



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Title of Instruction:	Enterprise Level Investigations for Counterterrorism: Understanding Cell Function within the Global Salafi- Jihadist Movement
Time of Instruction:	1 hour
Target Group:	New Agent Trainees Regional IT
Instructor:	CTC Staff
Methods of Instruction:	Lecture
Additional Information:	Use of power-point slides with Q & A throughout, videos
Date:	Habitual

Statement of Goals and Objectives

Instructional Goal:

To examine the different types of global jihadist cells that special agents may encounter during investigations at home and abroad. In any conflict, it is important to understand the order of battle of the enemy, that is, how the enemy deploys its forces. Terrorist organizations use different components to accomplish different missions. This block will familiarize students with the major operational manifestations of al-Qaeda and the global jihad movement.

Instructional Objectives:

After 1 hour of instruction, the learner will be able to:

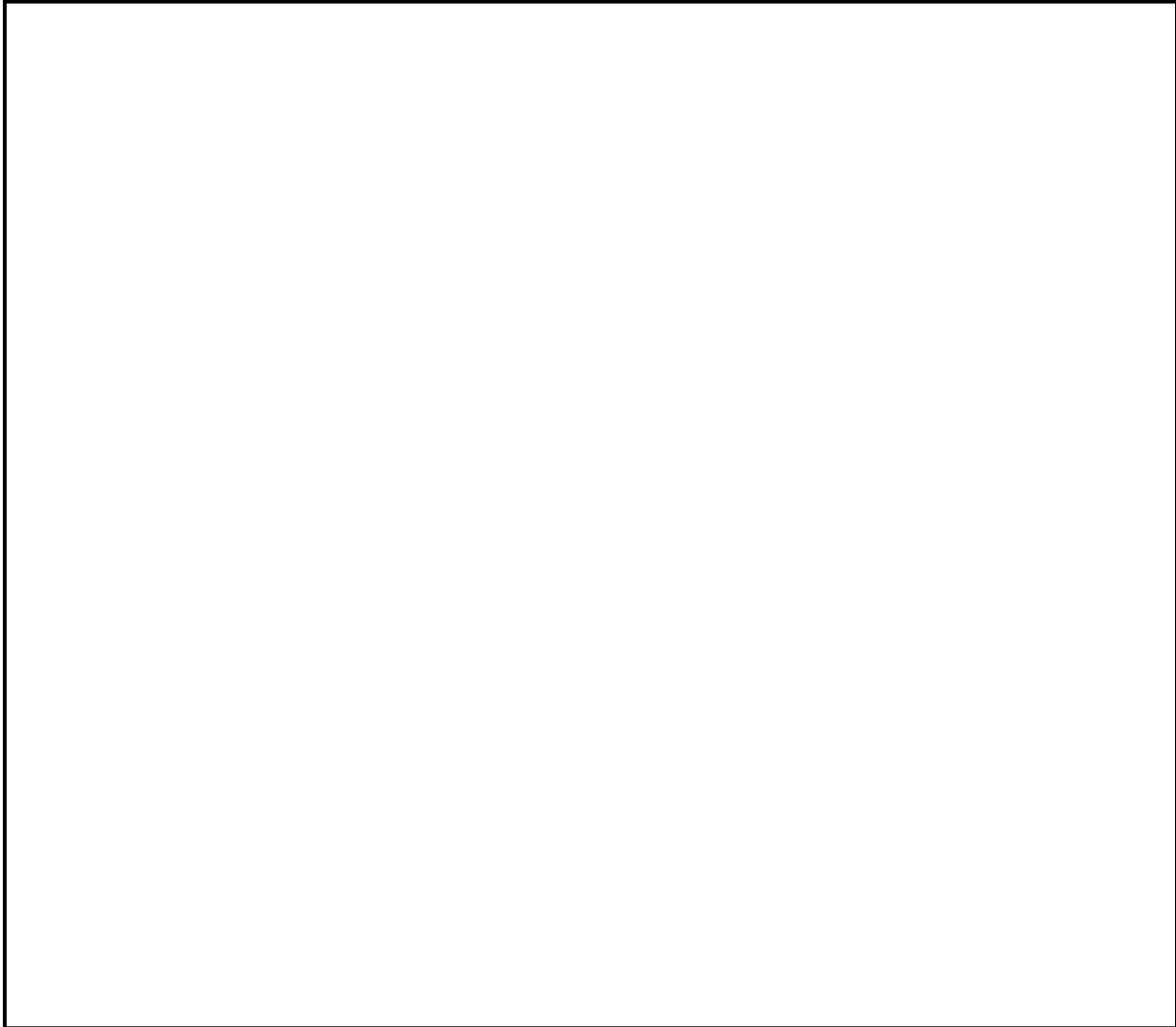
- List and describe the functions of the different types of jihadist cells.
- Describe different types of al-Qaeda attack cells.
- Identify the support cells that engage in predominantly non-violent activities.
- Describe a global jihadist autonomous cell and provide examples in the U.S.
- Describe the post-9/11 change in al-Qaeda's ability to directly command attack cells.

