

Office of Intelligence and Analysis
Analysis and Production Directorate

Homeland Security

Threat Overview

The Overall Classification of this Briefing is:

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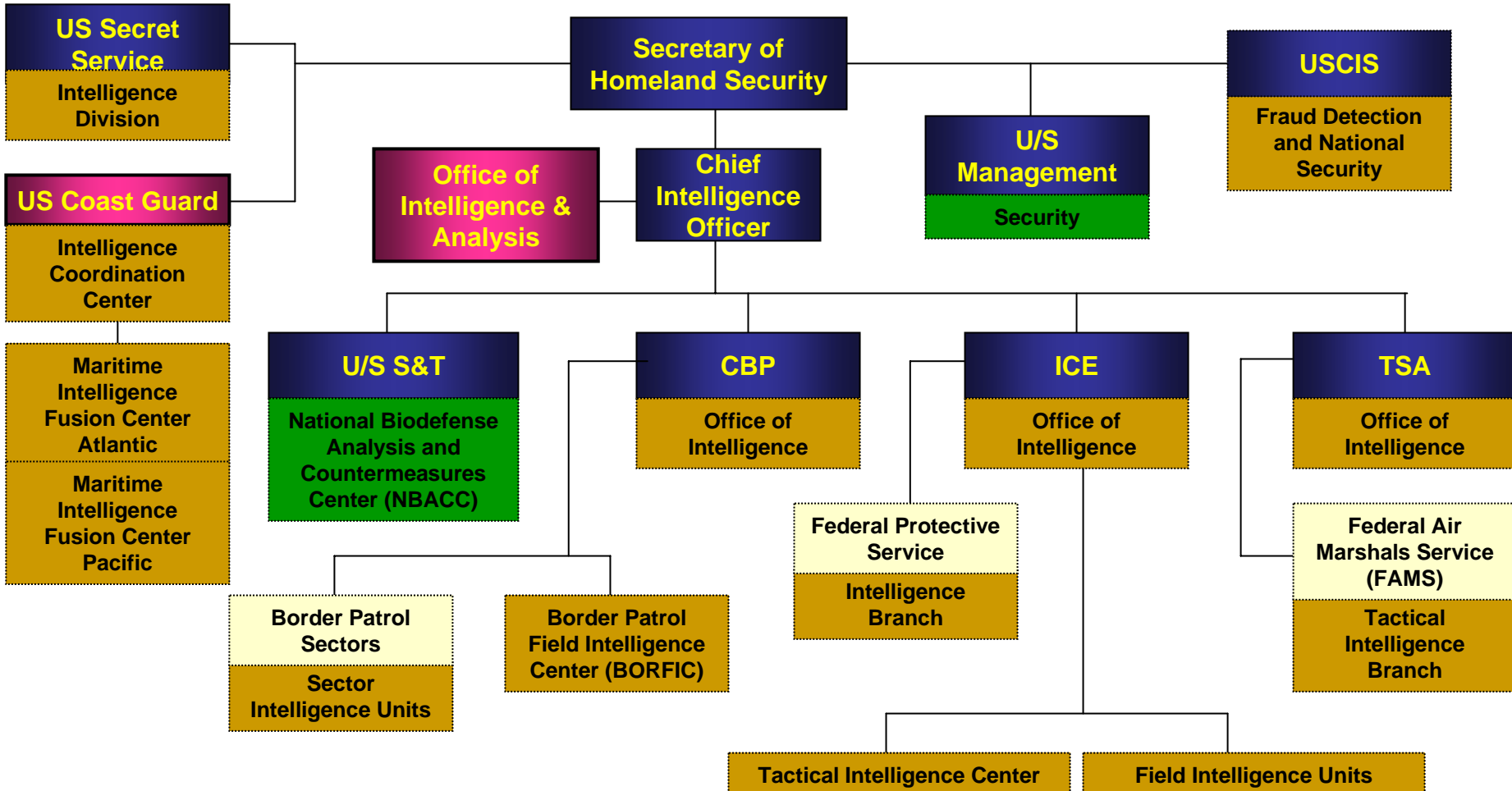


