

**Case 55: Wichita Airport**

John Mueller

December 8, 2017

Terry Lee Loewen lived in Wichita, Kansas, his whole life. He had grown up in a good home with loving parents and appears to have been warmhearted and a good father. Rather improbably, he converted to Islam in 2008 at the age of 53. However, he was, as one reporter characterized him, an “online Muslim only.”<sup>1</sup> He ate, drank, and dressed as he wanted, and he never attended mosque and was completely unknown in the local Muslim community.

He also converted to violent jihad online after he visited an extremist website. He downloaded tens of thousands of pages on the subject, and by 2013, at the age of 58, was ready to die in a martyrdom operation for the cause. As he put it in an email in August of that year to a correspondent he had met at the website, “Brothers like Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki are a great inspiration to me, but I must be willing to give up everything (like they did) to truly feel like an obedient slave of Allah.”<sup>2</sup>

The correspondent, as it happened, was from the FBI. Over the next four months, they concocted a plan together with another FBI operative who, unlike the first, actually met Loewen in person. Loewen was an avionics technician at the Wichita airport and suggested, “Don’t you think with my access to the airport that I should put that to good use?” The operatives agreed and together they plotted to blowing up some parked planes and the people in, or boarding, them. Loewen pointed out that “I know nothing about explosives” but was “willing to learn.”<sup>3</sup>

He also expressed some worry at one point about being set up when he admitted to the first operative, “I’m sorry I can’t say I trust you 100%; my greatest fear is not being able to complete an operation because I was set up. I hate this government so much for what they have done to our brothers and sisters, that to spent (sic) the rest of my life in prison without having taken a good slice out of the serpents head is unacceptable to me. If there is anyway of reassuring me, please do.”<sup>4</sup>

The operative was apparently successful at providing the needed assurance and, in the process, the required bomb, letting Loewen contribute to his construction. Loewen became increasingly enthusiastic: “this is like a dream come true for me, and I never expect things this good to occur in my life. I want nothing from this life but to please Allah (swt), and without engaging in jihad for His sake, I can’t say that I did anything to please him. And he seems to have bonded with the second operative: “I feel so close to this brother (as you said I would) that going to the end with him seems like the right thing to do.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Ryan, “The Unlikely Jihadi from ‘al-Qaeda in Wichita’,” *whowhatwhy.org*, September 24, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Stephen Cousineau, *United States of America v. Terry Loewen*, United States District Court for Kansas (Wichita Docket), Criminal Complaint, December 13, 2013, p. 6.

<sup>3</sup> Cousineau, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Cousineau, p. 13.

<sup>5</sup> Cousineau, pp. 13, 17

On December 13, 2013, Loewen and the second operative drove in the operative's car to the airport with their bomb, and, as Loewen attempted to open the gate to the tarmac with his badge, he discovered that he had indeed been "set up."

In his case study, written when he was an intern at the Cato Institute, Niko Pittore, raises the question of whether Loewen would have been able to do much of an attack without the encouragement and participation of the FBI. And, indeed, Loewen does not seem to have been very capable of carrying out an attack on his own.

However, he did have the intent to commit violence and plenty of enthusiasm as well. In a note left for a family member, Loewen said, "By the time you read this I will—if everything went as planned—have been martyred in the path of Allah. There will have been an event at the airport which I am responsible for. The operation was timed to cause maximum carnage + death."<sup>6</sup> Moreover, unlike most of the American perpetrators discussed in this book, he was fully willing to die in the process.

But he really does seem to have needed fellow conspirators. In particular, he was very enthused about the second "brother" who had been put on the case by the FBI. He found him to be "very inspiring as always" and considered it to be "a great honor" to die with him as brothers in the cause.<sup>7</sup>

Although this case is often seen to have something to do with aviation, it was more nearly an opportunistic attack on a convenient target of congregation. This happened to be an airport because of the occupation of the terrorist, not because he had a peculiar desire to attack aviation. And, of course, any aircraft destroyed or damaged would have been on the ground, not in the air.

In view of his "advanced age and health issues," Loewen was sentenced to 20 years.

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<sup>6</sup> Cousineau, p. 21.

<sup>7</sup> Cousineau, p. 17.

## Case 55: Wichita Airport

Niko Pittore

December 8, 2017

### 1. Overview

Terry Lee Loewen was an avionic technician at the Wichita, Kansas, Airport.<sup>1</sup> He converted to Islam in 2008 at the age of 53.<sup>2</sup> Soon, he began viewing the now-defunct Revolution Muslim website and familiarizing himself with Anwar al-Awlaki. During this time, he began to radicalize. An FBI investigator infiltrated the website and made contact with Loewen, pretending to be a fellow radical. Over the course of four months, they plotted a terrorist attack at his place of employment by blowing up airplanes parked at the terminal, seeking to maximize the amount of damage, both economic and psychological. They chose the airport mainly because he had easy access to areas where normal, non-employees did not.<sup>3</sup> On December 13, 2013, Loewen and a second FBI employee, who pretended to be a “brother” of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), drove to the airport to carry out the attack. Loewen was taken into custody after his two attempts to open the gate, using a code that had been disabled by the FBI, failed.<sup>4</sup>

Five days later, Loewen was charged in federal court with one count of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction, one count of attempting to damage property by means of an explosive, and one count of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.<sup>5</sup> His attorney proposed that Loewen plead guilty to just the first count and receive a sentence of 20 years in prison, lifetime supervised release, no fine or restitution, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.<sup>6</sup> On August 31, 2015, he was handed exactly the sentencing he had requested.<sup>7</sup>

To all who knew him, this was all too surprising. Loewen’s family described him as a laid-back, warmhearted guy. He had grown up in a good home with loving parents and he himself was described as a good father.<sup>8</sup>

This attack can be considered an act of terrorism due to political motivation behind it. But the case is rather more complex. Loewen was not a practicing Muslim. In fact, aside from the people he was close with, no one even

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Daly, “Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad,” *dailybeast.com*, December 16, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Wichita Eagle, “Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot,” *kansas.com*, August 31, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Stephen Cousineau, *United States of America v. Terry Loewen*, United States District Court for Kansas (Wichita Docket), Criminal Complaint, December 13, 2013, pp. 5-18.

<sup>4</sup> Cousineau, pp. 20-21.