Criterion Test Questions



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Criterion Test Answers



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List of Items and Materials

Equipment / Aids Required for Instructor:

- Laptop/Desktop computer with PowerPoint software
- Computer projector
- Projection screen
- Flip chart and easel, or white board with markers
- PowerPoint
- Laser pointer
- Clock

Equipment / Aids Required for Students:

- CTC West Point handbook with note-taking space provided
- Pencil/pen

Power Point Slides or Outline:

Outline:

1. Title Slide
2. Al-Qa'ida and the Salafi-Jihad
3. Tradeoff: Capacity versus Autonomy
4. Overview of Cell Typologies
5. "A" Cells
6. "B" Cells: Post 9/11 Al-Qaida cells
7. Cells Under al-Qa'ida Affiliates
8. Global Jihadist Network Cells
9. Global Jihadist Autonomous Cells
10. Propaganda Cells
11. Financial Cells
12. Recruitment Cells
13. Logistical Support
14. Intelligence Gathering Cells

15. Key Take-Aways

Handouts:

- PowerPoint slide handouts

Outline of Activities

Content	Instructor Notes
Grabber: <i>Please see attached presentation</i> <u>Introduction:</u> Instructors introduce themselves and their credentials. Terrorist organizations are multi-functional entities that require a clear division of labor and specialized cells in order to function effectively and securely. Attaching oneself to a cell is often the next step for radicalized individuals pursuing violent jihad. The process takes place either as individuals come together independently and form a cell, or as individuals incorporate into an existing network and are subsequently assigned to a cell. This block of instruction begins where the initial radicalization process (largely that of ideological radicalization) leaves off. <u>Thesis Statement:</u> Terrorist activity involves more than just the attack itself. Successful operations require that a variety of functions be carried out, providing law enforcement and counterterrorism practitioners with various avenues for intelligence gathering and/or interdiction. Further, al-Qa'ida has continually adapted to the changing security environment and has continually evolved. Understanding its evolution helps determine capability and assess threat. <u>Needs Statement:</u> Developing effective counter-strategies requires an understanding of al-Qa'ida's changing structure and the different types of jihadist cells. It is also important to recognize that many cells engage in non-violent activities that are legal in some instances and can provide useful intelligence about larger networks.	

Objective #1: List and describe the functions of the different types of jihadist cells

Degree of autonomy – Discuss the importance of determining whether a cell operates with complete autonomy, under operational constraints (aside from broad ideological constraints imposed by movement's leaders), or under the direction of outside leadership. Level of autonomy has implications for capacity and/or visibility.

Division of labor – Five primary cell functions are explored during the course of this presentation. Some cells perform multiple tasks (for example, producing and relaying propaganda, obtaining financing, and attack planning), but many are devoted to a particular, specialized activity.

Objective #2: Describe the differences between al-Qa'ida "A" and "B" attack cells

"A" cells: Pre-9/11 al-Qa'ida cells

Cells with highly-qualified, centrally trained and selected operatives driven by top-down financing and receiving tactical direction from al-Qa'ida's central leadership in Afghanistan. Cell leaders were involved in planning activities with AQ leadership, received financing from central leadership, and operated under their tactical constraints. In addition, most of these operatives pledged an oath of allegiance (bayat) to bin Laden.

"B" cells: Post-9/11 al-Qa'ida cells

B cells may receive funding from central leadership but they operate with a greater degree of autonomy. B cells may employ one or two centrally trained operatives who act in concert with local supporters. These cells may not be as experienced or qualified, but they have established trust with AQ's central leadership, which clears their attack planning prior to execution.

The A versus B cell designation demonstrates that AQ is capable of adapting to changing security conditions.

Objective #3: Identify the types of cells that engage in predominantly non-violent activities

Use a case study to describe the various support function that go in to a terrorist attack.

Objective #4: Describe a global jihadist autonomous cell and provide examples in the U.S.

These are self-organized and self-directed cells that typically come together locally, although there can be some element of online introduction or contact. They are self-funded and typically appoint an emir, or leader, from within the group. At times, they seek external guidance or attempt to engage with a larger network, often for the purpose of gaining access to training and expertise.

Objective #5: Describe the post-9/11 change in al-Qa'ida's ability to directly command attack cells.

Summary/Conclusion:

The U.S. severely damaged the operational capability of al-Qa'da in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Al-Qa'ida adapted to the changing security environment and developed a new approach to attack cells, shifting away from total reliance on centrally trained actors. Further, the organization has pursued affiliation with various domestic groups, thereby increasing global influence. Additionally, al-Qa'ida has encouraged the adoption of its ideology by autonomous actors across the globe. While these changes represent an operational devolution, the various levels of affiliation and association with al-Qa'ida present law enforcement with a greater challenge.

Bibliography

Burke, Jason. *Al-Qaeda: Casting A Giant Shadow of Terror*. London, UK: I.B. Tauris, 2003.

Pluchinsky, Dennis. "Terrorist Cells and Internal and External Stress," *National Intelligence Council Associates Report* (June 2007), <https://www.opensource.gov>.

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Temple-Raston, Dina. *The Jihad Next Door: The Lackawanna Six and Rough Justice in the Age of Terror*. New York, NY: Public Affairs Books, 2007.