

Remembering Joshua



*October 6, 1975
June 25, 1996*

This book is dedicated to my wife and Josh's mother, Bernie Beekman, to his sisters, Tracy and Jonica, and his brother Tim.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank a special friend, Fran Heiser who also lost a son in the Khobar Towers bombing, for her e-mails containing news stories about the investigation.

And lastly, I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Louis Freeh, Former Director of the FBI, for his diligent effort to find the Truth and to bring about Justice in the Khobar Towers Bombing Case without regard to the personal or political consequences.

George A. Beekman

Preface

This book is dedicated to the memory of Airman 1st Class Joshua Edward Woody and the 18 other airmen who lost their lives in the Khobar Towers Bombing.

This book contains memories and photos of the good times we shared with Josh, as friends and family as well as some of the news articles and memorials related to the bombing and its aftermath. Some of the news stories are about Josh and Corning High School Football, while other news stories are about the Khobar Towers bombing and the events that followed locally and nationally.

A special chapter is dedicated to Nineteen Heroes, victims of the Khobar Towers bombing.

After almost five years of frustration, an indictment was issued on June 23, 2001 naming 14 individuals and strongly pointing towards the nation of Iran.

George A. Beekman

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Remembering Joshua



*The United States of America
honors the memory of
Joshua Woody*

*This certificate is awarded by a grateful
nation in recognition of devoted and
selfless consecration to the service
of our country in the Armed Forces
of the United States.*

William McKinley
President of the United States

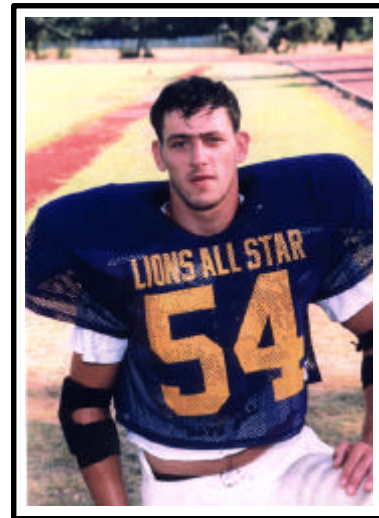
Chapter 1

Remembering Joshua



Joshua Edward Woody was born October 6, 1975 in San Jose, CA. He attended school through the seventh grade in Los Gatos. During 1989 Josh moved to Corning where he entered Maywood Junior High School. He graduated with the Maywood Class of 1990 and the Corning Union High School Class of 1994.

At CUHS Josh lettered in wrestling and football as well as academics. Josh was the varsity football team co-captain his senior year. Following graduation he played in the Lions All-Star North-South football game.



Wearing jersey number 88 Josh, “Woody”, earned a reputation for being an outstanding team player and leader. Josh was selected to the All-League team his junior and senior years. Many believe his best performance was during the Fall 1993 Corning vs. Foothill game, which earned him a position on the Lions All-Star North team.



Josh enlisted in the United States Air Force March 8, 1995, taking basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. On completion of basic and advanced individual training the Air Force assigned him to the 33rd Fighter Wing, 58th Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.



Josh married Dawn Marie Riniker of Pryor, Oklahoma on February 21, 1996. They established their home in Fort Walton Beach, Florida near his duty station at Eglin.



Josh and his mother at the church

A Mother's Memories

I remember when he first was able to play outside, and Jonica took him everywhere with her. From swinging, and sliding to watching Grandpa milk Melissa, our cow.

I remember pulling him and Jonica in their wagon about two and one-half miles to the grocery store, while Tracy rode her tricycle.

I remember the time our dog, Windy grabbed him, because he was trying to spank her with a belt. She only left a couple of scratches.

I remember Tracy bringing books home from school, and I would read to them before bed at night.

I remember when Josh was about three, or four. He went with a friend to someone's home who had chickenpox. When asked if he had already had chickenpox, he thought a while, and then replied, "I don't know, but we got chickens."

I remember popping popcorn, and going over to Vasona Park, and feeding the ducks.

I remember him, and the rest of the kids riding Lightening, their pony up the hill behind the house. We lived on about two acres.

I remember him helping feed the chickens, pigs, and cows. He liked helping his Dad dress out the wild boar he shot while hunting.

Like most big brothers do sometimes, he would complain about Timmy following him everywhere. He didn't quite remember doing it to Jonica.

When we moved up on Mt. Uminum, we had a dirt and gravel down hill driveway. The kids decided to fold the stroller flat, and ride it down the driveway. Tim was the only one to get hurt. At just three and a half, he got his first black eye.

One afternoon we encountered a newborn fawn on the road, as we rounded a corner. It was trying to stand and its legs were all wobbly. Josh wanted to get out and help it off the road. The doe came back as we watched, and it wobbled away.

I remember him shooting a rattlesnake with an arrow, and penning it down with the first shot, even though he couldn't see it.

I remember the fun times he had at the pig parties, over at Rick and Joyce's.

I remember the kids trying to make a snowman in the snow. He had to shovel a path after it had melted, and then froze-over.

I remember the time the kids picked berries, and I made homemade jam, and biscuits for lunch.

They would run and hike through the trees, and shrubs with our beagle, Peppi.

One Saturday, Josh had stayed in town with one of his friends. I got a call from his friend saying Josh needed stitches. When I arrived I found out that he had broken the chain on his bicycle, and scraped his shoulder, and arm on the pavement. There wasn't any skin left to stitch.

On one occasion, I picked up some second-hand tennis rackets, and tried to teach Josh and Tim how to hit the ball over the net, into the right court. It was a lot of fun.

I remember when he helped me put brake shoes on my car, because they were worn out.

He was about twelve years old when his father left us. He helped me with the hot water heater, and other things around the homestead. He told me that he would buy me a house, because we were just renting.

He would call his father every week to check about the weekend. The boys went to their Dad's place on the weekend.

Josh got an award, a first place ribbon at the Santa Clara County Fair, for his windmill he made in metal-shop.

When George and I got married, and bought a house in the town of Corning, he came to visit on the weekends. Then he moved in with us so he could play sports in high school. He played football, and was on the wrestling team. He also started working for George on the weekends wiring houses. He bought an old '70 Ford pickup truck with his money, and took driving lessons so he could get his drivers license on his sixteenth birthday. After passing the test, he went right over to McDonald's and filled out an application for work.

I remember how, when working with George, he just grabbed hold of the rafters and pulled himself up to string wire across the top. He was a very diligent worker.

It looked so easy, when he climbed the tree in our backyard to pull down the ivy that was trying to choke it.

I remember his shyness, when he first started going to school dances. The first time he brought a girl to the house for us to meet. When he asked if he could cut a rose off my bush when he and Carrie were dating.

I remember how at his wedding to Dawn, he exclaimed I have two sets of parents to the photographer.

Walking through the antique shops with him and Dawn the next day.

But most of all I remember how much I love and miss you Josh.

Corning Observer - July 15, 1996

Family, friends remember Josh

By TODD SHURTLEFF
Staff Writer

It was just the way Joshua Woody would've liked his friends to celebrate his life.

Woody, who is best remembered by his friends for his "great smile" and was known for his "monkey faces" was honored by more than 300 people who joined his family members in a memorial service held on Saturday night inside the Corning Union High School gymnasium.



The Beale AFB Color Guard prepares the "Retirement of Colors" at the end of Saturday night's memorial service for Joshua Woody.

Woody, a U.S. Airman 1st Class, was killed, by a terrorist truck bomb blast June 25 while stationed at a U.S. military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

A Beale AFB Color Guard was in attendance for the service and was joined by Captain Charles Knauer, who spoke during the ceremonies and also read a poem.

Woody had moved along with his family from San Jose to Corning in 1989. He was a member of the class of 1994 at Corning Union High School, was a co-captain and standout on the football team and competed on the wrestling squad.

The memorial service began with a welcome to the crowd by one of Woody's closest friends here in Corning, Ben Dennis.

"Josh was my best friend and we had a lot of fun together," Dennis told the gathering. "He would do anything for anybody and always had a smile on his face."

After an invocation by Knauer, a video of the Eglin AFB memorial service held two weeks ago in Florida was played for the gathering and included remarks from President Clinton and a song, "On Eagles Wings," which was performed by Kathryn Rasu.

Following the video, Woody's former boss at McDonalds, Tom Ramos, spoke and was one of five speakers who remembered their contact with Josh. Among those who spoke were Jim Bingham, Don Minto and Bob Hall, all teachers and coaches at Corning High School along with Mark Pettengill, a teacher at Foothill High School in Redding.

Hall announced at the end of his speaking that there is a memorial fund set up and that the first Corning home football game for the 1996 season on September 6 will be dedicated to Josh.

Hall said that the money raised from the fund would go toward a small memorial of Josh that will be displayed on the campus, and any extra money from the fund would go toward a new sound system for the foot ball stadium.

Those wishing to make a donation to the Joshua Woody Memorial Fund can do so through Corning Union High School.



Some members of Corning Boy Scout Troop #5 who attended the service look at a memorial to Joshua Woody that was set up on a table.

Redding Record Searchlight, July 14, 1996

Friends, family pay respects to airman killed in Mideast

The former Corning resident died at a U.S. military complex in Saudi Arabia on June 25 when a terrorist truck bomb was detonated.

By Damon Arthur
R-S civic affairs reporter



**Eric Thibodeau hugs
Joshua Woody's mother,
Bernadine Beekman, at
Saturday's service.**



Former teammates remember Joshua Woody Saturday

CORNING — Tom Ramos shared Joshua Edward Woody's memory with a little roll of nylon electrical tape.

Eric Thibodeau had a stained football jersey to recall his former classmate. And about 400 other friends and family who attended a memorial service Saturday for the slain soldier had the youth's spirit in their hearts.

"Whenever a small town rallies in the face of tragedy and becomes better for it, I'll think of Josh," said his former teacher at Corning High School, Jim Bingham.

Woody, 20, was killed June 25 along with 18 other American airmen when a terrorist's truck bomb exploded at a military complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. He was buried July 5 at Barrancas National Cemetery on the grounds of Pensacola Naval Air Station in Florida.

But Corning residents held a memorial service Saturday night at the high school gym in his honor.

“It is men and women like Joshua who have made freedom possible in this country,” U.S. Air Force Capt. Charles Knauer said in his honor.

During the ceremony, Thibodeau and about a dozen other football players from Airman 1st Class Woody’s Corning High School class of 1994 presented Woody’s number 88 jersey to coach Bob Hall.

Thibodeau said the team members all signed the white, red and black jersey, which is being retired. Another jersey was also presented to Woody’s parents, mother and stepfather, Bernadine and George Beekman of Corning and father and stepmother, John and Carol Woody of Rancho Tehama.

Woody’s wife, Dawn Riniker Woody, of Pryor, Okla., also attended the memorial service. The two had been married only since February.

The couple had lived in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., where Woody was stationed as a weapons load specialist with the 58th Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base. Knauer said prior to the service that Woody was posthumously awarded the Meritorious Service Award. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, which is presented to soldiers wounded or killed, in the line of duty, Knauer said.

Foothill High School football coach Mark Pettengill said the Aug 3 high school Lions All-Star Football Game will be dedicated this year to Woody. Pettengill coached Woody in the 1994 all-star game.

Hall said a memorial fund has been set up at the high school and the proceeds will go toward upgrading the public address system at Cardinal Stadium in Corning. And the football team’s first home game will be dedicated to Woody, Hall said. Pettengill said he remembered Woody’s performance against Foothill during a 1993 match up between the two teams.

“That’s when we first got a taste of Josh. He was a really good kid,” Pettengill said. Bingham, his former teacher, said Woody was a man of deeds. “Josh was economical with his words,” Bingham said. “He was like a hero in a ‘50s western movie. He let his actions speak.”

Ramos, his boss at the McDonald’s restaurant in Corning; said Woody could do wonders with a roll of electrical tape and a screwdriver. “With those tools Josh could fix anything,” Ramos said.

A poem from his memorial service in Corning:

His Spirit Lives On

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there I do not sleep
I am a thousand winds that blow
I am the diamond glints on snow
I am the sunlight on ripen grain
I am the gentle autumn rain
When you awaken in the mornings hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circle flight
I am the soft star that shines at night
Do not stand at my grave and cry
I am not there
I did not die

A poem from his memorial panel at Eglin AFB:

Success

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
and the affection of children:
To earn the appreciation
of honest critics
and endure the betrayal
of false friends:
To appreciate beauty,
to find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better,
whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch
or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life
has breathed easier
because you have lived.
That is to have succeeded.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Chapter 2



The Corning Cardinals **Corning Union High School's Football Team**



Cardinals roughed up by Cubs in homecoming, 38-14

Corning junior QB Taylor throws for 124 yards

By ALAN CAPPS

Sports Editor – Corning Observer

Anderson High School staked its claim as the top football team in the North Section Friday, at the expense of Corning high school at its 31st homecoming.

The Cubs convincingly defeated the Cardinals. 38-14, by rushing for 423 yards on 52 carries and moving at will despite amassing 83 penalty yards on 10 flags. Corning's only bright spot was the play of junior quarterback Clifton Taylor who came into the game in the second quarter to replace senior Eric Thibodeau. At the time the score was 14-0, and Corning had lost 15 yards on its first three possessions.

Taylor threw an interception on first pass, which led to a three-yard touchdown run by Cub quarterback Eric Caldwell and a 20-0 lead with 3:34 before half.

But after that Taylor was 11-for-14 for 124 yards, by far the best day by a Corning quarterback this season. He also threw the first Corning touchdown pass of the season, a 7-yarder to Josh Woody midway through the fourth quarter: that made the score 32-14.

But other than that, the Cardinals could not muster much offense against the Cubs.

Fullback Earl Murr gained 75 yards on 17 carries, marking the first time this season he has run for less than 100 yards.

The running game gained just 101 total yards, hurt by 11 plays that were stopped behind the line of scrimmage.

The Cardinals were also hurt by the same yellow flags that Anderson was able to overcome. Corning was penalized five times, each for 15 yards for 75 yards in total fines.

Two of the 15 yarders occurred in the first drive by Anderson. An unsportsmanlike penalty in the first play from scrimmage - after Anderson had backed itself into a 1st-and-20 through two procedure penalties - gave the Cubs a first down at their own 42.

Three plays later Jamie Crawford cut right, through an off balanced front line, for a 50-yard touchdown run.

On the extra point attempt, Corning was called for roughing the kicker.

Crawford finished with a game-high 121 yards on 13 carries, and scored twice. Backfield mate Craig Koonlz gained another 108 on 10 carries, coming back from being carried off the field in the first quarter with an ankle injury. Anderson nearly had three 100-yard rushers, but Caldwell was nailed by Mike Mallon for a five-yard toss on the final play of the same. Caldwell finished with 95-yards.

Crawford scored again on the next Cubs possession, from two yards out, for a 14-0 lead.

While Corning's offense tried to get on track, the next two Anderson drives were stopped by turnovers.

BillyTorres recovered a fumble on the Coming 16 to end the first, and Brad Hutsell intercepted a pass and returned it deep into Anderson territory on the next possession, only to have an illegal block nullify the return.

Anderson 38, Corning 14

Anderson 14 6 6 12 - 38

Corning..... 0 0 7 7 - 14

Rushing

Anderson (52-423): Crawford 13-121, Koontz 10-108, Caldwell 16-95, Thompson 4-33, McKinney 4-20, Duffy 3-38.

Corning (52-398): Birdwell 4-38, Murr 17-75, Peterson 1-(-1), Rice 6-8, Thibodeau 4-(-18), Taylor 7-(-1).

Passing

Anderson (2-6-1-17): Caldwell 2-6-1-17.

Corning (12-15-1-124): Taylor 12-15-1-124.

Receiving

Anderson (2-17): Duffy 1-9, Crawford 1-8.

Corning (11-124): Woody 4-53 (1-TD), Nunez 2-34, Thibodeau 2-20, Muir 2-11, McDonald 1-6.

Murr, Murr, Murr, Murr, Murr

Corning RB scores five times in win over West' Valley

By ALAN CAPPS - Sports Editor

Earl Murr has an unyielding habit of lauding his blockers after every big rushing game. Friday night's win was no different, but this time the praise was well worth it.

Murr, a senior fullback, rambled for 240 yards rushing and three touchdowns, and caught a 44-yard screen pass for a fourth score to lead Corning to a surprisingly easy 37-8 victory over West Valley.

The win upped Corning to 3-0 in the Westside League, 5-3 over all and into a potential showdown for the title with Foothill, a monstrous 51-7 winner over Gridley. West Valley fell to 1-2 in league and 2-6 overall.

Murr did most of his running behind the large bodies of the Cardinal front line, most prominently tackle Mike Rubie and tight end Josh Woody.

In all, the Cards ran for 398 yards on 52 carries, and Clifton Taylor was 6-of-9 passing for another 88 to chalk up their best offensive performance of the year.

“That’s all it is, blocking,” Murr said, forgetting it was his second, third and sometimes fourth efforts that bullied Eagle defenders and gained many of the yards. “They block, I run. That’s the concept of the game, isn’t it?”

Tailback Jason Rice had another 122 yards on 18 carries, but was overshadowed by Murr. And Murr was often in the shadow of his linemen.

Leading 15-0 on a pair of first-half touchdown runs and a two-point conversion by Murr, the Cards took the second-half kickoff and moved to the West Valley 44 behind the running of Murr and Rice.

On second-and-8, Taylor faded back and dropped a screen pass to Murr. What followed resembled a freight train, as Murr was towed down the sideline by 6-foot-2, 192-pound Woody and the even bigger 6-3, 275-pound Rubie.

Woody and Rubie rumbled all the way to the goal line, wiping out at least four tacklers along the way. Murr followed behind, untouched.

“They told us not to hit anyone if we got way up there,” Woody said. “We didn’t want a penalty. I just watched him go in.”

Billy Torres booted the extra point; Corning led 22-0 and was never threatened again.

On the TD pass, Woody was worried about penalties because Corning, despite the lead, had shot itself in the foot too many times to put it aside.

On their second possession Rice ran for 29 yards only to have a late hit force a first-and-25 after the run. Three plays later Rice rambled for 30 yards, but a clip erased 17 yards of the run and pushed the Cards back another 15.

Corning got its act together late in the second quarter. Starting at the Card 27 after a West Valley punt, Rice and Murr accounted for all 73 yards on the drive, with Murr reaching the end zone on a 17-yard sweep with 3:32 to go.

When the Eagles were called offside on the extra point, Corning went, for a pair and got it with a Murr run.

Murr scored again 26 seconds before half on a 4-yard run, setup when Eagle speedster Cory Hein was stopped on a fake-punt run by Scott McDonald at the West Valley 42.

“I think everyone knew it was coming,” McDonald said. “That’s all I was looking for.”

McDonald had the unenviable task of marking Hein most of the game. He did score on a 71-yard TD reception on a screen pass that made the score 22-8, but Murr answered on the next series with a 38-yard TD run and two point conversion and Hein was held in check.

Hem finished with 120 yards receiving on six catches and 37 yards rushing on nine carries, but gained 10 yards on a play only twice.

“He made me nervous,” McDonald said. “But I. knew everyone else would help me out,”

All that stands between Corning and a shot at unbeaten powerhouse Foothill is Orland. Last year Corning ended Orland’s unbeaten season with a surprise upset. Now it is Orland’s turn to try to return the favor.

“I just worry everyone will take it too lightly,” Woody said.

Corning 37, West Valley 8

West Valley 0 0 0 8 - 8

Corning..... 0 15 7 15 - 37

Rushing

West Valley (28-88): Salazar 11-47. Hein 9-37, Diaz 6-13, Knott 2-(-9).

Corning (52-398): Murr 24-240, Wilson 4-56, Taylor 6-(-20), Rice 18-122.

Passing

West Valley (11-31-1-144): Knott 11-31-1-144.

Corning (6-9-1-88): Taylor 6-9-1-88.

Receiving

West Valley (11-144): Walker 3-35, Hein 6-120, Bolton 1-14, Diaz 1-5.

Corning (6-88): Woody 1-12, Wilson 2-33,

Rice 1-(-5). Muir 1-44. Carruth 1-4.

Wilkins is section's offensive MVP

Five other locals named to all-section football team

By KEVIN ASKELAND Sports Editor - Tri Counties Newspaper, December 3, 1993

Princeton High School quarterback Ben Wilkins was named the Northern Section's Most Valuable Offensive Player during the recent meeting of north state sports writers.

Wilkins heads the third annual All-Northern Section Football Team, along with Anderson's Pat Bishop and Foothill's Mark Pettengill. Bishop was the defensive player of the year and Pettengill was coach of the year.

Wilkins edged out Pleasant Valley High School's Brian Higgins for the first-team quarterback spot, four votes to two, and then edged out Pleasant Valley running back Anousack Vongbandith and Foothill running back Andrew Boesiger for section offensive MVP.

Wilkins set a new section record practically every time he dropped back to pass this season. Besides the 56 section marks he tied or set, he also broke a few state marks as well.

For the overall season, Wilkins finished with 180 completions on 312 attempts for 2,688 yards and 45 touchdowns. Wilkins led the state in TD passes this year.

Joining him on the all-section team was teammate Chris Williamson, who was a second team choice at wide receiver. The senior wide-out caught 59 passes this year for 1,159 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Also on the second team were Josh Woody and Mike Mallon of Corning, Rob Stone of Willows and Danny Elliott of Williams.

Woody was named at defensive tackle after making the all-league team for the second straight year. According to Corning coach Bob Hall, Woody was the most consistent defensive performer for the Cardinals this season.

Mallon, meanwhile, was one of three second-team linebackers. The senior was the co-Defensive MVP of the Westside League and led the Cardinals with 80 tackles.

Stone was a force for the Honkers at defensive end all season long. He was particularly explosive in league play as he had three sacks against Quincy and five tackles behind the line of scrimmage vs. Sutter.

Elliott was one of the top kickers in the section as he booted three field goals and scored 31 extra points in helping lead the Yellow-jackets to a MVL title.

Bishop was the easy choice as the section's defensive player of the year. The 6-3, 275-pound senior defensive tackle devastated opponents and garnered double and triple teaming most of the season.

Pettengill led one of the more remarkable turnarounds in section history when he guided the Foothill Cougars to a 10-0 regular season record after finishing 0-10 last season.

Along the way, Foothill set new state records for points in a regular season and point differential.

Four players were named to the team for the second year in a row. Williamson was one of them and Pleasant Valley's Jordan Swick, Yreka's Rodney Wood and Chico's Shad Linquist were the other two.

Wood moved from nose tackle to defensive end this year and continued to dominate. He was a first-team pick last year at defensive tackle.

Swick moved up to the first team this year after making the second team last year.

Linquist was the second team punter last year but edged out Oroville's Andy McClellan for the first team spot this season.

Williamson made the second team for the second straight year.

Other top offensive players on the first team included Vongbandith and Bonsiger.

Vongbandith scored 21 touchdowns and ran for over 1,500 yards this season for the Vikings. Boesiger, meanwhile, averaged over 11 yards per carry for the Cougars while scoring 23 touchdowns and racing for over 1,300 yards.

Boesiger was one of five under-classmen on the team. Others included teammate Jon Greenway and Anderson's Eric Thompson, both juniors, and sophomores Peter Staler of Pleasant Valley and Tee Coleman of Enterprise.

The voting panel was made up of writers from the Chico Enterprise-Record, Redding Record-Searchlight, Yuba-Sutter Appeal-Democrat, Red Bluff Daily News, Lassen County Times and Tri-County Newspapers.

Chapter 3

Local Newspaper Articles

Corning, California Area

Corning Observer, July 1, 1996

Saudi terrorist bomb kills local airman

Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody was scheduled to leave days later

By MICHAEL GRIFFIN – Editor

Three days before former Corning resident Joshua Woody would have left his post last week at a U.S. military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, a terrorist bomb blast smothered his young life.

Late Tuesday evening a truck bomb exploded outside the military base moments after the bombers were seen running toward a car and speeding away. Although frantic attempts to evacuate the, nearby buildings began, U.S. troops did not have enough time to escape. Airman 1st Class Joshua Edward Woody was one of 19 Americans killed in the blast, while hundreds more were injured.