<sup>5</sup> Barry R. Grissom, “Indictment,” December 18, 2015.

<sup>6</sup> “Plea Agreement Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure,” *United States of America v. Terry Loewen*, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> Monti L. Belot, “Judgment in a Criminal Case,” *United States of America v. Terry Loewen*, August 31, 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Daly, “Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad.”

knew he was a Muslim. The Muslim community in Wichita had absolutely no clue about him. In a way, he was an online Muslim only.

## 2. Nature of the adversary

There is not a great deal of detail about his past, but what is known is positive. Terry Lee Loewen, also known as Terry L. Lane,<sup>9</sup> was born in Wichita, Kansas, on July 18, 1955 and thus was 58 at the time of the thwarted attack.<sup>10</sup> He is a graduate of Heights High School in Wichita.<sup>11</sup> His family described him as a laid-back, warmhearted guy. He had grown up in a good home with loving parents and he was said to be a good father. To everyone around him, he was just a regular working stiff who went each day to his job as an avionic technician at Wichita's Mid-Continent Airport (now Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport) and came back to his house on Funson Street, just up a block from an elementary school and behind the Wichita Mall. There are no indications he ever took illegal drugs or was mentally ill. According to his 24-year old son, Damien, "He's a really good guy. I never thought he would do something like this. He's always a calm and loving man." His brother-in-law, David Reddig, reported Loewen had come to his aid after he was put out of work with an injured eye, helping him with his truck payments and tending to his chickens as well as his house. "A good guy," he said.<sup>12</sup>

He was married to a woman named Debbi. It was unclear how long they had been married before the attack. His attorney, Tim Henry, told the judge at his trial Loewen and Debbi had a "very, very close relationship."<sup>13</sup> Further, his ex-wife, Sarah, described him as "mellow."<sup>14</sup> The reason they divorced was not made known.

Loewen converted to Islam in 2008 according to his family.<sup>15</sup> What exactly prompted his conversion is unclear. Moreover, none of the area mosques said they ever had any contact with him.<sup>16</sup>

At some point, he became radicalized. In particular, he came across the now-defunct "Revolution Muslim" website.<sup>17</sup> It was founded in 2007 by two men, Joseph Leonard Cohen and Jesse Morton, who converted to Islam and changed their names to Yousef al-Khattab and Younes Abdullah Mohammed, respectively.<sup>18</sup> The two men admired Osama bin Laden and said the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks were justified by U.S. foreign policy which they

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<sup>9</sup> Bill Wilson, "Neighbors describe terrorism suspect Terry Lee Loewen," *kansas.com*, December 13, 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Cousineau, p. 4.

<sup>11</sup> Molly McMillin, "Ex-wife of Terry Lee Loewen: 'I would have never ever thought he would do anything this horrible'," *kansascity.com*, December 14, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Daly, "Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad."

<sup>13</sup> Tara Fowler, "Wichita Man Sentenced to 20 Years for Failed Plot to Blow up Airport," *people.com*, September 1, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> Daly, "Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad."

<sup>15</sup> Wichita Eagle, "Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot."

<sup>16</sup> Daly, "Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad."

<sup>17</sup> Cousineau, p. 7.

<sup>18</sup> "Revolution Muslim Leader Who Threatened Jews Pleads Guilty," *adl.org*, November 1, 2013.

characterized as “Western Imperialism.” They handed out fliers outside the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, sometimes known as the 96th Street Mosque, on Third Avenue between 96th and 97th streets, advocating for the establishment of a traditional Islamic state. In an interview, they stated the United States will not cease being a target until it changes its ways in the international arena. The website was disbanded after its founders were arrested in 2011 and 2012.<sup>19</sup>

### 3. Motivation

Loewen was motivated not only by the Revolution Muslim website but also by the late notorious American-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, including his “44 Ways of Jihad,” an essay that describes dying as a martyr, supporting the mujahideen, and encouraging others to engage in jihad. As other cases in this book have shown, al-Awlaki has tentacles all around the Muslim world, even from the grave. Loewen was also trying to support al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).<sup>20</sup> He also read the online magazine, *Inspire*, started by Anwar al-Awlaki, particularly an article about building bombs.<sup>21</sup>

### 4. Goals

Loewen said he hated the “kaffar” (a derogatory term for non-believers) government of the United States. Thus one of his possible goals was to foment civil discord and opposition toward the United States federal government. And as a fan of the website Revolution Muslim website he likely justified terrorist attacks against the United States for to its so-called imperialist foreign policy and advocated for the establishment of an Islamic State based on Sharia law’.

### 5. Plans for violence

At some point Loewen sent an email to a fellow visitor to the Revolution Muslim website who he believed was someone like him, someone who wanted to engage in jihad. Unknown to him, the fellow visitor was an undercover FBI agent.<sup>22</sup> This agent is described in the complaint as “FBI Employee 1” and will hereafter be referred to as E1.

Over the course of several months, Loewen and E1 made contact several times over email.<sup>23</sup>

On August 5, 2013, Loewen sent an email to E1 discussing his feelings: “As time goes on I care less and less about what other people think of me, or my views of Islam... The one thing we are doing wrong is that all 1.5 billion of us don’t rise up against the rest of the world and tell THEM how it’s going to be.

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<sup>19</sup> “Revolution Muslim Leader Who Threatened Jews Pleads Guilty.” “Anderson Cooper: 360 Degrees, cnn.com, November 6, 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Alice Mannette, “Terry Loewen Pleads Guilty to Attempting Suicide Attack on Kansas Airport,” huffingtonpost.com, June 8, 2016.

<sup>21</sup> Cousineau, p. 7.

<sup>22</sup> Daly, “Terry Lee Loewen, the Mellow Kansas Man Who Allegedly Dreamed of Jihad.”

<sup>23</sup> All quotes in the following are from Cousineau, pp. 6-21. They are presented in more extended form in the Appendix at the end of this study.

Inshallah [God willing], it will happen soon... I believe the Muslim who is labeled “a radical fundamentalist” is closer to Allah (swt).”<sup>24</sup>

Three days later, E1 electronically introduced Loewen to another agent (E2) who could help him in carrying out violent jihad. Responding to this, Loewen said, “You stated you might be able to put me in contact with someone that might be able to help - not sure what that means.... I very much appreciate your advice and offer of help (I certainly need it), but my love for fellow Muslims is much greater than my love for myself.”