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DHS Intelligence

HITRAC Critical Infrastructure Threat Analysis



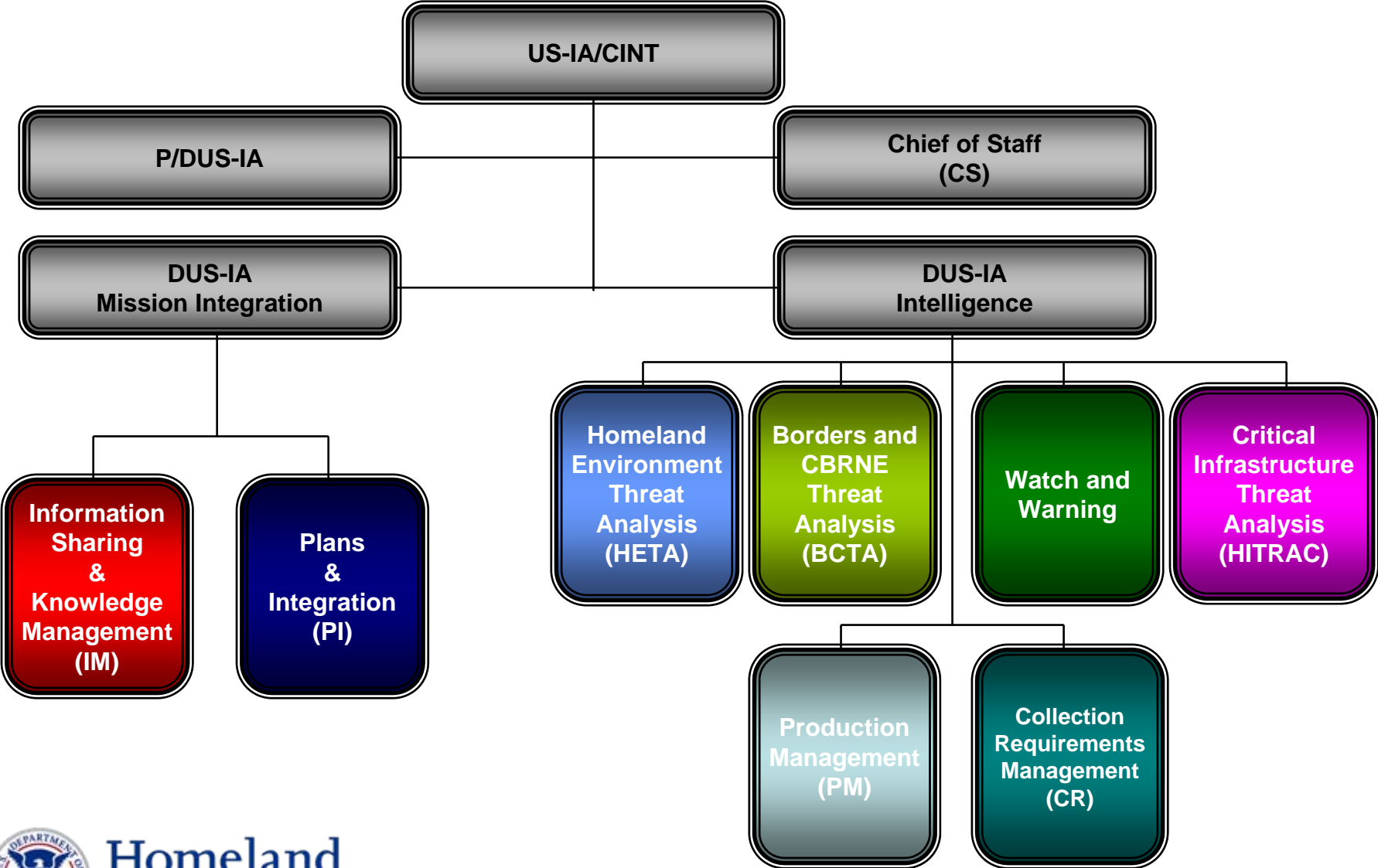
| Key | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| DHS HQ Element | DHS Intelligence Component |
| Member of the IC | Non-Intel Sub-HQ Component |
| | Quasi-Intelligence Element |



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I&A Structure



I&A Analytic Priorities

- Terrorist threats and networks
- Border and critical infrastructure security
- Spread of pandemic diseases
- CBRNE proliferation
- Growth and spread of extremist ideologies



Al-Qa'ida's Global Jihad Priorities

- **Al-Qa'ida has focused on several key areas of importance to the group to further spread its goal of global jihad**
 - Iraq – AQ in Iraq is committed to removing US and Coalition troops and returning Iraq to an Islamic state governed with Shari'a law
 - Africa – AQ has sought mergers with groups in Africa to further its agenda and has made frequent statements on the importance of Sudan and Somalia as fronts in the global jihad.
 - Afghanistan – AQ's former safehaven and a key component of the group's strategy in promoting global jihad.