Josh, a member of the 1994 class of Corning Union High School and a football standout, had been stationed in Dhahran for a few months. Josh was a member of a ground crew supporting aircraft to keep the Saudi airspace clear. He was assigned to the 33rd Fighter Wing out of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

“Everybody in his life was a friend, his smile and his sense of humor,” said family spokesman Michael Flaherty. “He touched everybody he ever met. One of his buddies in the military characterized him by saying if he ran into someone he didn’t know at the mall, they’d part friends.”

Although his final actions were not known, Josh had reportedly been off-duty with a group of servicemen somewhere in the building before the bomb exploded, Flaherty said. Josh lived on the eighth floor, the top floor on the side that was destroyed by the bomb blast.

Earlier this year, Josh was married on Feb. 21 to the former Dawn Riniker. They had met while he was stationed in Oklahoma for advanced training. His last family contact was on his

wedding day. In addition to his wife, Dawn of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Josh is survived by his mother and step father Bernadine and George Beekman of Corning; father and step-mother John and Carol Woody, of Rancho Tehama; a brother, Timothy Woody of Corning; a sister, Seaman Jonica Woody, who is assigned to U.S.S. Detroit; a sister, Tracy Woody of Willows; a step brother, John Woody, of Illinois; in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald P. Riniker of Claremore, Okla.; and numerous family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested any contributions be made to the Josh Woody Memorial Fund at Corning Union High School. At a later date, a memorial service will be held at the high school.

Last Wednesday, three officers from Beale Air Force Base visited both his parents in Corning and Rancho Tehama to report he was missing in action after the bomb blast in Dhahran. On Friday, his family received confirmation from military officials he was among the dead.

On Saturday, Josh's parents and siblings were flown to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., to attend the memorial services yesterday for the families of the Americans killed. Families of the victims also met privately with President Bill Clinton.

Locally, Josh was active in school activities and known for his "monkey faces." At Corning Union High School, Josh was co-captain of his high school football team and a member of the wrestling team, Flaherty said. He played tight-end, and arrangements are being made to retire his #88 jersey at the high school, Flaherty said. The Cardinals first football game this fall will be dedicated in Josh's memory. Josh was honored by being selected to play in the summer Lion's All-Star Football Game after he graduated from high school.



Joshua and Dawn Woody on their wedding day, Feb. 21, 1996

Josh worked at McDonalds



Joshua makes monkey face beside his mother, Bernadine Beekman, outside a church in Claremore, Okla., on his wedding day.



Joshua Woody

in Corning and Willows.

"Josh was something else. Any one who knew him has stories about him," Flaherty said.

Bob Hall teaches American government and physical education at CUHS and is the varsity football coach. “I heard Wednesday night Josh was unaccounted for,” Hall said. “He was just a great kid, a kid that was just a great role model for others to follow. Looked upon by the faculty, community and peers as a real great citizen.”

Hall described Josh as a “hard worker,” playing four years on football team, three on wrestling.

“It’s just a real tragedy for a young life to be lost in this manner,” Hall said. “Josh will always be remembered in our program as the kid who was truly the team player, relentless in whatever he did. Just a great kid on campus. Real positive, always smiling.”

Before graduating from CUHS, he had signed up delayed entry into the U.S. Air Force.

(Staff Writer Adam Jones contributed to this report.)



Corning Observer, July 1, 1996

A good Corning youth will be remembered

By MICHAEL FLAHERTY

Special to the Corning Observer

Shortly after noon this past Wednesday, I received a call from my long-time friend George Beekman. “Mike, we have reason to believe Josh was in the dorm where the explosion occurred in Saudi Arabia.”

Closing my eyes, I recalled the time Josh wandered into the living room eating a peach. His mom asked what he had; he grinned at her and casually said “one of those fuzzy things.”

Josh, the kid with a smile on his face and a witty sense of humor.

Tuesday afternoon, I heard about the explosion while listening to the radio. The thought never entered my mind that I might know anyone affected by the terrorist bombing. George called again about 6:30.

“The Air Force just left. Josh’s whereabouts are unknown; he’s missing in action!” Josh is Airman 1st Class Joshua Edward Woody, son of Bernie Beekman and John Woody, graduate of Corning Union High School, a superb athlete and a friend of everyone he ever met.

A few minutes later I was in George’s living room reading a letter, addressed to Mrs. Bernadine Beekman, from Brigadier General Susan Pamerleau. “It is with deep personal concern that I officially inform you that the duty status and whereabouts of your son has been unknown since 25 June 1996.”

The letter continued, “He has been unaccounted for since the suspected terrorist bombing at Dhahran Air Base, Saudi Arabia.” Josh’s mother Bernie had just received the letter from members of an Air Force Notification team. The team left the Beekman residence for Rancho Tehama to give the same message to Josh’s father and stepmother, John and Carol Woody.

Since then I’ve spent hours on the phone with the Air Force, Josh’s family members, his friends and even the airlines. My role became that of the always anonymous “family friend,” who speaks for the family to protect their privacy at such a difficult time.

From conversations with Josh’s brother, sisters, stepbrother, military buddies, local friends and classmates, relatives, friends of the family and others I now realize why everyone has such a wonderful image of Josh. “He touched everyone he ever met in a way that they parted friends,” said Airman 1st Class Joel Hodges, Josh’s boot camp buddy who became one of Josh and his wife Dawn’s closest military friends. Joel added, “he hated no one and loved everybody.” Everyone I’ve talked with agrees the death of Josh was tragic and senseless. Perhaps the only good to emerge, however, is that Josh Woody will be forever a role model for the Corning High student body and a hero to the community of Corning.

The legacy of Joshua Edward Woody, a good kid from Corning, will exist forever.

Good bye, Josh. We’ll all miss you.

Corning Observer

July 2, 1996

Joshua Edward Woody

Airman First Class

Corning, CA - Airman First Class Joshua Edward Woody, U.S. Air Force, age 20, passed away Tuesday, June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia.



Joshua was born in San Jose, California. He was a member of the 33rd Fighter Wing, 58th Squadron, and a former Lyons Club All Star football team member.

Survivors include his wife, Dawn Woody of Fort Walton Beach, FL; mother and stepfather, Bernadine and George Beekman of Corning, CA; father and stepmother, John and Carol Woody of Corning, CA; brothers Timothy Woody of Corning, CA and John Edward Woody, Jr. of Chicago, IL; sisters, Tracy Marie Woody of Willows, CA, Fireman Jonica Lynn Woody of the USS Detroit, and Cindy Lee Woody of Chicago, IL.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, July 5, at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Crestview, FL with Father Brian Ryan officiating. Burial will follow at 1:30 p.m. in Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, FL, with full military honors.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, July 4th.

Whitehurst Funeral Home, Crestview, FL, is in charge of arrangements.

Record Searchlight, July 6, 1996

Airman buried beside friend

The family of Joshua Woody of Corning, a victim of the bomb blast at a U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, honored his wish to be buried with his best friend.

By Bill Kaczor
The Associated Press



AP Photo

An Air Force honor guard carries the caskets of Joshua Woody and Joseph Rimkus at a cemetery in Pensacola, Fla., on Friday

PENSACOLA, Fla. — They grew up a continent apart, but they shared common values and became best friends during Air Force basic training.

Joshua Woody of Corning and Joseph E. Rimkus of Crestview, Fla., were buried together Friday, victims of a terrorist truck bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, that killed 17 other airmen.

“They were close, worked and lived together, just did everything together,” said Rimkus’ father, Joseph J. Rimkus. “They were just both really good guys. They both loved life. They loved sports and kids, music, family.”

Both were high school athletes from rural towns. They served together in the 33rd Fighter Wing at nearby Eglin Air Force Base and died together in the room they shared in Dhahran.

With a recording of the song “I’m Proud to be an American” playing in the background, an Air Force honor guard carried two flag-draped coffins into Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Crestview, 50 miles northeast of Pensacola.

“We want to honor them most especially as friends, as best friends ... those who can share their lives and, in a very painful way for us, share their deaths,” said the Rev. Bryan Ryan, the church’s pastor.

They had a closeness peculiar to the military, said the gray-bearded priest, a retired Navy chaplain.

“It doesn’t happen anywhere else, especially with men. Men, you know, are prone not to admit those things because it’s not macho,” Ryan said. “In the military you kind of are allowed to say ‘I have a best friend.’”

Hours later they were laid rest, side-by-side, at Barrancas National Cemetery on the grounds of Pensacola Naval Air Station. There they joined soldiers, sailors and airmen who served in conflict and peace dating back from before the Civil War through the Persian Gulf War and now Middle East terrorism.

A lone bagpiper played a mournful tune as the two caskets were removed from identical white hearses.

The honor guard, in dress blue uniforms with silver braid, played taps and fired three rifle volleys.

U.S. flags were presented to the dead airmen’s parents and to Woody’s wife, Dawn Riniker Woody. They married less than five months ago, just weeks before he departed for Saudi Arabia.

Woody, the son of Bernadine Beekman of Corning and John Woody of Rancho Tehama, was a high school football star and also competed in wrestling.

Rimkus, who ran cross-country in high school, was from an, Air Force family. His father, a retired master sergeant, lives in Kirkwood, Mo., and his mother, Bridget Brooks, resides in Niceville near Eglin.

When Hurricane Opal damaged his mother’s home last year Rimkus and Woody worked together to patch the roof.

After the burial, members of the two families embraced each other. Woody’s family honored his wish to be buried with his friend:

“They never let anything get to them, tried their best to be happy and keep everybody happy around them,” said the elder Rimkus.

Corning Observer, July 12, 1996

Corning will hold memorial tomorrow for Joshua Woody



Corning will celebrate the life of fallen airman Joshua Woody tomorrow night.

The memorial service will be held in the Corning Union High School gymnasium at 8 p.m.

Woody, a U.S. Airman 1st Class, was killed by a terrorist truck bomb blast June 25 while stationed at a U.S. military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

A member of the class of 1994 at Corning Union High School, he was active in school activities. Woody was a co-captain and standout on the football team and competed on the wrestling team.

Corning Observer, September 27, 1996

First tree planted in memorial grove

A redwood tree was dedicated in memory of U.S. Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody and planted at Yost Park yesterday. In the future, other redwood trees will be planted to create a memorial grove on the south side of the baseball field.

Woody was killed along with 18 other U.S. airmen in the June 25th 'terrorist bomb explosion while stationed at a U.S. military base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

The tree was donated by Marjorie Yost-Conserve. Yost Park is named after her late husband, Roger Yost, who donated the parcel of land so local children would have a ball field to play in.

"I thought about this boy," Yost said of Woody. "The Yost children are very proud of this park. He (Roger) did work so hard on this." Woody's parents, Bernie and George Beekman attended the dedication.

"I'm really appreciative for the community and all the support shown — from the memorial fund at the high school to the co-ed baseball tournament to the dedication of this tree," said George Beekman. "The community's been wonderful."

This is the start of a future redwood memorial grove, said Corning Public Works Superintendent Tom Russ. Future trees will be planted six feet apart.

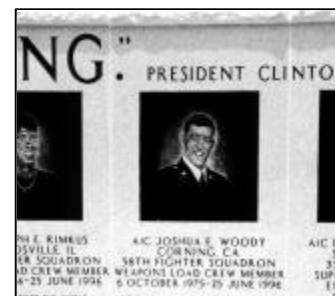


MICHAEL GRIFFIN Corning Observer

Marjorie Yost-Conserve shovels dirt around the tree as (l. to r.) Stanley Jones, Jean Jones, Bernie Beekman, George Beekman, Councilman Rex Roush and Mayor Gary Strack look on.

Corning Observer, June 24, 1998

Memorials honor Woody



Tomorrow marks the tragic second anniversary of Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody death, when he and 18 others were killed in the bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Last June 25, the memory of Woody and 11 others from the 33rd Fighter Wing were honored with a memorial wall (above, and at right) at Eglin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. The, project was completed through \$200,000 in donations and volunteer efforts from the fallen dozens' friends at the base where they were stationed.

Two months ago, Woody's name was dedicated to a corridor in a new building, Mathus Hall at Shepard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas. Woody graduated from tech school there. Another corridor was dedicated to Joseph Rimkus, who Woody met there and was his roommate in Saudi Arabia. Both are buried beside one another in Florida.

Photos special to the Observer

Chapter 4

Other Newspaper Articles

Eglin Eagle, July 4, 1996

Twelve airmen: taken before their time

by Staff Sgt. Jody J. Clor

AFDTC Public Affairs

More than 5,000 Americans, including President Clinton, paid tribute Sunday morning to 12 members of the 33d Fighter Wing killed June 25.

King Hangar was the memorial service site due to its 90,000 square-foot floor space. The hangar not only accommodated the mourners, but also more than 300 local and national media were on hand to bring the service into the homes of millions around the world.

Long embraces reflecting the joy for survivors and teary eyes showing the sadness of death was more than an emotion; it was reality.

A lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace," while family members, co-workers and commanders of the slain sat together in mourning. Moments later the solemn ceremony began.

After remarks by Chaplain Col. LaVerne L. Schuellerler and Chaplain Lt. Ray W. Hirsch, Katherine Rash reached towards heaven for the men and women of the 58th FS with her voice by singing "On Eagles' Wings."

Placed behind her were two F-15 Eagles from the 58th Fighter Squadron. For some, the roar of an F-15's engine represents the sound of freedom and the United States Air Force lost some of its best men battling for that liberty.

"These men represented the best of America and they gave America their best," President Clinton said early on in his eight-minute speech. "they stepped forward to lead our mission for peace and freedom. They did so with courage, strength and skill."

President Clinton asked those at the memorial service including Secretary of the Air Force Shelia Widnall and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Ron Fogleman to praise the American heroes, who gave their lives in service to America.

“Our Nomads have ceased their wandering,” the President said in his final words to the multitude. “They have come home. May God embrace their souls. May God bless America’s mission of peace and freedom, for which they gave the last full measure of their devotion.”

After the President’s speech, the 33d Fighter Wing’s 59th Fighter Squadron paid tribute in their own way. Without a cloud in the sky, four F-15s in a horizontal row rapidly approached King’s Hangar from the south. Just as they neared, the left-middle plane broke away from its group and flew toward heaven. And on Eagle’s wings, the 59th also reached out to their comrades ... they flew the missing-man formation.

Seconds after the fly-by, a shout echoed out to the members of the 33d Fighter Wing calling them to attention. Then, the command “Order Arms” gave way to an emotional moment as every member presented their fallen comrades with a present ... a well deserved salute.



President Clinton vows to punish those who committed this evil deed.



Above, several airmen from the 58th Fighter Squadron embrace on the 33d Fighter Wing's flightline parking ramp Friday. The group reunited after their 20-hour trip on two C-141s from Saudi Arabia. Twelve of their friends and co-workers are gone but not Forgotten. Left, wreaths with the posthumously awarded Purple Heart Medals represented each of the 12 fallen airmen.



Eglin Eagle, July 4, 1996

President's speech touches thousands of hearts

Editors note: this is the written text in full of the speech given by the President at the memorial service for servicemen, killed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Governor Chiles, Congressman Scarborough, Governor McKay, General Shalikashvili, Secretary White, Secretary Widnall. Under Secretary DeLeon, General Fogleman, General Hawley, General Cranston, Colonel Dylewski, the chaplains, Chief Lowe.

To those brave servicemen who were injured, we thank God for your presence here today. To the families of the 12 men who we honor today who died in the service of our nation.

These men represented the best of America, and they gave America their best. They stepped forward to lead our mission for peace and freedom. They did so with courage, strength and skill.

As members of the Nomads, the 33rd Fighter Wing, as communicators and mechanics, crew chiefs and technicians, they kept our aircraft flying, and they owned the skies. Time and again they gave up the comforts that most of us take for granted, traveling far from home and family to take up America's cause.

There is a passage in Isaiah in which God wonders, "Whom shall I send; and who will go for us?" Isaiah answers, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." These men we honor today said to America, "Send me".

We will remember them as patriots, but they were also husbands and fathers, Sons and brothers, colleagues, neighbors and friends. Some came from families with a proud tradition of military service. Some have brothers and sisters serving our military today. Some had dreamed of joining the Air Force since they were little boys.

All of them showed by the example of their lives the same spirit of service they brought to their careers. They were always among the first to lend a hand when someone was in need. They served as soccer coaches and Sunday school teachers. They helped the victims of hurricanes and volunteered as firemen. They loved their cars, their sports, their families and their mission. One of them was on his third tour in Saudi Arabia. Another volunteered so airman with larger family obligations could stay home.

They were all very different, as I saw when I met with their families. They came from different regions, different ethnic groups, different religious and political backgrounds. But they were united by love of nation, mission and family. They touched the lives of many other people, and because of them we all lead safer and better lives.

On behalf of the American people, let me say to their families and loved ones, and to their friends in the Eglin community, we are grateful for their service. We stand with you in sorrow and in outrage. They were taken before their time, felled by the hands of hatred, in an

act whose savagery is matched only by its cowardice. We will not rest in our efforts to capture, prosecute and punish those who committed this evil deed.

But today, in the warm embrace of our faith, let us put aside our anger for a moment to remember and honor those who were lost; to find strength in their service, to thank God for the lives they lived, to continue the struggle for freedom and decency to which they devoted their lives.

We're blessed to live in a prosperous land in a time of peace, but we are not free from peril. While the modern world brings to all of us many new opportunities, it also leaves us more open to the forces of intolerance and destruction, and especially to terrorism, so often rooted in ethnic and religious hatreds — because terrorists can strike anywhere from the Tokyo subway to the streets of London, from the Holy Land to the World Trade Center in New York, and Oklahoma City. And now, in Saudi Arabia.

My fellow Americans, during the long struggles of World War II and the Cold War, America stood fast for freedom. In our time, terrorism is the enemy of peace and freedom. America must not, and America will not, be driven from the fight against terrorism.

In this effort, every American must stand behind the men and women of our Armed Forces. Every American must stand against violence and hatred, and stand for dignity and tolerance at home as well as abroad. We must honor the memory of those we have lost by up holding the ideals for which they lived and the mission for which they gave their lives.

To the loved ones of those 12 fine men, I know there are no words to soothe the loss of a father or a husband, a brother or a son, a fiancé or a dear friend. The rest of us can only hope that there is some solace for you in the pride and passion they brought to their work, the strength and decency they demonstrated every day, the love and respect they engendered and which surrounds you today, and the gratitude of their nation.

Let us now praise these quiet American heroes, who gave their lives in service to America. May they rest in peace and may their names live on forever:

***Tech. Sgt. Daniel Cafourek
Sergeant Millard Dee Campbell
Senior Airman Earl Cartrette, Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Patrick Fennig
Master Sgt. Kendall Kitson, Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Thanh Gus Nguyen
Airman 1st Class Brent Marthaler
Airman 1st Class Brian McVeigh***

***Airman 1st Class Peter
Morgera
Airman 1st Class Joseph
Rimkus***

Senior Airman Jeremy Taylor
Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody

Our Nomads have ceased their wandering. They have come home. May God embrace their souls. May God bless their families and their loved ones. And may God bless America's mission of peace and freedom, for which they gave the last full measure of their devotion.



King Hangar, the site of Sunday's memorial service was dedicated May 5, 1955 in honor of Maj. Lyle Russell King. Construction on the 90,000 square foot hangar, the largest of its kind at the time, began March 17, 1947, at a cost of more than \$500,000.



President Clinton delivers his memorial service speech to more than 5,000 visitors and military members who paid tribute to family and friends of the 12 fallen base airmen. Clinton's speech was also televised live on national television.

Photos by Craig McDonnell

**Saudis' wavering on base security wasn't
passed to higher-ups in U.S.**

WASHINGTON - Before last week's terrorist attack on U.S. military housing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, the Air Force commander in charge of the air wing there never told superiors about the reluctance of Saudi authorities to expand the security buffer zone around the housing complex, senior Air Force officials said yesterday.

The evident communication gap between the one-star general and others up the chain of command in the United States meant no high-level U.S. influence could be brought to bear on Saudi authorities to widen the security perimeter next to the apartment building that bore the brunt of the truck-bomb explosion a week ago in which 19 U.S. service members died and hundreds were injured.

In addition, Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were taken by surprise over the weekend when Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwailer disclosed that Saudi authorities had turned down two requests to widen the protected area around the apartment complex from 100 feet to 400 feet. Also surprised were all other commanders in the chain between Schwailer - who leads the 4404th Air Wing, which consists of several squadrons - and the Pentagon's top leaders.

"He did not up channel the conversations between his commanders and the Saudis," said a senior Air Force officer.

Defense officials have said that a wider buffer zone between the truck bomb, which exploded just beyond the perimeter fence, and the apartment complex would have resulted in fewer casualties. Immediately after the attack, the protected area was expanded to 400 feet.

Pentagon officials yesterday said it was understandable for Schwailer to expect the Saudis might eventually act on the perimeter request, particularly since they had not ruled it out and had responded favorably to other requests for tightened security around the housing complex.

"I know everyone in town is looking for a scalp, but . . . this was someone who, it appears, was working the security problem on several fronts. This perimeter issue was just one of the fronts," said another senior Air Force official.

Schwailer disclosed the Saudis' rebuff Saturday but he did not provide details about the talks, which he said he understood to be in progress when the bomb went off.

Administration officials asserted that the kingdom's government frequently requires U.S. envoys to broach a proposal several times before considering it seriously.

At the same time, diplomats said that the Saudis occasionally have refused to grant a U.S. request for fear it would fuel violence by Islamic dissidents who believe the regime is corrupt and too closely allied with the West.

Richard Haass, a Middle East policy-maker in the Bush administration, said that in this case the Saudis "were clearly reluctant" to widen the perimeter at Dhahran because "they do not like to admit there is a threat . . . and it would highlight the American presence."

The disclosure that Saudi authorities had resisted U.S. requests to accept a broadened buffer zone has raised questions about whether the Saudi government did enough to protect U.S. personnel after a smaller bombing that killed five Americans and two Indians in November in the capital, Riyadh, and a rash of threats against Americans by Islamic extremist groups.

Two Senate committees - on intelligence and armed services - have announced hearings next week into the circumstances surrounding the Dhahran bombing. The chairman of the intelligence committee, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said over the weekend the Defense Department needs a "shake-up" and asserted he may push for Perry's resignation.

Perry and Specter have feuded recently, with Perry refusing to attend an April hearing called by Specter on reforming the intelligence community.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., joined Specter in suggesting Perry might have to resign, and compared the truck bombing to the 1993 military mission in Somalia that ended after 18 American soldiers were killed in a firefight.

If congressional investigations show that the requests to extend the security perimeter "were as badly mismanaged as Somalia was . . . then I frankly think some people will have to resign," Gingrich said.

Information from the Los Angeles Times is included in this report.

Florida military bases mourn Saudi casualties

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COCOA BEACH, Fla. (Jun 27, 1996 4:23 p.m. EDT) - Flags flew at half-staff and faces were grim at two U.S. Air Force bases in Florida Wednesday as military families mourned the losses of loved ones in the deadly truck-bomb blast in Saudi Arabia.

At Eglin Air Force Base, in the Florida panhandle near Fort Walton Beach, and at Patrick Air Force Base near Cocoa Beach on the state's east coast, military officials and townspeople expressed anger and sadness at the deaths of U.S. personnel in the deadly attack on a military housing complex in Dhahran.

"It's clearly a very tragic time for our people, a time of sorrow," said Col. Patrick Carr, vice commander of the 45th Space Wing at Patrick.

In the close-knit military community near Patrick, residents flew U.S. flags outside their homes at half-staff as military counselors readied to help victims' families. Preparations were under way for a private memorial service Sunday for military families.

Officials said families of victims were being notified by a military team made up of a notification officer, a chaplain and a medical officer.

The attack was the subject of conversation at the local Officer's Club and at Phil's Barber Shop near the base, where current and former military personnel pay \$7 for a haircut.

"I think it was cowardly," said Frank Zamboni, a retired Air Force colonel who believes the attack was in retaliation for U.S. participation in the Gulf War.

"It was only a matter of time that something like this would occur after the Persian Gulf War," he said. "Those people don't forgive, they try to get even."

