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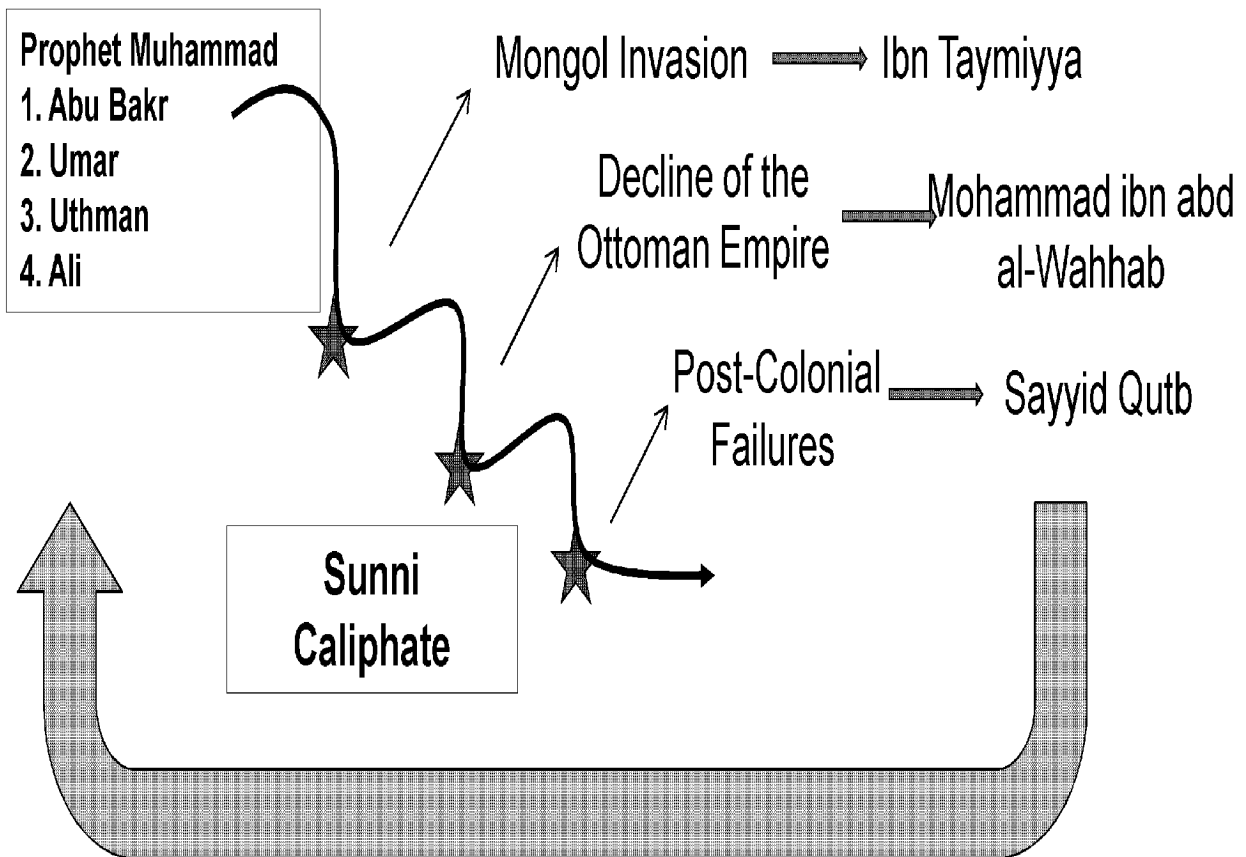


Understanding al-Qa'ida and the Global Jihad

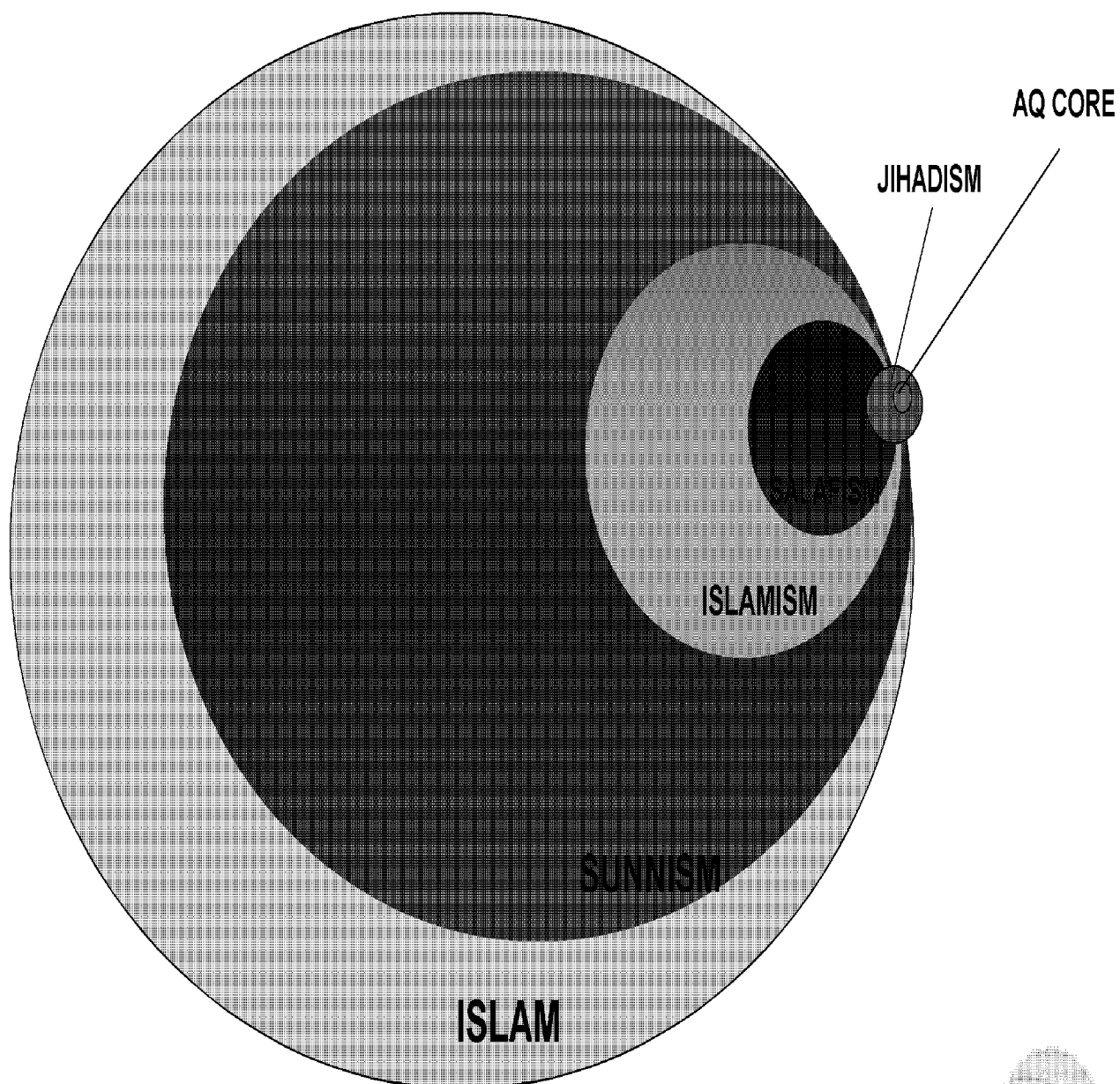
Historical Context: Framing the Grievance