On August 17, 2013, Loewen reported to E1 about his review of al-Qaeda texts: “I have read Anwar Al-Awlaki’s 44 ways of Jihad and like everything I’ve ever read of his, it’s very informative. . . . I have downloaded tens of thousands of pages on the subjects I mentioned earlier [referring to jihad, martyrdom operations and implementation of Sharia law]. Today I printed out something called the Al Qaeda Manual (or Manchester Manual).”

Loewen then began to devise plans for jihad. He outlined them in an email to E1 on August 21, 2013: “...I have numerous ideas of ways I could perform jihad in the path of Allah (swt) but outside du’a [an Arabic term meaning invocation, prayer, or an act of supplication], none of them are legal... I just hate the kaffar government and those who are following it to the Hellfire, and the sooner it and its followers get there, the better.”

On August 26, 2013, he mentioned to E1 that he worked at the airport in Wichita and said he’d be willing to provide a tour of the airport: “Point being, is my having access to airport property the primary reason for the tour - if the answer is ‘no’ then I will not bring it up again.”

On August 27, he clarified his vision of engaging in terrorism: “Now, the work thing is very heavy stuff, because I don’t really know how other brothers would want to handle it - it’s just too big for me to handle on my own, and the more people that get involved, the more chance it has of going south[.] ... I guess I look at myself as the ‘access’ guy at this point - just need more details, if any exist at this point - are we talking explosives, because I know nothing about that?”

While continuing to discuss possible terrorist operations, Loewen stated that he was able to escort people out on the tarmac which leads to airliners and to the control tower. Thus he could bring a vehicle onto the tarmac, which would then have access to the runways. However he said it could not do so until January. Loewen apologized for asking for details before the operation was in the planning stage. He asked E1 to give him some time to decide if this was the right way to go and, if he decided it was, that maybe they could then get others involved in the plot.

In a previous conversation, he had told E1 that their conversations were protected because he did not allow a family member to use or see his computer.

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<sup>24</sup> SWT is an abbreviation for subhanahu Wa Ta’ala which translated means “Allah is pure of having partners and He is exalted from having a son.” This abbreviation is frequently used when the name of Allah is spoken or used. Cousineau, p. 5. Moreover, all brackets are additions either from the footnotes of the court case itself or from my knowledge of Islamic verbiage through Arabic language and Islamic studies. Sharia by now is well-known in American lexicon so there is no need for further explanation.

On September 2, however, he told E1 that, because he had been having trouble with his computer, he asked a family member to help him figure out the problem. The family member fixed it by deleting or uninstalling a program from the computer. Loewen had assumed that his recklessness had affected his relationship with E1 to the point where their connection was terminated: Loewen believed E1 was upset with him for this breach in communications security and no longer trusted him. To ensure that he did not put himself, E1, or others at risk of exposure due to his recklessness, Loewen indicated that he would cease any further contact with E1.

E1 responded, explaining that they felt Loewen had misinterpreted their comments (his comments are not included in the complaint) and that they should discuss the issue in order to work through their misunderstandings and concerns. On September 3, 2013, Loewen initiated contact with E1 and explained in detail what happened, how it happened, and his assessment of whether or not E1's identity, or Loewen's plans for jihad, had been compromised by the family member's work on his computer. He also reaffirmed his commitment to jihad. Moreover, on September 6, he continued his vision of what his terrorist activities would look like: "I have some rough ideas, but I know nothing about explosives. Don't you think with my access to the airport that I should put that to good use?"

On October 3, E1 reported to Loewen that he just returned from an overseas trip to visit and train with AQAP. The "brothers" seemed very interested in learning more about Loewen's plan. So E1 asked Loewen if he could "scout for potential targets, collect information on security measures in place, and take photos of security access points."

On October 5, E1 asked Loewen if he was ready to engage in a martyrdom operation and pointed out that, if Loewen wanted to back out, he could do so because no one knew his identity. Loewen said he had to wait and think it over. Six days later, he was ready to go, and between October 6 and 11, they communicated several more times. They conversed about Loewen's computer problems and his excitement about the operation. E1 told Loewen they could provide him with a new computer if Loewen did not have the money to buy a new one.

Between October 18 and 19, E1 contacted Loewen not only about providing him with the laptop but also about E2, someone who Loewen would believe is a "brother" from AQAP. Loewen met E2 in person on October 25. Loewen reiterated his desire to help E2 with a mission to blow up a plane with numerous people on board. Loewen explained he had access to the airport, but that he could not drive a vehicle onto the airport property until January 2014 when his badge was scheduled to be renewed. In a second physical meeting on November 8, Loewen mentioned he wanted to engage in a martyrdom operation, but that he needed a legitimate cause to be a martyr. He further emphasized that he would not pull the trigger to kill E2. They discussed taking a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) to the terminal. Loewen suggested that another individual could come in to the terminal with a suicide vest and detonate that to coincide with the VBIED outside causing maximum damage. They planned to carry out the attack near Christmas to cause the maximum economic

and psychological damage. Moreover, a code word was created when discussing the mission: rental property.

On November 15, E1 reported electronically to Loewen that one of their brothers had been arrested by the FBI and insisted they keep a very low profile to avoid meeting the same fate. Four days later, Loewen met again with E2 in person and insisted on his desire to engage in martyrdom. E2 told Loewen that he could be the navigator to the terminal. Due to his position at the airport, Loewen would be able to provide E2 with the best time to execute the attack based on the number of people boarding planes at one time combined with the number who would be located on the terminals. He gave E2 the location where a vehicle armed with explosives would cause the most damage. Loewen also provided a diagram of the terminal and tarmac, including distances between the gate areas. Loewen would buy the detonator, but they would need other items to complete the bomb. Loewen agreed to obtain those items from his workplace and said he could wire the explosive device, since he did wiring as part of his employment. They agreed on a final plan. Once Loewen acquired gate access, they would drive to the terminal in the early morning hours, and detonate the device between the terminals for maximum impact.

They met again on November 21, and Loewen provided E2 with the components of the explosive device he had requested from the airport. Further, he said he would try to renew his badge but, to avoid unwanted attention, not until 30 days before it expired in January.