"Why pick on our troops?" asked Misty Gallentine, a hair stylist at Phil's. "I think any act of terrorism is a cowardly way of going about things."

Officials said 51 personnel from units at Patrick were deployed in Dhahran and all had been accounted for. They said five members of the 71st Rescue Squadron of the 1st Rescue Group died in the blast -- Master Sgt. Michael Heiser of Palm Coast, Florida, Staff Sgt. Kevin Jerome Johnson of Shreveport, Louisiana, Capt. Christopher Adams of Massapequa Park, New York, Capt. Leland Haun, hometown unknown, and Airman First Class Justin Wood of Modesto, California.

At a somber press conference at Eglin, where more than 8,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed, officials mourned the loss of at least five men based there and said they were providing "what comfort we can" to families of the dead.

"This is obviously an extremely difficult time for all of us involved here at Eglin," said Maj. Gen. Stewart Cranston, commander of the Air Force Development Test Center. "Eglin is a very close-knit community and our hearts go out to all of the family members of our people."

Officials said about 320 military personnel with the 58th Fighter Squadron and other units from the 33rd Fighter Wing were deployed in Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Southern Watch, a mission to enforce provisions of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. About 150 were due to return to Florida Friday as their tours ended.

"I'm outraged and I'm angry and I hope that we catch the people who are responsible for it," said Col. Gary Dylewski, commander of the 33rd Fighter Wing.

At MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Army Gen. Binford Peay, head of the U.S. Central Command, said the U.S. military has rushed intelligence, medical and other specialists to Saudi Arabia. He also told a press conference that the bodies of the 19 dead Americans would be flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware Thursday.



Air Force Times 07-08-96 Issue

THE REVERBERATIONS CONTINUE / SECURITY REVIEW FOLLOWS ATTACK IN SAUDI ARABIA

By Steven Watkins
Times staff writer

Flying operations at the air base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, returned to normal June 28, three days after a giant truck bomb reduced to rubble an eight-story residence hall, killing 19 airmen and injuring more than 400 people.

But little else could be considered anywhere near normal as the Air Force and the world struggled to understand the inexplicable and make military members less vulnerable to terrorist attack.

The blast, felt as far as 50 miles away, shattered virtually every window in the compound and threw people from their chairs and beds.

But reverberations from the blast did not stop there. They continued on: to air bases in Germany and Turkey where medical teams were dispatched to Saudi Arabia to treat victims; to France, where President Clinton and other world leaders vowed justice; to Washington, D.C., where FBI and Air Force investigators snapped to action; to Florida and Nebraska, where Eglin, Patrick and Offutt Air Force bases mourned their fallen comrades; and throughout the country to the families and friends of those killed and injured.

Security concerns remained high at King Abdul Aziz Air Base, a Saudi base where about 3,000 troops from the Air Force's 4404th Wing (Provisional) and the British and French air forces launch flights to patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq. About 2,300 Air Force personnel are in Dhahran supporting the 5-year-old coalition effort known as Southern Watch to enforce a no-fly zone over southern Iraq. In all, there are about 7,000 Air Force

personnel throughout the Persian Gulf region, Air Force spokesman Capt. Mike Caldwell said.

As flight operations geared back up in the early morning hours of June 28, a bomb threat that turned out to be a hoax forced troops to take cover for an hour beginning at 4:45 a.m. Five hours later, about 500 people on base gathered at the Air Force's passenger terminal for an hour-long memorial for the 19 airmen killed or presumed dead. Throughout, Air Force personnel who were not recuperating from wounds worked tirelessly to clear wreckage, relocate people displaced by the bomb attack, restore base facilities to working order and get flying operations back to normal pace.

On June 28, 52 people were still recuperating in military and civilian hospitals in Saudi Arabia and Germany, FBI and Air Force investigators continued sifting through wreckage for clues, and Air Force members around the world mourned and remembered their fallen comrades.

A host of new security measures were taken after the attack. Outside the base, Saudi security officers increased their patrols, while Air Force security police increased patrols inside. At the gates to the base and the nearby Khobar Towers compound where the attack occurred, security checks were stepped up. U.S. military members are forbidden from traveling outside the base except for official reasons and they must wear civilian clothes when off base.

Residents of buildings destroyed or damaged by the blast were moved to buildings further inside the fence. A senior Air Force official said a review to consider more security protections for overseas personnel is imminent. Two previous security reviews already have been held in the last year, he said.

Now, amid the recovery effort, many are asking whether enough was done and whether troops can be safe at a time when they are deployed more than ever.

In Dhahran, several people interviewed said they had few security concerns before the blast because of the stringent security measures in place. But defense officials acknowledged there were previous hostile incidents reported at the Dhahran base in recent months that should have hinted at a possible attack, including suspicious vehicles driving by the targeted compound of high-rise dormitories, and dining and recreation facilities. News reports also talked of outsiders taking pistol shots at the compound, taking photographs and attempting to crash a gate.

Capt. Kathleen Cook, an Air Force spokeswoman, said Air Force police had significantly stepped up security precautions since November when a car bomb killed five American civilians and two Saudis in the capital of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Also based in Riyadh is the headquarters of Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, which manages U.S. and allied military operations there.

"They were at a heightened awareness already based on the ongoing [security] reassessments that we do," Cook said. "This could have been much worse had they not been prepared and not been alert for such an action."

After the November car-bomb attack, security police installed waist-high concrete barriers and concertina wire around Khobar Towers. The complex, about three dozen buildings of dormitory-style residences, recreation centers, basketball courts, garages, administrative offices and a softball field -- is home for most troops who are normally deployed two to three months at a time.

Even though senior Air Force officials were on alert for possible terrorist activities after the November car-bomb attack, they were nevertheless surprised by the size of this latest attack in Dhahran.

The improved security measures proved no match for the gigantic bomb that ripped through Khobar Towers from outside the compound's perimeter.

"A lot of people are asking whether we had anticipated anything like this" Capt. Scott Vadnais, an Air Force spokesman at Dhahran, said June 27. "No, we hadn't planned on something like this, otherwise, we would have taken precautions to prevent it."

It appears the explosion was at least several times more powerful than the truck bomb that decimated the federal building in Oklahoma City last year, officials said.

"We have come across a weapon that is much, much larger than what we have prepared to deal with," a senior Air Force official said, adding that "we're dealing with a whole new area [of terrorism] here." But other than the temporary reduction in flights in Dhahran, normal operations continued at other Air Force bases in the region.

"If anything, this has redoubled each of the countries' commitments to the current policy [of keeping a strong U.S. presence in the region]," the senior Air Force official said. "Nobody has communicated to us that we are not invited anymore."

In fact, the Air Force has been gradually boosting its presence in the Persian Gulf region in recent months with regular deployments of aircraft and people called air expeditionary forces. In October a 600-person air expeditionary force was deployed temporarily to Bahrain. A 1,200-person force was sent to Jordan in March, a 1,000-person force was sent to Qatar in June and another deployment is being planned for fall.

THE VICTIMS

Here are the people who were confirmed dead or listed as unaccounted for as of 2 p.m. June 28 following the June 25 terrorist attack at the Air Force housing complex in Saudi Arabia.

--Dead

Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.:

Master Sgt. Kendall K.J. Kitson
Tech. Sgt. Patrick P. Fennig
Tech. Sgt. Thanh V. Nguyen
Staff Sgt. Daniel B. Cafourek
Sgt. Millard D. Campbell
Senior Airman Earl F. Cartrette Jr.
Airman 1st Class Brent E. Marthaler
Airman 1st Class Peter J. Morgera

46rom Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.:

Capt. Christopher J. Adams
Capt. Leland T. Haun
Master Sgt. Michael G. Heiser
Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Johnson
Airman 1st Class Justin R. Wood

--Unaccounted for

Eglin:

Senior Airman Jeremy A. Taylor
Airman 1st Class Brian W. McVeigh
Airman 1st Class Joseph E. Rimkus
Airman 1st Class Joshua E. Woody

Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.:

Staff Sgt. Ronald L. King

46rom Patrick:

Senior Airman Paul A. Blais

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**BEFORE: THE NATION MOURNS
AFTER: THE NATION FORGETS**

Re: Terrorist Bomb-Khobar Towers-25 June 1996

The lives of our troops are in danger and no one is held accountable or responsible! I am an only child who lost her only child in that senseless bombing. In this long painful year we have yet to hear that anyone has been found guilty of such a horrendous crime. The Terrorists are criminals but the commanders who did not heed the warnings of an imminent attack are also guilty of murder in my book!

Washington is notorious for passing the buck and our servicemen deserve better. The latest quote is, "Accountability does not mean always finding someone to punish when something goes wrong." Does anyone agree with me that accountability should come at all levels? We're not looking for a scapegoat but someone is responsible and this needs to be dealt with.

The Air Force lost 19 young dedicated men, and Mike was one of the most decorated enlisted men in the Air Force. They lost an exceptional airman in that young man, and I lost my future, and the system doesn't seem to care. This was not the first attack on Americans and it won't be the last. Why don't we start taking care of our own? Protect our service members or keep them home! If you read this and want to add to it, please let the Times hear your opinion.

Thank you for listening and letting me tell it like it really is.

Fran Heiser

THE FAMILIES 'WILL PAY FOREVER'

By William Matthews

The punishment comes a year late and falls far short, say the parents of two of the men who died in the Khobar Towers attack. For Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwalier, punishment means denial of a second star. As a result, Schwalier decided to retire early.

Responsibility "falls on more people than just on that one individual," said Sandra Wetmore, the mother of Airman 1st Class Brian McVeigh, one of 19 airmen killed in the explosion in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996.

"Others need to be held accountable. They didn't protect our boys," she said. But Defense Secretary William Cohen said he would not punish those above Schwalier in the chain of command. "They are trying to close an ugly chapter," Wetmore said. "Unfortunately, others were remiss."

To Fran Heiser, the mother of Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, Schwalier's punishment is minor compared to the magnitude of her loss. Being denied a promotion and retiring early will cost Schwalier hundreds of dollars a month in retirement pay.

"But I lost my only child in that bombing, and we will pay a price for life that can't compare to a couple of lost dollars per month and a career cut short," Heiser said. "The world will soon forget, all except the families -- we will pay forever and we didn't do anything wrong."

In deciding to block Schwalier's promotion to major general, Cohen said he weighed the military's obligation to the families of the dead. "On the one hand, we have a fine officer -- General Schwalier is a fine Air Force officer -- but by the same token, we have families that need to also have an accounting and want to know whether or not measures could have been taken which possibly might have reduced the chance that their sons and daughters could have

escaped harm or death," Cohen said. "These things are never easy, and I just tried to be as fair-minded as I could and I came to this judgment."

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Transmitted: 8/4/97 4:20 PM EDT (af081114)

THE CHIEF'S SHINING EXAMPLE

By Robert F. Dorr

When Gen. Ronald R. Fogleman walks out the door, he can hold his head high.

As chief of staff of the Air Force for the past three years, Fogleman has shown courage and integrity. He is stepping down over a matter of principle, without finishing his four-year tour of duty. At a time when many officers care more about their careers than their country, Fogleman has shown us a shining example of honor.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the elected and appointed civilians who run our nation and who, under our Constitution, hold authority over military officers. Capitol Hill legislators, our president and especially Defense Secretary William Cohen all failed us when we needed them.

Especially culpable is Cohen, who is proving to be a disaster at the helm of the Pentagon.

Already under fire for his rubber-stamping of the military's feckless strategy document, the Quadrennial Defense Review, and already stumbling on other personnel issues, Cohen should have supported his Air Force chief of staff.

Instead, the secretary betrayed Fogleman. Cohen even began talking to possible successors before Fogleman decided to request early retirement.

Fogleman concluded a fortnight ago that Cohen planned to overrule him and block the promotion of Brig. Gen. Terryl Schwalier, who was the commander in Saudi Arabia when a truck bomb killed 19 airmen.

This was a mistake by Cohen. It highlights the growing gulf between civilians and military leaders in America.

Many on Capitol Hill -- where military experience is minimal -- cried out for Schwalier's head on a platter.

President Clinton, who has no military background, seems to have stayed out of the dispute. Cohen gave off conflicting signals at first, then appeased the louder and less reasonable voices in Congress, where he once served.



KHOBAR TOWERS - Memorialized Yet Unresolved

By Tim Dyhouse

<http://www.vfw.org/magazine/jun01/38.shtml>

No one has yet been held accountable for the 1996 terrorist attack that killed 19 U.S. airmen in Saudi Arabia. But thanks to concerned Americans, the airmen are now commemorated by four memorials.

Five years ago this month, a truck bomb exploded outside the Khobar Towers military complex at King Abdul Aziz Air Base near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The blast killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded 109.

The task of finding and punishing the airmen's killers, which had been stalled since 1999, appears to be reinvigorated. In April, Secretary of State Colin Powell stated the Bush Administration is "keenly interested in solving this case."

Washington has reason to believe that Iran was involved in the attack. In February, U.S. Justice Department officials identified Ahmad Sherifi, a senior member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, as one of some two dozen suspects responsible. Attorney General John Ashcroft is expected to seek an indictment against Sherifi.

Eglin: 33rd fighter wing

As investigators sifted through the rubble of Khobar Towers in 1996, fellow airmen, veterans and community residents set about formally memorializing the airmen killed. Their work has led to four memorials at four Air Force bases.

The first was dedicated in June 1997 at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) in Florida. It memorializes 12 "Nomads" of the 33rd Fighter Wing, which is based at Eglin.

The wing's veterans group, the Nomad Association, raised funds for the \$200,000 memorial. Its centerpiece is a curved, gray granite wall etched with the names, pictures and biographies

of the 12 men. An inscription reads: "Our Nomads have ceased their wandering." In front of the wall, a flame flickers from the blade of a sword thrusting upward.

Enlisted heritage hall

On the third anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing, Maxwell AFB near Montgomery, Ala., dedicated a memorial exhibit at the Enlisted

Heritage Hall. It honors all 19 airmen.

According to Airman magazine, students at Gunter's Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy donated artifacts and money to help create the exhibit. The display includes objects recovered after the bombing and uniforms worn by three airmen killed in the blast. Enlarged photos of the explosion site make up the exhibit's backdrop.

Patrick: 71st rescue squadron

In June 2000, Patrick AFB, on Florida's east-central coast, also dedicated a memorial. It specifically honors five members of the 71st Rescue Squadron, 1st Rescue Group killed at Khobar. (The unit moved from Patrick to Moody AFB, Ga., in 1997.)

The memorial, designed by Ann Heyer, is a half-circle comprising five red granite slabs, each with a laser-etched likeness of the five airmen from Patrick. It also includes the names of the other 14 airmen killed. It sits on a foundation containing some of Khobar's remnants.

At the memorial's dedication, Air Force Col. Thomas R. Friers, former 1st Rescue Group commander, said the pieces of Khobar Towers within the foundation will "forever bind this [memorial] to that tragic memory."

The Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Air Force Association and the Brevard County Civilian-Military Relations Council raised the more than \$60,000 needed to build it.

Without the help of the various veterans and civilian groups, these memorials may never have been built. Because of a federal regulation, only private funds could be used for their construction. It was perplexing even to those who work at the top-levels of the military.

"I remain stunned and puzzled that I have extremely limited legal authority to use taxpayer funds to erect a memorial to airmen who have died in the line of duty," said then-Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters at the Patrick AFB memorial dedication. "What you see before you today is therefore the product of the generosity of this community."

Offutt and Wright

Offutt AFB in Nebraska took another approach. Home station of Staff Sgt. Ronald L. King, who was assigned to the 55th Contracting Squadron, Offutt dedicated a dining facility in his memory on April 20, 2001.

Airman 1st Class Christopher Lester of the 88th Civil Engineer Group also was honored. His fellow airmen at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio conducted a memorial service for him on July 1, 1996. An exhibit featuring Lester's photo is located in Building 22 at Wright-Patterson.

Now all they await is justice.

From Eglin AFB

Master Sgt. Kendall Kitson, Jr.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Cafourek

Tech. Sgt. Patrick Fennig

Tech. Sgt. Thanh Nguyen

Sgt. Millard Campbell

Senior Airman Earl Cartrette, Jr.

Senior Airman Jeremy Taylor

Airman 1st Class Brent Marthaler

Airman 1st Class Brian McVeigh

Airman 1st Class Peter Morgera

Airman 1st Class Joseph Rimkus

Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody

From Patrick AFB

Capt. Christopher J. Adams

Capt. Leland "Tim" Haun

Master Sgt. Michael Heiser

Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Johnson

Airman 1st Class Justin R. Wood

From Offutt AFB

Staff Sgt. Ronald L. King

From Wright-Patterson AFB

Airman 1st Class Christopher Lester

Chapter 5

The Investigation

Almost five years after the bombing of Khobar Towers, political interests were still stonewalling the investigation. That is until the Bush administration got involved.

The families of the nineteen airmen killed in the Khobar Towers bombing wish to express our sincere thanks to FBI Director Louis Freeh for his diligent effort to find the truth and to bring about justice in the Khobar Towers bombing case without regard to his personal political consequences. We also wish to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft and President George W. Bush for their support in the effort to bring about the indictments of the perpetrators (Appendix F).

Our servicemen daily put their lives on the line for this country. They gladly did this to protect our way of life and the freedoms afforded us by the Constitution of the United States of America and they paid the ultimate price for our freedom. These servicemen were our sons, fathers, husbands, brothers and friends.

How can any politician ask our servicemen and loved ones to put their lives on the line if they are unwilling to seek justice or they obstruct justice, as was done under the Clinton administration, for those killed or wounded at Khobar Towers?

I wish to be real clear at this point. The servicemen killed at Khobar Towers were murdered. Murder is a capital offense and obstruction of justice in a murder case is usually a felony.

Any politician, including Ex-President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who put politics before justice should be prosecuted or impeached for their role in the obstruction of justice in the Khobar Towers Investigation Case. Make them accountable as you or I would be.

Our families will pay forever for this hideous crime no matter who is ultimately found guilty because we will never be able to hug, see or talk to our loved ones again and where parents are concerned, there will never be the "extended" family we have looked forward to all our adult lives. Help us to continue to see justice done. Keep the politics out of this investigation.

Thursday June 21, 2001 2:38 PM ET

14 Indicted in Saudi Arabia Bombing

By JONATHAN D. SALANT, Associated Press Writer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) - Thirteen Saudis and one Lebanese were indicted Thursday in the 1996 bombing that killed 19 American servicemen in Saudi Arabia.

A 46-count, 29-page indictment (Appendix F) handed up by a federal grand jury charged the defendants, under the direction of Iranian officials, conspired to kill U.S. nationals.

"This indictment serves to underscore the commitment of the Bush administration and the Justice Department to bringing terrorists to account," Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

"Americans are a high-priority target for terrorists and our nation will vigorously fight to preserve justice for our citizens both here at home as well as abroad."

Some of the 14 are in custody in various countries. Officials declined to be specific.

The indictment charges that as early as 1993 members of Saudi Hezbollah began extensive surveillance in search of a U.S. target, settling two years later on the American military housing high-rise near Dhahran.

Most of the Saudis indicted are young male members of the Shiite branch of Islam who lived in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia near the Persian Gulf.

The indictment said they were trained in Lebanon in Hezbollah-controlled areas and also in Iran.

Ashcroft said the United States is charging that certain unspecified Iranian figures "inspired, supported and supervised" the activities of the terrorists.

But he said the indictment did not name any Iranians, although the investigation continues. The attorney general suggested that U.S. authorities do not yet have sufficient evidence to indict Iranians.

But he did say he was gratified that the Justice Department and FBI were able to obtain the indictment nearly five years after the Khobar Towers bombing.

"For the victims and for their families, the indictment filed today means that next week's five-year anniversary of this tragedy will come with some assurance to victim family members and to the wounded that they are not and will not be forgotten," Ashcroft said.

President Bush spoke by phone Thursday with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to thank him for Saudi Arabia's cooperation in the investigation, said White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Countryman. Bush issued a statement praising both the Justice Department and the Saudis for their work, saying more people might be charged in the case.

Bush also offered personal assurances to bombing survivors and families of the dead. ``Your government will not forget your loss, and will continue working, based on the evidence, to make sure that justice is done," Bush said.

Those with loved ones among the dead welcomed the latest development in the case.

``It's (been) five years of pure hell, with or without indictments, that part doesn't change," said Fran Heiser, of Palm Coast, Fla., who lost her only child, Michael, a 35-year-old Air Force master sergeant, in the bombing. ``It's nice to see this coming to a head."

The FBI said the investigation into the blast moved slowly in part because the Saudi government restricted the agency's access to witnesses and other evidence. Eventually, FBI agents were allowed to formulate questions and watch as Saudi authorities posed 212 questions to eight suspects.

Saudi Arabia has yet to disclose its findings in an investigation it carried out jointly with the FBI.

A recent State Department report on terrorism referred to Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian group that led the guerrilla war against Israel's occupation of south Lebanon, as a radical Shiite Muslim group that is ``strongly anti-West and anti-Israel."



Wednesday June 20 10:27 AM ET

U.S. Prosecutors Prepare Khobar Towers Indictment

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. prosecutors prepared to bring as early as Thursday the first criminal charges stemming from the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Saudi Arabia, which killed 19 U.S. service members, federal law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

They said prosecutors planned to ask a federal grand jury in Virginia to return an indictment

against a number of Saudi militants who have been linked to the attack when a truck loaded with explosives detonated outside a U.S. military barracks in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, injuring about 500 people.

The criminal charges would be brought ahead of the June 25 five-year anniversary of the bombing, the officials said. For some of the charges under consideration, there is a five-year statute of limitations.

The charges also would be brought before FBI Director Louis Freeh, who has taken a strong personal interest in the case and who has pressed Saudi Arabia to cooperate, retires. He is expected to leave by the end of the week, FBI officials said.

The officials said Freeh planned to attend a news conference at FBI headquarters Thursday to announce any charges.

Saudi Arabia has been holding several suspects linked to the bombing, including Han al-Sayegh, a Saudi national handed over by the United States in 1999.

Among those expected to be charged are a number of Saudis who have been jailed in their own country for the attack, the officials said. But it is not clear whether any of them will be extradited to the United States.



June 13, 2001

GI BLAST INDICTMENTS DUE

By BILL SANDERSON

Federal prosecutors will soon seek justice for 19 servicemen killed in a Saudi Arabia bomb blast by indicting several terrorists, it was reported last night.

A federal grand jury in Virginia will be asked to indict 13 people - mostly Saudi citizens - for carrying out the 1996 Khobar Towers attack, CBS News said.

But nobody from Iran will be indicted - although Iranian intelligence services are believed to have masterminded the attack against the U.S. barracks, according to the report.

Several suspects accused in the bombing are being held in Saudi Arabia. An Arab-language newspaper in London reported that three suspects have disappeared, hampering the investigation.

FBI Director Louis Freeh, who retires this month, has taken a strong interest in the case. But the FBI probe has been stymied by a lack of Saudi cooperation and U.S. efforts to improve relations with Iran.

The feds have to act soon - the five-year statute of limitations for the crime runs out June 25.



Op/Ed - New York Post - updated 4:13 AM ET Jun 11 Originally posted Sunday May 20 04:13 AM EDT

WHEN AMERICA CLOSES ITS EYES TO TERROR

On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Khobar Towers bombing, it's becoming clear why America, after all this time, has yet to hold a single individual accountable.

It's plain that the Clinton administration simply didn't want to respond.

Khobar Towers was the U.S. base in Saudi Arabia, where 19 American airmen lost their lives in the horrific 1996 terrorist attack.

Meaningful action by the United States - legal steps to prosecute perpetrators, military reprisals or other political measures - would have conflicted with the Clinton game plan for the Mideast.

That approach was appeasement, plain and simple.

President Clinton and his foreign-policy team sought to head off measures that might have upset Saudi Arabia, punished Iran for terrorism and brought those responsible to justice - because they might have damaged relations with Riyadh and Tehran.

There's no public, smoking-gun proof of this, of course. Not yet, anyway.

But such suggestions are the gist of Elsa Walsh's intriguing recent piece in The New Yorker about the government's investigation of the bombing.

Walsh says that FBI Director Louis Freeh - who was deeply involved in the probe - believed as much.