The Salaf

Crisis and Response



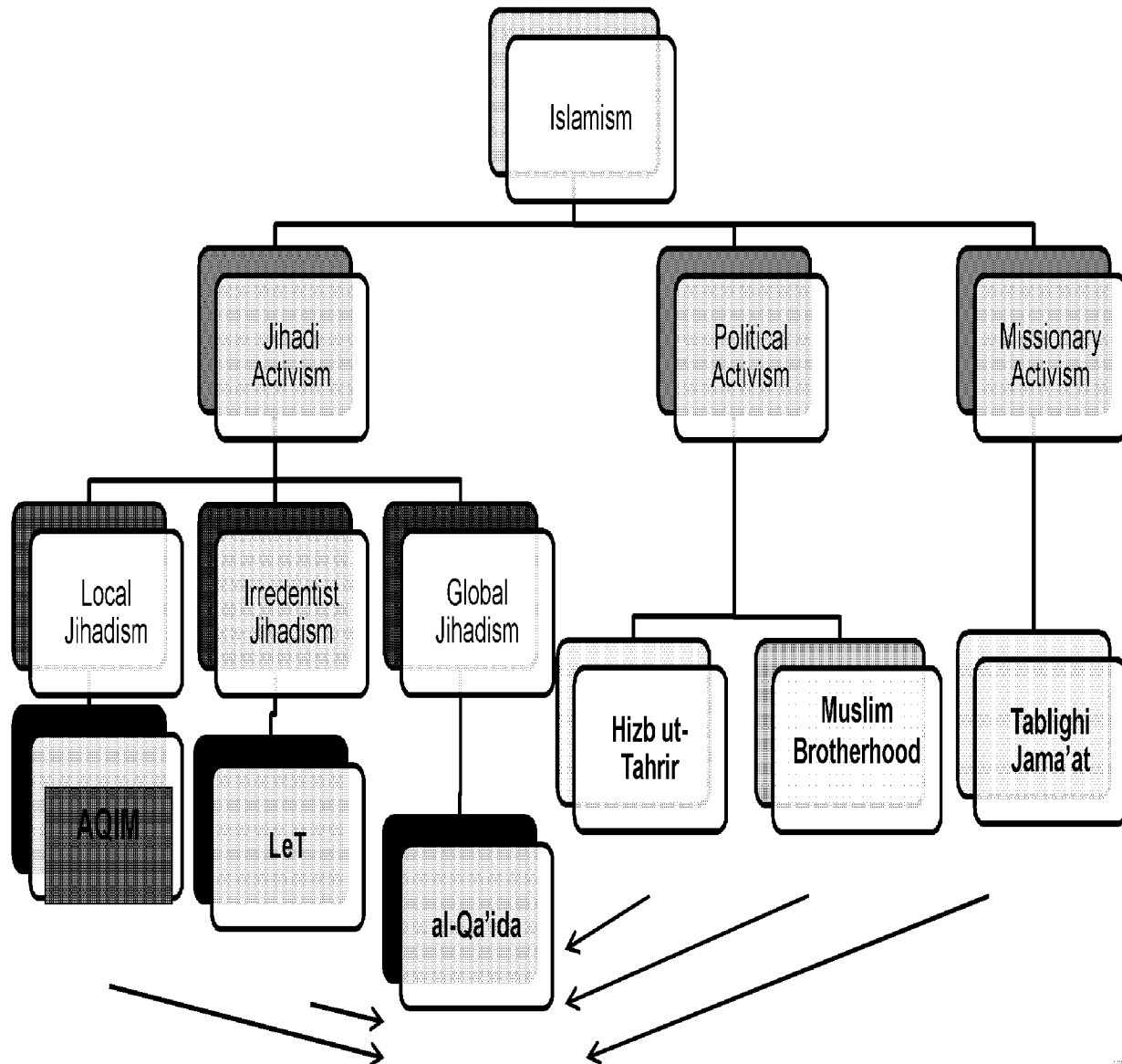
Theological Context: Situating al-Qa'ida



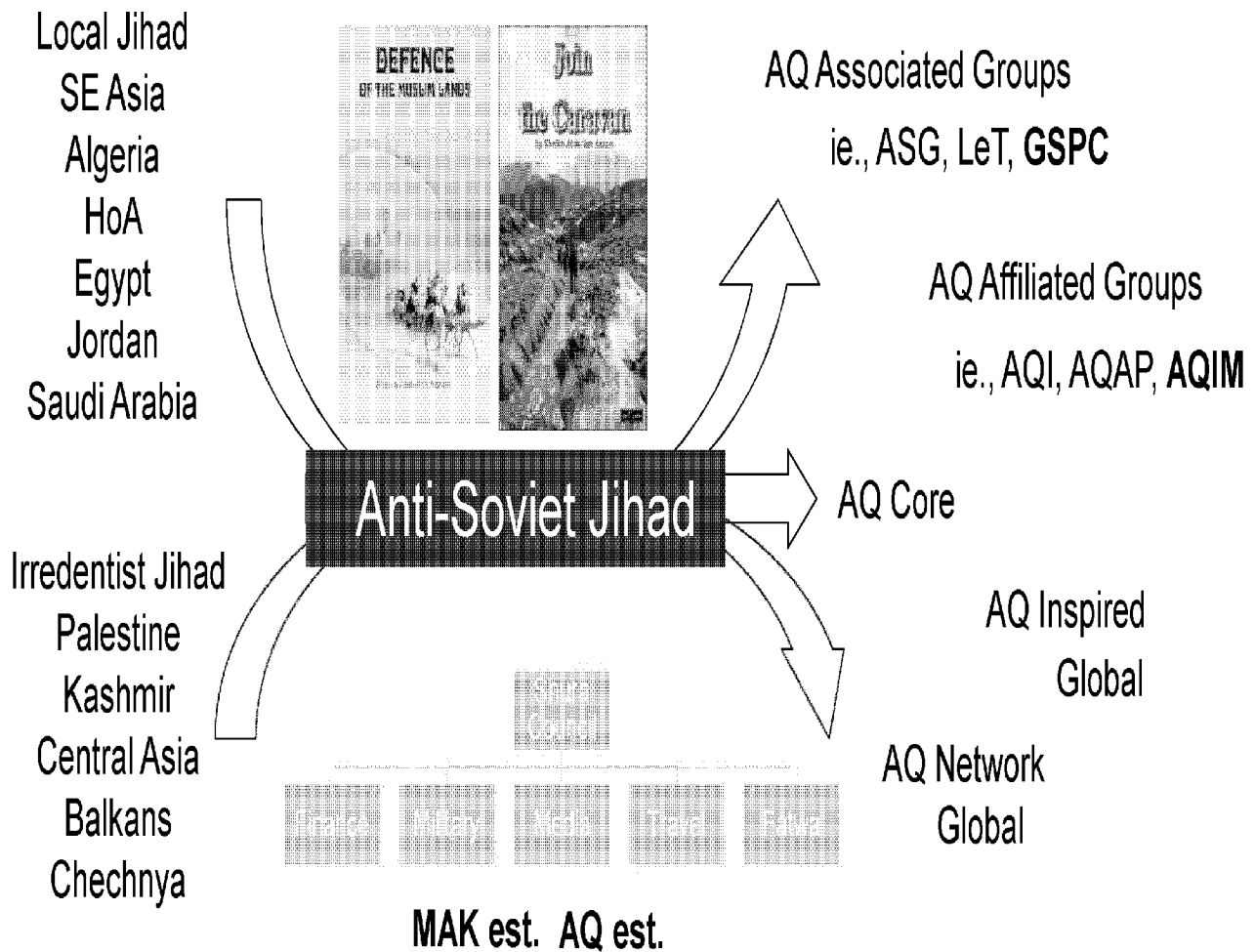
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Political Context: The Competitive Landscape



