



Combating Terrorism Center
at West Point



The Failures of al-Qa`ida in Iraq

-Lessons from the Islamic State of Iraq's
After Action Review-

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CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESS

UNDERMINING FACTORS

Strategic Flexibility

1. Ideology
2. Islamic State of Iraq (Oct '06)

Sanctuaries

1. Awakening
2. Special Operations
3. Forward Operation Bases

Organizational Coherence

1. Poor Strategic Guidance
2. Weak Command & Control
3. Decreased Mobility

Regeneration

1. Unskilled Foreign Fighters
2. Logistical Failure
3. Foreign Fighters vs. Iraqis

The Problem Inside Iraq

Strategic Flexibility,
Sanctuaries

Strategic Flexibility,
Sanctuaries, Organizational
Coherence

Strategic Flexibility,
Sanctuaries, Regeneration

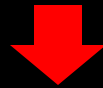
Sanctuaries, Organizational
Coherence

1. “Through the last four years, crusaders learned from their mistakes.”
2. “Reliance on creating ordeals within the Mujahidin by tempting some factions to fight against the Islamic State with the direction of the Shiites.”
3. “Pressure that was placed on ordinary Sunnis as...a result of their cooperation or their sympathy with the Mujahidin. And this led to Sunnis feeling that the Mujahidin were the biggest reason for their misfortunes and tribulations ...”
4. “...the absence of full empowerment of the State. “

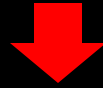
-ISI After Action Report

The Problem From Outside Iraq

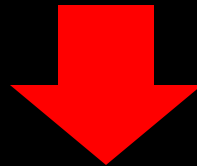
Logistical Problems



Languishing Foreign Fighters



Increased Conflict with Iraqis



“The Islamic State of Iraq is faced with an extraordinary crisis, especially in al- Anbar; and **this difficult stage forced the leadership...to reduce the entry of Muhajirin** for many reasons, most notably the withdrawal of tribal support and the difficulty Muhajirin faced in moving about due to their inability to communicate in the Iraqi dialect.”

-ISI AAR

Country	Suicide Bombers	Fighters	Other	Total
Saudi Arabia	50.3% (76)	48.3% (73)	1.3% (2)	151
Libya	85.2% (52)	13.1% (8)	1.6% (1)	61
Morocco	91.7% (22)	8.3% (2)	0	24
Syria	65.6% (21)	31.2% (10)	3.1% (1)	32
Algeria	13.9%(5)	83.3%(30)	2.8% (1)	36
Yemen	46.1% (18)	53.9% (21)	0	39
Tunisia	41.7% (10)	58.3% (14)	0	24

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