Freeh has drawn up a list of key suspects, and the Bush team is expected to decide soon whether to pursue indictments in the case.

We hope so, because America needs answers to such questions as:

- Did any of the Clinton folks intentionally impede the FBI probe?
- If so, does such activity constitute an obstruction of justice?
- Did anyone suggest to the Saudis - explicitly or otherwise - that America was not interested in information Riyadh had obtained that might have implicated high-ranking Iranian officials?
- And were the Saudis led to believe that U.S. officials would rather play a game of "See No Evil, Hear No Evil" - rather than be given information on which they'd be forced to act?

That, Walsh says, was the conclusion Freeh reached.

"Freeh," Walsh wrote, "had become so mistrustful of Clinton that, although he believed that he had developed enough evidence to seek indictments against the masterminds behind the attack . . . he decided to wait for a new administration."

True, the president has the right to conduct foreign policy - and it well may be that Clinton's plans for the Middle East conflicted with Freeh's probe in an entirely legal way.

Still, it would be nice to know for sure. Besides, even if Clinton & Co. had acted legally, the question would remain: Did they act wisely?

Appeasement might be lawful, even if it hinders a federal investigation; but is it likely to advance America's interests? Is it likely to curb terrorism?

Indeed, viewed that way, Clinton's Iran policy was a colossal failure.

The attacks by Iran's terrorists, after all, are essentially acts of war. Nor did the Clinton suck-up - if that's what it was - seem to have done much to reform the Islamic republic. Instead, it has allowed the Khobar thugs to walk free - free to bomb again, if they so choose.

And it has sent a message to other would-be terrorists that they can attack Americans with impunity.

The result is tragedies like last October's bombing of USS Cole in Yemen, which claimed 17 American lives.

The Clinton folks, of course, would deny any policy of appeasement. They'd insist that they had opposed terrorism and pursued its perpetrators, no holds barred.

There's scant evidence of that, though - notwithstanding Clinton's missile attacks on suspected sites linked to master-terrorist Osama bin Laden, following the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. (More likely, those attacks were meant to distract from Monicagate.)

Clintonites also would argue that Iran had provided real hope for change: In 1997, a "moderate," Mohammad Khatami, was elected president. Khatami publicly condemned terrorism and signaled a desire for greater contact between Americans and Iranians.

Yet, Khatami had - and still has - little power. Iran continues to back terrorism and groups like the Hezbollah. Since the election, Tehran has cracked down brutally on dissidents.

Still, Clinton moved quickly to send lollipops to the mullahs.

- He encouraged contacts: An American wrestling team visited Iran, and Clinton extended a reciprocal invitation.
- He moved to relax sanctions.
- And, in one bizarre - and audacious - twist, his aides pushed for American taxpayers to pick up the tab for court judgments against Tehran for its role in terrorist attacks against Americans.

Freeh, on the other hand, seemed genuinely committed to the Khobar case. He visited the bomb site immediately, while it still resembled a war zone. And he spent hours with the victims' families.

The director, who recently announced plans to resign, told Walsh that "the only unfinished piece of business that I have is the one you're writing about."

Now he has handed the ball to President Bush. Americans can only pray that the new president will run with it - that he'll OK the indictments and help see that those responsible pay.

If that doesn't happen, then Congress must step in and determine what really occurred.

And then there is one overriding question here, too: Why is a terrorist bombing a matter for U.S. policemen - rather than for the State Department, the National Security Council, the Defense Department and the president himself? It's not shoplifting, after all.

With the end of the Cold War, terrorism is, arguably, the most dangerous foreign-policy threat to Americans.

In deciding how to proceed on Khobar, Bush - and America - should start thinking now about how to handle the next bombing.

Which is sure to come soon enough.

Iran behind Saudi bombing

By RICHARD SALE, UPI Terrorism Correspondent

The United States has "airtight evidence" that Iran was the chief culprit behind the June 1996 terrorist bombing of a U.S. military facility in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 airmen and injured another 250, a U.S. official told United Press International Sunday.

The FBI reached that conclusion in an early investigation but was forced to withdraw it because of political considerations, according to anti-terrorism expert Jerry Bremer.

One former CIA official also named Syria as playing the role of "enabler" in the bombing, and other former U.S. intelligence officials said that operatives of Saudi exile terrorist Osama bin Laden were also involved.

According to U.S. government officials with close knowledge of the case, who all spoke on condition of anonymity, the languishing probe into the bombing of the Khobar Towers complex in 1996 has been picking up momentum since last month, when FBI director Louis Freeh indicated he wanted more action on the case.

A State Dept. official was hopeful that the recent change in the administration would breathe new life into the investigation. "I think we're seeing a different emphasis with this administration when it comes to terrorism and Iran," he said. "There is a new resolve on the part of the Bush people to get to the bottom of this," agreed another U.S. official.

Yet another official added that during the Clinton administration there had been a "real attempt to repair our relations with Iran" via the so-called Albright initiative. Unfortunately, it also meant "walking softly" where acts of terrorism and Iran was concerned, he said.

"There was this desire to have Iran re-enter the world diplomatic community. Iran was doing some things, like stopping Iraqi ships trying to smuggle oil, and everyone felt an effort would be worth it," he said.

When two former CIA officials, Larry Johnson and Milt Bearden, wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times late last year quoting a confession by bin Laden operative and former U.S. Army Sgt. Ali Mohamed about a link between the bin Laden organization and the mysterious Hezbollah head of security, Iman Mughniyah, the authors met with immediate criticism from the White House, according to former U.S. intelligence sources.

Mughniyah, who is believed to have carried out the bombings of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Lebanon in 1983, was described by a former CIA official as "clearly an operative of Iran's."

"The (Clinton) White House clearly didn't want the link between Iran and bin Laden made public, even though the link was part of a court document," he added.

A U.S. government source told United Press International: "We are pretty sure that the explosives (for the bombing) came overland from stockpiles belonging to Syria and Iran in (Lebanon's) Bekaa Valley and near Damascus (in Syria)."

Iran was the chief force behind the bombing attack, with Syria "acting as an enabler," said one former CIA official.

But former U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands and anti-terrorist expert Jerry Bremer said that the question of whether the government of Syria had approved of and participated in the operation still was not clear. "I think one has to be careful," he told UPI.

A U.S. government official said that the evidence indicates the terrorists were trained at an Iranian intelligence facility in the town of Saadabad, and at a secret Iranian intelligence camp 60 miles south of Teheran. Others came from the Hezbollah training camps at Janta, Anjar, and Baalbek in the Bekaa, and some from as far away as the Balkans, smuggled in via Syria and Jordan.

One source with close knowledge of the incident said that the first Iranian operatives arrived in Dhahran, the site of the bombing, as early as April 1996 -- more than two months before the bombing. He added that the operation was characterized by "advanced reconnaissance, planning and logistical support" built up in the Dhahran area.

There were advance probes of the compound, one of which included a tanker truck like the one that carried the bomb, "entering the compound and driving around."

The bulk of the bomb's components were in Dhahran by June, where Iranian or Iranian-trained bomb experts completed it, this source said. The fuses and other sophisticated components had been smuggled into Saudi Arabia in boxes labeled "computer parts" and addressed to the Saudi National Guard, he said.

The local Iranian network stole a Caprice, which was used as a getaway car and abandoned in Dammam, six miles south of Dhahran. The Mercedes-Benz tanker truck that carried the bomb had been stolen from a construction company only a few days before the bombings, he said.

"The fuses and detonators were identical to bombings used by the Hezbollah," he said. The fact that the bomb's oil and incendiaries exploded a fraction of a second after the high explosives meant it was a bomb "meant to kill and damage human organs by means of air pressure changes," as well as explosive concussion, a signature of other Iranian bombings, he said.

One former CIA official was critical of the FBI's early investigation of the incident. He said of the FBI: "They're scalp hunters. They march in and want to clap people into jail. What we

(the CIA) want is to 'turn' these people and send them back as deep penetration agents that can work for us."

Another former CIA source said of the investigative team: "They were incredibly arrogant. Some women were there as part of the team, and they wore tight slacks and short skirts, utterly ignorant of Islamic law. The FBI rode roughshod over everyone."

The Saudis responded angrily, sending half of the FBI specialists packing, this source said. Prince Nayef, the Saudi Minister of Interior, then cut off access to suspects being held for interrogation.

In 1986, Prince Nayef announced to the Saudi newspaper al-Rai al-Amm, that the bombing was "executed by Saudi (dissidents) alone ... No foreign power had any role in it."

According to administration officials, Freeh worked hard to undo the damage, building ties with Prince Sultan, the Saudi Defense Minister who heads a side of the family of King Fahd that favors close ties to the United States. Prince Sultan also retains the belief that Iran still poses a serious and continuing threat to the internal stability of the kingdom, they said.

To further increase his clout, Freeh also enlisted the cooperation of new Secretary of State Colin Powell, including a meeting of the two before Powell left on his Middle East tour earlier this year. When Powell met the Saudis, he brought up the subject of the bombing and stressed the urgency of U.S. concerns, these officials said.

Asked about a recent rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, one U.S. analyst said the deal had been engineered by Crown Prince Abdullah Abdul-Azzis, who he described as notoriously anti-American. A former CIA official added that Abdullah has often accepted subsidies from the British and actively worked against U.S. interests in the past.

Another U.S. government official pointed out that a similar detente had occurred between the two countries back in 1998 when former Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani paid a visit to the kingdom announcing "a new era in Saudi-Iranian relations."

"The Saudis are very pragmatic: if a new relaxation of tensions relaxes the threat, then fine," he said.

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Sunday May 6 6:19 PM ET

Bush Team Reportedly Gets List of Khobar Suspects

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - FBI Director Louis Freeh has given the Bush administration a list of people -- possibly including Iranian officials -- who he believes should be indicted in the 1996 bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed 19 U.S. servicemen, according to a New Yorker article released on Sunday.

The magazine story, based on interviews with Freeh and bureau personnel among others, said Freeh, who is leaving his post in June, recently briefed President Bush on the matter.

Without quoting Freeh directly, the article said, ``any indictments are likely to name Iranian government officials, especially those with ties to Iranian intelligence, commonly believed to be the source of terrorist activities."

The June 1996 bomb at the Khobar Towers military complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killed 19 servicemen and injured 500 others. The United States has maintained a military presence in Saudi Arabia since the buildup to the 1991 Gulf War.

It is unclear where any indictments might lead if the suspects live outside the United States.

Asked about the issue on the ABC's ``This Week," Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said she could not comment on ``legal and judicial matters that are under review at the Justice Department."

The New Yorker piece did not say how the Bush administration would proceed but it quoted one unidentified official as being open to indictments.

It said Freeh hopes to resolve the case by the time he steps down.

``The only unfinished piece of business that I have is the one you're writing about," the magazine quoted Freeh as saying.

The article said the suspicion of Iranian involvement dated to conversations a few months after the bombing between then-national security adviser Anthony Lake and his deputy, Sandy Berger, and Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to the United States and the nephew of King Fahd.

``Bandar would always say, 'Tell me what you are going to do with the information if we share it with you.' I wouldn't play that game. I knew if we said we were going to whack the shit out of Iran we would never get anything from the Saudis -- plus we had not made a decision about what we were going to do," Berger is quoted as saying in the article.

The Saudis, who cooperated with the FBI in the investigation of the bombing, feared U.S. military action against Iran would prompt Iran to retaliate against its neighbor Saudi Arabia.

“Bandar told Freeh that he had once told White House officials that the Saudis could close the investigation, so that no one would have to retaliate against Iran,” according to the New Yorker.

“By the end of the Clinton era, Freeh had become mistrustful of Clinton that, although he believed he had developed enough evidence to seek indictments against the masterminds behind the attack, not just the front-line suspects, he decided to wait for a new administration,” the New Yorker said.

FBI spokesman Bill Carter declined to comment on whether a list of suspects had been handed to the Bush team. But the bureau issued a statement responding to the New Yorker article, saying the Khobar Towers case “remains the investigative priority of the FBI.”

Chapter 6

Lions 1996 All Star Football Game

Lions game dedicated to Woody



Josh's mother flipping the coin at the start of the Memorial Game



A tribute to former Corning resident Joshua Woody, U.S. Airman 1st Class, who was killed June 25th in a bomb explosion while stationed at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, was held Saturday night before the kickoff for the Lions All Star High School football game in Redding. A former football standout Woody played for the North team in the 1994 Lions game. Bernie Beekman (center of photo) next to one of the officials on the field before the game at the coin toss. The tribute also included the playing of "Taps" and a moment of silence from the crowd of more than 3,000 that was on hand for the game.

TODD SHUTTLIFF/Corning Observer

The following is the text of the dedication program handed out at the Lions All Star Game held at Shasta College in Redding, California, August 6, 1994:

In Memory of **JOSHUA EDWARD WOODY**



The Lions 1996 Northern California All Star Football game is being dedicated to Joshua Edward Woody, a member of the 1994 North All Stars Team.

Joshua Edward Woody, born October 6, 1975, in San Jose, died June 25, 1996, in the truck bomb attack at a U.S. military complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Joshua was serving as Airmen First Class in the United States Air Force, in the 33rd Fighter Wing.

As a student, Joshua played football all four years at Corning High School. He was all-league his junior and senior years, a second-team all Northern Section defensive tackle as a senior in 1993. He was also a member of the wrestling team.

"He was the kind of kid you'd like to have 200 of," said Corning Principle Mike Henry.

"Josh was a genuine person. A good heart and soul. There wasn't a bad bone in his body," said Corning math teacher and coach Tim Keating.

"He was a great player at defensive end, a happy go lucky and easy going guy," said defensive coordinator of the 1994 All Star team Jerry Vallotton.

"He was my friend," said coach Bob Hall.

"If there was a 'good' to this tragedy, it would be that Josh will forever be a role model for the Corning student body and a hero to the community of Corning," said Mike Flaherty, friend of the family.

WE SALUTE A1C JOSHUA EDWARD WOODY

Source of information: Record Searchlight

1994 Lions All Star Football- North Team



Lions 1994 North All Star Football Team

Josh Woody selected to 1994 Lions All Star Football – North Team

Though many area football fans may not have heard of Woody, a Corning High grad, he made himself known to Foothill during the final game of the Westside League season.

“I had to block that guy, and I can tell you he had a great game,” said North safety Wes Johnson. “He was pretty incredible that night.”

In a 33-30 Foothill win, Woody says he felt like he was “in on every play.” Though he’s not that big (6-1, 191), he’s quick to the ball and one of the North’s best-conditioned athletes.

Woody has been working hard to keep fit because he’s joining the Air Force in August.

The physical tests you have to pass, you have to be in great shape.” He said. “I think I’m in good shape.”

And so, it would appear, is the North defense.

Josh gives up his number

Early in practice for the Lions All Star Football Game a north team player, number 54, was injured and would not be able to play in the game. The north team was in desperate need of a running back but a running back could not wear number 54.

Josh volunteered to give up his number, the number 88 he wore at Corning, and take the number 54 so that his former Corning Cardinal teammate, Earl Murr, could join the team. Earl went on to be selected the MVP of the game in a 44 - 14 north victory.

Game stats

Josh had 4 solo tackles, 4 assists and 1 1/2 QB sacks in the game.

Chapter 7

Memorial Day

Life experiences give new meaning to Memorial Day

Released: 25 May 2000

by Tech. Sgt. Selena P. Zuhoski

Air Force Legal Services Agency

BOLLING AIR FORCE BASE, D.C. (AFPN)

The meaning of Memorial Day has changed for me as my experiences in life have changed me.

This is what I believe Memorial Day means -- recognizing the sacrifices others have made for our country. It is a day to thank them; respect them; appreciate them; celebrate them; be grateful for them; but above all else -- remember them.

I was raised in Tampa, Fla. One Memorial Day, when I was 8 years old, my dad took me fishing. We stopped at the store for ice. There, sitting outside the store was an old gentleman wearing a military flight cap and a red vest covered with patches and pins. My dad bought a little plastic red, white, and blue flower from the man.

It was the way my dad said "thank you" for that little flower that left an indelible impression in my mind. It was as though that man had just sold my dad the most valuable thing on Earth. He was so serious, so respectful. I remember thinking "but it was only a little plastic flower." Later, my dad explained. He told me that he had thanked the man for being a war veteran and the flower was a reminder, on this day at least, to thank and respect all who have served in wars for America. It was a quiet and peaceful day on the water fishing with my dad. That was the first Memorial Day I was aware that the day was reserved for a specific purpose ... to give solemn thanks and respect to those who fought for our country.

At 17, I spent Memorial Day with my friends in Key West, Fla. We sailed all morning; dove for conch and lobster along the coral heads all day; and then built a bonfire on the beach of a little island and roasted our catch. At that time, current events in the world were full of promise for the future.

Hostages had been freed; Germany unified; and Americans were involved in civil rights movements all over the world. The purpose of the day became less solemn and more celebratory. I gave thanks, but I also celebrated that I lived in the greatest nation on Earth.

At 34, I was deployed to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. I was assigned as the law office manager of the 4404th Wing (Provisional), Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, located in Khobar

Towers. I spent that Memorial Day at "The Oasis," which consisted of a huge "L" shaped swimming pool, barbecue pit and driving range.

It was 118 degrees that day and the pool was packed. Songs with lyrics about freedom and America blared over the loud speakers. By that time I had learned a little bit about the culture of the country I was living in. I had been stationed at Zaragoza Air Base, Spain, and Incirlik AB, Turkey, and had seen how those cultures were very different from ours. The differences in Saudi Arabia far exceeded anything I had experienced before. That Memorial Day I felt deep gratitude for being born an American and for the opportunity to contribute, however minutely, to preserving my country's way of life.

On June 25, 1996, I played volleyball with my squadron and then went to the rec. center. Around 10:00 p.m. the lights in the building flickered, there was a deep boom, and then glass and concrete were blown in on us. Furniture, along with people, was thrown across the room. When I got out of the building I saw a huge gray-orange mushroom-shaped cloud in the sky. I smelled sulfur in the air. I ran over to one of the two buildings closest to the blast. The door was blocked with debris. I could hear people screaming inside. I helped to clear an opening so people could get out. We then started searching inside for those who might be trapped.

When we got to the fourth floor we found a young man lying in blood. He was wearing only shorts. He had a deep gash on the left side of his lower chest, someone covered with the palm of their hand. The room next to us was on fire. We found a door blown off its hinges and used it as a gurney and carried the injured man down the four flights of stairs. When we got outside we laid him on top of a wooden picnic table. I stayed with him, and took over applying pressure to his injury. I covered it as tight as I could to keep the blood inside with my right hand. I held his left hand with my left hand. He was in shock. I told him to hang on. He said "Oh God ...Oh, God." He was so brave. He died within a few minutes just as medical personnel started arriving. I watched them carry his body away and put it on a blue military bus.

When I turned back another bleeding man had been placed on the picnic table. He had a deep cut along the right side of his face and eye. He also had two deep cuts above his waist. Medical personnel were handing out first-aid kits and we were able to bandage his wounds fairly quickly. He was placed on a different bus.

The chief of Security Police told us to pass the word that everyone should gather at the Desert Rose, which was our dining facility, and try to find our unit. At the Desert Rose, there were hundreds of injured men and women.

The dining facility was transformed into a make shift hospital. Those of us who were not injured worked through the night sweeping glass, clearing debris, and making sleeping areas for those whose quarters were destroyed.

The next morning I learned that 19 American airmen were killed. More than 400 others were injured. I later learned that five of the airmen who died were from my home base -- Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.

This year will be the fourth Memorial Day since the bombing of Khobar Towers. Not a day has passed that I haven't thought about that one young man and the other 18 men who died that night. And that is how it should be. They paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country ... for our country.

Chapter 8

Nineteen Heroes

In Loving Memory of the Nineteen Heroes who paid the ultimate price for freedom at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

MSgt Kendall K. Kitson, Jr., Yukon, Oklahoma



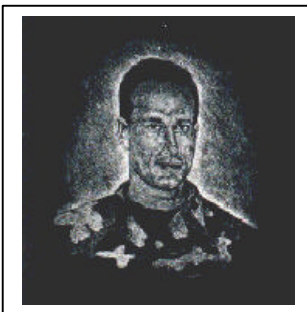
Nickname: "K.K."

Down to earth sense of humor best expressed with simple anecdotes: "Let me look into my crystal ball and see what I can find to support the mission."

He always kept his cool as production superintendent even when the jets were not cooperating.

He enjoyed fishing and boating and playing volleyball with the troops in Saudi.

TSgt Daniel B. Cafourek, Watertown, South Dakota



33 FW Maintenance Professional of the Year for 1995.

Considered by most as the "Resident Mechanic of the F-15.

The consummate professional, indisputably recognized as the squadron's finest crew chief. He carried out his duties with quiet resolve and dedication to detail. The first certified technician in the wing.

He had one of the largest hearts and strongest commitment to friendships and family. His stoic demeanor was shed when carousing with friends. That's when his fun loving and utterly hysterical persona shone through. He loved his wife, friends, fast cars, tuning up his 93 Mustang, and rock and roll.

TSgt Patrick P. Fennig, Greendale, Wisconsin



Flightline Expeditor

Pat was well traveled with 7 assignments in 16 years of service.

He excelled as a Flightline Expeditor because he was able to juggle the many demands of the daily flying mission while taking care of the young men and women on the flightline. He was loved and respected by his subordinates because of his devotion to them.

Pat was selfless and the first to volunteer for any deployment. In the three years prior to his last assignment, he was deployed in support of Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY and Operation SOUTHERN WATCH three times.

Pat loved the Air Force, traveling, shooting, scuba diving and spear fishing. He liked the finer things in life; gourmet food, good wine, good scotch, and wouldn't hesitate to pay \$50 for a good hand-rolled cigar.

Pat lived life to the fullest and seized every minute!

TSgt Thanh Van Nguyen, Panama City, Florida



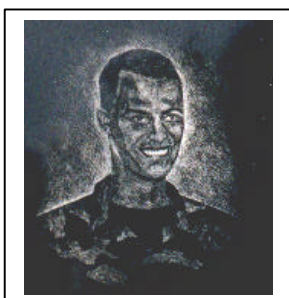
Born in Saigon, South Vietnam.

Nickname: "Gus"

When he arrived in the States both he and his brother had the same name. He was baptized Catholic and given the name Augustino.

He was a Gold Flag Combat Oriented Repair Initiative Manager and was directly responsible for the Wing being recognized as having the most productive Gold Flag program in ACC. He was a key contributor to a Gold Flag grand total savings of \$4.61M in FY 94, 95 and 1st Qtr 96.

He was a Vietnamese linguist protocol volunteer for Eglin AFB and also volunteered many hours in the community helping Hurricane Opal victims.



SrA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr., Sellersburg, Indiana

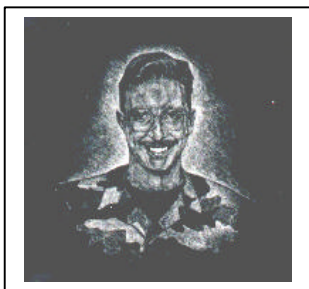
Nickname: “JR” (junior), “Spoon-man”

JR was a crew chief by trade and was assigned to the Support Section.

Known as a practical joker, JR kept the times in Saudi “light-hearted”. He also drew clown cartoon characters on the squadron bulletin board to convey light-hearted messages to the squadron.

He enjoyed auto racing and spent time rebuilding a Chevy Nova as a tribute to his Father who passed away in 1992. The car had belonged to his father who had sold it before he passed away and JR had bought it back.

SrA Jeremy A. Taylor, Rosehill, Kansas



Jeremy was assigned to the 33d Maintenance Squadron as a jet engine mechanic.

He had an outgoing personality and enjoyed cookouts with his fellow mechanics.

He was the son of a career military father (retired Chief).

Jeremy played soccer in high school and became an avid beach volleyball player while at Eglin. During the three years prior to his death, he coached children’s soccer teams on base and coached a women’s softball.

Jeremy was very close to his family and would talk with them every Sunday on the phone.

