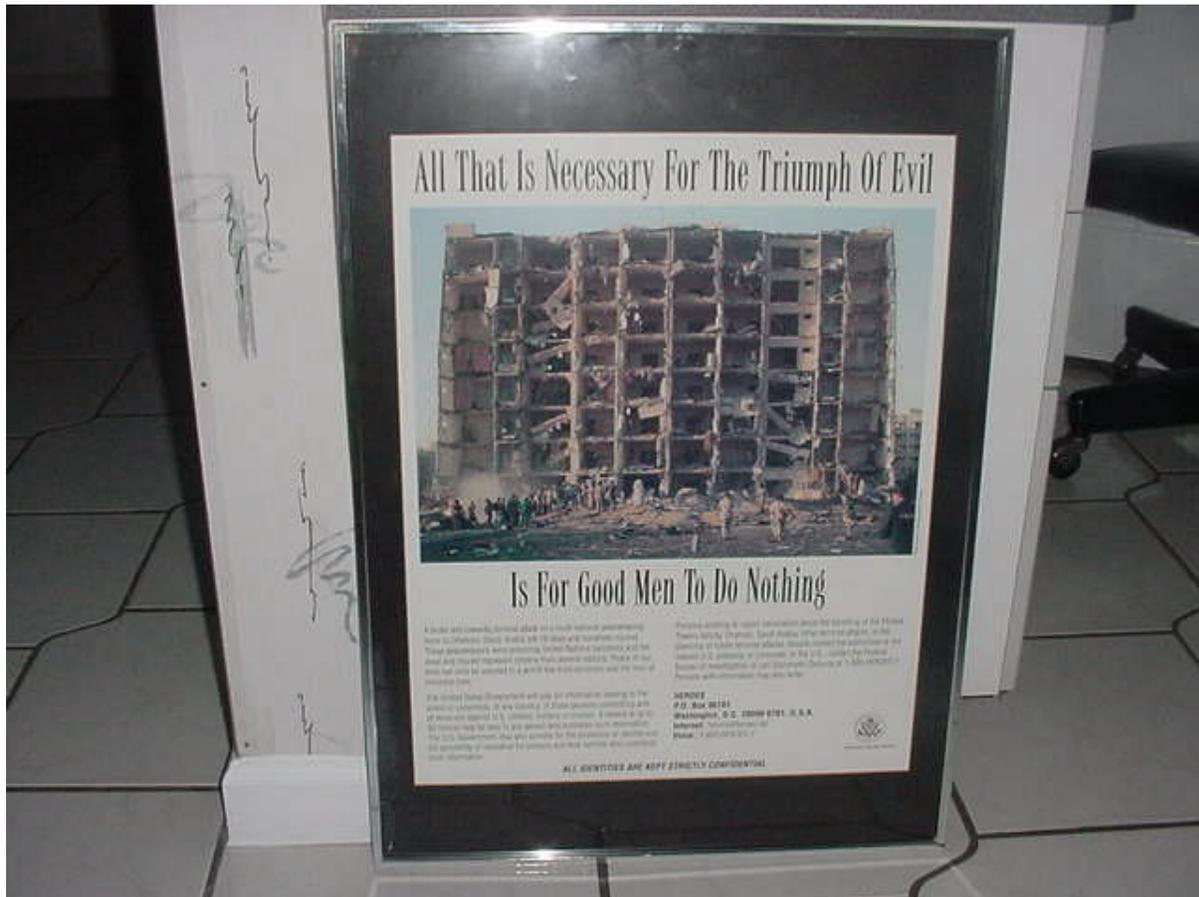


Crankshaft believed to be from the truck that exploded



FBI agents sift through the debris

After viewing a mess like this, our only hope is that this happened so fast none of them knew what hit them. You can only imagine, no we can't even imagine!



More information about this Reward is posted on

heroes@heroes.net

Apparently no one has attempted to claim a reward yet

