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New details on Marathon bombing emerge

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New details emerged this week about how the Boston Marathon bombing was planned and carried out, and about the two brothers who carried out the attack, as well as a friend linked to an unsolved triple-homicide in Waltham in 2011.

The information comes from court records that were unsealed Monday and from federal immigration records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Here is a round-up of key details from the documents:

Planning and carrying out the bombings

- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev called his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, before the brothers set off their bombs near the Marathon finish line “to try to synchronize the two detonations,” according to statements Dzhokhar Tsarnaev made to federal agents in the days after his arrest.

- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his brother randomly selected the spots where they placed the bombs, Tsarnaev told agents.

- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev said that he and his brother built the bombs at his brother’s home in Cambridge.

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- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev said that he and his brother downloaded bomb-making instructions from an online copy of Inspire magazine, an English-language publication sponsored by Al Qaeda in the Arabian peninsula.

- Supplies used to make the bombs included powder from \$200 worth of fireworks the brothers had bought a year earlier in New Hampshire, Tsarnaev told agents.

- After Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's friends told him he looked like the suspect in the bombings, he told them they could take his laptop and other items from his dorm room at UMass Dartmouth "as he did not expect to survive," according to his statements to federal agents.

- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev said he and his brother did not plan any other attacks.

- He also said he and his brother were the only people involved in planning and executing the Marathon bombing.

- Dzhokhar Tsarnaev told agents that he and one of his college friends, Dias Kadyrbayev, often discussed religion, "jihad, and the ways of the world," according to the FBI notes. He was dismissive of Kadyrbayev and said the conversations were part of a broader discussion of religion.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev's application for US citizenship

- On Jan. 23, 2013, less than three months before the bombings, Tamerlan Tsarnaev went to the John F. Kennedy Federal Building in Boston, passed the US citizenship test, denied any links to terrorism, and swore his allegiance to the United States, federal immigration records show.

- To pass the citizenship test, Tamerlan Tsarnaev answered six civics questions correctly: He knew that Africans had been slaves; that there are 27 constitutional amendments; and that the United States bought Louisiana from the French in 1803. He also identified "Joe Biden" as the vice president, said Congress makes federal laws, and that the colonists fought the British over "high taxes." He correctly read a question about voting and wrote the answer: "Citizens can vote."



- Tamerlan Tsarnaev got one test question wrong, however, when he said the federal court, and not the Supreme Court, is the highest court in the United States.
- The test was administered by immigration officer David McCormack, who marked that Tamerlan had passed, but also checked a box saying that a decision could not immediately be made about Tamerlan's application.
- Reasons for the delay are unclear in the file provided to the Globe. Earlier, a federal report had said that Tsarnaev's citizenship application was delayed because the government did not have his criminal court records from a 2009 assault case.
- The file describes Tamerlan Tsarnaev, an ethnic Chechen from Russia, as struggling with unemployment and poverty while trying to cement his ties to the United States. The government waived his immigration application fees, because his income was so low.

Tamerlan's friend and alleged accomplice in the murders of three men in Waltham

- Tamerlan Tsarnaev's friend, Ibragim Todashev, told immigration officials he had left Massachusetts in September 2011, the same month he allegedly helped Tsarnaev kill three men in Waltham, records show. (A month after the bombings, an FBI agent killed Todashev during an interrogation in Florida.)
- Immigration records on Todashev, who applied twice for a green card, describe him as having similar financial struggles to Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Todashev received asylum shortly after arriving in the United States in 2008 from Russia.
- The file shows he lived in Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Massachusetts — staying in Chelsea, Watertown, Cambridge, and finally Allston — before moving to Florida.
- In May 2011, a top immigration official in Atlanta, Paul Onyango, denied his green card application because Todashev had not provided court records from a road-rage incident in Boston. The official said he would not refer Todashev for deportation, however, which Homeland Security said was typical in such situations.
- The next year, Todashev tried again. He was issued a green card on Feb. 5, 2013, according to Homeland Security. But shortly after the bombings, a top immigration official sent the Boston

immigration office a memo titled “withholding of adjudication” — suggesting a shift in his case. The reason is unclear, because the record is redacted.

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