Sgt Millard D. Campbell, Angelton, Texas



Nicknames: “Dee” and “Soup”

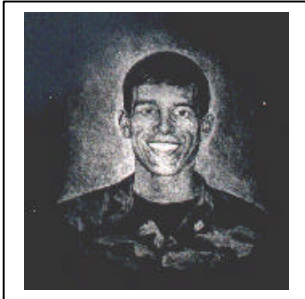
Dee was the NCO, Daily Flight Operations. He accepted his duties without question, carrying them out with resounding quality and expertise. He had effectively transitioned into his new position prior to deploying to Saudi. His job required technical knowledge to make quick and precise decisions. He not only performed brilliantly at that position but also at operations scheduling.

Dee was quiet and mild mannered. He was the right hand of all supervisors. He made sure all operation specialists assigned to him were well taken care of. He always made sure all the younger airmen had somewhere to go during the holidays.

He loved baseball and was drafted out of high school to play professionally, but he declined and took a scholarship to attend college instead. After meeting his wife, Marie, he joined the Air Force. He, of course, played squadron softball leading his team in hits, home runs, and RBIs.

Dee was a class act and will be missed by all.

A1C Brent E. Marthaler, Cambridge, Minnesota



Nominated as “Airman of the Quarter” for the 58th Fighter Squadron.

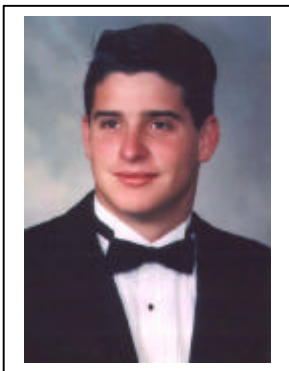
Winner of the Top Performer of the Month for TAMS Flight, January 1996.

As crew chief of the Squadron Commander’s jet, he was always observed putting in an extra effort to keep his jet flying.

Brent was known for his great attitude and politeness, and was instrumental in keeping spirits high. At shift change, he would enthusiastically yell “Good morning mid shift” to his comrades.

Brent also devoted time teaching Sunday school classes to children at the Eglin Base Chapel.

A1C Brian W. McVeigh, Debary, Florida



Crew Chief.

Brian is remembered for the example he set for his crew and his very quiet personality.

Brian was a big auto racing fan and also enjoyed lifting weights. One pilot recalls “Brian would crush your hand when you shook hands with him at the jet”.

A1C Peter J. Morgera, Stratham, New Hampshire



Pete came to the 33rd from the 53d FS, Spangdahlem, Germany.

He was an Assistant Dedicated Crew Chief. He earned an Air Force Achievement Medal for maintaining his aircraft at a 90.2% fully mission capable rate, well above the 84% Air Force in Europe standard.

Pete had been deployed to Incirlik, Turkey in support of Operation “PROVIDE COMFORT”. He was assigned to the 33rd OSS in January 1996 as an end of runway technician. He volunteered to go to Saudi so that he could upgrade to 5 level the right way by crewing jets.

Pete was a reliable and hard working professional. He enjoyed playing darts, shooting pool and going to the beach. A very caring individual – never without a smile.

A1C Joseph E. Rimkus, Edwardsville, Illinois



Nickname: “Dinky”

Member of the Weapons Load Crew.

Joseph was always very respectful and well mannered. He always wore a tie when he went to visit his grandma because she liked to see him in a tie.

He would always volunteered for additional duties and never complained.

Joseph enjoyed playing basketball. He was also a “Closet Barber”; while in Saudi, he enjoyed cutting his friends hair.

A1C Joshua E. Woody, Corning, California



Nickname: “Woody”

Weapons Load Crew

Josh was a selfless hard worker with an outgoing personality. He was upbeat, spirited and always had a smile on his face.

He was recently married and was looking forward to returning home to his new spouse.

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida



Captain Christopher J. Adams, Massapequa Park, New York

Capt. Christopher Adorns, called “Chris” had two loves in his life: His best friend and fiancée Air Force Capt. Karen Oullette and their new 32-foot cabin cruiser, dubbed the “Diamond Ring.” He named his boat for his girl, because after their wedding, the couple was going to sail Diamond Ring to the Bahamas for the honeymoon that never was. Most of their friends received their wedding invitations days before the blast.

According to friends, Adams knew he and Karen were going to get married five years ago. It was the last thing on their “Five Year Plan” that was right on schedule.

“Chris would drop everything in a second to stop and help someone else,” said fellow Capt. Ted Ferguson, who also was Adams’ roommate and friend of six years.

Adams’ peers said his concern was always his people. “That was his job as an officer. When he made a decision as an air craft commander, his concern was always his crew - what was best for his crew,” said Capt. George Kochis, pilot. “And every one’s input was important, from the junior airman up.

Ferguson agreed: “Chris would do anything for the good of the squadron and its people. One year, Chris volunteered to take a Saudi rotation for a married guy so he could spend the holiday with his family.”

Adams also volunteered for and participated in airlift operations during Operation Desert Calm, and was selected to fly a sensitive mission filming the oil fires in Kuwait during Desert Storm.

He later deployed to Provide Promise, the humanitarian airlift into Bosnia, and flew 16 missions under combat conditions.

Captain Leland T. Haun, Clovis, California



Anyone who didn’t know Capt. Leland Haun would describe him as a quiet person. But he was very well rounded according to his peers who describe him as a Jokester, artist, comedian, ferocious reader of books, but first and foremost as a family man. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Arts from Fresno State University in July 1989, and joined the Air Force that same month.

His first duty assignment was to the 41st Electronic Squadron at Davis Monthan, Ariz., where he made quite a name for himself during a training exercise, according to Johnson, then a loadmaster with the 41st.

“On the HC-130, we do a lot of radar jamming,” Johnson said. “During this particular exercise, their objective was to knock out the communication with the ground battle field. Instead of hitting the battlefield, Haun cut the comm. between the chow hall and the battle line. Nobody got called for breakfast or lunch, so everything came to a standstill. They got debriefed and told that certain frequencies couldn’t be jammed anymore because people had gone 18 hours without eating.”

He was known for those same types of antics at the 71st. He joined the rescue squadron here in June 1994. He was credited with saving a life when he participated in a rescue off of ship, 1,600 miles off of the coast of Florida.

Haun, a former college volleyball player, distinguished himself in Saudi as well. He received a ton of mail while deployed. "He always had mail coming from his family. Constantly, and he always sent letters to them too," Kochis said. "He would get at least two letters every day!"

"How can I explain how great the guy was?" Jenson asked. "I mean, I know how I feel, but I can't describe it. There real!' aren't any words. But that's what he was...great."

MSgt Michael G. Heiser, Palm Coast, Florida



Communications System Operator

Master Sgt. Michael Heiser joined the 71st Rescue Squadron in December, 1995 as an airborne communications system operator and a C-Flight superintendent. He hadn't been at the squadron long before he went away to the HC-130 Combat Rescue School at Kirtland AFB, N.M., which is a must for all members of the squadron who participate in rescue operations. He graduated from Kirtland and had only been back in the squadron for a few months before he was sent to Dhahran to put to practice what he spent months learning.

Heiser was new, but he made a good first impression on his flight commander, Capt. Ben Walsh. "When I called him in and told him he was going to be the new flight supervisor, Heiser expressed concern to me that he was too new to do a good job. I told him I knew he could do the job or I wouldn't have selected him. He was that conscientious."

Like Adams, Heiser was in the process of settling down in a new house with his fiancée, Nancy, when he was killed.

SSgt Kevin J. Johnson, Shreveport, Louisiana



Rescue HC-130 Aircraft Flight Engineer

Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson was referred to simply as “KJ”.

Johnson’s real passion was flying. According to co-worker Tech. Sgt. Dave Love II, K.J. was always flying. Since becoming a C-130 flight engineer in 1983, he amassed a total of 5,800 flying hours in a C-130 aircraft, 87 of those hours were in combat and 280 in combat flight support. A lot of those hours were spent away from his three children and wife.

His wife, Sheryl, wants it known that he loved to fly and he enjoyed the life (of a flier), said a fellow unit member, fighting back tears.

Johnson’s devotion to duty was nearly unparalleled. His peers never had a chance to tell him that right after he left for Saudi, they had recommended him for upgrade to flight evaluator-the highest level of proficiency a flight engineer can attain.

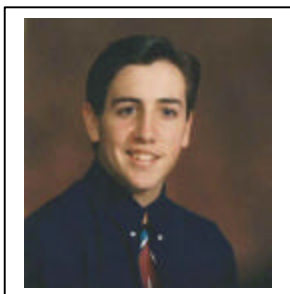
Johnson had an additional duty in supply. Tech. Sgt. Charles “Stretch” Meador, a loadmaster who worked with Johnson in supply, said he could always hear KJ coming because he insisted on carrying his key ring in the bottom pocket of his flight suit.

“He couldn’t sneak up on you. You could hear him a mile away,” Meador said. “I used to hear him coming down the hail and yell out, ‘Hey KJ!’ and he always wondered how I always knew it was him.”

In addition to being a devoted family man and military member, Johnson was dedicated to the Lord. He was a faithful member of the Holy Name of Jesus parish in Indianola, which held a memorial service June 28.

Johnson’s Christian beliefs helped him through another tragedy in 1985 when a C-130 from his unit crashed at Fort Hood. Johnson was there to help the families of those who died, just as others gathered around his family during their time of grief.

A1C Justin R. Wood, Modesto, California



HC-130 Loadmaster

The loadmasters affectionately referred to Senior Airman Justin Wood as “Junior” because the 20-year-old was the youngest member of the squadron.

Junior joined the 71st Rescue Squadron Jan 5, 1995. He was the first active-duty loadmaster to go from civilian to fully qualified loadmaster, a job normally reserved for experienced personnel. He was on his second deployment to Saudi Arabia and two weeks shy of his 21st birthday. He packed a lot in his 21 years, flying 34 combat missions, and his actions contributed to the squadron being credited with saving 10 lives.

Squadron members say Wood is the guy who kept everyone laughing with his Jim Carrey “Ace Ventura” impressions.

He was always on, according to Master Sgt. Julian Johnson. “He was just like a puppy. The energy he gave off to the rest of the squadron was uplifting,” said Johnson, a fellow loadmaster. “There wasn’t a down side to Justin. He was full of energy. He could put a smile on anyone’s face.”

That’s the hard part for his buddies in Dormitory 506, said Senior Airman Robert Carden, who was Wood’s fellow loadmaster and dorm neighbor.

“We are like a family. He was always making everyone laugh. He was the happiest person I knew,” said Carcieri.

“You couldn’t walk by him without cracking a smile,” said Johnson. “The only time I ever saw him down was when he fell in love with Pocahontas at Disney World.”

But that was Junior being Junior, Johnson said. “He was always moving, doing something. Once, we were in Las Vegas and he won \$90 at a nickel slot machine. When they (casino officials) found out he wasn’t 21, he was asked to leave the premises and not come back.”

That was cool with Junior. He took the money, bought inline skates and spent the rest of the time skating there.

“That’s just the way he was,” said Johnson. “He was an entertainer. I still can’t believe he’s gone.

Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska

SSgt Ronald L. King, Battlecreek, Michigan

Offutt AFB in Nebraska, home station of Staff Sgt. Ronald L. King, who was assigned to the 55th Contracting Squadron, Offutt dedicated a dining facility in his memory on April 20, 2001.

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

A1C Christopher Lester, Pineville, West Virginia



U.S. Air Force pallbearers carry the casket of Airman First Class Chris Lester in Pineville, W. Va., who was killed by the truck bomb in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996.

His fellow airmen at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio also honored airman 1st Class Christopher Lester of the 88th Civil Engineer Group with a memorial service on July 1, 1996. An exhibit featuring Lester's photo is located in Building 22 at Wright-Patterson.

Chapter 9

The Memorials

All Veterans Memorial Park, Eglin AFB



A Memorial Ceremony in honor of the Warriors Who Died in the Defense of Freedom in Saudi Arabia on 25 June 1996.

The memorial bricks representing the twelve airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing, who lost their lives at the Khobar Towers, were dedicated on 30 September 1996 at the All Veterans Memorial Park



Colonel Gary Dylewski addressing the families during the dedication of the memorial bricks

MSgt Kendall K. Kitson, Jr.

TSgt Thanh Van Nguyen

SrA Jeremy A. Taylor

A1C Peter J. Morgera

TSgt Daniel B. Cafourek

Sgt Millard D. Campbell

A1C Brent E. Marthaler

A1C Joseph E. Rimkus

TSgt Patrick P. Fennig

SrA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.

A1C Brian W. McVeigh

A1C Joshua E. Woody



Entrance to the All Veterans Memorial Park

33rd Fighter Wing Memorial, Eglin AFB



This memorial was dedicated on June 25, 1997 to the twelve airmen from the 33rd Fighter Wing who lost their lives at the Khobar Towers, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia as a result of the terrorist bombing on June 25, 1996.



General Richard Hawley, Colonel Gary Dylewski (both seated) and Chaplain, Colonel LaVerne Schueller



The lighting of the Eternal Flame by
Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Cochran



A1C Joshua E. Woody

THIS MONUMENT
IS DEDICATED
TO THE BRAVE WARRIORS
WHO WERE KILLED BY
A TERRORIST BOMB
AT KHOBAR TOWERS,
SAUDI ARABIA,
ON 25 JUNE 1996.
THEY MADE THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE AS GUARDIANS
OF THIS GRATEFUL NATION
WE WILL NEVER FORGET THEM.

MSgt Kendall K. Kitson, Jr.
TSgt Thanh Van Nguyen
SrA Jeremy A. Taylor
A1C Peter J. Morgera

TSgt Daniel B. Cafourek
Sgt Millard D. Campbell
A1C Brent E. Marthaler
A1C Joseph E. Rimkus

TSgt Patrick P. Fennig
SrA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.
A1C Brian W. McVeigh
A1C Joshua E. Woody



On June 25th, 2000, the seven other airmen killed at Khobar Towers were added at the base of the Eternal Flame.



**Capt. Christopher J. Adams
SSgt Kevin J. Johnson**

**Capt. Leland T. Haun
SSgt Ronald L. King
A1C Justin Wood**

**MSgt Michael G. Heiser
A1C Christopher Lester.**



SRA Jeremy A. Taylor



TSGT Daniel B. Cafourek



A1C Brian W. McVeigh



TSGT Patrick P. Fennig



A1C Brent E. Marthaler



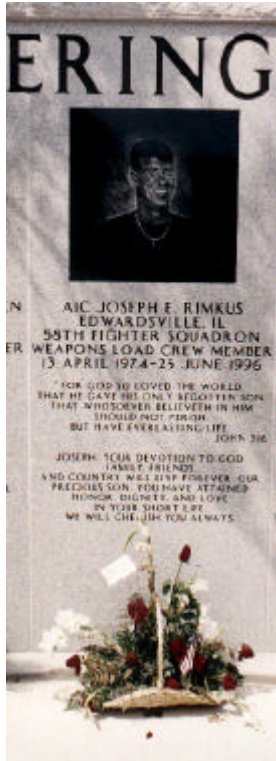
SRA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.



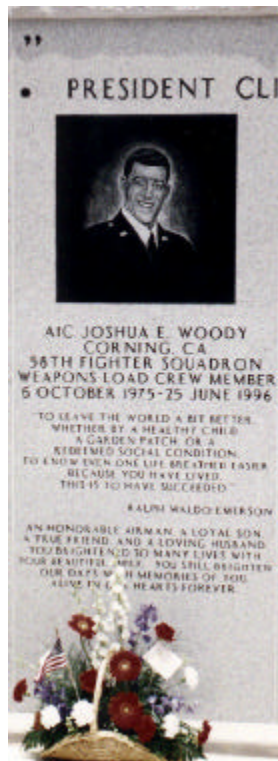
MSG Millard D. Campbell



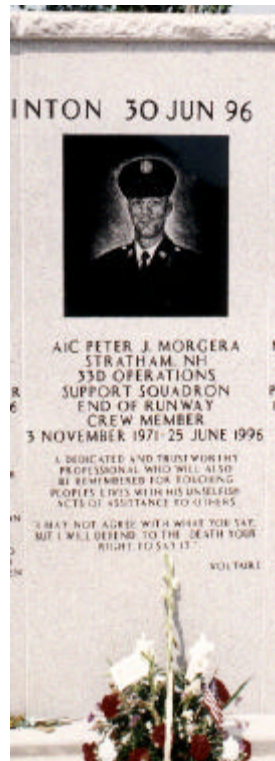
TSGT Thanh V. Nguyen



A1C Joseph E. Rimkus



A1C Joshua E. Woody



A1C Peter J. Morgera



MSGT Kendall K. Kitson

Patrick AFB. Florida



Capt. Christopher J. Adams



Capt. Leland T. Haun



MSGT Michael G. Heiser



SSGT Kevin J. Johnson



A1C Justin R. Wood

Offutt AFB, Nebraska



SSGT Ronald L. King

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



A1C Christopher Lester

Patrick AFB Memorial, FL



Khobar Towers Victims Remembered

**Air Force Secretary F. Whitten
Peters dedicated this Memorial,
at Patrick AFB on June 25, 2000.**



BRIG. GEN. DONALD PETTIT, wing commander at the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base, comforts Jenny Haun, above, as a granite panel with the likeness of her husband, Capt. Leland Haun is unveiled at Patrick Air Force Base on Thursday. Haun's husband was among five Patrick airmen who died in the explosion at Khobar towers in Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996. Haun left a carnation with her husband's portrait which will become part of a monument at the base's Memorial Plaza. A dedication is planned June 25, the fourth anniversary of the bombing. Members of the 1st Rescue Group who died in the bombing are Haun, Capt. Christopher J. Adams, Master Sgt. Michael Heiser, Staff Sgt. Kevin Johnson and Airman 1st Class Justin Wood.



Patrick AFB Memorial honoring those who died at Khobar Towers



Master Sgt. Michael G. Heiser

Capt. Leland T. Haun

Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Johnson

Capt. Christopher J. Adams

A1C Justin R. Wood



Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Johnson



Master Sgt. Michael G. Heiser



Captain Leland T. Haun



Captain Christopher J. Adams



A1C Justin R. Wood

The following Khobar Towers Victims are also honored on this monument:

MSgt Kendall K. Kitson, Jr.

TSgt Daniel B. Cafourek

TSgt Patrick P. Fennig

TSgt Thanh Van Nguyen

Sgt Millard D. Campbell

SrA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.

SrA Jeremy A. Taylor

A1C Brent E. Marthaler

A1C Brian W. McVeigh

A1C Peter J. Morgera

A1C Joseph E. Remkus

A1C Joshua E. Woody

A1C Christopher Lester

SSgt Ronald L. King



363d Training Squadron, Shepard AFB, Texas

Memorialization Ceremony 23 April 1998

The 363d Training Squadron trains over 3,800 students annually. Providing the world's best militarily trained graduates, specializing in munitions, armament, and nuclear weapons skills to meet Air Force objectives.

Both A1C Joseph E. Rimkus and A1C Joshua E. Woody received their weapons training in the 363d Training Squadron.



Mathies Hall (Building 1045)



Dedication corridors by SSgt Joy Defosse

Mathies Hall

Building 1045 was dedicated in honor of Staff Sergeant Archibald Mathies who died piloting the crippled B-17 Bomber “Mispah” onto a runway at Glatton, England, on 20 February 1944. S/Sgt Mathies was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. His display of Integrity, Excellence, and Service Before Self shall be an inspiration to all who pass through these halls.

A1C Joshua E. Woody Corridor



The west corridor of building 1045 is dedicated in memory of A1C Joshua E. Woody. A1C Woody was from Corning, California. He entered the Air Force on March 9, 1995. Upon graduation from the F-15 Aircraft Armament Systems Apprentice course on September 11, 1995, he was assigned with the 58th Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. On June 25, 1996, A1C Woody lost his life, along with 18 others, in the fatal bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. A1C Woody will be sadly missed by his family, friends, and fellow Air Force members. He made the greatest sacrifice of all for his country. For this, A1C Woody, we thank you.

A1C Joseph E. Rimkus Corridor



The east corridor of building 1045 is dedicated in memory of A1C Joseph E. Rimkus. A1C Rimkus was from Crestview, Florida. He entered the Air Force on March 8, 1995. Upon graduation from the F-15 Aircraft Armament Systems Apprentice course on August 4, 1995, he was assigned to the 58th Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. On June 25, 1996, A1C Rimkus lost his life, along with 18 others in the tragic bombing of Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. A1C Rimkus will be sadly missed by his family, friends, and fellow Air Force members. He made the greatest sacrifice of all for his country. For this, A1C Rimkus, we thank you.



Above, The entrance sign to Joseph's corridor.

Left, A1C Joshua Woody's Mother, Bernadine Beekman, and SSgt Joy Defosse stand at the entrance to Joshua's corridor.

Corning Area Memorials

Yost Park Memorial Grove



MICHAEL GRIFFIN Corning Observer

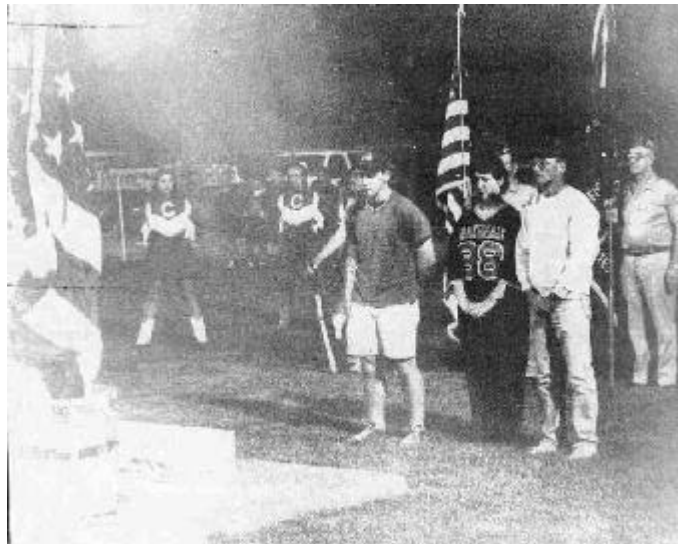
On September 26, 1996 a redwood tree was dedicated in memory of U.S. Airman 1st Class Joshua Woody and planted at Yost Park. In the future, other redwood trees will be

planted to create a memorial grove on the south side of the baseball field. The tree was donated by Marjorie Yost-Conserve. Yost Park is named after her late husband, Roger Yost, who donated the parcel of land so local children would have a ball field to play in.

In photo above, Marjorie Yost-Conserve shovels dirt around the tree as (l. to r.) Stanley Jones, Jean Jones, Bernie Beekman, George Beekman, Councilman Rex Roush and Mayor Gary Strack look on.

Corning Union High School Memorial

A memorial unveiled for Woody



TODD SHURTLEFF/Corning Observer

A permanent memorial to Airman First Class Joshua Woody was unveiled on Friday night, September 6, 1996 before the Corning High School varsity football team's season opener. The home game against Enterprise was dedicated to Woody, who was killed in June by a terrorist truck bomb while stationed at a U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia. Woody was a member of the varsity football team and he graduated from Corning High School In 1994 (In photo left to right) Joshua's brother, Timothy Woody, his mother and stepfather, Bernie and George Beekman stand In front of the memorial that was built below the flagpole at the football stadium.