On December 3, Loewen again met with E2 in person, and Loewen provided containers that were to be used for the explosive material. They discussed how the device would be constructed, and Loewen reiterated his desire to wire the device to flip the switch when it came time for that. Loewen also provided E2 with another diagram of the terminal, marked an "X" to indicate the best place to park the vehicle to cause the most damage, provided time schedules for departures at the airport, and confirmed that very early morning would be the best time to execute the plan. It was agreed that both men would die in the operation.

On December 6, Loewen was able to renew his badge and was told that he now had gate access pursuant to his request. Three days later, he used his renewed badge to verify that he indeed did have gate access to the tarmac.

Five days later, Loewen assisted E2 in assembling the rest of the bomb. Loewen did the wiring and provided the components for the bomb, but the device itself was presumably created by the FBI, and any explosive elements were, of course, inert. They agreed that December 13, 2013, was the perfect date: it was a Friday morning and the airport would be quite busy even in the early hours with people going on a vacation or coming back from a business trip.

On that day, E2 picked up Loewen from a local hotel, and they drove to where the bomb was stored at 4:45am. At 5:19, they departed for the airport, arriving at 5:40 at the same gate where Loewen had tested his badge just days before. Loewen exited the vehicle and attempted to use his badge twice on the card reader access panel in order to gain entry to the tarmac. Unknown to him, E2



had disabled the gate before they arrived on scene. Loewen was then taken into custody.

Loewen left a letter dated December 11 for an unnamed family member describing his intent to conduct a martyrdom operation. It said:

By the time you read this I will - if everything went as planned - have been martyred in the path of Allah. There will have been an event at the airport which I am responsible for. The operation was timed to cause maximum carnage + death.. . .My only explanation is that I believe in jihad for the sake of Allah + for the sake of my Muslim brothers + sisters.. . . Fact is, most Muslims in this country will condemn what I have done.. . .I expect to be called a terrorist (which I am), a psychopath, and a homicidal maniac.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen M. Humphreys issued an arrest warrant to bring Loewen before her right after he was taken into custody.<sup>25</sup> He was then placed at the Sedgwick County jail.<sup>26</sup> Five days later, he was charged in federal court with one count of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction (Count 1), one count of attempting to damage property by means of an explosive (Count 2), and one count of attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization (Count 3).<sup>27</sup> He faced life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.<sup>28</sup>

Before his plea, Loewen's team argued that the government's actions were tantamount to entrapment and asked for the case to be thrown out before it went to a jury. The court dismissed the motion.<sup>29</sup>

On June 8, 2015, a year and a half after the aborted attack, Loewen pled guilty to all counts on the advice of his lawyer, Timothy J. Henry.<sup>30</sup> Henry proposed a sentence of 20 years in prison, lifetime supervised release, no fine or restitution, and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.<sup>31</sup> A special assessment fee is simply an added restitution fee which is used to fund the Crime Victims Fund.<sup>32</sup> On August 31, 2015, Loewen received exactly the sentencing that had been requested. In view of his "advanced age and health issues," prosecutors agreed, and he was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Monti L. Belot.<sup>33</sup> Counts 2 and 3 were dismissed as part of the plea bargain.<sup>34</sup> After the sentencing, District Attorney, Barry Grissom said in a press release: "Here in the heartland, terrorism will never shake our faith in the things this country stands for — freedom,

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<sup>25</sup> Karen M. Humphreys, Arrest Warrant, United States District Court for the Court of Kansas, December 13, 2013.

<sup>26</sup> Wichita Eagle, "Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot."

<sup>27</sup> Barry R. Grissom, "Indictment."

<sup>28</sup> "Plea Agreement Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure," United States of America v. Terry Loewen, June 8, 2015, p.1.

<sup>29</sup> Wichita Eagle, "Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot."

<sup>30</sup> "Petition to Enter Plea of Guilty and Order Entering Plea," United States of America v. Terry Loewen, June 8, 2015.

<sup>31</sup> "Plea Agreement Pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure."

<sup>32</sup> U.S. Code Title 18, Legal Information Institute, Cornell Law School..

<sup>33</sup> Wichita Eagle, "Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot."

<sup>34</sup> Monti L. Belot, "Judgment in a Criminal Case," United States of America v. Terry Loewen.

fairness and opportunity. “We won’t give way to those who would inflict violence on their fellow citizens.”<sup>35</sup>

During the hearing, his attorney, Henry asked that Loewen be placed in the federal prison with the lowest security-level possible nearest to Wichita so he could continue to have visitors. He characterized Loewen as a “model inmate” during his stay at the Sedgwick County Jail and did not need to be incarcerated in a maximum-security prison.<sup>36</sup> I could not find whether that motion was granted or not.

FBI Evidence Response Teams executed search warrants related to the case.<sup>37</sup> However, the results of the search were not revealed.

## **6. Role of informants**

Informants were central to this case. Without the two FBI agents performing an undercover sting operation against Loewen, it is unclear if the attack would have taken place. He definitely planned to kill innocent civilians, and he brought up his airport access to E1. This suggests that he had possibly been planning jihad at his place of employment for some time. If (a big if) he had been able to use his access to get onto the tarmac with explosives working properly when the airport was full of people, dozens might have been killed. However, he was not the most able “lone wolf” before the initial electronic meeting, and, during the conversations, he seemed to lack the knowhow of how to commit jihad. Therefore, it might be argued, he most likely would not have been able to carry out an attack like this on his own.

The undercover operation lasted for over four months. The first contact was made on August 5, 2013, and the attack was thwarted on December 13. During those four months, Loewen relayed every layer of his plan to the FBI agents, including his motivations, his goals, his ultimate desire to be a martyr, and his somewhat opaque plans for carrying out the attack. From what we know from his family, co-workers, and neighbors, he was a laid-back individual who, on the outside, harbored no ill feelings toward anyone. But clearly, there was a monster within.

## **7. Connections**

Investigations found no direct connections with any foreign terrorist organization. Of course, he *thought* he had made a connection when he believed the FBI agents who told him they were members of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

## **8. Relation to the Muslim community**

Loewen’s relationship with the Muslim community can be described in succinct terms: there was none. As Hussam Madi, a spokesman for the Islamic

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<sup>35</sup> Associated Press, “US man sentenced to 20 years for airport bomb plot,” [newsinfo.inquirer.net](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net), September 1, 2015.

