



5 AL QAEDA AIMS AT THE AMERICAN HOMELAND

5.3 THE HAMBURG CONTINGENT

Not surprisingly, Mohamed Atta [Egypt], Ramzi bin al-Shibh [Yemen], Marwan al-Shehhi [UAE], and Ziad Jarrah [Lebanon] would all become key players in the 9/11 conspiracy.

In September 1997, Jarrah abruptly switched his intended course of study from dentistry [in Greifswald] to aircraft engineering at the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg [in Hamburg]. His motivation for this decision remains unclear. He became particularly friendly with al-Shibh after meeting him at the Quds mosque in Hamburg, which Jarrah began attending regularly in late 1997.

Al-Shibh lived in Hamburg and associated with individuals from several mosques there. In 1997, after his asylum application was denied, al-Shibh went home to Yemen but returned to Germany shortly thereafter under his true name, this time registering as a student in Hamburg.

In late 1997, al-Shehhi applied for permission to complete his course work in Hamburg.

Al-Shehhi relocated to Hamburg in early 1998. Atta and al-Shibh moved into his apartment in April.