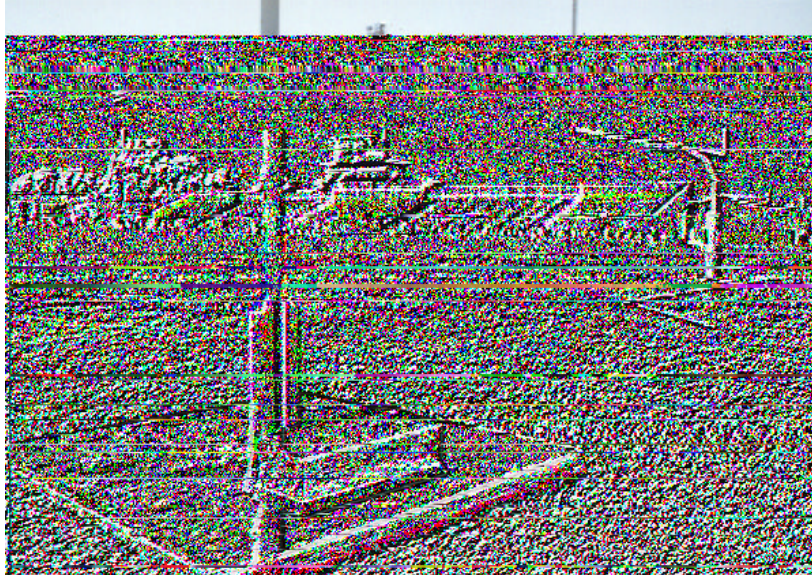
CUHS Gymnasium Trophy Case
Honoring Joshua Woody



Joshua's Mother at the Memorial



Monument at the base of the flag pole



Corning Union High School Stadium and Memorial



Air Force Enlisted Heritage Hall

The Enlisted Heritage Hall is the only place of its kind in the Air Force. This unique facility reveals the story of our enlisted force's contribution to the development of military aviation in America. The Enlisted Heritage Hall is located in Montgomery, AL at MAFB-Gunter Annex.

The Khobar Towers Exhibit and Memorial at the Air Force Museum







Chapter 10

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.



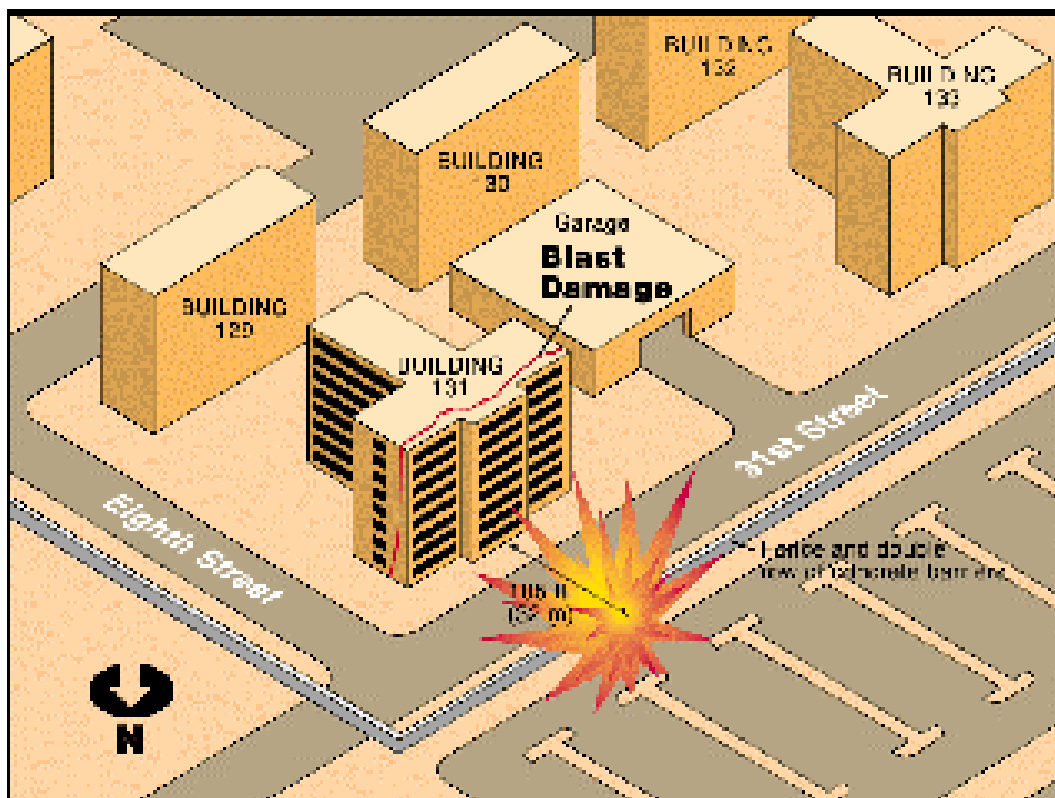
85-foot deep blast crater

The perpetrators escaped.





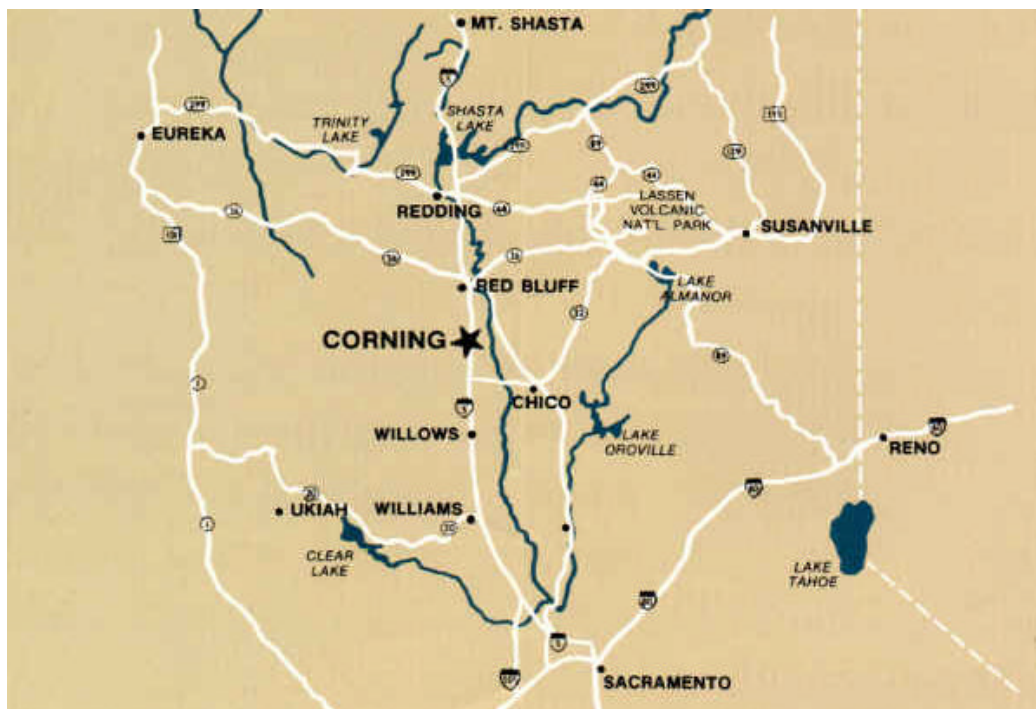
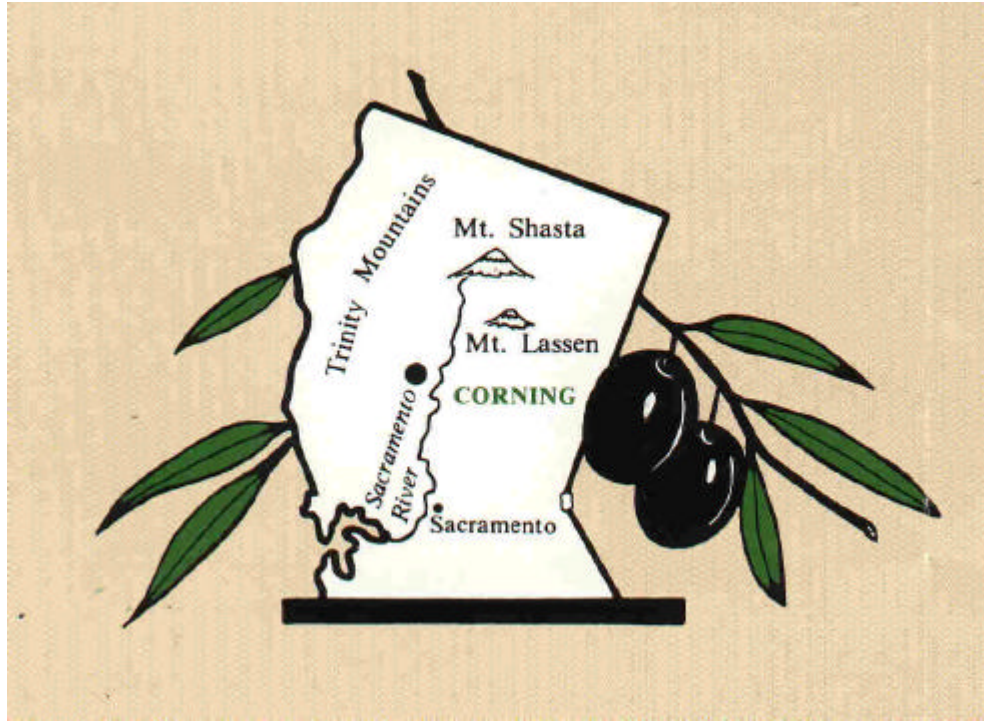
Aerial view of the Khobar Towers Complex



Khobar Towers Complex – Building 131

Appendix A

Corning, California Maps



Appendix B

Josh's web site guest book entries

(Through October 10, 2001 – most recent entry shown first)

The events of Sept. 11 bring back a nightmare I have realized will be with me till the day I leave this earth. I hope someday peace, joy, and laughter will return to my family. I keep going just to see if it's possible for anyone to rise above this kind of horror and keep going. My prayers are with all the families of the victims, and with the military that will be going into harms way. God Bless!

Marsey <mgcornett@aol.com>

panama, fl USA - Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 22:06:30 (PDT)

What can you say to people who pay the ultimate price for our freedom? Thank You doesn't seem enough, but it's all I can say. Thank You to you all and your families, Thank You to all current and past military personnel for giving your time and sometimes your lives to keep us free. God Bless America!!

Kim <myheart1961@citlink.net>

C, NE USA - Friday, September 14, 2001 at 06:36:50 (PDT)

As I read through the comments and look at the photographs of the 19 brave men who were killed in the Khobar Towers attack, it brings so much more pain to this devastating day, Tuesday, 11 September 2001 when the United States of America was attacked. Who could have ever imagined an attack of this magnitude? I am in Clovis, NM, at the Air Force Base. My husband was deployed to Saudi Arabia two weeks ago. We have only been here for 4 months and I am rather anxious, sad, and nervous about all that has occurred. I see the current terrorist attacks on our own soil and then I read about the attacks in other places such as the Embassy in Africa, Khobar Towers, the USS Cole, and I cannot believe we were so vulnerable. Thank you to this memorial for Josh and all those who have proudly served the United States of America, here and abroad. God bless and may Peace be with us all.

Jennifer

Clovis, NM USA - Tuesday, September 11, 2001 at 23:15:14 (PDT)

The lost of our 19 at Khobar Towers wasn't enough. Will today's devastating losses wake up America and the world to the fact that something is desperately wrong??? Again Bernie and George, thank you for this website.

Mike Flaherty <mikef@bbs.macnexus.org>

Hayward, CA USA - Tuesday, September 11, 2001 at 21:36:15 (PDT)

As a nurse in the USAF, I served in Saudi Arabia in 1999. While I was there I visited the memorial to those who lost their lives at Khobar Towers. I couldn't help but cry every time I went through it. While there, I also received a plaque for officer of the month. The wood from the plaque is made of the wooden debris from Khobar

Towers and it is engraved on the back. When people see my plaque on the wall, I make sure they see the back of it, and we remember. There are several silent prayers said. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lt Kimberli Goodner <MalaliRN8@aol.com>

- Friday, August 24, 2001 at 19:23:38 (PDT)

I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME USING JOSHUA'S GUEST BOOK, TO TALK ABOUT MY SISTER SHERRY. I MISS HER SO MUCH.... AND I KNOW YOU MISS JOSHUA JUST AS MUCH...THEY SAY TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS... BUT MINE FEELS AS RAW TODAY AS IT DID ON AUGUST 7, 1998, WHEN MY MOTHER CALLED ME AT 5:30AM AND TOLD ME, SHE WAS WATCHING CNN AND THAT THE EMBASSY IN KENYA HAD BEEN BOMBED. I JUST KEPT TELLING MY MOM TO STAY OFF THE PHONE, I KNEW MY SISTER. THE FIRST THING SHE WOULD DO WAS CALL HOME TO TELL EVERYONE SHE WAS OKAY...BUT AFTER 2 HOURS AND THE CALL DIDN'T COME THROUGH...WE WERE ALL HOPING BEYOND HOPE. AND THEN WHEN THE AIR FORCE DROVE UP AND MY MOTHER STARTED SCREAMING.... DON'T LET THEM IN....MY FATHER WAS ABLE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER UNTIL THEY SAID SHE WAS MISSING, WE ALL KNEW THEN THAT SHE WAS BURIED UNDER A TON OF CONCRETE MY MOTHER MADE A REQUEST TO GET HER HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE AIR FORCE CHAPLIN SAID IT WOULD BE ABOUT 3 DAYS, IT ENDED UP BEING SEVEN DAYS, BECAUSE THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT HAD MORE PRESSING ISSUES, LIKE ATTENDING A WEDDING. LET'S JUST SAY I WILL NEVER FEEL THE SAME ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS EVER AGAIN...THEY COULDN'T EVEN HONOR MY SISTER LAST REQUEST TO BE BROUGHT HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SHE ALWAYS SAID SHE WANTED TO BE BURIED AT HOME. THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO CREMATE ALL THE BODIES IN AFRICA. THANKS FOR LETTING ME SOUND OFF...

MARSEY CORNETT <MARSEYGC@AOL.COM>

PANAMA, FL USA - Monday, August 13, 2001 at 22:35:44 (PDT)

GINA AND I THINK ABOUT JOSH OFTEN I THINK WHEN HE WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL HE SPENT AS MUCH TIME AT MY HOUSE AS MY OWN KIDS DID .I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW HE COULD MAKE HIM SELF LOOK LIKE A MONKEY MY DAUGHTER CARRIE AND THE REST OF MY FAMILY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER JOSH.I AM VERY PROUD OF JOSH AND WILL ALWAYS BE I HAVE ALOT OF MEMORIES WITH JOSH THANK-YOU BRIAN THIBODEAU

BRIAN THIBODEAU <BINRENO@AOL.COM>

RENO, NV USA - Tuesday, July 10, 2001 at 21:40:31 (PDT)

My brother Justin Wood was one of the 19 men that died that day and together with sites like this and like <http://www.62596.com>, we can help keep the memory alive!

Thank you George, I hope to see you again someday. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, as well as all the other families that have been touched by this cowardly act!

Shawn, Kristy and Marissa Wood <shawnwood@62596.com>
Modesto, CA USA - Tuesday, July 03, 2001 at 23:43:05 (PDT)

George, Bernie: Look in the Chico Enterprise Record, www.chicoer.com, June 29 2001... There is a story that states that the US House recognizes Josh and the others. Josh is and will not be forgotten... Chuck

Chuck Dennis <chkdns52@aol.com>
Bakersfield, CA USA - Monday, July 02, 2001 at 06:10:06 (PDT)

First, I would like to say that this website means a lot to me and would like to thank his stepfather, George and his mother, Bernadine for doing so. It helps to give me closure even after five years and I want everyone to know how much of a friend, and special person he was to me and my family. Growing up with him (like a brother) was special and it was a great honor to know him. I have many stories about Josh - from how he wired my radio in my mustang in high school to numerous football and wrestling stories. They all mean something to me and taught me many lessons as "Never say never" and "Never give up". All these lessons I bring to the kids in the Corning Youth Football League. All his generosity, caring and honorability it what makes me appreciate his greatness and is the reason for naming my child (if it's a boy) after him - Garrett Joshua. I love him and miss him very much. Thank you for your time. Eric

Eric Thibodeau <ETKTM@aol.com>
Cottonwood, Ca USA - Friday, June 29, 2001 at 17:56:54 (PDT)

God bless the silent hero.

Robert Goggin <Rgoggs@aol.com>
Phila, Pa USA - Wednesday, June 27, 2001 at 12:33:11 (PDT)

I had just put my newborn son down for the night and the phone rang. I was thinking who can this be so late. It was my father. He told me he had some bad news. I stood there in shock. No it can't be Josh? The josh I want to work with and school. I cried for days. I remember Josh as being the funny guy at work. If anyone was sad, he'd make you happy. He was fun to work with in the grill. There's not a day that go by that I don't think about him.

Dawn Hatley / Linnet <Clinnet@dm-tech>
Corning, CA USA - Monday, June 25, 2001 at 15:07:17 (PDT)

I first want to say, "I am sorry for your loss!" I was with Woody the night of the explosion. I met Josh through my roommate Travis Wyatt. They had been in Tech School together and had become close friends. I have to say that in the two months of knowing him, he made a true impression on me and I will remember him for the rest of my life. It has been almost five years now and I apologize for not contacting you and your family sooner. This whole event is like a ghost that is haunting me. I

think I always tried to put it behind me by hiding from it and not realizing the true pain suffered from this tragedy. I will never know what you and your family went through and I want you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you every day. The things I remember about Woody were him always smiling and having a great attitude. As I mentioned before I met him through my roommate but he was always friendly and outgoing towards me. He did not make me feel uncomfortable in any way. I could see that he was a true caring person and I wish that this horrible event would have never taken place. I want you to know your son is a true HERO!

Shane A. Little <littleshane1@hotmail>

Frederick, MD USA - Saturday, June 23, 2001 at 08:18:26 (PDT)

THIS IS A WONDERFUL WEB SITE - I HAVE ENJOYED READING EVERYONE'S COMMENTS ABOUT JOSHUA - I FEEL YOUR LOSS - MY SISTER SHERRY DIED IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY BOMBING IN AFRICA IN 1998 - THIS IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO KEEP THEIR MEMORIES ALIVE. SOMETIMES ITS HARD- WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME HOW SHE DIED - AND I TELL THEM - AND THEY SAY THEY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEIR WAS AN EMBASSY IN AFRICA THAT WAS BOMBED. I WONDER IF THEY REALLY NO HOW MUCH THAT'S HURTS...

MARSEY CORNETT <DelbertOlds@worldnet.att.net>

Panama City, FL USA - Friday, June 22, 2001 at 13:27:39 (PDT)

I didn't ever think it would happen. It's been five years and the FBI gave me something I didn't ever think I would see. Still not quite what I would like to have, but it is especially nice to see that our government has put in an extreme effort. Josh and Dawn were two of my best friends for some time. I think Josh was the only friend I had in the Air Force that fought with me like a brother. Dawn many times was like the sister that Josh and I always teased and irritated. To this day I still think about Josh, Dawn, and Joe Rimkus. We were like a small family, a family that I will never forget...can't forget, and will brag on for the rest of my life. Thanks to those who contributed to this web site.... and take a look at mine for a few more photos of Josh and a few others.

SRA John J. Yeichner <joe@yeichner.com>

Galion, OH USA - Thursday, June 21, 2001 at 20:43:09 (PDT)

My heart goes out to you. I will never forget what happened that day, my heartaches for your family. I want you to know that I pray for you and the other families and friends and hope that God will bless you all.

Sonja Warren <SonjaRWarren@aol.com>

Greenville, NC USA - Friday, June 15, 2001 at 19:45:17 (PDT)

First of all, God bless your family and I am sorry for your loss. I came across your web site and it touched my heart, as I am the fiancé of Senior Airman John Joseph

Yeichner who was a very close friend of Josh's. I have heard many things about Josh and the time he and Joe spent together in the Air Force. Although Joe was fortunate to escape the Khobar Towers bombing with his life, it still affects him today. Thank you for sharing this web site with everyone.

Stacey <metoxen@hrga.com>

Columbus, OH USA - Friday, June 15, 2001 at 06:22:21 (PDT)

I just wanted you to know that my heart and prayers go out to you and your family. My name is Cecilia Leitz; my son Zachary Sutton survived the bombing. I can't begin to know the pain you have felt and still feel over the loss of your son. You have created a wonderful web site to help us remember Joshua and all who have fallen and you should be proud of your vigilance. All my thoughts and prayers, Cecilia
Cecilia <Legnd311@aol.com>

RAF Alconbury UK, - Wednesday, June 14, 2001 at 20:22:38 (PST)

Thank you TSgt Jeffrey L. Thompson Patrick AFB 1990-1997

Jeff Thompson <jeff.thompson@virgin.net>

RAF Alconbury UK, - Wednesday, January 24, 2001 at 13:51:20 (PST)

I am currently serving in the AF Reserve, but at the time of the Khobar Towers bombing I was active duty at Incirlik AB, Turkey. This tragedy had a great impact on me and my fellow airmen, even though we did not know Josh personally. I found myself in Saudi Arabia 5 months later and there wasn't a day during my time there that I didn't think about the importance and fragility of my presence in the wake of Josh's sacrifice. I can tell you for certain that many of us owe a debt of gratitude to Josh and the others for lives saved since then. Your tragedy resulted in a level of security awareness that I am positive has thwarted other cowardly attempts by terrorists. We will never be completely safe, but as with many heroes throughout history, Josh's death has saved the lives of others. For that, you should be very proud.

Dayne Pritchard <dspritchard@mindspring.com>

Wesley Chapel, FL USA - Tuesday, December 19, 2000 at 21:14:05 (PST)

Just wanted you all to know that my husband & I are thinking of you at this time. The bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen has an all too familiar air.

Diane Morgera <dmorgera@dellmail.com>

NH USA - Friday, October 13, 2000 at 14:55:50 (PDT)

My cousin Jr. Cartrette was one of the 19 airmen killed in the bombing. I'm sorry this happened. My family is very sad.

Chris Heath <jack47150@aol.com>

New Albany, USA - Monday, August 28, 2000 at 13:19:50 (PDT)

Joshua and the other eighteen Airmen who lost their lives will forever live in the hearts of us who will not and cannot forget. God bless them all. Defnesor Fortis, SSgt Thomas Versichelli USAF Security Forces, Phoenix Raven 221

Thomas Versichelli <corvus221@hotmail.com>
Dover, DE USA - Saturday, July 22, 2000 at 20:57:17 (PDT)

I think about that fateful night every single day. I was asleep, then I was on the floor. There was silence, then screaming. We were all bleeding from somewhere. It has been a difficult four years. We all went our separate ways, as the 4404th Civil Engineers was a composite squadron, we were assembled from many different places, so when we finally left Dhahran, most of us would never reunite again. That has been the worst part. I have only been able to talk to people who weren't there; they just don't understand. Having found your site, I feel much better. I was starting to think that the world had forgotten our suffering, and the sacrifices of the fallen. Your site has bolstered my hopes that this monumental waste of human life will not be forgotten. I for one, will never forget, because I can't. Thank You.

(Ex)SSgt Jeremy C. Morgan <morgan8er@earthlink.net>
CA USA - Wednesday, July 19, 2000 at 11:11:53 (PDT)

The web site is very well done and it is obvious that a lot of work has been put into this web site. We want Joshua's family and the families of 18 other heroes to realize that we will continue to work hard and do our best to apprehend the perpetrators of this horrific crime.

Joint Terrorism Task Force <jttf.atlanta@fbi.gov>
USA - Thursday, July 06, 2000 at 07:14:23 (PDT)

Thank you so much for letting us know this was here. It seemed appropriate to see it for the first time today. Thanks again for all your efforts. Rich & Diane Morgera, 6/25/00

Diane Morgera <dmorgera@dellnet.com>
USA - Sunday, June 25, 2000 at 15:20:01 (PDT)

I did not know your son personally but am a member of the 33FW. I did have contact with some who gave their lives. As a father of 3 boys with one in the Air Force, I can only imagine the grief that you feel for the loss of your son. I have been to Saudi and stayed in Khobar Towers and jogged around the road where the bomb went off. I thank God for sparing my life during that time. I was not there when the bomb went off but was there the tour before. I only wish to let you know that every time I pass the memorial here in the 33 FW, I think of the loss that their families are feeling. May God comfort you in the years ahead. Steve

Stephen M. Hurlbert <hurlbert@bsc.net>
Shalimar, FL USA - Thursday, June 22, 2000 at 06:22:01 (PDT)

I have come to know the squadron he was assigned to and how they feel his loss even today. My family and I send our sincere condolences. We appreciate your taking the time to share a little more about Josh with us. Thank you.

Carol Hoalt <hoaltf@home.com>
Shalimar, FL USA - Tuesday, June 06, 2000 at 17:29:01 (PDT)

We are very saddened to see this. I remember this on television. I am so sorry for your loss. Your son was a hero. I feel your loss and pain and hope one day you will be at peace.