<sup>36</sup> Wichita Eagle, “Terry Lee Loewen to serve 20 years in failed Wichita airport bomb plot.”

<sup>37</sup> Office of Public Affairs at US Department of Justice, “Kansas Man Charged in Plot to Explode Car Bomb at Airport,” December 13, 2013.

Society of Wichita, put it, “We don’t even know who he is at all. We haven’t seen him here. This is the first time that we’ve heard of him.” Madi also said the society checked with mosques around the city and none of them knew of Loewen. He also reported they hadn’t faced any backlash from the community as a result of Loewen’s attack.<sup>38</sup>

## 9. Depiction by authorities

From the beginning, authorities treated this as an outright terrorist attack. As they had two FBI agents working undercover to carry out an act of jihad, they already knew about the attempted attack and were treating him as a self-radicalized terrorist. Banded together on the case were the FBI Wichita Joint Terrorism Task Force, which includes members from the FBI, from the Sedgwick County, Kansas, Sheriff’s Office, and from the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Loewen was mistakenly called a lone wolf by Special Agent in Charge Michael Kaste who said, “Lone wolves - home grown violent extremists remain a very serious threat to our nation’s security. Today’s arrest emphasizes the continual need for the public to remain vigilant as law enforcement relies on the public’s assistance.”<sup>39</sup> Despite the fact he was self-radicalized, however, this cannot qualify as a lone wolf attack because he had (very considerable) aid from two other individuals who happened to be FBI undercover agents.

Assistant Attorney General for the District of Kansas John P. Carlin said, “Terry Loewen utilized his privileged airport access to attempt a terrorist attack in Wichita. Detecting, disrupting and holding accountable those who wish to harm Americans remains our highest priority.” And U.S. Attorney General for the District of Kansas, Barry Grissom said, “Protecting the American people from terrorism is our primary mission. It is vital that we disrupt attacks against our homeland and bring terrorists to justice.”<sup>40</sup>

## 10. Coverage by the media

Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C., treated this as a terrorist attack and used it to further emphasis a point they have been making since the 9/11 attacks in which Islamic terrorism is seen to be a continuing and evolving homeland security threat for the United States.<sup>41</sup>

However, in surveying the articles on this attack, I find that the diction used to describe Loewen was neutral. Generally speaking, they did not outright call him a terrorist. None of the articles I surveyed referred to him as an outright terrorist. Some called him “the Wichita resident,” “Wichita man,” “Kansas man,” and the like. One article called him an “airport bomb attack plotter,” but that’s as

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<sup>38</sup> Tim Potter and Roy Wenzl, “Terry Lee Loewen charged in planned suicide bombing at Wichita airport,” [kansas.com](http://kansas.com), December 13, 2013.

<sup>39</sup> Office of Public Affairs, US Department of Justice, “Kansas Man Charged in Plot to Explode Car Bomb at Airport,” [justice.gov](http://justice.gov), June 8, 2015.

<sup>40</sup> Office of Public Affairs, US Department of Justice, “Kansas Man Pleads Guilty.”

<sup>41</sup> Cassandra Lucaccioni, “61st Terrorist Plot against the U.S.: Terry Lee Loewen Plot to Attack Wichita Airport,” [heritage.org](http://heritage.org), December 18, 2013.

close as it got to referring to him directly as a terrorist.<sup>42</sup> Interestingly enough, as noted, Loewen had no connections with any foreign terrorist organization nor did he (rather surprisingly) have any connections with any Muslim organizations in Wichita or elsewhere. In the words of one reporter, apparently he was a Muslim online only.<sup>43</sup>

### **11. Policing costs**

This was a relatively expensive policing operation before the attack. Federal investigators watched Loewen over the span of four months and inserted two employees into his plotting. On top of acquiring all the “materials” needed for the bomb they were planning to use on the airport terminal, they had to keep a constant eye on him to ensure he did not back off, discover their true identities, or drift off into the shadows where they couldn’t find him. Moreover, there was a whole legal process in this situation, with investigators taking him to court and working out a plea bargain. However, due to the fact he pleaded guilty, there was no trial costs.

### **12. Relevance of the internet**

The internet was essential. Self-radicalization has become easier to accomplish with the advent of the internet, especially high-speed highly-globalized internet. Without the Revolution Muslim website, it is difficult to say whether Loewen would ever have become radicalized. His family said he converted to Islam several years earlier, but did not engage in the archetypal activities of a Muslim, such as donning the dress code, attending mosque, or adhering to any sort of dietary restrictions. Without any sort of Islamic influence in his life, it might have been that, without the internet, he would never have self-radicalized.

On the flip side, it was the internet that enabled FBI employees to track Loewen down and to bait, or assist, him in this thwarted attack.

### **13. Are we safer?**

Some say that the security of the United States is more at risk because of the advancement of the internet and therefore of the ease at which individuals are able to radicalize without any direct connection to a foreign terrorist organization and also because of an ostensibly creeping influence of Islam on Western culture. Others say that this has nothing to do with Islam, that the internet did not cause this man to radicalize, and that investigators apprehended him before he was able to pull off his plan, and hence that we shouldn’t jump to further conclusions. Meeting in the middle, the case undeniably involved Islam (albeit not of the mainstream variety). He searched radical Islamic websites, found radical Islamic lectures, and from there, was persuaded to radicalize.

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<sup>42</sup> For the “airport bomb attack plotter” quote, see Vishakha Sonawane, “Who Is Terry Lee Loewen? Kansas’ Wichita Airport Bomb Attack Plotter Sentenced to 20 Years in Jail,” [ibtimes.com](http://ibtimes.com), September 1, 2015.

<sup>43</sup> Kevin Ryan, “The Unlikely Jihadi from ‘al-Qaeda in Wichita,’” [whowhatwhy.org](http://whowhatwhy.org), September 24, 2014.

The internet is a capricious friend to radicals. Although it also increases the ability that individuals like Loewen will find extremist materials, it also set up the means by which federal investigators were able to track him. However, what happens when federal investigators cannot track would-be terrorists? That concern may be balanced by the fact that new technology and gadgetry enable investigators to track individuals who are potentially at risk for radicalization.

#### 14. Conclusion

Was this terrorism? There is no question this was politically motivated. He aimed to kill innocent civilians for the purpose of pushing forward a political Islamist agenda.

