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Graphic: A flash file threat to the UK ([Country Profile](#)) from the Global Islamic Media Front.



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at [Intel Report](#).

Item 1: “Bleed out” of from Iraq ([Country Profile](#))

Increasingly, the planning forums of Salafi websites are filling with tips and instructions said to come from the Mujahideen in Iraq. On such example is a PowerPoint presentation on IEDs and car bombs “used by the brothers in Iraq,” described in the May 13, 2005 edition of Terror Web Watch ([Intel Report](#)).

Additional posts to forums such as the “Jihadist cell forum” on the al-Saf-Net site, the “planning and preparation forum” of the al-Firdaws site, and the “military affairs forum” of the Mojhedon site all have contained instructions and other tactical information said “to be effective for the brothers in Iraq.” The proliferation of these kinds of instructions is indicative of the feared “bleed out” phenomenon from Iraq, which threatens to spread terrorist knowledge learned fighting in that country to other parts of the world.

For example, this week included a posting on “rapid street ambushes,” with notes on how to best to ambush a car from another vehicle – a common tactic in Iraqi streets. It gave basic instructions, such as which weapons each passenger of the attacking car should have, how to carry out “surveillance on a patrol,” and other tips.

Another document posted around the same time on these forums also contained tips for road ambushes. It was entitled “General, Beneficial Observations about Patrols.” Often, such materials originate with one of a handful of specific members of these forums who seem to have particular expertise in these subjects. In one case, the user name indicates a Palestinian. For others, the content indicates the users may either have experience in Iraq or be in communication with people who do. Some of the names of such users are Abaa Muthanna, Abu Jundal al-Filistini, Abu Hamdan al-Salafi, Abu Sayyaf al-Tatar, and Al-Bashk.

With the proliferation of such instructions on the Internet and the popularity of these sites, one may wonder why attacks are not being attempted every day. One answer is that it may only be a matter of time. There may be a lag between the increase in the availability of these materials and terrorist operations because it takes some time to conduct all the Internet research and physical world surveillance necessary to carry out an attack.

Another answer may have to do with anonymous nature of these forums. The same anonymity that facilitates these forums’ existence in the first place may also lead an aspiring terrorist to doubt the integrity of such instructional materials because he cannot be sure of their source. In dealing with potentially explosive chemicals or the components for bombs or poisons, one would want all possible reassurance about the soundness of the instructions to prevent personal injury. This lack of confidence in instructions, manuals, and tips from anonymous users may be why so many in this online community who seem to have the desire to carry out an operation still hesitate to go through with one.

However, as materials increase in their level of sophistication, this confidence may solidify. Also, certain members may over time become trusted sources of information. Amateur terrorists may develop enough confidence in them to attempt an operation using their instructions.



Zarqawi's group is considered the current authority in the construction of effective explosives for Jihadist activities. It would be particularly dangerous if Zarqawi's organization ever began issuing its own training materials based on expertise developed in Iraq. If it ever began to issue the kinds of training manuals that the al-Qaeda branch in Saudi Arabia ([Group Profile](#)) ([Country Profile](#)) used to issue regularly, confidence in those materials would possibly be high enough to lead "virtual terrorists" to make the leap to into real violence.

In the meantime, it is worthwhile to keep track of the curriculum of these online "madrassas," to understand what may be attempted in the future.

Below is an example of an explosive recipe allegedly used effectively in Iraq, posted on the Jihadist Cell forum this week:

[begin translation]

In the Name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate
Peace and blessings upon the honorable Messenger of God... This, my brothers, is one of the very easy ways to prepare a powerful explosive charge. It is made up of things that I have no doubt are readily available to you all.

Components:

10 liters of gasoline = 50%

Vegetable soap = 25 %

Kerosene = 25 %

A small piece of plastic (a plastic gallon [container], on the condition that it is dry and clean of any remaining materials – take a piece of the plastic).