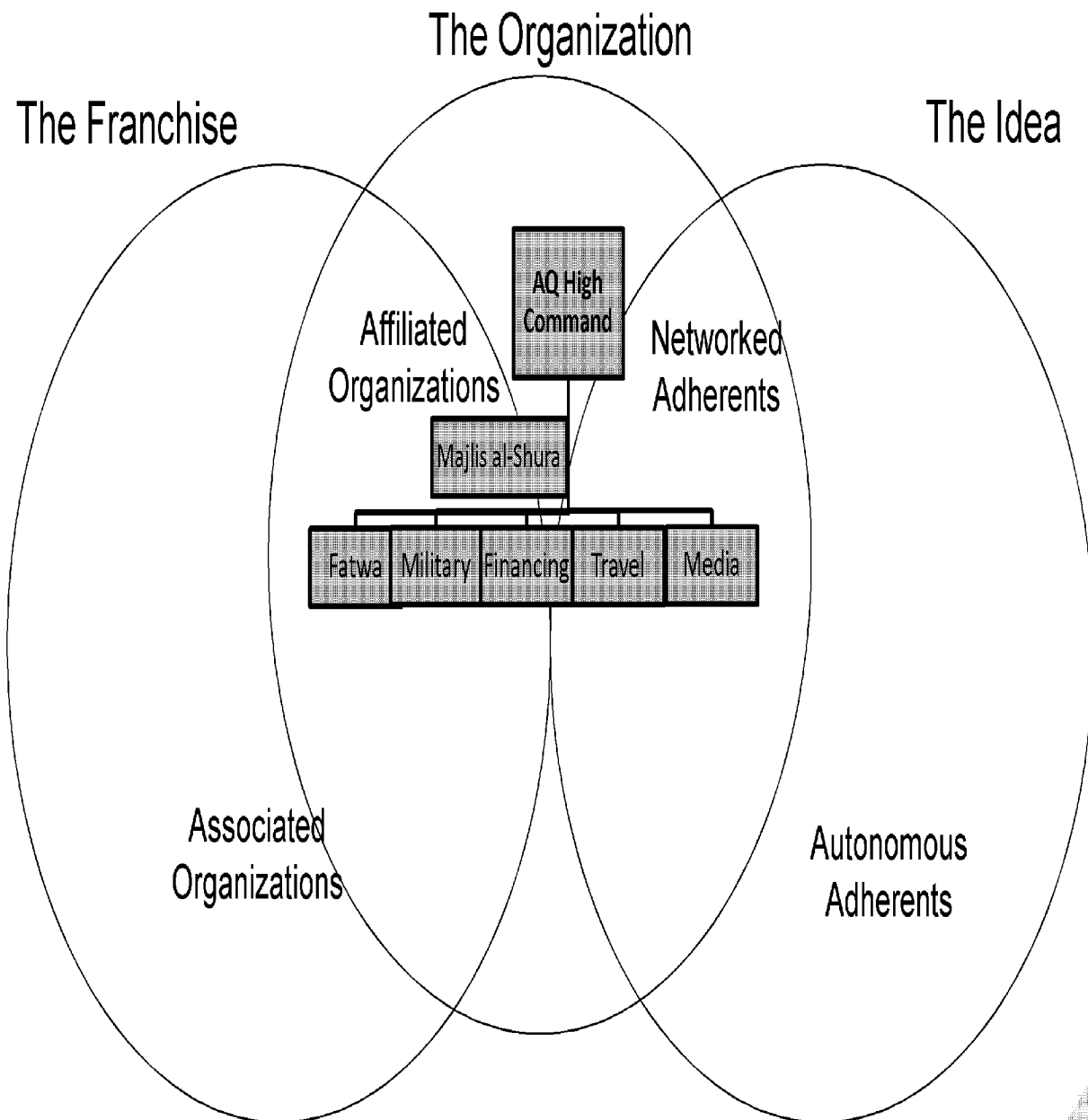
The Evolution of the Global Jihad



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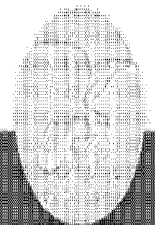


Al-Qa'ida's Resilient Structure



Key Take-Aways

- AQ has inherited a militant and fundamentalist ideology which surfaces at moments of crisis, which it interprets and amplifies
- AQ sits on the periphery of Islam, cloaking itself in unassailable Sunni terms, but acting entirely outside of Sunnism
- AQ coexists with more popular Islamist actors with which it frequently competes at the organizational level, and sometimes collaborates with at the individual level
- AQ is one (elitist) voice among a very crowded virtual landscape which is making for a more populist Global Jihad
- The Global Jihad is a multi-faceted and dynamic phenomenon in which AQ is one central player
- The threat emanates from all facets of the Global Jihad



Contact Info

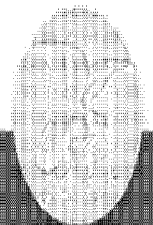
William.Braniff@usma.edu



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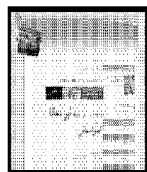


Virtual Context: Landscape of the e-Jihad

Media
Production
Companies



Media
Distribution



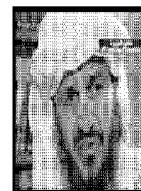
Indi Blogs



Al-Fajr

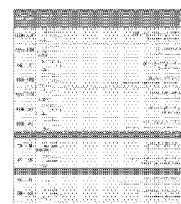
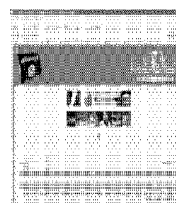
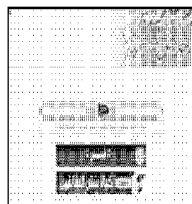
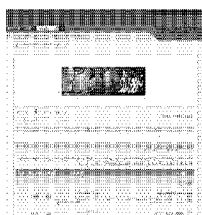


GIMF

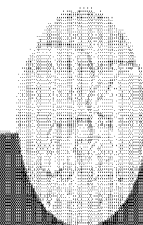


Key Ideologues

Web
Forums



The Social
Network



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The Human Context: Understanding Radicalization



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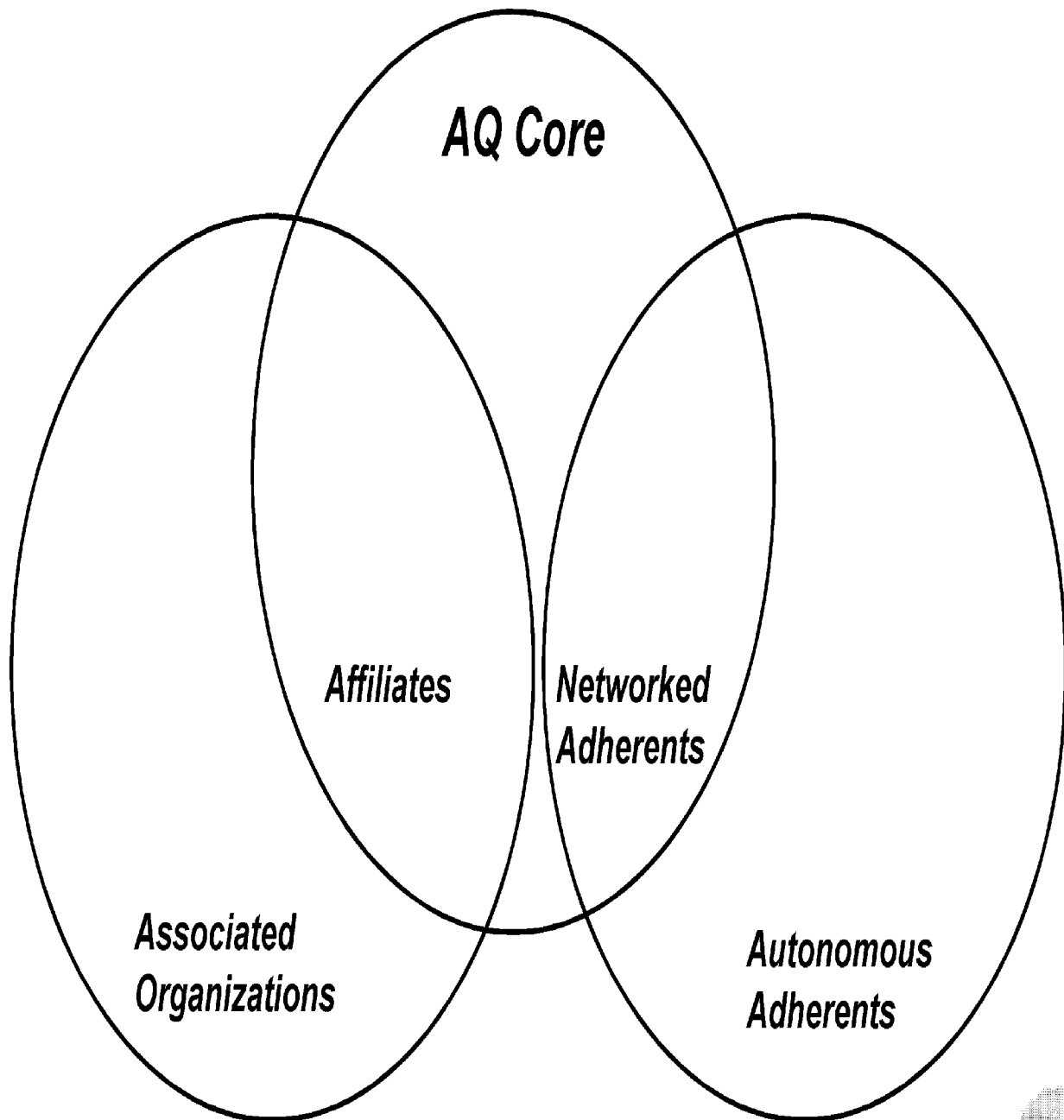
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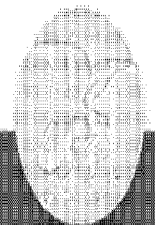
A Survey of International and Domestic Jihadism