There is a caveat however. He converted to Islam several years earlier but, according to those who knew him, he never acted in accordance with any of the tenets of Islam. He did not engage in the archetypal activities of a Muslim, such as donning the dress code, attending mosque, or adhering to any sort of dietary restrictions. Usually, when individuals are radicalized by Islamism, they immerse themselves in the Muslim community, at least attending mosque. So, it's peculiar that absolutely no one in the Muslim community knew him or even heard his name prior to the attacks. In a way, he was an "online Muslim only." This does not reverse the conclusion of him committing a terrorist attack, but it adds of a layer of complexity when studying cases of terrorism.

The phenomenon in which individuals are radicalized via the internet has raised a constitutional question. In order to prevent this from happening, should we censor the internet? Donald Trump once proposed during so.<sup>44</sup> Senator Rand Paul (R-KY), arguably the only true constitutional conservative and most libertarian-leaning of all the candidates, fought back during a debate with, "Like they do in North Korea? Like they do in China?...The constitution says otherwise."<sup>45</sup> As in happens, there is a law which, as unconstitutional as it is, would give Trump power to do so now that he is president. Section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934 provides emergency powers to seize control of communications facilities if the president declares there is a "war or threat of war" or "a state of public peril."<sup>46</sup> Moreover, Timothy Edgar, the academic director of law and policy at Brown University's Executive Master in Cybersecurity program, notes, "In 2010, a Senate report concluded that section 606 gives the President the authority to take over wire communications in the United States and, if the President so chooses, shut a network down."<sup>47</sup> Moreover, he adds, "If Trump wants to close that internet up," all he would need is to get an opinion from his Attorney General that section 606 gives him authority to do so

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<sup>44</sup> He proposed this during a speech in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, in 2015 when he suggested he would talk to people like Microsoft founder Bill Gates about "closing" the Internet "in certain areas." See Stephanie Condon, "In Republican debate, Donald Trump tries to clarify 'closing the internet'," *cbsnews.com*, December 15, 2015.

<sup>45</sup> Rand Paul, "Republican Presidential Debate," Las Vegas, Nevada, December 15, 2015.

<sup>46</sup> The Communications Act of 1934, US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, *it.ojp.gov*, last updated: November 27, 2013.

<sup>47</sup> Timothy Edgar, "Donald Trump's troubling internet," *csmonitor.com*, November 17, 2016.

and to declare that the threat of terrorism is compelling enough to override any First Amendment concerns.”<sup>48</sup>

But then, what defines a national security threat and how do we describe a “public peril”? There is no doubt terrorism is a threat. But the yearly chances of dying in the hands of a terrorist in the United States are 1 in 3.5 million while the chances of dying in a traffic accident are 1 in 8,200<sup>49</sup> Should I stop walking to work even though the chances are 10975 times higher? No, that’s absurd. But because of the shock value associated with terrorism, the calculus changes and irrationality begins to take hold.

The problem is that, with every attack similar to Terry Loewen’s thwarted one, there are calls to make Americans safer by restricting Muslim immigration or otherwise limiting our civil liberties in hopes that decreasing liberty will increase our security. But, as Benjamin Franklin pointed out (he was actually talking about taxes but the sentiment still applies to homeland security), “Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.”

One last point concerns US foreign policy. We frequently discover that US foreign policy plays a role in attacks like this, and plenty of scholars pointed to a correlation between Islamic terrorism and US foreign policy in the Middle East.<sup>50</sup> For example, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda attacked the United States on 9/11 in large part because of its foreign policy in the Middle East: stationing troops in the Arabian Peninsula as well as unconditional support for Israel.<sup>51</sup> Loewen did not harp on this issue, but his inspirations certainly did. The founders of Revolution Muslim said they were initially inspired by the imperialistic style of United States foreign policy. And Anwar al-Awlaki, another influence on Loewen, called for jihad against the United States in part because of U.S. Middle East foreign policy, saying: “With the American invasion of Iraq and continued U.S. aggression against Muslims, I could not reconcile between living in the U.S. and being a Muslim, and I eventually came to the conclusion that jihad against America is binding upon myself just as it is binding on every other Muslim.”<sup>52</sup> The odds that Revolution Muslim would have been founded and that Anwar al-Awlaki would have become as popular as he did without the primacist U.S.

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<sup>48</sup> Timothy Edgar, “Trump’s Internet and How to Stop It,” lawfareblog.com, November 21, 2016.

<sup>49</sup> John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, “Responsible Counterterrorism Policy,” CATO Policy Analysis, No. 755, September 10, 2014.

<sup>50</sup> John Mueller, Robert Pape, Stephen Walt, John Mearsheimer, as well as CATO Institute foreign and defense policy scholars and other international security scholars have written about this.

<sup>51</sup> For the motives of bin Laden: Osama bin Laden, “Letter to America,” guardian.com, November 24, 2002; Osama bin Laden, “Attacks on U.S. to Go on as Long as It Supports Israel,” haaretz.com, January 24, 2010; Osama bin Laden, “Full transcript of bin Ladin’s speech,” aljazeera.com, November 1, 2004; Michael Rubin, “Sanctions on Iraq: A Valid Anti-American Grievance?” *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, December 2001; Osama bin Laden, “Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders,” fas.org, February 23, 1998; Rahimullah Yusufzai, “Face to face with Osama,” web.archive.org, September 26, 2001.

<sup>52</sup> Paula Newton, “Purported al-Awlaki message calls for jihad against U.S.,” cnn.com, March 17, 2010.

foreign policy is likely significantly lower.<sup>53</sup> Without Revolution Muslim and al-Awlaki, it's difficult to say if Loewen would have been radicalized. Thus, U.S. foreign policy does have a connection, if indirectly, to this case.

## Appendix

Full quotes from Loewen to E1 and E2 as discussed in Section 5. All come from the Criminal Complaint (Cousineau, pp. 5-18) and are from 2013.

**August 5:** As time goes on I care less and less about what other people think of me, or my views of Islam. I have been studying subjects like jihad, martyrdom operations, and Sharia law. I don't understand how you can read the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet (saw) and not understand that jihad and the implementation of Sharia is absolutely demanded of all the Muslim Ummah. I feel so guilt-ridden sometimes for knowing what's required of me but yet doing little or nothing to make it happen. I love my Muslim brothers and sisters, whether they agree with me or not, it's just hard to deal with the denial that some of them appear to be going through. I was texting a sister on line a week or two ago, and she insisted that jihad was wrong, that any pain Muslims were suffering was their own fault for not having enough iman, and that the Prophet never said apostates should be put to death. I do agree on one thing; the one thing we are doing wrong is that all 1.5 billion of us don't rise up against the rest of the world and tell THEM how it's going to be. Inshallah, it will happen soon.