A new gallon container or tin like an oil tin or a new tin that you can close with some tape. It must be completely clean and large enough to hold the above mentioned materials and still close (or if there is not a "neck" to the container – you must be able to close it to the greatest extent possible).

Making the detonator:

You need the following:

A small fuse - the kind kids play with and light up, or is used to make sparks, or a small light bulb from a car

A long wire

A car battery

The construction:

Pour the mentioned materials into the tin container, mix them well. Attach one end of the long wire to the fuse.

If you used a light bulb instead of a fuse, connect the inside of it to the wire without breaking the glass surrounding it (by using a lighter). Put the detonator in the tin, by making a small opening to put the wire through. Lay the wire out far from the explosive charge and hide in a safe place with the battery ready.



At the right time, put the end of the wire on the end of the battery to blow up the charge, with God's permission.

This is very effective against the Hummer Jeeps and against all the other kinds of Jeeps, and also against the trucks that carry the soldiers, and buses.

Abu Sayyaf al-Tatar.

[end translation]

Item 2: Message from Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi's Second-In-Command

This audio-taped message from al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers ([Group Profile](#)) named Abu Abdurrahman al-Iraqi as the second-in-command to Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi. This is not the first time Internet statements have identified a man named Abu Abdurrahman as Zarqawi's deputy. In the message, Abu Abdurrahman eulogized Abu Azzam al-Iraqi, a member of Zarqawi's network killed in Iraq by US forces in the last week of September. This message casts doubt on some claims that Abu Azzam, rather than Abu Abdurrahman was Zarqawi's second-in-command. It however affirms other assessments that he was not that high up, but yet an important lieutenant.

Abu Abdurrahman's message called for the Mujahideen to see the Ramadan month as an opportunity for "blessed" fighting and operations, referring to it as "the month of victories," a common reference to Ramadan in Jihadist lingo. He referred to the holy month as "the time to purge the world of evil ones, everywhere."

In a slightly pessimistic tone, he restated his loyalty to Abu Musaab al-Zarqawi, saying that he "had made the decision to persevere," and urged the Mujahideen to remain "patient" and "steadfast."

Item 3: Algerian al-Qaeda affiliate ([Group Profile](#)) claims responsibility for a series of small attacks in Algeria ([Country Profile](#)), announces plans to thwart the recent peace referendum

Algeria's Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, often known by the acronym for its French title – GSPC – may escalate activities in an attempt to thwart the recent "peace referendum" in Algeria in which 80 percent of the population agreed to accept the current government and put the civil war of the last decade behind them ([War Report](#)). The GSPC posted two statements on their website condemning the referendum in late September. Just days before the referendum passed, an interview conducted with the group's leader by the group's Sharia council was published on Jihadist web forums. In it, Abu Musaab Abdul Wadood, the leader of the GSPC, describes the referendum as a ploy of the "apostate" Algerian regime to stop the good Islamic work of the Mujahideen and the "reawakening" of "true Islam" in Algeria. He also pledges that his Mujahideen will continue in their fight against the regime.

On October 21, the group published a statement of responsibility for a number of attacks against Algerian police and security forces conducted during the latter half of September, including 14 different



attacks carried out between September 13 and September 29 in rural areas of Algeria. These resulted in the deaths of more than 20 Algerian soldiers or policemen, according to the group. The claim is interesting for a couple of reasons. First, the lag between the announcements of the attacks and the attacks themselves suggests that the group's members operating in rural villages and mountains of Algeria are not in regular communication with the leadership, which can conduct an interview or write a statement and put it on the web on the same day. Secondly, of interest is the choice to continue to target only police and soldiers with this last spate of attacks (assuming the really did occur – between Algeria's lack of free media and the terrorists' incentives to distort information, it is tough to verify that). The GSPC has already declared intentions to target foreigners in Algeria ([Intel Report](#)) and Algerian politicians in France ([Intel Report](#)) ([Country Profile](#)), but seems to be yet sticking to policemen and soldiers.

