

six in 2004, 21 in 2005, 139 in 2006, and 140 in 2007.<sup>46</sup> Al Qa'ida was involved in recruiting suicide bombers from such places as Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan; training them at compounds in such areas as Wana, Pakistan; and facilitating their movement to the target. Al Qa'ida leaders in Pakistan, such as Ayman al-Zawahiri, argued for the "need to concentrate on the method of martyrdom operations as the most successful way of inflicting damage against the opponent and the least costly to the Mujahedin in terms of casualties."

In addition, al Qa'ida played an important role in encouraging and implementing more-sophisticated IEDs, including remote-control detonators.<sup>47</sup> For example, there were a handful of al Qa'ida-run training facilities and IED factories in such places as Waziristan. They ranged from small facilities hidden within compounds that built IEDs to much larger "IED factories," which doubled as training centers and labs where recruits experimented with IED technology. One effective IED was the "TV bomb," which Iraqi groups first established. It was a shaped-charge mechanism that could be hidden under brush or debris on a roadside and set off by remote control from 300 yards or more. Taliban commanders received assistance from al Qa'ida and Iraqi groups on armor-penetrating weapons by disassembling rockets and rocket-propelled grenade rounds, removing the explosives and propellants, and repacking them with high-velocity shaped charges.<sup>48</sup> In addition, insurgent groups occasionally adopted brutal tactics, such as beheadings. In December 2005, for example, insurgents posted a video of the decapitation of an Afghan hostage on al Qa'ida-linked Web

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<sup>46</sup> Hekmat Karzai and Seth G. Jones, "How to Curb Rising Suicide Terrorism in Afghanistan," *Christian Science Monitor*, July 18, 2006; Pamela Constable, "Gates Visits Kabul, Cites Rise in Cross-Border Attacks," *Washington Post*, January 17, 2007, p. A10; Jason Straziuso, "2007 Was a Year of Record Violence in Afghanistan, but U.S. Says Things Are Looking Up," Associated Press, January 1, 2008.

<sup>47</sup> Ali A. Jalali, "The Future of Afghanistan," *Parameters*, Vol. 36, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 4–19, p. 8.

<sup>48</sup> Interview with Afghan government officials, Kabul, Afghanistan, August 2006; Al Jazeera, interview with Mullah Dadullah, July 2005; Also see such press accounts as Sami Yousafzai and Ron Moreau, "Unholy Allies," *Newsweek*, September 26, 2005, pp. 40–42.