**August 8:** Brothers like Osama bin Laden and Anwar al-Awlaki are a great inspiration to me, but I must be willing to give up everything (like they did) to truly feel like an obedient slave of Allah (swt). You stated you might be able to put me in contact with someone that might be able to help - not sure what that means, and I can't ask any direct questions, but with what I stated above, plus whatever I can impart to you in future correspondents [sic], perhaps you can better judge what it is I need. I in no way want to put you or any other brother in harm's way - and that is a great concern of mine, so please be careful. I realize we don't know each other very well, and neither one of us knows who could be listening in, so please use caution. I very much appreciate your advice and offer of help (I certainly need it), but my love for fellow Muslims is much greater than my love for myself.

**August 17:** I have read Anwar Al-Awlaki's 44 ways of Jihad and like everything I've ever read of his, it's very informative. . . . I have downloaded tens of thousands of pages on the subjects I mentioned earlier [referring to jihad,

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<sup>53</sup> For more on primacy, see A. Trevor Thrall, "Primed Against Primacy: The Restraint Constituency and U.S. Foreign Policy," warontherocks.com, September 15, 2016.

martyrdom operations and implementation of Sharia law]. Today I printed out something called the Al Qaeda Manual (or Manchester Manual).

**August 21:** Let me get to the bottom line without being too revealing - I have numerous ideas of ways I could perform jihad in the path of Allah (swt) but outside du'a, none of them are legal. I'm 58 years old and spending my remaining years behind bars for a good reason is not out of the question for me. I have considered supporting some of our brothers and sisters in prison, and have been sending money to the family of Younnus Abdullah Muhammad, one of the founder [sic] of the Revolution Muslim website, which is the first website that really helped me understand what obedience to Allah (swt) was. He is doing eleven and a half years over the whole South Park fiasco; isn't democracy great? I still need to do more however. If by any chance you know of someone who is active in jihad and could use an occasional influx of "help", please let me know. Short of that, nothing I am doing now is enough. If the subject is too hot to handle, by all means let it go. I only want to help my brothers, not lead them to a destination they feel isn't for them. I just hate the kaffar government and those who are following it to the Hellfire, and the sooner it and its followers get there, the better.

**August 26:** Let me preface the bottom line by saying I have become "radicalized" in the strongest sense of the word, and I don't feel Allah(swt) wants me any other way - I MUST be active in some kind of ( dare I say it) jihad to feel I'm doing something proactive for the Ummah - giving money to those who fight for the Tawheed is one that I'm definitely [sic] interested in, but direct jihad against a civilian [sic] target is not out of the question. Point being, is my having access to airport property the primary reason for the tour - if the answer is "no" then I will not bring it up again.

**August 27:** Aiding the mujahideen [sic] is pretty low stress for me ; it's always something I've wanted to do but you just can't walk up to any Muslim and ask - I don't know that even they wouldn't [sic] turn me in. Now, the work thing is very heavy stuff, because I don't really know how other brothers would want to handle it - it's just too big for me to handle on my own, and the more people that get involved, the more chance it has of going south[.] ... I guess I look at myself as the "access" guy at this point - just need more details, if any exist at this point - are we talking explosives, because I know nothing about that? It's all very surreal at this point, exciting, yet scary.

**September 2:** I just spent an hour responding to your emai (sic) and dumped it before I sent itl (sic) - I don't think I have the will power to repeat it. It explained a great deal about what has happened the last couple of days and why I believe my "reckless endangerment" of myself and others has to come to an end. I understand how upset you are about this and I won't let it happen again, and I think the only way I can assure that is by isolating myself and any action I come up with, will have to be done alone. I'm not able to keep things in order, therefore



causing an unsafe environment (sic) for myself and others, and the worse thing I can think of is someone else going down for my stupidity. I really don't see me living through any thing I have in mind, assuming I can even pull (sic) it off. Again I apologize for this fucking mess, and will miss the wonderful conversations we had. Peace be with you my brother.

**September 6:** I believe the potential for me doing more is staggering. I have some rough ideas, but I know nothing about explosives. Don't you think with my access to the airport that I should put that to good use? I'm sure I am not as ready as I think I am, but by next year - who knows. Understand I have NO experience [sic] in things like this, but I'm willing to learn...Anyway, I'm just talking right now but still feel I'm being led in this direction.

**September 9:** I'm spending my spare time thinking over my options for "operations" and believe I'm moving way too fast for obvious reasons - trying to make up for lost time mostly...I'm going to stick with donating money to "needy Muslims" for a while. When ever [sic] it's convenient, please send me that info again. I want to transfer it to my thumb drive, but I will probably need help - that's why I deleted it last time. . . . Know a good place to hide it when I'm done?

**September 13:** Reading about the actions of the mujahideen [sic] and actually carrying them out is two different things. If not for my family, I would have already carried out some sort of operation - but that's my fault for putting others before Allah (swt) which I know better than to do.

**September 21:** As far as the birds go, I don't know what they were for sure - they were there less than an hour and left. I think there is an airshow somewhere close, but [don't?] know for sure. All they stopped for was fuel. The ones I sent pics of the other day actually stayed overnight. We have had numerous Apache's [sic] land and stay overnight - it's all going on next to where I work, but we have no involvement with them (at least not YET). They drop in, but I have no way of knowing when. I don't see anyway an operation could be planned in advance. It would have been possible today for me to have walked over there, shot both pilots( I don't know if they are armed or not), slapped some C4 on both fuel trucks and set them off before anyone even called TSA. Talks REAL cheap, however, so what I think I can do and what I actually can do are probably two different things. Next year I intend to get a ramp pass so I can drive my vehicle on the ramp. As far as what you tell the brothers - as long as my name isn't used I'm good with it. Like I said, I have the access, but unless someone thinks I'm teachable, that's about all I have to offer - but don't get me wrong; I certainly have the desire to learn how to perform an ' operation like this. I just haven't been given the "green light" by, Allah (swt) yet - at least not that I'm aware of.