Marc and Patty Hillman <mhillman@mediaone.net>

Stockton, CA USA - Friday, May 26, 2000 at 19:28:42 (PDT)

When my husband and I saw Joshua's picture it was sad to see a face that my husband knew and had wrestled with in high school. And to know they enlisted at the same time and were at basic together, but sadly they did not get to know each other. He was a wonderful person and my heart goes out to you and your family for your lose. GOD BLESS YOU AND JOSHUA! And may his spirit live on.

SSGT Perry and Family <rperry@bsc.net>

Eglin afb, FL USA - Friday, May 19, 2000 at 19:11:57 (PDT)

I drive by the memorial at least once a day, and I can tell you that I have not forgotten. I remember as if it were yesterday. Thank you for making this site, so that others may see.

SSgt. Bryan L Jones <jonesbr@eglin.af.mil>

Niceville, FL USA - Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at 16:15:06 (PDT)

What a great tribute to Josh and to the other fallen men. I miss you Josh.

Dorothy McGill <dorothyam@yahoo.com>

Auburn, California USA - Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at 08:54:34 (PDT)

Everyday, hundreds drive by the Memorial, may that and this site continue to remind all Nomads of the ultimate sacrifice made by our brothers in blue.

Mike Reilly <reillyb@eglin.af.mil>

Ft Walton beach, Fl USA - Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at 07:31:55 (PDT)

I think this sit was a very nice thing to do. I did not know Josh but I was a member of the 58th Fighter Squadron and once a gorilla always a gorilla. God Bless.

Renardo A. Terrell <renardot@yahoo.com>

Eglin AFB, Fl USA - Wednesday, May 17, 2000 at 07:11:45 (PDT)

Nearly four years ago I wrote in the Corning Observer that "perhaps the only good to emerge, however, is that Josh Woody will be forever a role model for the Corning High student body and a hero to the community of Corning. This memorial is a wonderful reminder of Josh for those of us fortunate enough to have known him, and it introduces Josh to those who didn't have that opportunity. The memory of those Nineteen must never be forgotten! Bernie and George... thank you for sharing your memories with us.

Mike Flaherty <mikef@bbs.macnexus.org>

Sacramento, CA USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 21:03:24 (PDT)

Thank you for creating such a wonderful site and a place that brings all of us together again.

Yvonne Minor <calidreamer55@hotmail.com>

USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 19:31:03 (PDT)

I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER MY QUIET TIME WITH WOODY JUST DAYS BEFORE THE BOMBING. HIS FAMILY WAS ALL HE WOULD TALK ABOUT GETTING BACK TO. THIS PAGE IS A GOOD REMEMBRANCE. THANKS FOR THE PRIVILEGE

SSGT CHRISTIAN KAPLINGER <CKAPLINGER@AOL.COM>

EGLIN AFB, FL USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 13:51:06 (PDT)

A REALLY GREAT SITE. I HAD A CHANCE TO WORK WITH SOME OF THE INDIVIDUALS. I HAD BEEN IN KHOBAR JUST A MONTH EARLIER WITH THE 59TH. GOD BLESS!!

TSgt BILL ANDERSEN <ANDERSEN@EGLIN.AF.MIL>

VALPARAISO, FL USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 13:06:56 (PDT)

Secretary to the 33d Logistics Group Commander at the time of this sad event. Am now the secretary for the 33d Fighter Wing Commander. Proud to see the website you have prepared for Joshua--very touching; brought tears to my eyes once again. My best to you. Thanks for the opportunity to say a few words.

Betty L. Halston <betty.halston@eglin.af.mil>

Eglin AFB, FL USA - Tuesday, May 16, 2000 at 12:27:55 (PDT)

Not a day goes by we don't think of all you. But we know you are watching over all of us from above. It still feels like it happened yesterday. You will always be in our prayers. We are headed back to FL this September. We are going to Tyndall AFB. But we will be stopping at Eglin to see the Memorial and all of are friends that are still there. Thanks to Josh's website we got to see pictures of what the Memorial looks like for the first time. Josh was a good guy. Zach remembers him well. Zach still has all of his pictures up with all the guys together for the last time. And the one of Jr too. This is how we keep our memories alive since we are so fare away from everyone. These pictures will forever be up in our house. And as our son grows up he will learn and come to know by heart all of our memories and good times with the guys as if they where fairy tales out of children's story books. For which he will tell his children about you all some day too. You all are forever alive in are heart and souls. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. Bless you all. And God please give us all strength to get through all of this. Take Care. Zachary Kelly and Elijah Sutton

Zachary S Sutton and Family <Prphrt@aol.com>

Elmendorf AFB , AK USA - Monday, May 15, 2000 at 14:04:51 (PDT)

I'm the curator at the Heritage Hall and am greatly impressed with your site. It's been almost a year since we held our memorial ceremony here and dedicated the Khobar Towers Exhibit on the third anniversary of the bombing. We still have

family members and former supervisors visit our display. It still has a huge emotional impact on visitors, many of whom were involved, directly or indirectly on that fateful day. Your site will help keep everyone aware of the price terrorism extracts on the unaware or unprepared. Keep up the good work. Sincerely Bill Chivalette Curator, EHH

WILLIAM I. CHIVALETTE <william.chivalette@maxwell.af.mil>
Montgomery, AL USA - Monday, May 15, 2000 at 09:29:36 (PDT)

Thank you very much for this wonderful site. Thank you for remembering 19 men who gave their lives for all of us. May God Bless You All. Sincerely, Denise Oehmann Mother of SRA Earl F. Cartrette, Jr. (Khobar Victim)

Denise Oehmann <eafbfl@aol.com>
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 - Saturday, May 13, 2000 at 13:43:05 (PDT)

I was very touched and moved by your web site. It is a very fitting tribute to such a fine young man. May we never forget the sacrifice that he and others have made on our behalf.

TSgt Brian C. Johnson <brian.johnson@maxwell.af.mil>
Montgomery, AL USA - Saturday, May 13, 2000 at 10:44:52 (PDT)

There is not one day that goes by that I don't think of you! I miss you and love you very much!

Jonica Woody <JWoodyMATS@aol.com>
Crofton, MD USA - Saturday, May 13, 2000 at 04:39:36 (PDT)

Fine & fitting tribute to a young man whose sacrifice in duty gives pride to those of us who cherish freedom. My blessings to Josh's family and to the families of the Khobar Towers bombing both living and deceased.

Jim Vitt <jimvitt@silverstateproducts.com>
Woodstock, GA USA - Friday, May 12, 2000 at 14:41:41 (PDT)

Appendix C

Pictures – Remembering Joshua

Joshua's Wedding Pictures



Joshua Edward Woody and Dawn Marie Riniker were married February 21, 1996 at The Wedding Chapel, Claremore, OK.



Josh and his mother outside the church before the wedding



Josh and Dawn at the altar



The wedding cake



Josh's stepfather and mother, George and Bernadine Beekman with the newly weds



Gerry and Chris Riniker with Dawn and Josh

Joshua's friends & family



Josh's monkey face



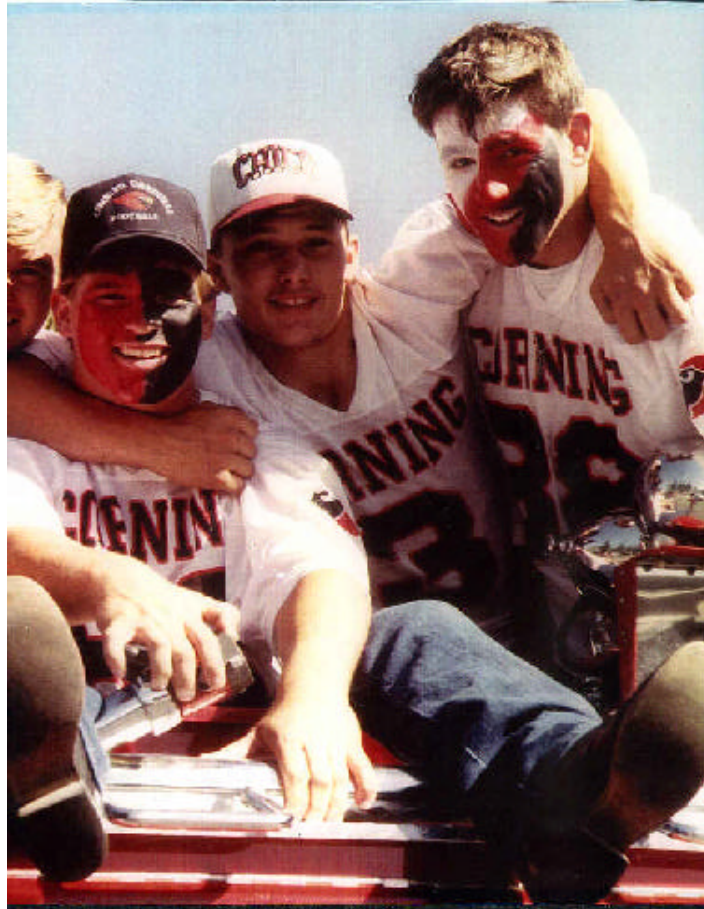
Tim, Bernie and Josh 1990 in the Sacramento river



Learning to ski at Mt. Shasta, 1990



Josh, Tim and Jonica at Mt. Shasta, 1990



Ben Dennis, Mike Rubie, Eric Thibodeau and Josh ride a fire engine during the 1994 Olive City Festival parade.



Josh with his sister, Jonica, at graduation from Basic



John Woody - Josh's dad

Joshua Growing Up



1976



Ride'em Cowboy



Jonica, Timothy and Joshua 1978



Goin fishin 1979



1980 Kindergarten



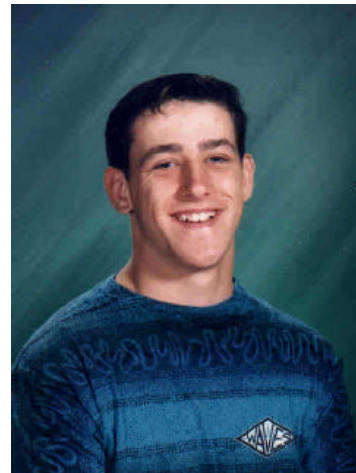
1983 Third Grade



1989-90



1990-91



1992



Josh's Duty Uniform



Always Smiling



Josh in his dress uniform



**Josh relaxing at home
Fort Walton Beach, FL**



Getting ready for duty

Appendix D

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 161

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ISAKSON submitted the following concurrent resolution:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Honoring the 19 United States servicemen who died in the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, on June 25, 1996.

Whereas June 25, 2001, marks the 5th anniversary of the tragic terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers compound in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia;

Whereas 19 United States servicemen were killed in the blast, and 500 others were wounded;

Whereas the 19 men killed while serving their country were Captain Christopher Adams, Sergeant Daniel Cafourek, Sergeant Millard Campbell, Senior Airman Earl Cartrette, Jr., Sergeant Patrick Fennig, Captain Leland Haun, Sergeant Michael Heiser, Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Sergeant Ronald King, Sergeant Kendall Kitson, Jr., Airman First Class Christopher Lester, Airman First Class Brent Marthaler, Airman First Class Brian McVeigh, Airman First Class Peter Morgera, Sergeant Thanh Nguyen, Airman First Class Joseph Rimkus, Senior Airman Jeremy Taylor, Airman First Class Justin Wood, and Airman First Class Joshua Woody;

Whereas the families of these brave servicemen still mourn their loss;

Whereas on September 24, 1996, the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 200 honoring the memory of these 19 servicemen killed in this attack;

Whereas those guilty of this attack have yet to be brought to justice; and

Whereas terrorism remains a constant and ever-present threat around the world: Now, therefore, be it ***Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)***, That the Congress, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, recognizes the sacrifice of the 19 servicemen who died in that attack, and calls upon every American to pause and pay tribute to these brave soldiers.

Appendix E

A Tribute to Joshua Edward Woody



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

July 12, 1996

House of Representatives

A Tribute to Joshua Edward Woody

MR. FAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Airman 1st Class Joshua Edward Woody of the United States Air Force who was a tragic victim of the cowardly terrorist bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on June 25.

I would like to extend my deepest and most sincere condolences to Joshua's mother and stepfather, Bernadine and George Beekman, Joshua's father and stepmother, John and Carol Woody and to Joshua's wife, Mrs. Dawn Woody. Also, I would like to extend my comfort to his brother, Timothy, his two sisters, Tracy and Jonica, and his stepbrother, John.

Joshua and roommate and best friend Joseph E. Rimkus, were among the 19 brave soldiers who paid the highest price protecting the interests and security of our nation. Joshua, who was a resident of Corning, California and a recent graduate of Corning Union High School, was a very active member in several school activities. A standout in football, Joshua was co-captain of his high school football team and due to his talent on the football field, was chosen to the 1994 Lions All-Star game his senior year. Joshua was also a member of the school wrestling team. Joshua, who exhibited strong leadership qualities and skills in school and in sports, carried on these important attributes in the United States Air Force.

Joshua joined the military in March 1995, where he brought to the Air Force the devotion and leadership skills that he had become noted for in high school. Joshua served as a weapons specialist for the 33rd Fighter Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base in Northeastern Florida. In Dhahran, he was a member of the ground crew which supported the aircraft responsible for keeping the Saudi airspace clear.

Mr. Speaker, I did not know Airman 1st Class Joshua Edward Woody, but I do know that he was a hard working member of the United States Air Force and the Corning community who was dedicated to his family, his country and his community. Those are the best qualities a young person can possess. Let us never forget the contributions and commitment that Joshua has made to our nation and our community.

Appendix F

The Federal Indictment

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-v-

AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL,
aka "Abu Omran,"
(Counts 1-46)

ALI AL-HOURI,
(Counts 1-46)

HANI AL-SAYEGH,
(Counts 1-46)

IBRAHIM AL-YACOB,
(Counts 1-46)

ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER,
(Counts 1-46)

MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB,
(Counts 1-46)

SA'ED AL-BAHAR,
(Counts 1-5)

ABDALLAH AL-JARASH,
(Counts 1-46)

HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS,
(Counts 1-46)

ALI AL-MARHOUN,
(Counts 1-5)

SALEH RAMADAN,
(Counts 1-5)

MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM,
(Counts 1-5)

FADEL AL-ALAWI, and
(Counts 1-5)

JOHN DOE, further described as a Lebanese
male, approximately 175 cm tall, with fair skin,
fair hair, and green eyes,
(Counts 1-46)
Defendants.

CRIMINAL NO: 01-228-A

Conspiracy to Kill United States Nationals
(18 U.S.C. § 2332(b))
(Count One)

Conspiracy to Murder United States Employees
(18 U.S.C. §§ 1114, 1117)
(Count Two)

Conspiracy to Use Weapons of Mass Destruction
Against United States Nationals
(18 U.S.C. §§ 2332a(a)(1), (a)(3))
(Count Three)

Conspiracy to Destroy Property of United States
(18 U.S.C. § 844(n))
(Count Four)

Conspiracy to Attack National Defense Premises
(18 U.S.C. § 2155(b))
(Count Five)

Bombing Resulting in Death
(18 U.S.C. §§ 844(f)(1), (f)(3))
(Count Six)

Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against United
States Nationals
(18 U.S.C. §§ 2332a(a)(1), (a)(3))
(Count Seven)

Murder While Using Destructive Device During
Crime of Violence
(18 U.S.C. § 924(j))
(Counts Eight through Twenty-Six)

) Murder of Federal Employees
) (18 U.S.C. §§ 1111, 1114)
) (Counts Twenty-Seven through Forty-Five)
)
) Attempted Murder of Federal Employees
) (18 U.S.C. §§ 1113, 1114)
) (Count Forty-Six)

INDICTMENT

June 2001 TERM – AT ALEXANDRIA

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

COUNT ONE

Conspiracy to Kill United States Nationals

Introduction

Saudi Hizballah

1. From some time in the 1980s until the date of the filing of this Indictment, Hizballah, or "Party of God," was the name used by a number of related terrorist organizations operating in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Kuwait, and Bahrain, among other places. These Hizballah organizations were inspired, supported, and directed by elements of the Iranian government. Saudi Hizballah, also known as Hizballah Al-Hijaz, was a terrorist organization that operated primarily in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that promoted, among other things, the use of violence against nationals and property of the United States located in Saudi Arabia. Because Saudi Hizballah was an outlaw organization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its members frequently met and trained in Lebanon, Syria, or Iran.

2. A regular gathering place for members of Saudi Hizballah was the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus, Syria, which was an important religious site for adherents of the Shi'ite branch of Islam. Saudi Hizballah drew its members primarily from among young men of the Shi'ite faith who resided in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, near the Persian Gulf. Those young men would frequently have their first contact with Saudi Hizballah during religious pilgrimages to the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine. There, they would be approached by Saudi Hizballah members to gauge their loyalty to Iran and dislike for the government of Saudi Arabia. Young men who wished to join Saudi Hizballah then would be transported to Hizballah-controlled areas in Lebanon for military training and indoctrination.

The Defendants

3. Saudi Hizballah organized itself into departments, or "wings," each headed by a Hizballah member and each reporting to the leader of Saudi Hizballah, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER.

4. The "military wing" of Saudi Hizballah was headed at all relevant times by AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," a native of Qatif, in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. In his role as military commander, AL-MUGHASSIL was in charge of directing terrorist attacks against American interests in Saudi Arabia. AL-MUGHASSIL was actively involved in recruiting young Saudi Shi'ite men to join the ranks of Hizballah; arranging for those men to undergo military training at Hizballah camps in Lebanon and Iran; directing those men in surveillance of potential targets for attack by Hizballah; and planning and supervising terrorist attacks.

5. ALI AL-HOURI was a member of Saudi Hizballah who served as a major recruiter for the Hizballah party; scheduled party functions; and transported explosives for the party. He also acted as a liaison for the party with the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, which was an important source of logistics and support for Saudi Hizballah members traveling to and from Lebanon. AL-HOURI was a close associate of AL-MUGHASSIL and participated directly in surveillance, planning, and execution of terrorist attacks.

6. HANI AL-SAYEGH was a prominent member of Saudi Hizballah. He was actively involved in recruiting young Saudi Shi'ite men to join the ranks of Hizballah; arranging for those men to undergo military training at Hizballah camps in Lebanon and Iran; assisting in the surveillance of potential targets for attack by Hizballah; and carrying out terrorist attacks. AL-SAYEGH also spoke fluent Farsi and enjoyed an unusually close association with certain military elements of the Iranian government.

7. IBRAHIM AL-YACOUB was a prominent member of Saudi Hizballah, actively involved in recruiting young Saudi Shi'ite men to join Hizballah, and in planning and carrying out terrorist attacks. He also served as a liaison between Saudi Hizballah and the Lebanese and Iranian Hizballah organizations.

8. MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB was a Shi'ite Muslim from Qatif, Saudi Arabia. He joined Saudi Hizballah in the late 1980s after traveling from Saudi Arabia to Iran and meeting AL-MUGHASSIL and others. Over time, AL-QASSAB came to play an important role in the military affairs of Saudi Hizballah.

9. SA'ED AL-BAHAR was a Qatif native who first became associated with Hizballah in 1988, when AL-YACOUB arranged for him to travel to Iran for religious study. He

also spent time with AL-YACOUB in Damascus. In Damascus, he met and became close friends with AL-SAYEGH, who introduced him both to Hizballah and to elements of the Iranian government. In Qom, Iran during 1989 or 1990, he also met AL-HOURI, who accompanied him to military training sponsored by the Iranian government in southern Iran.

10. ABDALLAH AL-JARASH was recruited into Hizballah at the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus. At the time of his recruitment, AL-JARASH met AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-YACOUB, and AL-SAYEGH, all of whom were important party members. AL-JARASH learned that, as a member of Hizballah, he would need to be loyal to the party and to Iran; he also learned that the goal of the party was to target foreign interests, American in particular, in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. In about 1989, AL-JARASH was sent to Lebanon in a Mercedes supplied by the Iranian embassy in Damascus for military training provided by Lebanese Hizballah members. After being trained, he was assigned to recruit others who felt a strong connection to Iran.

11. HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS was a native of Qatif, Saudi Arabia who came into contact with Hizballah in about 1990, when he traveled to the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus and met AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, and AL-SAYEGH, among others. With AL-MUGHASSIL's support, AL-MUGHIS underwent religious training in Qom, Iran, where he met AL-YACOUB. Then, in about 1992, AL-MUGHASSIL arranged for AL-MUGHIS to spend two weeks in Lebanon receiving weapons and explosives training. At that time, he filled out a Hizballah membership form provided by AL-MUGHASSIL and learned that Hizballah Hijaz and Lebanese Hizballah were both part of Iranian Hizballah. After this training, AL-MUGHASSIL directed AL-MUGHIS to secretly recruit others for Hizballah.

12. ALI AL-MARHOUN was another Shi'ite Muslim from the town of Qatif in Eastern Saudi Arabia. His first contact with the organization came in about 1991, when he met AL-YACoub at the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus. After AL-MARHOUN discovered that both he and AL-YACoub wished to be martyrs for Islam, AL-YACoub introduced AL-MARHOUN to AL-MUGHASSIL, who arranged for AL-MARHOUN to travel to Lebanon for Hizballah training and indoctrination.

13. SALEH RAMADAN and MUSTAFA MU'ALEM were recruited into Saudi Hizballah in approximately 1992 by AL-MARHOUN, whom they knew from their common hometown of Qatif, Saudi Arabia. RAMADAN was chosen because he was very religious and a great admirer of Ayatollah Khomeini, the former Supreme Leader of Iran. Both RAMADAN and AL-MU'ALEM agreed to join Hizballah and form a "cell" under AL-MARHOUN. After being recruited by AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN and AL-MU'ALEM traveled to Lebanon for military training, where they met AL-MUGHASSIL, who had them fill out written applications for Hizballah membership.

14. FADEL AL-ALAWI was a Qatif native who joined Hizballah in about 1992 at the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus. He was recruited by AL-QASSAB, who introduced him to AL-MUGHASSIL. Shortly thereafter, AL-MUGHASSIL arranged for AL-ALAWI to undergo military training in Lebanon.

15. JOHN DOE was a member of Lebanese Hizballah who assisted Saudi Hizballah with the construction of the tanker truck bomb used to attack the American military residences at Khobar Towers. He is described as a Lebanese male, approximately 175 cm tall, with fair skin, fair hair, and green eyes.

Hizballah Seeks a Target

16. In about 1993, AL-MUGHASSIL instructed AL-QASSAB, AL-YACoub, and AL-HOURI to begin surveillance of Americans in Saudi Arabia. As a result, AL-QASSAB and AL-YACoub spent three months in Riyadh conducting surveillance of American targets. AL-SAYEGH joined them during this operation. They produced reports, which were passed to AL-MUGHASSIL, then on to Saudi Hizballah chief AL-NASSER, and to officials in Iran. At the end of their mission, AL-MUGHASSIL came in person to meet with them and review their work.

17. Also in about 1993, AL-YACoub assigned AL-JARASH to conduct surveillance of the United States Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and to determine where Americans went and where they lived. Also at AL-YACoub's direction, AL-JARASH and AL-MARHOUN conducted surveillance of a fish market frequented by Americans, located near the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh. They reported the results of their surveillance to AL-YACoub.

18. In early 1994, AL-QASSAB began conducting surveillance, focusing on American and other foreign sites in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia, an area that includes Khobar. He prepared written reports, which were passed to AL-NASSER and Iranian officials.

19. In about Fall 1994, AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM began watching American sites in Eastern Saudi Arabia at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction. They passed their reports to AL-MUGHASSIL, who was then spending most of his time in Beirut, Lebanon. At about the same time, AL-BAHAR began conducting surveillance in Saudi Arabia at the direction of an Iranian military officer.

Discovery of the Americans at Khobar Towers

20. Khobar Towers was a housing complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, which the United States, among other countries, used to house military personnel assigned to Saudi Arabia. Building # 131 was an eight-story structure within the Khobar Towers complex that United States Air Force personnel, among others, used as their place of residence while serving in Saudi Arabia.