Its Internet postings indicate great anger over the popularity of President Bouteflicka's referendum in Algeria, however, and may usher in a last ditch attempt by the group to break up the fledgling peace between the countries' Islamists and secularists.

Item 4: Members of Hamas (Group Profile)' s forum respond skeptically to reports of Al-Qaeda (Group Profile) presence in the Gaza Strip

Earlier this month, Terror Web Watch reported that propaganda signed by al-Qaeda was being distributed in Gaza ([Intel Report](#)). As the pamphlets and copies of a statement "bearing the good news of the return of the Caliphate" spread throughout Gaza, the Palestinian forum on the Hamas website buzzed with opinions on the alleged al-Qaeda presence.

What may be surprising to some people, most were either skeptical to the presence or not pleased by the possibility of it. Some surmised that it was the work of Israel, looking to plant an excuse to use excessive force against the Gaza strip.

"Sharon must be thrilled," speculated one member, "will Gaza now turn into Kandahar?"

"Israelis have wanted this for a long time," said another.

Others scoffed at the idea that a group would issue propaganda before it had carried out any operations.

"How can one point to the establishment of a solid presence by the [al-Qaeda] organization with so little real action on their part...except for a statement, a poster, a pamphlet, and a calendar?" commented a member whose user name was Arabic for "the Lion of the Refugee Camp."

The moderator of the forum opined, "What is being called al-Qaeda in the Land of Rabat [extremist term for Israel/Palestinian territories] is nothing but a name suggested for an infant that has not been born. Do we come into being because we are named, or is it not usually the opposite of that?"

Others saw inconsistencies in the content of the statement, which focused on the return of the Islamic Caliphate.

"The statement is empty of mentions of "Jihad," "Jews", or "occupation," so what is there of al-Qaeda to it, besides a signature resembling theirs?"



Another member questioned, “Where are they going to establish a caliphate in Gaza?”

Actually, Gaza may not only be too small for a caliphate, it may be too small for al-Qaeda: “The truth is, brothers,” said another commenter, “that there is no need for al-Qaeda in Palestine, for we have enough Mujahideen already.”

Item 5: Flash presentation threatens Britain

The simple flash presentation by the Global Islamic Media Front urged British citizens to “take [sic] a choice,” implying that the country should pull troops out of Iraq in order to avoid future attacks. For several minutes it displayed scenes of violence from Iraq, the infamous pictures from Abu Ghraib, and scenes of soldiers in close proximity to Iraqi women. The statement was posted on Bayt al-Maqdes, a new Salafi forum that hosts much of the same material as sites like al-Ansar and Al-Saf.



Item 6: Video Available: Bizarre broadcast features beheadings and a poetry reading by one of the four escapees from the Bagram prison in Afghanistan ([Country Profile](#)).

In July, four prisoners held at the Bagram prison managed to escape ([article](#)). One of them was a Saudi national named Abu Naser al-Qahtani. The identity of Qahtani as one of the escapees is supported by Al-Jazeera, which has reported receiving a confidential video by the four fugitives describing their escape.

Al-Qahtani has released a video of himself reciting his own poetry. The short introduction to the poetry reading mostly consists of footage of two men being beheaded. Qahtani is presumably one of a few black-clad terrorists conducting the beheadings. One of the victims appears to have East Asian features; another looks either Central Asian or Middle Eastern.

After footage of the beheadings and a couple of rocket attacks, Qahtani launches into a poem celebrating the September 11 attacks ([Terrorist Incident](#)), while a video of the attacks plays in upper right hand corner. A caption at the bottom of the screen reads “Abu Naser al-Qahtani, the Poet-Mujahid.” Other poems follow, two praising Mujahideen in Afghanistan, another an angry rhyme aimed at “the Saudi Interior Ministry and King Abdullah.”

The video was oddly popular, circulated around numerous forums, downloaded hundreds of times, and lavishly praised.

Abu Naser al-Qahtani:



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