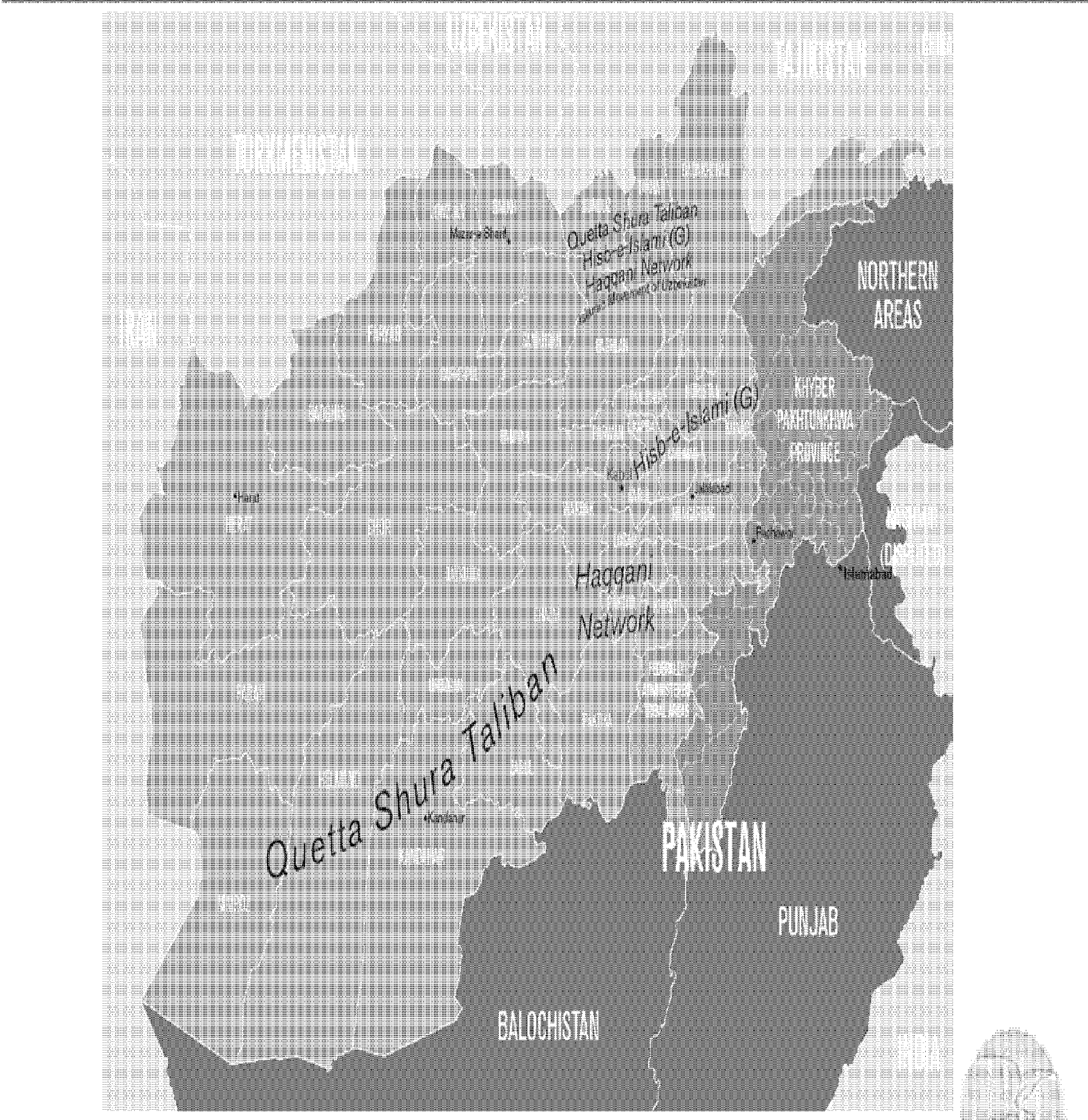
Understanding Al-Qa'ida



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South Asia: Epicenter of Global Jihad

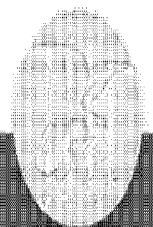
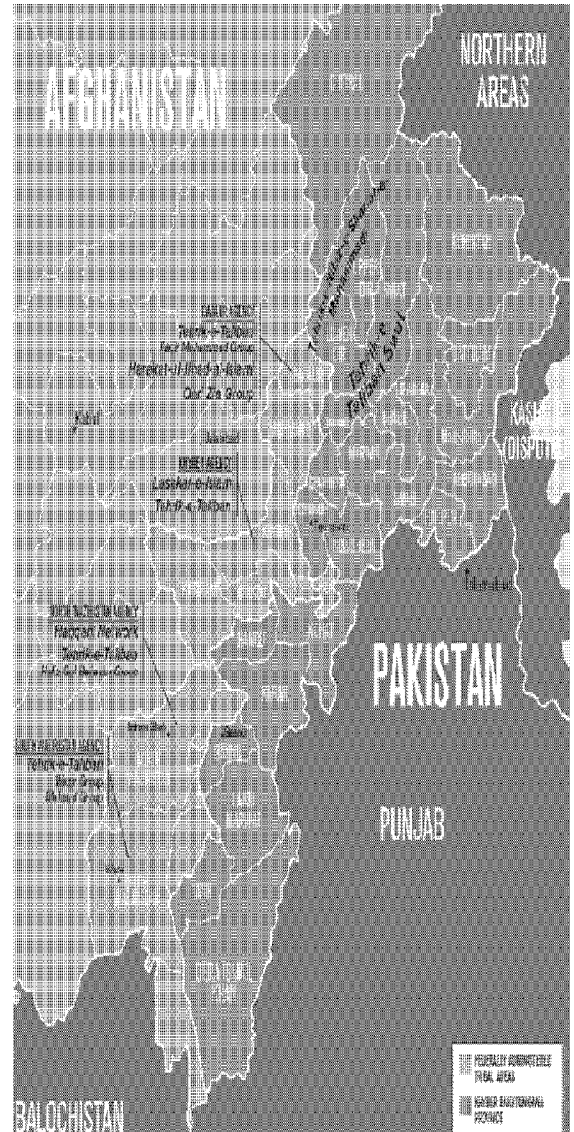


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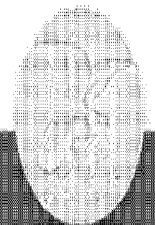
South Asia: Current Picture

- Provides fundraising, recruitment, propaganda, training, and operational opportunity for all the organizations in the environment
- Overlap of Local, Regional, and Global actors and ideologies
- Global – e.g. AQ
- Regional – e.g. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba
 - LeT: Kashmir; ties with ISI; major attacks in India
- Local – e.g. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan
 - TTP: Formed 2007; operates in FATA; waging insurgency in Pakistan