21. In late 1994, after extensive surveillance in Eastern Saudi Arabia, AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM recognized and confirmed Khobar Towers as an important American military location and communicated that fact to AL-MUGHASSIL. Shortly thereafter, AL-MUGHASSIL gave RAMADAN money to find a storage site in the Eastern Province for explosives. During the course of the cell's surveillance, AL-MUGHASSIL reported to AL-MARHOUN that he had received a phone call from a high Iranian government official inquiring about the progress of their surveillance activity.

The Surveillance Continues

22. In 1995, AL-BAHAR and AL-SAYEGH conducted surveillance at the direction of an Iranian military officer of the area of Jizan, Saudi Arabia, located on the Red Sea near Yemen; they also surveilled American sites in the Eastern Province. Their goal was to gather information to support future attacks against Americans. AL-SAYEGH took their surveillance reports and passed them to the Iranian officer.

23. In about April or May 1995, AL-MARHOUN attended four days of live-fire drills sponsored by Hizballah in Lebanon. While he was there, he met with AL-MUGHASSIL at his Beirut apartment. During that meeting, AL-MUGHASSIL explained to AL-MARHOUN that Hizballah's goal was to expel the Americans from Saudi Arabia. AL-MUGHASSIL also

explained that he had close ties to Iranian officials, who supplied him with money and gave him directions for the party. AL-MUGHASSIL then gave AL-MARHOUN \$2000 in \$100 United States bills to support AL-MARHOUN's cell in their surveillance activity in Saudi Arabia. AL-MARHOUN used the money to finance a trip to Riyadh with RAMADAN to look for American sites.

Planning the Khobar Attack

24. In about June 1995, the Hizballah cell composed of AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM began regular surveillance of Khobar Towers at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction. Shortly thereafter, RAMADAN traveled to Beirut to brief AL-MUGHASSIL, who instructed the cell to continue surveillance.

25. At about the same time in 1995 that RAMADAN went to Beirut to update AL-MUGHASSIL on surveillance activities, AL-ALAWI was summoned to Beirut by AL-MUGHASSIL. Although AL-ALAWI did not see RAMADAN, he noticed surveillance reports from RAMADAN on AL-MUGHASSIL's desk. During their meeting, AL-MUGHASSIL explained to AL-ALAWI that explosives were going to be used against Americans in Saudi Arabia and he instructed AL-ALAWI to drive a vehicle he said contained explosives from Lebanon to Saudi Arabia. AL-ALAWI did so, only to discover that the car held no explosives; AL-MUGHASSIL explained that he had only been testing him.

26. In about October 1995, an unknown man visited AL-ALAWI at his home in Eastern Saudi Arabia and delivered a map of Khobar, saying AL-MUGHASSIL wanted AL-ALAWI to check its accuracy. A short time later, the same man retrieved the map and left a package weighing about one kilogram. AL-ALAWI kept the package until AL-MUGHASSIL

called and told him to deliver it to another man unknown to him. AL-ALAWI did as instructed and did not look inside the package.

27. In the late fall of 1995, RAMADAN brought more surveillance reports to AL-MUGHASSIL in Beirut. It was then that RAMADAN, AL-MARHOUN, and AL-MU'ALEM learned from AL-MUGHASSIL that Hizballah would attack Khobar Towers, using a tanker truck loaded with a mixture of explosives and gasoline.

28. At the end of 1995 or the beginning of 1996, RAMADAN again returned to Beirut, where he and AL-MUGHASSIL again discussed the planned tanker truck attack on Khobar Towers and the fact that RAMADAN, AL-MARHOUN, and AL-MU'ALEM would each have a role in the attack. AL-MUGHASSIL said they would need enough explosives to destroy a row of buildings and that the attack was to serve Iran by driving the Americans out of the Gulf region.

29. In January or February 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL traveled to Qatif, in the Eastern Province, and instructed AL-MARHOUN to find places to hide explosives. In about February, at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction, RAMADAN met AL-MUGHASSIL in Beirut and drove back to Saudi Arabia with a car loaded with hidden explosives. He delivered the car to a man in Qatif who wore a veil over his face.

The Spring 1996 Arrests

30. In March 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL summoned AL-ALAWI to Beirut and again outfitted him with a car that was to contain explosives. AL-ALAWI drove the car from Lebanon, through Syria and Jordan, to the Al-Haditha border crossing in northern Saudi Arabia. There, on March 28, 1996, Saudi border guards discovered 38 kilograms of plastic explosives

hidden in the car and arrested AL-ALAWI. Saudi investigators then arrested AL-MARHOUN, AL-MU'ALEM, and RAMADAN on April 6, 7, and 8, 1996, respectively.

Al-Mughassil Finds Replacements

31. After the arrests of AL-ALAWI and the AL-MARHOUN cell, AL-MUGHASSIL went back to Saudi Arabia in April or May 1996 to continue the planning for the Khobar attack. On or about May 1, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL appeared unannounced at AL-JARASH's home in Qatif, explaining that he had come as part of a pilgrimage and was traveling on a false passport. AL-MUGHASSIL told AL-JARASH of the plot to bomb Khobar Towers, gave him a forged Iranian passport, and asked for his help. He told AL-JARASH that AL-ALAWI and AL-MARHOUN had been arrested. He also showed him a map of Khobar and described a plan in which AL-HOURI and AL-QASSAB would be involved; he told AL-JARASH to be ready for a call to action at any time.

32. Three days later, on about May 4, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL showed up unannounced at AL-MUGHIS's home in Qatif to tell him of a plan to attack an American housing complex. AL-MUGHASSIL explained that AL-JARASH, AL-HOURI, AL-SAYEGH and a Lebanese Hizballah member would help. AL-MUGHASSIL then gave AL-MUGHIS a timing device to hide at his home.

33. Also during the first half of 1996, AL-HOURI arrived at AL-MUGHIS's home on at least two occasions and enlisted AL-MUGHIS's help in hiding large amounts of explosives. They buried 50-kilo bags and paint cans filled with explosives at various sites around Qatif, near Khobar.

Building the Bomb

34. In early June 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL and the Lebanese Hizballah member, JOHN DOE, started staying at AL-MUGHIS's home in Qatif. Also in early June, a conspirator purchased a tanker truck from a car dealership in Saudi Arabia, using stolen identification. The conspirator paid about 75,000 Saudi riyals for the truck. Over the next two weeks, the conspirators worked at a farm in the Qatif area to convert the tanker truck into a large truck bomb. Present at the farm were AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-SAYEGH, AL-QASSAB, and JOHN DOE. AL-MUGHIS assisted by returning the timing device and retrieving hidden explosives, while AL-JARASH supplied tools and wire to the group. During the bomb construction, AL-MUGHASSIL also discussed plans to bomb the United States Consulate in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

35. Between June 7 and June 17, 1996, key members of the conspiracy attended a meeting at the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus. Present were AL-NASSER, AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-YACoub, AL-SAYEGH, AL-QASSAB, and other high-ranking Saudi Hizballah leaders. At that meeting, AL-NASSER, the head of Saudi Hizballah, discussed the bombing with, among others, AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-YACoub, AL-SAYEGH, and AL-QASSAB; AL-NASSER also confirmed that AL-MUGHASSIL was in charge of the Khobar attack.

The Khobar Attack

36. On the evening of June 25, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-SAYEGH, AL-QASSAB, AL-JARASH, and AL-MUGHIS met at the farm in Qatif to review final preparations for the attack that evening. The group then executed the bombing plan.

37. Shortly before 10:00 p.m. on the evening of June 25, 1996, AL-SAYEGH drove a Datsun with AL-JARASH as his passenger. The Datsun entered the parking lot adjoining Khobar Towers building # 131 as a scout vehicle and parked in the far corner. Next to enter the parking lot was the getaway car, a white four-door Chevrolet Caprice that AL-JARASH had borrowed from an acquaintance. The Datsun containing AL-SAYEGH and AL-JARASH signaled that all was clear by blinking its lights. With that, the bomb truck, driven by AL-MUGHASSIL, with AL-HOURI as passenger, entered the lot and backed against a fence just in front of Khobar Towers building # 131. After parking the truck, AL-MUGHASSIL and AL-HOURI quickly exited and entered the back seat of the white Caprice, which drove away from the lot, followed by the Datsun from the corner. Within minutes, the truck bomb exploded, devastating the north side of building # 131, which was occupied by American military personnel. The explosion killed nineteen members of the United States Air Force and wounded 372 other Americans.

The Conspirators Flee and Al-Sayegh Obstructs

38. As planned, the attack leaders immediately left the Khobar area and Saudi Arabia using a variety of false passports. Only AL-JARASH and AL-MUGHIS remained behind in their hometown of Qatif. AL-SAYEGH reached Canada in August 1996, where he remained until his arrest by Canadian authorities in March 1997. In May 1997, AL-SAYEGH met with American investigators at his request. Among other things, AL-SAYEGH falsely denied knowledge of the Khobar Towers attack and falsely described a purported estrangement between Saudi Hizballah and elements of the Iranian government. After he was removed to the United

States in June 1997 on his promise to assist American investigators, AL-SAYEGH reneged on that promise and unsuccessfully sought political asylum in the United States.

The Charge

39. From at least 1988 until the filing of this Indictment, in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACoub, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, SA'ED AL-BAHAR, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, ALI AL-MARHOUN, SALEH RAMADAN, MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM, FADEL AL-ALAWI, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, together with other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, while outside the United States, wilfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed to murder nationals of the United States, unlawfully and with malice aforethought, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111(a).

40. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did: (i) murder United States nationals in Saudi Arabia; and (ii) kill United States nationals employed by the United States military who were serving in their official capacity on the Saudi Arabian peninsula.

Overt Acts

41. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its illegal objects, the following overt acts, among others, were committed:

- a. In about the late 1980s, AL-QASSAB joined Saudi Hizballah.

- b. In about 1988 or 1989, AL-BAHAR joined Saudi Hizballah.
- c. In about 1988 or 1989, AL-JARASH joined Saudi Hizballah.
- d. In about 1990, AL-MUGHIS joined Saudi Hizballah.
- e. In about 1991, AL-MARHOUN joined Saudi Hizballah.
- f. In about 1992, RAMADAN joined Saudi Hizballah.
- g. In about 1992, AL-MU'ALEM joined Saudi Hizballah.
- h. In about 1992, AL-ALAWI joined Saudi Hizballah.
- i. In about 1993, AL-MUGHASSIL instructed AL-QASSAB, AL-YACOB, and AL-HOURI to start surveillance of Americans in Saudi Arabia.
- j. In about 1993, AL-QASSAB, AL-YACOB, and AL-SAYEGH conducted surveillance of American targets in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- k. In about 1993, AL-YACOB assigned AL-JARASH to conduct surveillance of the United States Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and instructed him to determine where Americans went and where they lived.
- l. In about 1993, at AL-YACOB's direction, AL-JARASH and AL-MARHOUN conducted surveillance of a fish market frequented by Americans, located near the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh.
- m. In early 1994, AL-QASSAB began conducting surveillance focusing on American and other foreign sites in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia.
- n. In about the fall of 1994, AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM, working as a group, began watching American sites in Eastern Saudi Arabia at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction.

o. In about the fall of 1994, AL-BAHAR began conducting surveillance in Saudi Arabia at the direction of an Iranian military officer.

p. In late 1994, following extensive surveillance in Eastern Saudi Arabia, AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM recognized and confirmed Khobar Towers as an important American military location and communicated that fact to AL-MUGHASSIL.

q. In late 1994 or early 1995, AL-MUGHASSIL gave RAMADAN money to find a storage site in the Eastern Province for explosives.

r. In 1995, AL-BAHAR and HANI AL-SAYEGH conducted surveillance at the direction of an Iranian military officer of the area of Jizan, Saudi Arabia.

s. In 1995, AL-BAHAR and HANI AL-SAYEGH conducted surveillance of American sites in the Eastern Province.

t. In about April or May 1995, AL-MARHOUN met in Beirut with AL-MUGHASSIL, who gave AL-MARHOUN \$2000 in \$100 United States bills to support AL-MARHOUN's cell in their surveillance activity in Saudi Arabia.

u. In about June 1995, the Hizballah cell composed of AL-MARHOUN, RAMADAN, and AL-MU'ALEM began intense surveillance of Khobar Towers at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction.

v. In about mid-1995, RAMADAN traveled to Beirut to brief AL-MUGHASSIL, who instructed the cell to continue surveillance.

w. In about October 1995, an unknown man visited AL-ALAWI at his home in Eastern Saudi Arabia and delivered a map of Khobar from AL-MUGHASSIL.

x. In about the second half of 1995, AL-ALAWI met with AL-MUGHASSIL in Beirut.

y. In about the second half of 1995, AL-ALAWI drove a car for AL-MUGHASSIL from Beirut to Saudi Arabia.

z. In about the late fall of 1995, RAMADAN brought more surveillance reports to AL-MUGHASSIL in Beirut.

aa. At about the end of 1995 or the beginning of 1996, RAMADAN returned to Beirut, where he and AL-MUGHASSIL met.

bb. In about January or February 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL traveled to Qatif, in the Eastern Province, and instructed AL-MARHOUN to find places to hide explosives.

cc. In about February 1996, at AL-MUGHASSIL's direction, RAMADAN met AL-MUGHASSIL in Beirut and drove back to Saudi Arabia with a car loaded with hidden explosives.

dd. In March 1996, AL-ALAWI drove a car containing 38 kilograms of plastic explosives for AL-MUGHASSIL from Beirut to Saudi Arabia.

ee. On or about May 1, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL appeared at AL-JARASH's home in Qatif to discuss a plan to attack Khobar Towers.

ff. On or about May 4, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL appeared at AL-MUGHIS's home in Qatif to discuss a plan to attack Khobar Towers.

gg. In about the first half of 1996, AL-HOURI and AL-MUGHIS hid explosives around Qatif.

hh. In early June 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL and JOHN DOE started staying at AL-MUGHIS's home in Qatif.

ii. In early June 1996, a conspirator purchased a tanker truck from a Saudi car dealer for about 75,000 Saudi riyals.

jj. In early June 1996, the tanker truck was converted into a bomb at a farm near Qatif.

kk. At some time between June 7 and June 17, 1996, AL-NASSER presided over a meeting at the Sayyeda Zeinab shrine in Damascus, Syria concerning the Khobar Towers attack.

ll. On the evening of June 25, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL, AL-HOURI, AL-SAYEGH, AL-QASSAB, AL-JARASH, and AL-MUGHIS met to review final preparations for the attack that evening.

mm. On the evening of June 25, 1996, AL-SAYEGH drove a Datsun into the parking lot adjoining Khobar Towers building # 131.

nn. On the evening of June 25, 1996, AL-MUGHASSIL, with AL-HOURI as passenger, parked a tanker truck bomb against a fence in front of Khobar Towers building # 131.

oo. At about 10:00 p.m. on June 25, 1996, a truck bomb exploded next to Khobar Towers building #131.

pp. In or about August 1996, AL-SAYEGH arrived in Canada.

qq. In or about May 1997, AL-SAYEGH met in Ottawa, Canada with American investigators.

rr. In or about June 1997, AL-SAYEGH arrived at Dulles Airport, in the Eastern District of Virginia.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2332(b).)

COUNT TWO

Conspiracy to Murder Employees of the United States

42. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

43. From at least 1988 until the date of the filing of this Indictment, in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACoub, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, SA'ED AL-BAHAR, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, ALI AL-MARHOUN, SALEH RAMADAN, MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM, FADEL AL-ALAWI, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, together with other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed unlawfully to kill officers and employees of the United States and agencies and branches thereof, while such officers and employees were engaged in, and on account of, the performance of their official duties, and persons assisting such employees in the performance of their duties, in violation of Section 1114 of Title 18, United States Code, including members of the American military stationed in Saudi Arabia.

Overt Acts

44. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its objects, the defendants, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, committed the overt acts set forth in Count One of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1114 and 1117.)

COUNT THREE

Conspiracy to Use Weapons of Mass
Destruction Against Nationals of the United States

45. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

46. From at least 1988 until the date of the filing of this Indictment, in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACoub, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, SA'ED AL-BAHAR, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, ALI AL-MARHOUN, SALEH RAMADAN, MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM, FADEL AL-ALAWI, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, together with other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed to use weapons of mass destruction, namely, bombs, without lawful authority against nationals of the United States while such nationals were outside the United

States and against property that was owned, leased and used by the United States and by departments and agencies of the United States, with the result that at least nineteen persons died.

47. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that the defendants, and others known and unknown, would and did: (i) bomb the Khobar Towers housing complex and (ii) attack American military facilities in the Gulf region, and members of the American military stationed in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, with bombs.

Overt Acts

48. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its objects, the defendants, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, committed the overt acts set forth in Count One of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2332a(a)(1) and (a)(3).)

COUNT FOUR

Conspiracy to Destroy Buildings and Property of the United States

49. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

50. From at least 1988 until the date of the filing of this Indictment, in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACOUB, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, SA'ED AL-BAHAR, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, ALI AL-MARHOUN, SALEH RAMADAN, MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM, FADEL AL-ALAWI, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern

District of Virginia, together with other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed unlawfully to maliciously damage and destroy, and attempt to damage and destroy, by means of fire and explosives, buildings, vehicles and other personal and real property in whole or in part owned and possessed by, and leased to, the United States and departments and agencies thereof, and as a result of such conduct directly and proximately caused the deaths of at least nineteen persons, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(f)(1) and (f)(3).

Overt Acts

51. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its objects, the defendants, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, committed the overt acts set forth in Count One of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(n), 844(f)(1) and 844(f)(3).)

COUNT FIVE

Conspiracy to Attack National Defense Premises

52. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

53. From at least 1988 until the date of the filing of this Indictment, in Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Jordan, and elsewhere out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACoub, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, SA'ED AL-BAHAR, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, ALI AL-

MARHOUN, SALEH RAMADAN, MUSTAFA AL-MU'ALEM, FADEL AL-ALAWI, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, together with other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed to injure and destroy, and to attempt to injure and destroy, national-defense premises, with intent to injure, interfere with, and obstruct the national defense of the United States.

Overt Acts

54. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to effect its objects, the defendants, and others known and unknown to the grand jury, committed the overt acts set forth in Count One of this Indictment, which are fully incorporated by reference.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2155(a) and (b).)

COUNT SIX

Bombing of Khobar Towers Resulting in Death

55. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

56. On or about June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia, and out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACOUB, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, aided and abetted by one another and by other members and associates of Hizballah and

others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly did maliciously damage and destroy, by means of fire and explosives, buildings, vehicles and other personal and real property in whole and in part owned and possessed by, and leased to, the United States and departments and agencies thereof, to wit, the defendants, together with other members and associates of Hizballah, detonated an explosive device that damaged and destroyed Khobar Towers building # 131, and as a result of such conduct directly and proximately caused the deaths of at least nineteen people.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 844(f)(1), 844(f)(3) and 2.)

COUNT SEVEN

Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction Against Nationals of the United States in Saudi Arabia

57. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

58. On or about June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia, and out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACOB, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, aided and abetted by one another and by other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, wilfully, knowingly, and without lawful authority, did use a weapon of mass destruction against nationals of the United States while such nationals were outside of the United States, and against property that was owned, leased and used by the

United States, and by departments and agencies of the United States, to wit, the defendants attacked with a bomb the residence of American military personnel at Khobar Towers, and employees of the American Government stationed at this residence, which use of such weapon of mass destruction resulted in the deaths of at least nineteen persons.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2332a(a)(1), 2332a(a)(3) and 2.)

COUNTS EIGHT THROUGH TWENTY-SIX

Murder While Using Destructive Device During Crime of Violence

59. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

60. On or about June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia, and out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACOB, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, aided and abetted by one another and by other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, during and in relation to a crime of violence for which the defendants may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, Conspiracy to Kill United States Nationals as charged in Count One of this Indictment, did knowingly use a destructive device, and in the course of such use did commit murder as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111, that is, the defendants unlawfully killed the persons listed below through the use of a destructive device with malice aforethought, such murder being willful, deliberate, malicious, and premeditated:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Victim</u>
EIGHT	Captain Christopher J. Adams
NINE	Staff Sergeant Daniel B. Cafourek
TEN	Sergeant Millard D. Campbell
ELEVEN	Senior Airman Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.
TWELVE	Technical Sergeant Patrick P. Fennig
THIRTEEN	Captain Leland T. Haun
FOURTEEN	Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser
FIFTEEN	Staff Sergeant Kevin J. Johnson
SIXTEEN	Staff Sergeant Ronald L. King
SEVENTEEN	Airman First Class Christopher B. Lester
EIGHTEEN	Master Sergeant Kendall K. Kitson, Jr.
NINETEEN	Airman First Class Brent W. Marthaler
TWENTY	Airman First Class Brian W. McVeigh
TWENTY-ONE	Airman First Class Peter J. Morgera
TWENTY-TWO	Technical Sergeant Thanh V. Nguyen
TWENTY-THREE	Airman First Class Joseph E. Rimkus
TWENTY-FOUR	Senior Airman Jeremy A. Taylor
TWENTY-FIVE	Airman First Class Justin R. Wood
TWENTY-SIX	Airman First Class Joshua E. Woody.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(j) (formerly 924(i)), 924(c) and 2.)

COUNTS TWENTY-SEVEN THROUGH FORTY-FIVE

Murder of Employees of the United States

61. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

62. On or about June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia, and out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACoub, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, and JOHN DOE, defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, aided and abetted by one another and by other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, wilfully, deliberately, and maliciously, and with malice aforethought and premeditation, did murder officers and employees of the United States Government in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111, while such officers and employees were engaged in and on account of the performance of their official duties, namely, the defendants caused the deaths of the following persons by bombing Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia:

<u>Count</u>	<u>Victim</u>
TWENTY-SEVEN	Captain Christopher J. Adams
TWENTY-EIGHT	Staff Sergeant Daniel B. Cafourek
TWENTY-NINE	Sergeant Millard D. Campbell
THIRTY	Senior Airman Earl F. Cartrette, Jr.
THIRTY-ONE	Technical Sergeant Patrick P. Fennig
THIRTY-TWO	Captain Leland T. Haun

THIRTY-THREE	Master Sergeant Michael G. Heiser
THIRTY-FOUR	Staff Sergeant Kevin J. Johnson
THIRTY-FIVE	Staff Sergeant Ronald L. King
THIRTY-SIX	Airman First Class Christopher B. Lester
THIRTY-SEVEN	Master Sergeant Kendall K. Kitson, Jr.
THIRTY-EIGHT	Airman First Class Brent W. Marthaler
THIRTY-NINE	Airman First Class Brian W. McVeigh
FORTY	Airman First Class Peter J. Morgera
FORTY-ONE	Technical Sergeant Thanh V. Nguyen
FORTY-TWO	Airman First Class Joseph E. Rimkus
FORTY-THREE	Senior Airman Jeremy A. Taylor
FORTY-FOUR	Airman First Class Justin R. Wood
FORTY-FIVE	Airman First Class Joshua E. Woody.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1111, 1114 and 2.)

COUNT FORTY-SIX

Attempted Murder of Employees of the United States

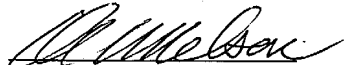
63. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 are repeated.

64. On or about June 25, 1996, in Saudi Arabia, and out of the jurisdiction of any particular state or district, AHMED AL-MUGHASSIL, aka "Abu Omran," ALI AL-HOURI, HANI AL-SAYEGH, IBRAHIM AL-YACIOUB, ABDEL KARIM AL-NASSER, MUSTAFA AL-QASSAB, ABDALLAH AL-JARASH, HUSSEIN AL-MUGHIS, and JOHN DOE,

defendants, at least one of whom was first brought to and arrested in the Eastern District of Virginia, aided and abetted by one another and by other members and associates of Hizballah and others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, unlawfully, deliberately, and maliciously, and with malice aforethought and premeditation, did attempt to murder officers and employees of the United States Government in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1111, while such officers and employees were engaged in and on account of the performance of their official duties, and persons assisting such United States Government officers and employees in the performance of such duties, and on account of that assistance, by bombing Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia.

(In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1113, 1114 and 2.)

FOREPERSON


KENNETH E. MELSON
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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