

London is a good example. Mohammad Sidique Khan and a fellow bomber, Shahzad Tanweer, visited Pakistani terrorist camps between November 2004 and February 2005, where al Qa'ida operatives trained them.⁴²

Al Qa'ida was involved in the 2006 transatlantic plot to bomb U.S. airliners and crash them into targets in U.S. cities, what the British referred to as Operation Overt.⁴³ There were also other links to al Qa'ida and other terrorist groups in Pakistan, including the plot to attack U.S. and German targets in 2007 and the 2008 plot to attack targets in Spain and France.

In addition to its international component, al Qa'ida was also directly involved in the Afghanistan and Pakistan insurgencies, where it acted as a force multiplier for the Taliban and allied commanders, such as Sirajuddin Haqqani and Baitullah Mehsud. In 2007, for example, al Qa'ida appointed Mustafa Abu al-Yazid to head its insurgency operations in Afghanistan.⁴⁴ Al Qa'ida cooperated with these groups at the strategic level, helping develop and implement campaign strategy. It helped improve their information operations, especially the use of the Internet and video. It created a variety of Web sites, such as Voice of Jihad,⁴⁵ and used al Qa'ida's production company, as-Sahab Media, to make videos. Indeed, the Taliban's strategic information campaign significantly improved since September 11, 2001, thanks in part to al Qa'ida. The Taliban's videos were notably better in video quality and clarity of message, and its use of the Internet dramatically increased to spread propaganda and recruit potential fighters.

Al Qa'ida was also involved at the operational and tactical levels, helping Afghan groups with suicide tactics and IEDs. The number of suicide attacks increased from one in 2001 and 2002 to two in 2003,

⁴² House of Commons (2006, pp. 20–21).

⁴³ On the plot's connection to al Qa'ida, see U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, "NCTC Observations Related to Terrorist Incidents Statistical Material," *Country Reports on Terrorism 2006*, Washington, D.C., 2007, p. 269.

⁴⁴ "Al Jazeera Reveals New al Qaeda Leader," *Washington Times*, May 25, 2007, p. 17.

⁴⁵ Voice of Jihad, "Imarat Islami of Afghanistan," undated Web page.