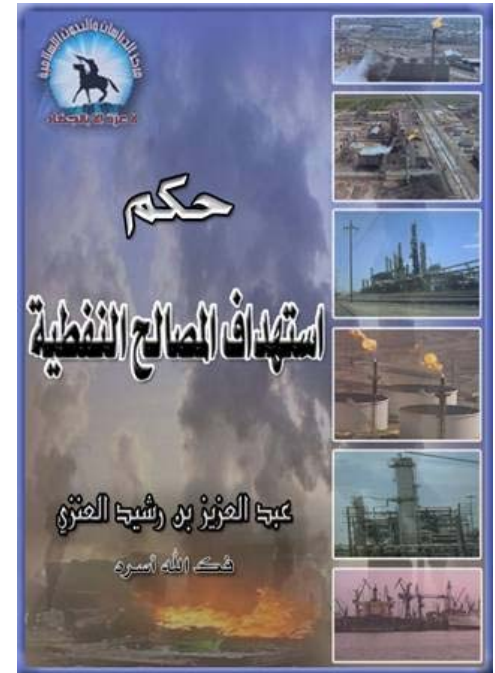
Al-Qa`ida's Expanding Global Outreach

- **AQ's strategic reach is increasing in North Africa, Europe, and Iraq**
 - AQ Deputy Leader Ayman al-Zawahiri announced last year that the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) – a group based in Algeria - merged with al-Qa`ida and is now called the al-Qa`ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).
 - AQ will probably seek to leverage the contacts and capabilities of al-Qa`ida in Iraq as its most visible and capable affiliate and the only affiliate known to have expressed a desire to attack the US homeland.



AQ Intent on Attacking ONG Infrastructure

- (U//FOUO) Al-Qa'ida continues to demonstrate its intent and capability to target oil and natural gas infrastructure—exploiting media to promote attacks in sector
 - Video messages
 - Jihadi websites
- (U//FOUO) Targets identified in 2006 Oil fatwa:
 - Oil pipelines
 - Oil facilities
 - Oil industry-related individuals (including soldiers guarding facilities)
 - Not permitted: attacks on oil wells



Al-Zawahiri (source: Al-Jazirah TV 30 January 06)



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Saudi Extremist Networks

- (U//FOUO) Saudi Arabian Ministry of the Interior (MOI) continues to arrest suspected and AQ-affiliated terrorists.
 - Arrested 172 militants in a 6-9 month period; 7 terror cells uncovered:
 - Operational support cell; 9 members; gathering weapons and information on petroleum facilities
 - Group of 5 individuals associated with the 24 February 2006 Abqaiq attack
- (U//FOUO) On 5 June the ministry announced the arrests of 3 AQ members responsible for recruiting youths on the internet and encouraging attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

(U//FOUO) Some individuals associated with these cells remain at large and continue to represent a threat to Saudi Arabia's ONG infrastructure; threat levels remain high as al-Qa'ida and insurgent groups have an enduring interest in attacks targeting oil facilities.



AQ and Afghanistan

- **AQ views Afghanistan as one of its most important priorities**
 - Possible alternate safehaven in northeastern Afghanistan if the FATA is lost due to its remoteness and tough terrain, which is very similar to Pakistan's FATA.
 - Collaboration and cooperation between AQ and its preferred rulers for Afghanistan – the Taliban - has not ceased or diminished since 9/11/2001. Just as AQ's historical ties to the FATA run deep and provide them safehaven, so too do the ties with the Taliban.
 - AQ leaders have made numerous public statements supporting Mullah Omar and his Taliban, indicating AQ continues to cooperate and collaborate with the Taliban in Afghanistan.



Pakistan

- **AQ Senior Leadership remains active**
 - Increased extremist activity in FATA areas
 - Tribal leaders agreed to keep “foreigners” from the region
 - Reduced military presence afforded AQ an opportunity to reconstitute
- **Stand-off between Pakistani government forces and mosque leaders turns violent**
 - Increased suicide attacks since assault on mosque
 - Al-Zawahiri calls for Pakistanis to join the jihad to revenge attack by government forces
- **Al-Zawahiri increasingly active in issuing propaganda statements**
 - Recent UBL statement contained old clips, but meant to reassure the followers that he remains active and in charge of AQ



Pakistan - Federally Administered Tribal Areas



OVERSEAS TRENDS

Soft Targets: Away from hardened, well-protected facilities towards attacks on more accessible and vulnerable sites of public access or mass assembly

Commercial and Government Facilities: Vehicle borne improvised explosive devices

Mass Transit and Rail: Use of carried or placed improvised explosive devices

- Mumbai, India - 11 July 2006
- London, UK - 7 July and 21 July 2005
- Madrid, Spain - 11 March 2004

Casings and Surveillance: Barot casings demonstrate high level of sophistication

- UK Gas Limos Project
- NY/NJ financial institutions



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Terrorist Threat to the Homeland

- **Al-Qa`ida is intent in striking the US homeland and the US will face a persistent and evolving terrorist threat over the next three years**
 - AQ pushing other extremist Sunni communities to mimic its efforts and to supplement its capabilities.
- **Al-Qa`ida homeland plotting is likely to continue to focus on prominent political, economic, and infrastructure targets with the goal of:**
 - Producing mass casualties
 - Visually dramatic destruction
 - Significant economic aftershocks
 - Fear amongst US population



