

Figure 6.1 Al Qa'ida Attacks, 1995–2007 (excluding Iraq and Afghanistan)

RAND MG741-6.1

groups perpetrated.²⁶ For example, there are no reliable estimates and no way to reliably assess—which attacks in Afghanistan included a significant al Qa'ida component. Several organizations—such as the Taliban, al Qa'ida, and the Haqqani network—were involved in suicide and IED attacks. But there was no dependable way to identify which ones involved al Qa'ida. Nonetheless, al Qa'ida's direct role in the Afghanistan and Iraq insurgencies, both of which occurred after September 11, 2001, strengthens the argument that it was involved in more attacks in the first six years after September 11, 2001, than it was before that date.

Between 1995 and 2001, al Qa'ida was involved in a range of terrorist attacks beginning with the November 13, 1995, attack in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The explosion occurred outside the office of the program manager of the Saudi Arabian National Guard and killed seven people:

²⁶ This task is especially difficult using unclassified sources.