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Security Researcher
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Suivre

Al Qaeda operational encryption and security practices (pre 9/11). Casio programmable calculators, prolly not military grade encryption

All these committees regularly met with, and regularly reported to, the al-Qaeda leadership who archived minutes on their computers. There was a separate computer for each committee and these were not connected to the internet or intranet. They were housed in the Military Committee's building.

Bin Laden and al-Qaeda were very aware of security where communications were concerned. They knew that American satellites and listening devices could intercept and locate them.

The Sheikh used a solar-powered radio transmissions system made by the Japanese company, Yaesu, to communicate with the guest houses, camps, and other al-Qaeda installations in Afghanistan. The messages were encrypted in the following way: first the letters were turned into numbers, using a pocket computer (Casio FX-795P) on which the English letters were covered by Arabic characters. The operator typed the message on this modified keyboard and the programme then transformed them into numbers when the 'enter' key was touched. The system then asked which town the message was to be sent to. Once the operator had entered the town concerned (Kandahar, Kabul, Jalalabad) the programme produced another series of numbers. It was this final set of figures that the operator then transmitted on the Yaesu

bers into his own Casio and, having pressed the 'enter' key decrypted the entire message which would be delivered to the *emir* for whom it was intended or directly to bin Laden.

It was Abu Tariq al-Tunisi who set up this system and messages were regularly sent to Kandahar. Up until February 2001, the main communications person at the Kandahar camp was Abu Said al-Masri.

Communications with the Taliban on the front line (against the Northern Alliance), al-Qaeda guest-houses and certain other set-ups to do with bin Laden and his closest collaborators, took place over another portable Yaesu system which was lighter. These relied on radio masts placed on high points between the different al-Qaeda locations.

Osama bin Laden did not use these communications devices himself. Abu Said al-Masri took care of all electronic systems. The person in charge of this in the guest-house in Kabul was Abu Ammar al-Dhalei. The organisation had three communications centres: Jalalabad, Kabul and Kandahar.

The frequency they used was in the region of 7000 kilohertz. For private communications, a predetermined frequency - with its own name - would be used. To use this system, the person he wished to communicate with would be sent a message in advance saying, for example, 'use Mohammad'. The receiver would then tune into that frequency and the sender would transmit on it. Frequencies and their passwords were changed every three months by al-Qaeda's Military Committee and secretly communicated to the three centres mentioned above.

When the Arabs and Taliban wanted to communicate, during battles for example, they had an Arabic-speaking Taliban member present to

08:09 - 15 sept. 2017

21 Retweets 42 J'aime



3

21

42



Remzi Seker @RemziSeker · 4 h

En réponse à @thegrugq

These days many of them are using telegram :p

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Daniel Hadfield @daniel_hadfield · 4 h

Looks like Tleegram is compromised though :D



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