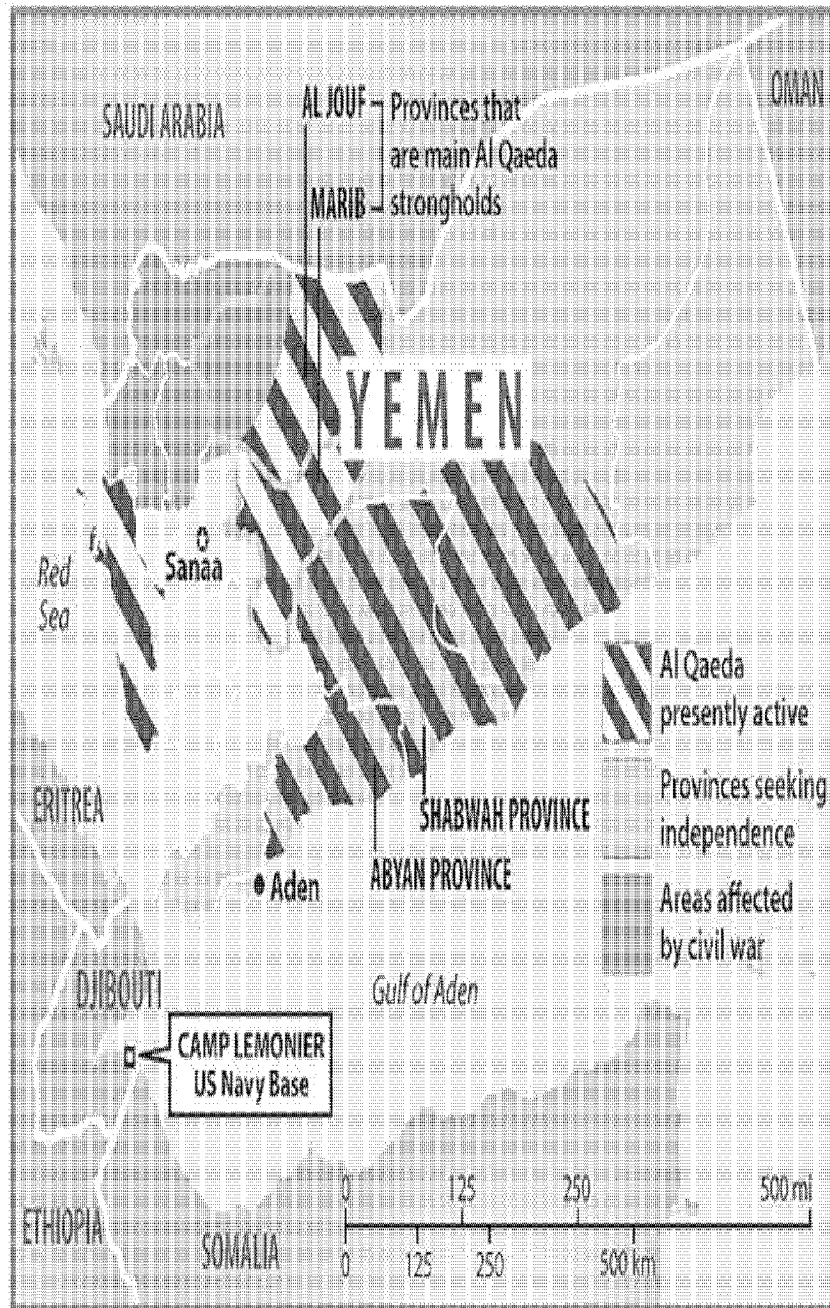


South Asia: Key Takeaways

- Vast jihadi infrastructure embedded in region
- Weak states and large ungoverned safe havens
- Center for training, organizing, recruitment and propaganda
- Continuing attempts to attack in West
- Enhancement of tactics, explosives, suicide operations
- Destabilizing region; WMD threat
- **Law Enforcement Notes**
 - Travel to Afghanistan/Pakistan by militants has been a precursor of violent activity in the West



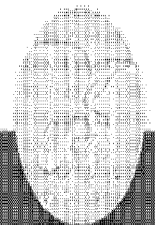
Yemen



SOURCE: Graphic News

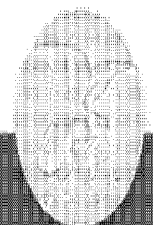
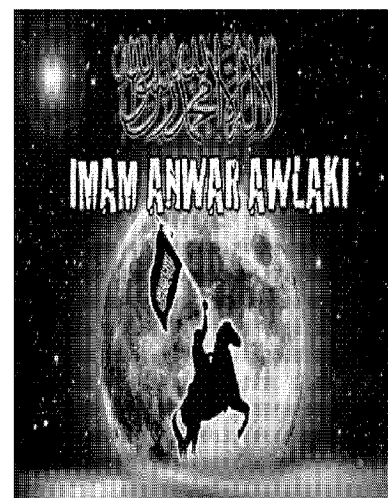
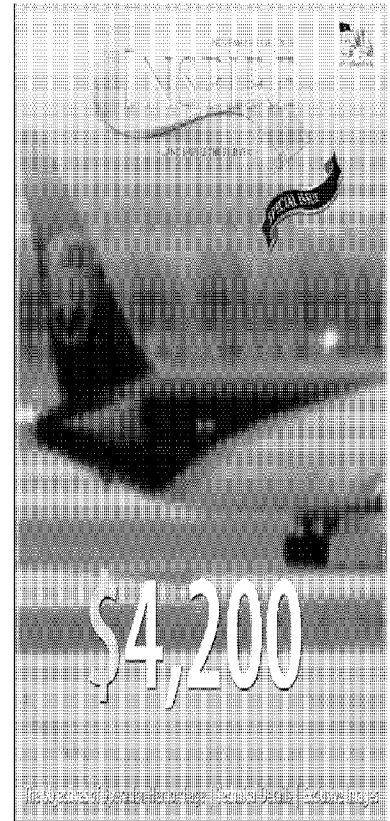
RICH CLABAUGH/STAFF

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Yemen: Current Picture

- 12/25 Bomber
- 2010 embassy attacks; and other attacks on domestic targets in Yemen
- Anwar al-Awlaki
- *Inspire* magazine
- October 2010 parcel bombs
- Dispute over use of drones / U.S. role

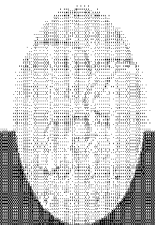


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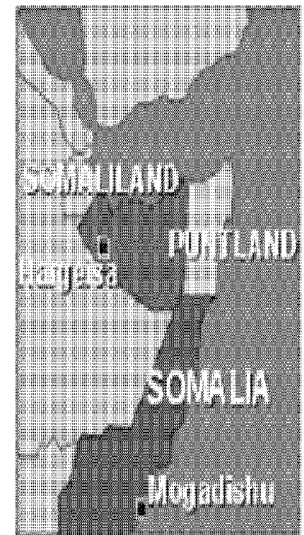
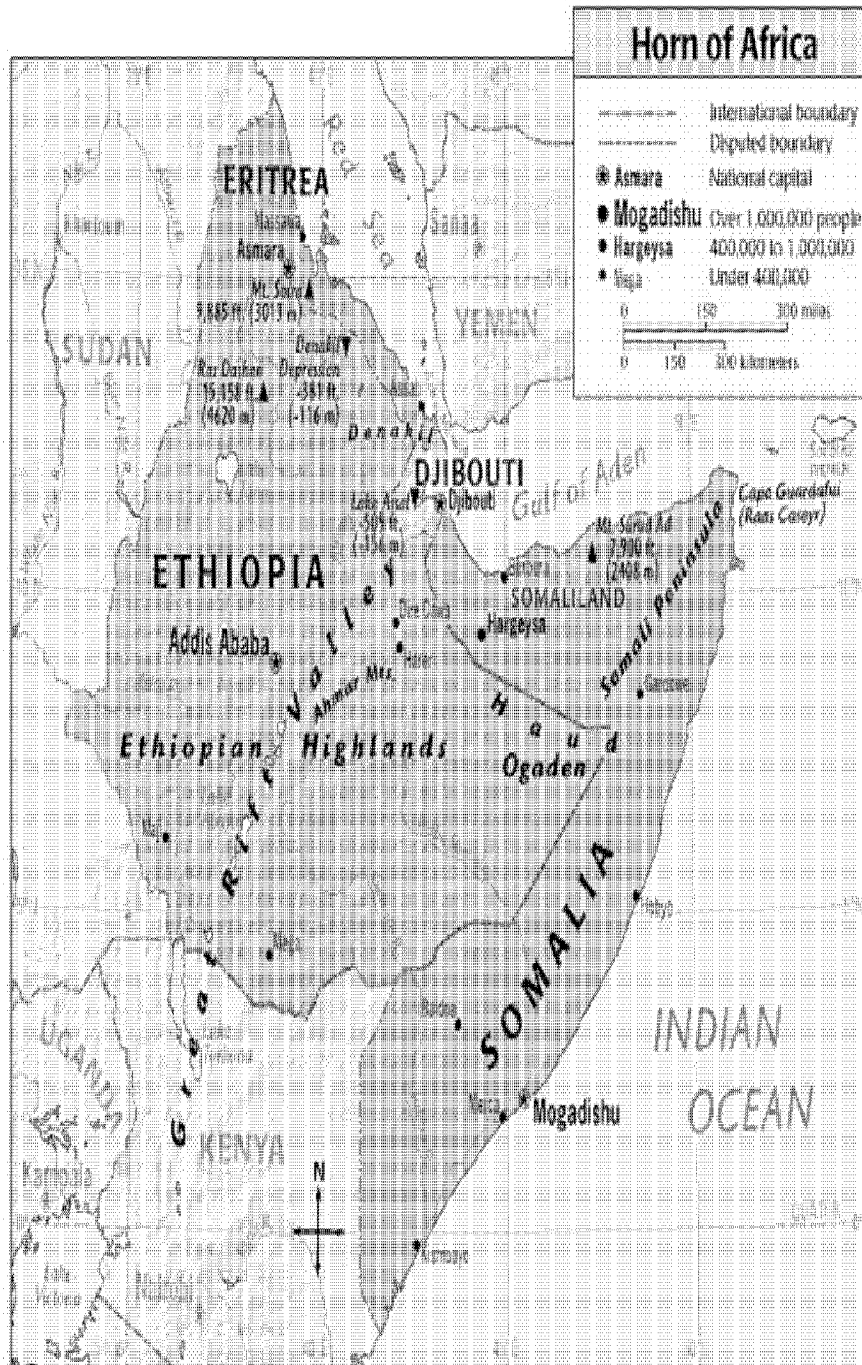
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Yemen: Key Takeaways

