Counter-Terrorism Policy in 1990s
- Rendition and Disruption
- PDD-39 in June 1995

Rendition
- arrest or seizure of foreign national and extradition to US or to other country
Rendition to 3rd Country
- US law bars rendering anyone if torture would occur, but…
- By-passed by obtaining undisclosed “assurances”
- Maher Arar case (http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/arar/)
- Tenet said 70 renditions occurred prior to 9/11
  o Unclear where all were rendered to

“Intelligence” Sharing
- Foreign agencies provide information to US and US to foreign agencies
- Used in immigration hearings
- How accurate is the information?

Disruption
- legal methods to interfere with suspected operations
- “investigate, detain or otherwise harass”

Disruption by Covert Action
- action abroad “where it is intended that the role of the United States Government will not be apparent or acknowledged publicly,” preferably never.
- Usually illegal action: e.g., assassination (non-political), arms supplies
- Congressional leaders should be notified, but sometimes after-the-fact

Efforts Against Al-Qaeda
- CIA creates “UBL Station” in 1996 to focus on al Qaeda
  o Spring 1998 plan very risky
  o CIA believed it could not directly kill bin Laden under most scenarios
    o Paradox of legal grounds for military v. covert action
- April 1998 Richardson visit to Afghanistan
- Saudis helpful; UAE obstinate
  - Pakistani ties with Taliban linked to ties with India

  - After Aug. 1998 embassy bombings, aggressive covert action authorized
    o Aug. “Infinite Reach” cruise missile strikes
    o Future Military Action?
      - Political cost of repeated, low-value strikes
      - No “decisive” strategy
      - Military (SOF & air support) plans risky
    o Few useful opportunities to capture or kill bin Laden
      - Cruise missiles too far
      - Local intelligence limited to Afghans; no CIA officers in Afghanistan

  - 1999 overhaul to get better intelligence
    o unclear that HUMINT improved
    o Predator drones run in 2000

  - Diplomatic Efforts Divided
    o Back N.A. to pressure Taliban to turn-over UBL
    o Get national unity government; expel UBL

  - USS Cole bombed in Oct. 2000
    o “Blue Sky” memo to get Afghan proxies to attack al Qaeda and back Northern Alliance to pressure Taliban and sidetrack al Qaeda
    o Dispute over arming Predator (NSC staff v. CIA and military)

  - Bush admin. reviews “Blue Sky” Options
    o Summer 2001 threat alerts (June & July)
    o Blue-Sky modification approved on 4 Sep. 2001 NSC meeting
      - Pashtun rebels & Tajik-Uzbek (Northern Alliance) funding

  - 9/11 Attacks