**October 3:** Wow! That's some heavy stuff you just laid down. Am I interested? Yes. I still need time to think about it, but I can't imagine anything short of arrest stopping me. But as you keep reminding me, I need to let Allah(swt) Bide me. It's

very hard for me to comprehend the fact that I could be part of such a massive operation. I'm just Allah's slave, and not a very good one at that. I have one question: How do you really know who I am or what my agenda really is? I pray to Allah(swt) every night that I'm not being misled, and if I am, that He will make it very apparent (sic) to me. I trust you but part of me wants to trust ANYBODY who says they believe what I do because those kind of people are SO rare, and I thirst for that. I'm sorry I can't say I trust you 100%; my greatest fear is not being able to complete an operation because I was set up. I hate this government so much for what they have done to our brothers and sisters, that to spend (sic) the rest of my life in prison without having taken a good slice out of the serpents head is unacceptable to me. If there is anyway of reassuring me, please do. As I said, I pray for guidance but God doesn't speak to me like He does others. I hope I haven't offended you, but this is like a dream come true for me, and I never expect things this good to occur in my life. I want nothing from this life but to please Allah (swt), and without engaging in jihad for His sake, I can't say that I did anything to please him. Peace be upon you and all my brothers and sisters in Islam.

**October 4:** I have some questions about that - if what I ask is not a "need to know" at this time, tell me. Am I only involved as far as "prepping" for this is concerned, and just watching the rest unfold? And is it a martyrdom operation? if so am I going to be part of that? I'm asking for a week to give myself time to process all this an (sic) give you an answer. As I've stated before, I won't be able to access the ramp with a vehicle until next year - so driving on to airport property with a van full of C4 is out of the question - after the first of the year, we could drive a city bus out there. It used to be vehicle access was an option, if that's changed I'm not aware of it.

**October 5:** Thank you for not getting anybody's (sic) hopes up too high in case I back out - to those on the front line I'm sure it would appear very cowardly of me. And they would probably be right. But it puts less pressure on me to do an operation, even if I would rather not. I have about 50 questions, but I realise (sic) despression (sic) is of the utmost importance (sic). As far as things I would not want to engage in; you have said they are looking at a time close to the holidays; I can't see myself doing anything that involves killing children, unless I know everything is being done to minimize that. I understand it's a war, and some of these brothers may have had their children killed by this country, but in light of what the Prophet(saw) said concerning (sic) this, I just need to be sure it can be kept to an absolute minimum. And to address my wish for martyrdom (sic), I need to make sure I only desire it to please Allah(swt) . To kill numerous people and then trying to face anyone I know (including "moderate Muslims") is a fate worse than death to me. And I doubt I would last 5 minutes under torture - I would much rather die than roll over on a brother, even at this stage of the game. You are the only person I have any contact with on the jihad issue, but I would rather die than even give the authorities your name.

**October 11:** Thought I would run what I tried to send yesterday by you again. I will be unable to get gate access until next year (1/11/14) which is the date my badge expires. As far as airport terminal access, I will take a drive down that way soon, but I believe with a vehicle with company logo it would be no problem. If you like I can get a close up of the logo so a vehicle other than ours could be painted to match, there by (sic) allowing more time to modify said vehicle for an operation, and then driven through the gate. Just a thought; I'm sure the brothers already have that figured out. I stated last week that I would decide by today if I'm in or out - count me in for the duration.

**October 11-16:** All is good with me. Inshallah, this operation will be huge. Just to be a part of any operation with these brothers is a great honor for me, but of (sic) it can instill and great financial loss to the tagoot who run this country, then I will truly feel blessed. I pray the peace of Allah(swt) will be upon you and the other brothers. May this mission, inshallah, be fruitful for all of us.

**October 18-19:** I will only bring a weapon if the brother thinks it to be advisable. The only reason I would see the need for one is if law enforcement were to show their ugly self's (sic), at which point I would start shooting to give the brother time to flee.

**November 11:** I am well and the brother was very inspiring as always. We did look over the rental property, and I explained how we could accomplish the deed with the least resistance. I always think of things I would like to discuss further with him after we have parted company - so I may relay those questions and comments to you and you can get them to him, if thats (sic) possible. He asked me if I would like to take the ride all the way with him and I said yes, although he said he would ask the other brothers if it was possible for me to leave the country afterwards. I started thinking this would put other brothers in harms (sic) way, so I probably won't go that route. I told him I would go all the way with him to save other brothers much more valuable than me to the Ummah, from making that sacrifice. As I have told you before, I would consider that a great honor. I feel so close to this brother (as you said I would) that going to the end with him seems like the right thing to do. I haven't mentioned this to you because I only found out when I went to security inquiring about my badge: the airport is being renovated - whether thst (sic) is effecting (sic) the area the aircraft park in I don't know. I've been using Google maps to survey the area, but things may have changed I will try to find an excuse to go down that way and scope it out, or check with one of the fuelers about it. I assume because of air traffic that area can't be blocked, but I will make sure....

**November 13:** Just finished checking the photos from the air of the renovation of said property - all improvements are taking place west of our rental properties. Haven't found the completion date yet, but it shouldn't take too much digging to discover. When complete, it will render our rental units useless. But even at that, it wouldn't change the overall strategy of our project, just add a little more

distance to the normal drive. The brother asked me to check times on traffic going in and out, so I hope to have some fairly in-depth details for him. It may require me to pay a visit inside of the property, but most of the info is on the website, mashallah.... Did you notice the brother who got busted trying to fly to Syria to aid Al Qaeda in fighting the taghoot government - guess he 77 posted a large amount of radical information on Facebook and the FBI set him up. I keep a pretty low profile on Facebook anymore - | have more ' important things to attend to....

**November 15:** You understood correctly concerning the renovations. I am compiling (sic) information for the brother concerning times - a first glance it appears early morning will work best - right around sunrise actually. At that time, there would be about 3 properties ready to be inspected - a lot depends on the size of the vehicle and how many supplies it's carrying, although he didn't really think that would be an issue. He called yesterday and said he would call again Tuesday (sic) for a meeting Wednesday (sic) - said we need to go shopping for supplies (carpet and such). Let you know what we pick up, so we can decide how much more we need to get the properties ready to show.