- Yemen is the most important country for jihadist activity outside of AF/PAK
- Inaccessible terrain and Saleh government's lack of legitimacy make it an ideal base for jihadists
- Yemen has become a center of jihadist innovation in propaganda and bombing
- A large increase in US aid to Yemen will significantly alter this landscape
- **Law Enforcement Notes:**
 - Yemeni diaspora in the U.S.
 - Issue with Americans who drop out of sight in Yemen

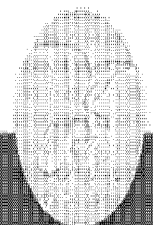


Horn of Africa



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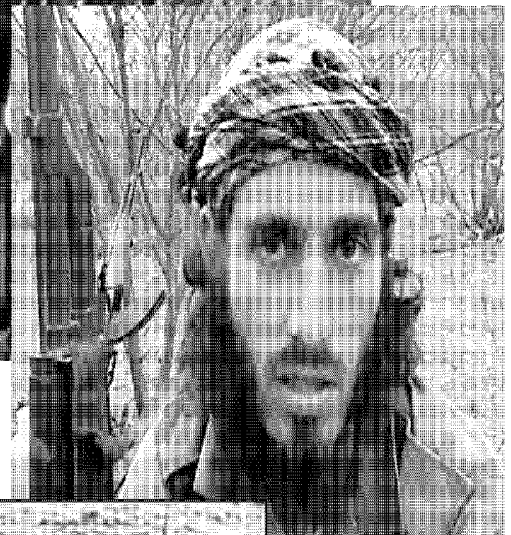
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Horn of Africa: Current Picture

Shabaab

- Links to diaspora
- Role of non-Somalis
- Link to Al Qa'ida
- Popular support
- Internal splits
- Threat to region
- Threat beyond the region



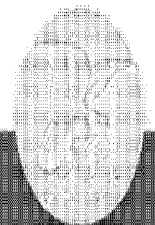
Piracy: weak links to Shabaab

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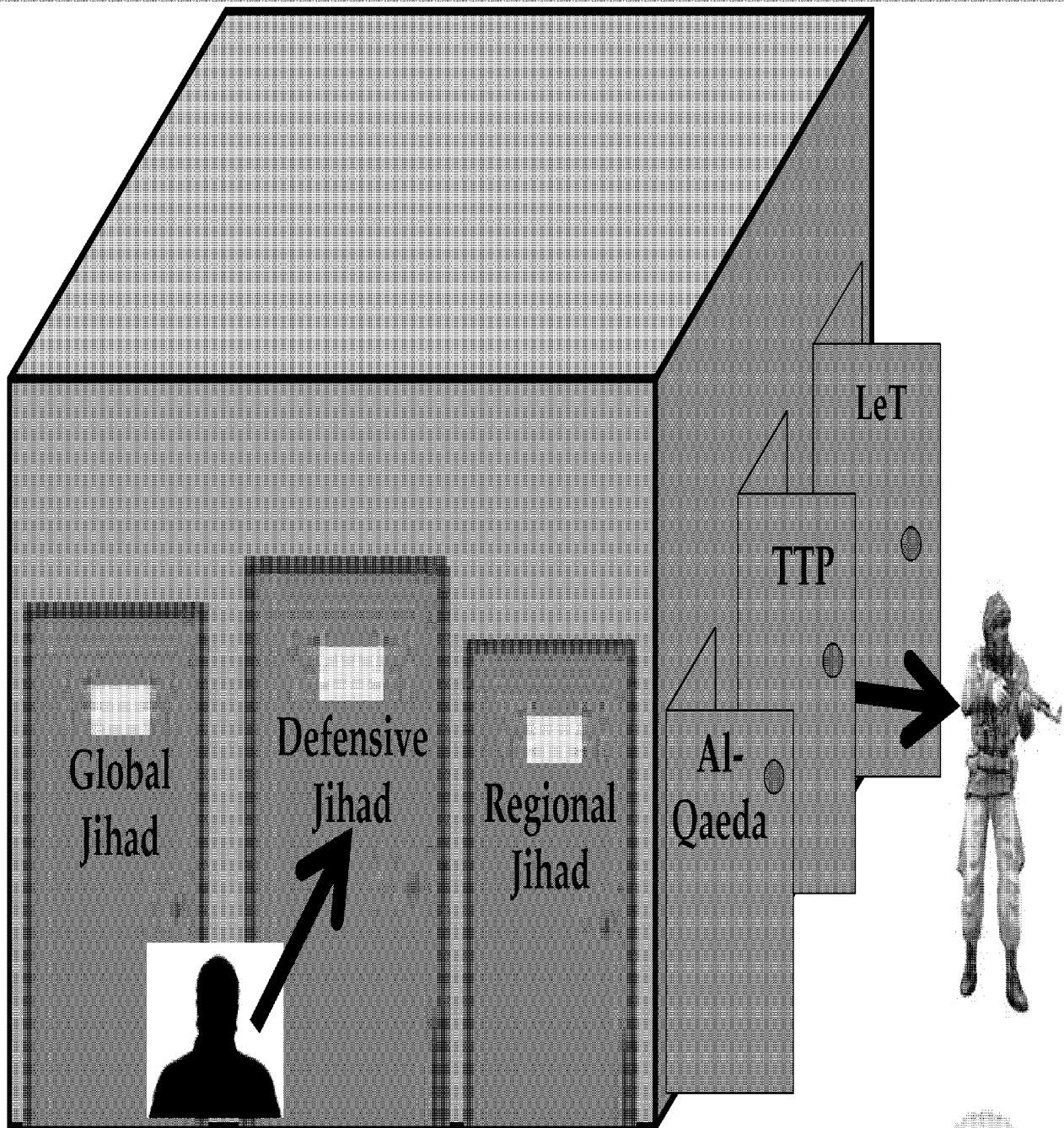
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Horn of Africa: Key Takeaways

- Long history with only recent dividends for AQ Core
- Locally and regionally focused operations with global propaganda
- International recruitment of Somalis and non-Somalis
- Most closely linked to AQAP and historic AQ leadership
- **Law Enforcement Notes:**
 - Recruitment of two dozen Somali-Americans; nationalist narrative plus radical Islamist rhetoric
 - Challenging to distinguish between legitimate and suspicious travel of Somali-Americans

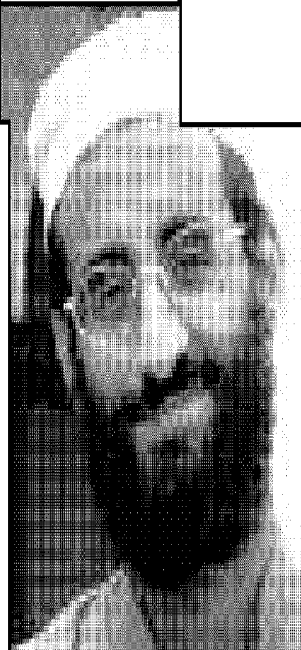
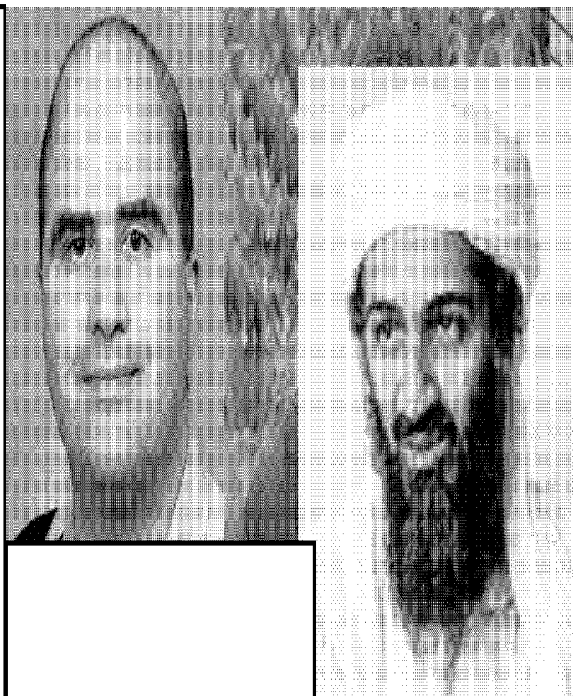


