

News brief

Sources say NSA intercepted pre-Sept. 11 calls

WASHINGTON — A secretive U.S. eavesdropping agency monitored telephone conversations before Sept. 11 between the suspected commander of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks and the alleged chief hijacker, but did not share the information with other intelligence agencies, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the conversations between Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Mohammed Atta were intercepted by the National Security Agency, an intelligence agency that monitors and

decodes foreign communications.

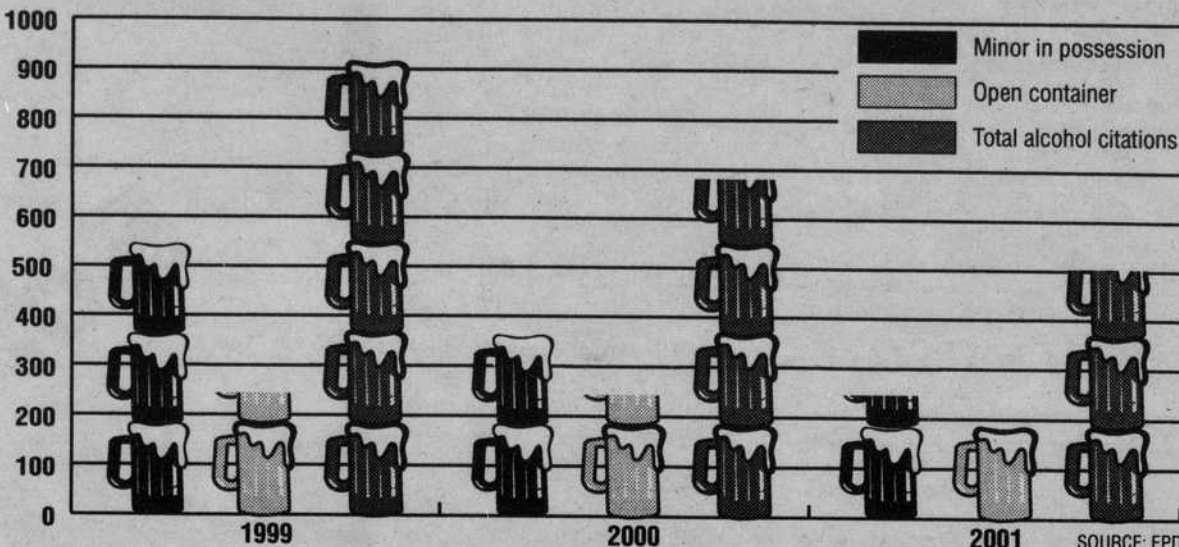
The officials declined to disclose the nature of the discussions between Mohammed, a known leader of the al-Qaeda network who is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists list, and Atta, who piloted one of the planes that hit the World Trade Center. Mohammed is believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

Another intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was "simply not true" that the NSA monitored the conversations and failed to share the information with other intelligence agencies.

An NSA spokeswoman said that as a rule "we neither confirm or deny actual or alleged intelligence operations." She declined to say more.

— Knight Ridder Newspapers

Alcohol citations by year



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Parties

continued from page 1A

"just say no" message and instead sought to educate students about how to party safely, said Laura Blake Jones, director of student life at the University.

Often working with EPD, the University has produced fliers, ran advertisements, made posters, hosted informational events and talked to students in residence halls and neighborhoods, she said.

Police focus on party hosts

The Eugene City Council approved the centerpiece of the EPD's new party-control approach last year when it implemented the special response fee ordinance.

Under the ordinance, residents cited are forced to repay the city the cost of police responses to disorderly parties after the second police response to an address within 90 days, where at least 25 people are gathered and at least two citations are issued. The bill could be as high as \$1,500.

The intent of this ordinance, Roberts said, is "to make sure that the people ultimately responsible for repeated police responses to disorderly parties are responsible for the resources."

Since the ordinance was approved, 29 locations received warnings stating that police would issue the special response fee the next time they respond to a party at the address. Police have yet to issue the response fee.

The fact that none of the 29 locations have required a second police response indicates that the policy has been a successful deterrent, Aguilar said.

"People have noticed that there is an enforcement, that it stings and that they want to avoid it," he said. "The people who habitually threw big parties, the people who got good at throwing big parties, don't do it any more."

Furthermore, Aguilar said the new policy has improved relations between police and students.

"It's a little more respectable to the student body and less confrontational," he said.

The June 1 riot near campus, however, was a shocking reminder of the alcohol-fueled student riots of 1997 and 1998, which spurred the EPD's zero-tolerance policy and the Party Patrol.

About 500 people attending parties at 17th Avenue and Patterson Street spilled into the streets that night and began a riot that persisted until every EPD officer on duty and about 20 officers from other police agencies fired tear gas, arrested 11 people and chased everybody else off the streets. Roberts said he hoped the incident was a fluke.

"It's a reminder that these things can be spontaneous and that we must be diligent, be out there and make connections before parties get started," he said.

When the Party Patrol was on duty, officers would check Oregon Liquor Control Commission records, discover where kegs were on any given weekend and contact residents before parties began, Roberts said.

Officers would remind residents of the law and advise them to contact police if they began to lose control over the party. This, Roberts said, is the most successful way to prevent disorderly parties, but the EPD lacks the money and personnel to do this.

"We have to have people work overtime just to maintain minimum staffing," he said.

Critics of response fee reconsider

Still, Aguilar said he thinks the EPD's focus on party hosts is the best way for the department to manage partying with the funds available.

Whereas the Party Patrol would

respond to a disorderly gathering with half a dozen officers, shut down the event and cite everybody they could, police now operate in smaller numbers and spend less time at an unruly party, he said.

Officers arriving at a party now seek mainly to establish the conditions needed to justify a special response fee warning, conditions including a minimum of 25 people present and two citations, he said.

When the special response fee ordinance first passed, however, student leaders feared that it would be enforced in conjunction with the Party Patrol, would cause a jump in alcohol citations and would create a significant financial drain for students who got caught.

ASUO members spoke numerous times before the Eugene Police Commission and City Council while the ordinance was drafted last year and recommended revisions, some of which directly influenced the final language of the law.

Christa Shively, the ASUO community outreach director at the time, said that the potential adverse effects of the ordinance were mitigated by the disbanding of the Party Patrol.

She said she has heard no complaints from students who felt they were targeted by the special response fee, and current ASUO members also said they have received no complaints.

City Councilor David Kelly, who represents the University area, said he, too, was unaware of any complaints from students.

"There is some indication that the ordinance may have resulted in less situations that may have gotten completely out of hand, and it has been used sparingly, which is good," he said. "Based on what I've heard, which is not a lot, it's been less negative than was feared."

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