Dynamics of Global Jihad

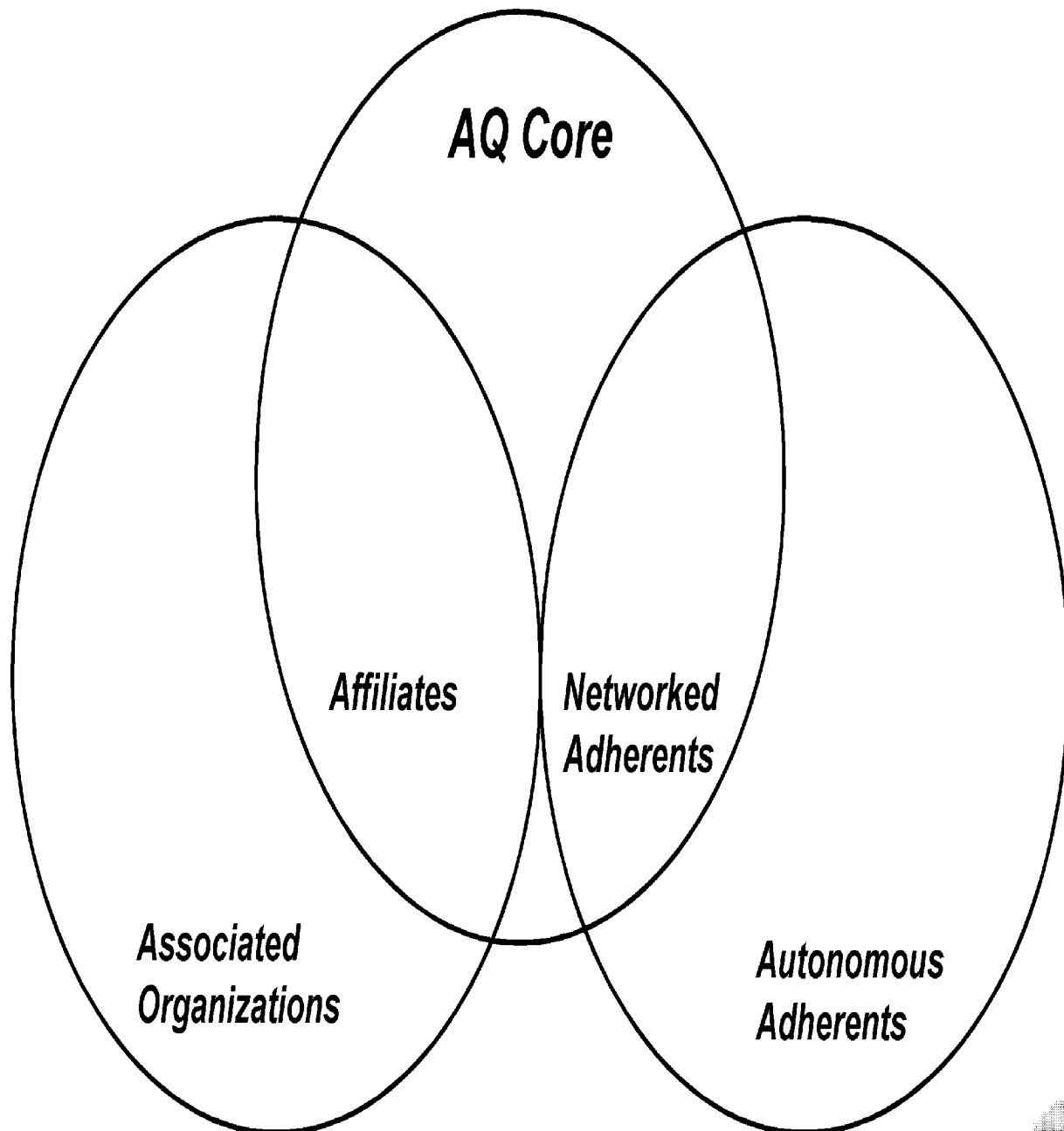


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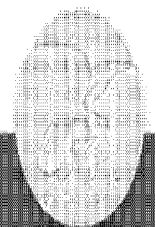
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Understanding Al-Qa'ida



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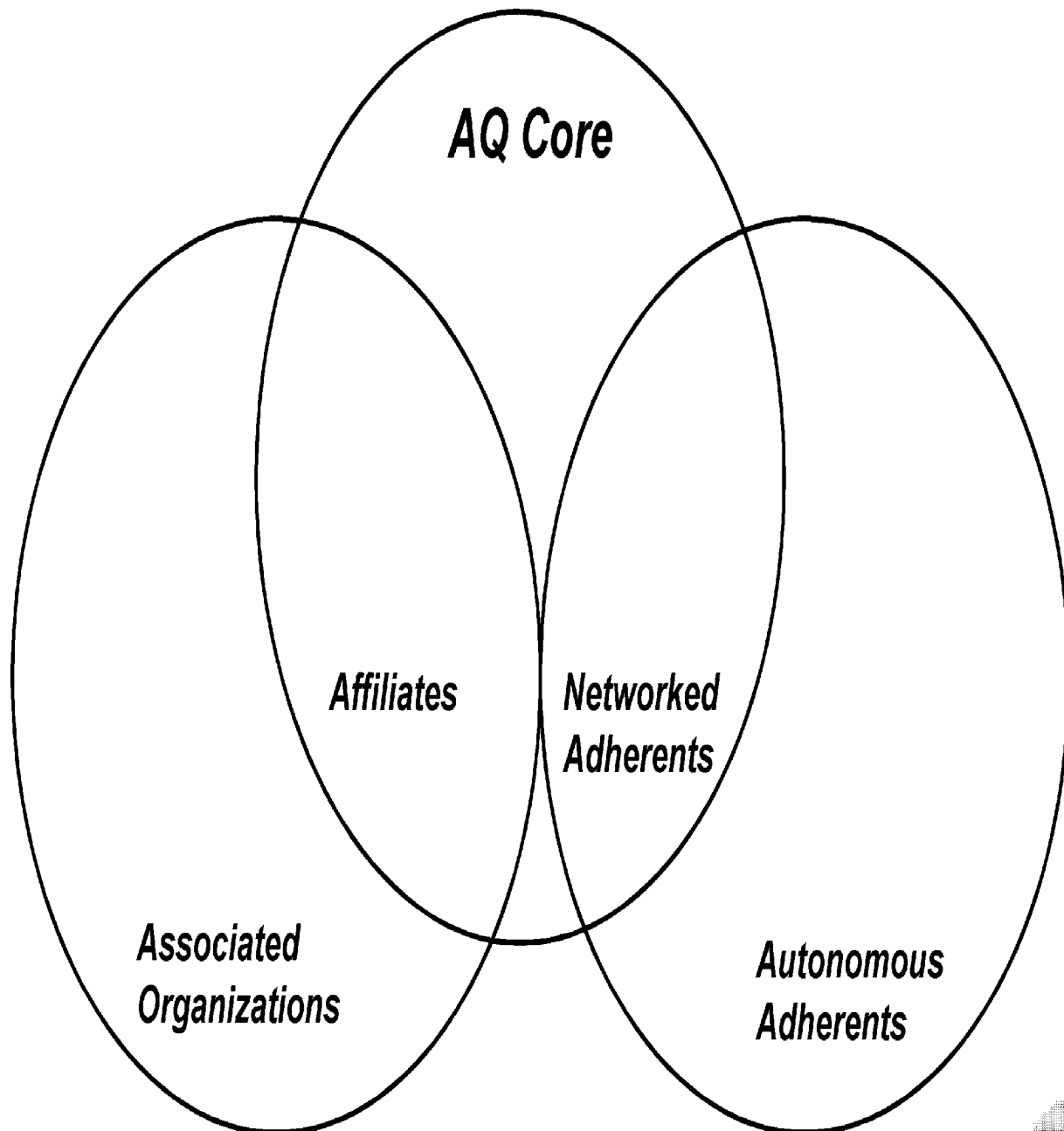


Associated Organizations: Lashkar-e-Taiba

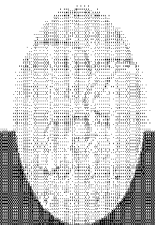
- Daood Sayed Gilani (a.k.a. David Coleman Headley)
 - American citizen
 - Arrested in Chicago
 - Pleaded guilty to all charges on March 18, 2010
- Conducted reconnaissance for LeT attack in Mumbai
 - Mumbai attack fundamentally lower the threshold for terrorism
 - “Elegant in its simplicity; commanding in its impact”
- Also conducted reconnaissance in Copenhagen to attack Danish cartoonist
- We are beyond al-Qa’ida



Understanding Al-Qa'ida

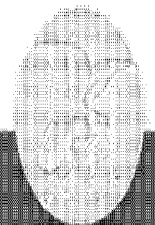
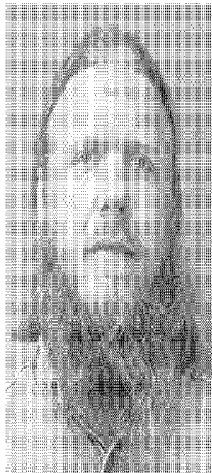


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Networked Adherents

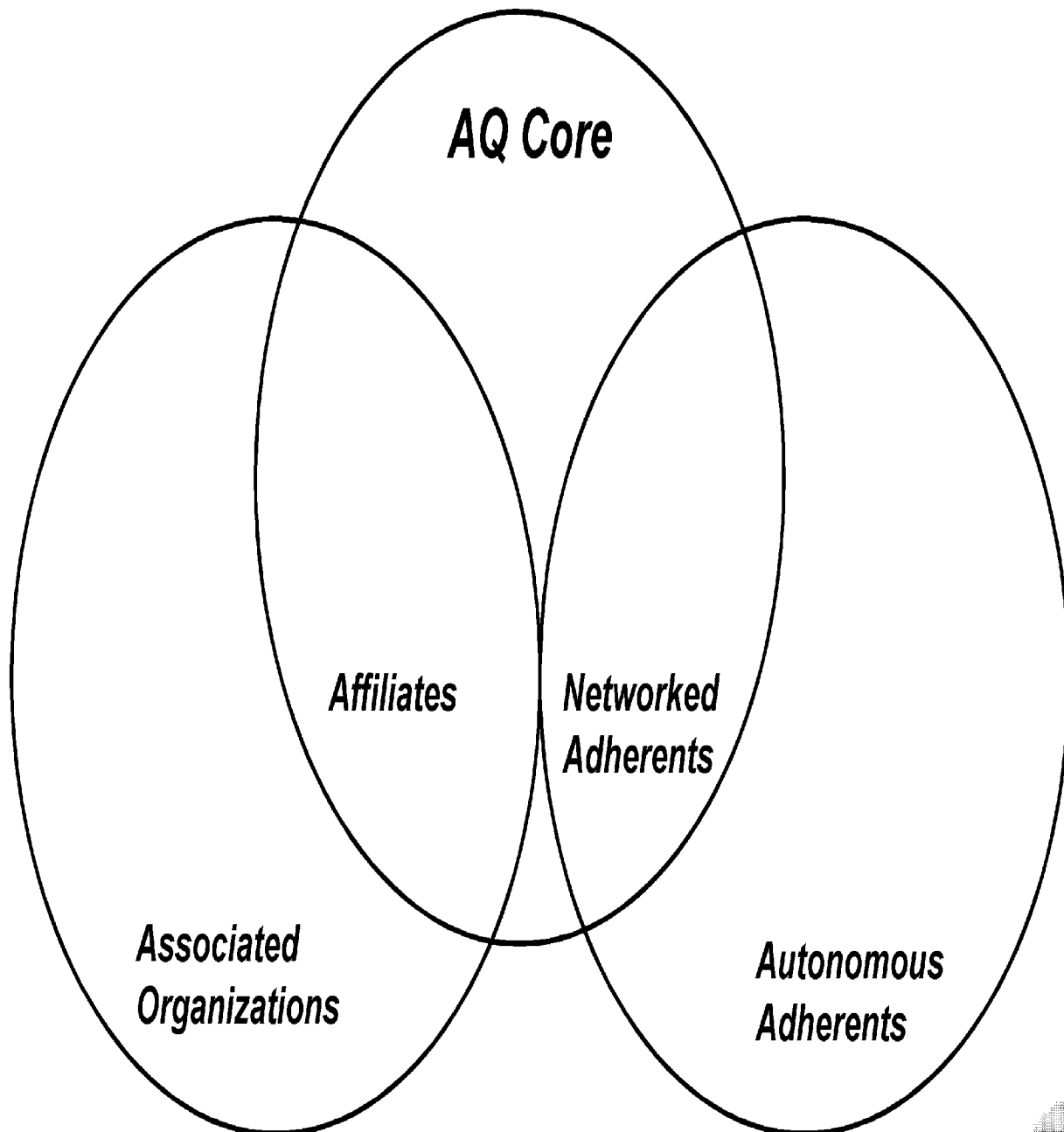
- Daniel Patrick Boyd
 - US military base (Quantico) and US military abroad
 - Firearms
 - Trained in Afghanistan 1989 - 1992
- Bryant Neal Vinas
 - US military abroad (rockets) and NY Transit System (provided maps)
 - Trained with AQ in Pakistan (March – August 2008)



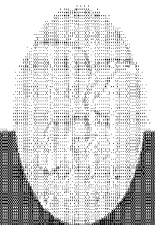
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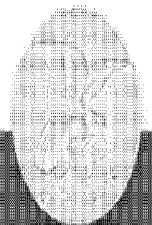


Autonomous Adherents: Nadil Hassan

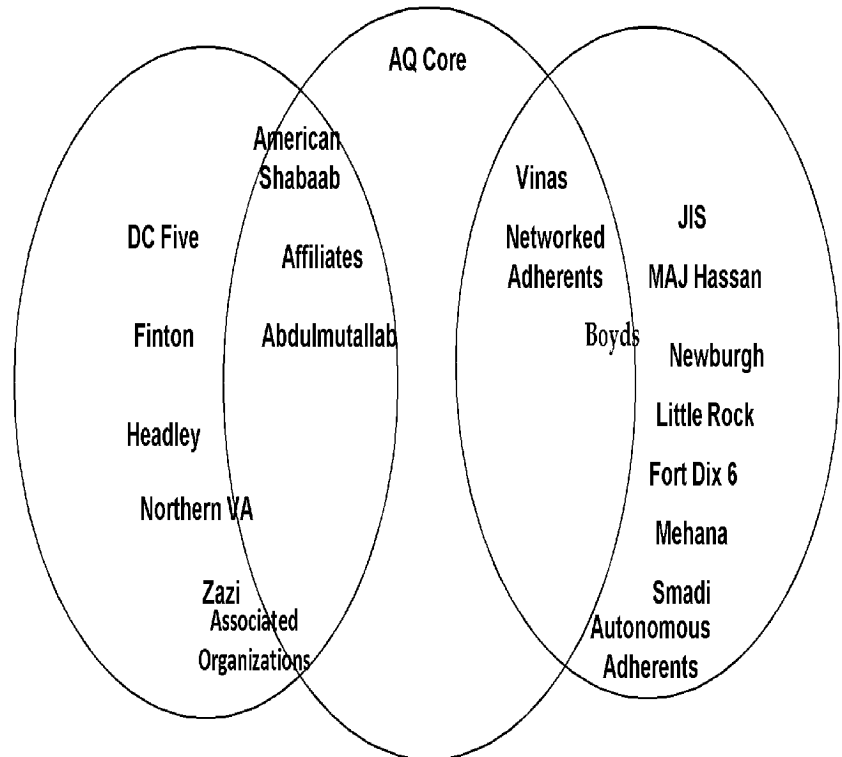
- Attack at Fort Hood
- Use of Firearms
- Inspired by Anwar al-Awlaki



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Plotting Domestic Cases



Explosives	Newburgh**		American Shabaab	
	Smadi**		Abdulmutallab	
Firearms	Finton**		Zazi	
			Vinas	
			DC Five	
	JIS	Fort Dix 6	Headley (LeT)	
	MAJ Hassan	Mehana		
	Boyd			
	Little Rock			
	AQ Inspired / Internet		AQ Affiliated / Networked	

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Key Take-Aways

- Overlap of Local, Regional, and Global organizations provides multiple “avenues” into the jihad
- Travel to past and present jihadi conflict zones matter for subject and subject’s close associates
- Understanding the ideology (vocabulary, heroes) is the key to identifying inspired jihadists with no pattern of travel, procurement, etc
- There is no American-jihadi profile
- The closer an attacker gets to al-Qa’ida or its affiliates; the higher the probability that attacks will include explosives and target economic (mass transit, air, and rail) targets
- When an attacker is not connect directly into al-Qa’ida or its affiliates, the higher the probability that attacks will include firearms and target military bases or Jewish/Israeli targets
- We are beyond al-Qa’ida core