Terrorist Threat to the Homeland

- **AQ will continue to try to acquire and employ chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear material**
- **Lebanese Hizballah may attempt to attack the Homeland**
- **Existence of radical, self-generating cells suggest that the US is not immune to what we judge is an expanding radical and violent segment in the west**
- **Non-muslim, “single-issue” groups will probably conduct attacks**



Threats to Infrastructure

- Al-Qa'ida and affiliates likely continue to have interest in attacking Homeland infrastructure to inflict casualties, instill fear in the public, and to damage our economy
 - Iconic and highly symbolic Homeland sites likely remain enduring targets
- Terrorists likely remain interested in conducting attacks against U.S. mass transit sector and the aviation sectors
 - Relative ease and success in which similar attacks were conducted in Madrid, London and Mumbai bombings
- Improvised explosives, carried or vehicle borne, are the devices that are the preferred attack method against infrastructure targets



Terrorist Threat to Food and Agriculture

- **DHS lacks credible information to indicate planning** for an attack against the Food and Agriculture sector, but continues to pay great attention to this threat
 - Al-Qa'ida documents recovered from Afghanistan in 2002 indicate interest in **animal and plant disease agents**, while discussions among Islamists demonstrate general awareness of potential effects of introducing animal and plant diseases
 - Al-Qa'ida has shown an awareness of chemical and biological agents' utility as **food contaminants**, while discussions among Islamists and terrorist training manuals show interest in food contamination as an attack method



Terrorist Threat to Food and Agriculture

- While the biochemical industry is the main focus of animal rights extremists, and environmental extremists have a tangential focus on food and agriculture, both groups continue to show interest in targeting food and agriculture
 - ***Animal rights extremists*** have targeted agricultural research facilities, as well as food products that experiment on animals, and some recent actions have been tied to frustrations over recent legislation targeting these extremists
 - ***Environmental extremists*** have targeted USDA Forest Service Research facilities, while the broader anarchist movement has also shown an interest in targeting food and agriculture

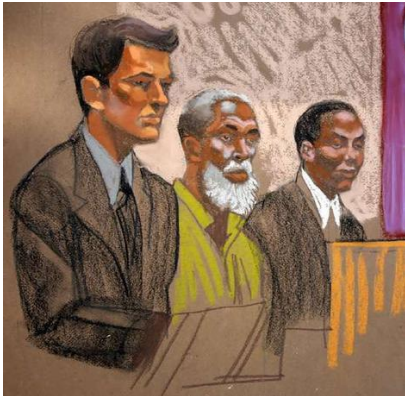


Insider Threats to Infrastructure



Dhiren Barot

- **Recent terrorist plots show the importance of insiders to gain access to targets**
 - AQ planner Barot had tasked a cell member to secure employment at a hotel in the UK to learn how to deactivate fire and security systems
 - JFK plot leader had been a cargo handler at the airport. He used his job-related knowledge to conduct surveillance and plan the attack
 - The Fort Dix Six used a family member's pizza restaurant to gain access to the post in 2006 and conduct preoperational surveillance



JFK plot lead



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Suspicious Activity Overview

- SAR proven utility for investigative purposes
- Potentially useful for Trend and Pattern Analysis
 - However no baseline to evaluate
 - Incomplete data set
 - Inconsistency with data collection
- Exercise that requires federal and state cooperation

Suspicious Activity Analysis

- Electric Power
- Dams
- Oil & Gas
- Chemical
- Nuclear
- *Transportation related activity*

Data is inconsistent, nonstandard and not reliable for developing judgments and assessments. *We need a more comprehensive plan to incorporate State data.*



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Categories of Data Studied

ELICITING INFORMATION

BREACH / INTRUSION

ATTEMPTED INTRUSION

**SABOTAGE/ TAMPERING/
VANDALISM**

CYBER ATTACK

FLYOVER

PHOTOGRAPHY

EXPRESSED THREAT

OBSERVATION

WEAPONS DISCOVERY

OTHER

THEFT



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Recent Suspicious Activity

- 10K lbs of ammonium nitrate reportedly stolen from a truck driver
- Fort Peck dam reportedly going to be attacked by an IED in January 2008
 - Both reports are serious in nature and were investigated promptly by authorities
 - Both reports were found to be not terrorism related

First reports are generally vague, incomplete and often inaccurate!

Bulk Cell Phone Purchase Activity

- **Local and State law enforcement agencies received numerous calls reporting suspicious bulk cell phone purchases.**
- **In retail locations throughout the U.S., cell phone purchasers:**
 - **Visited multiple locations and purchased hundreds or thousands of phones.**
 - **Attempted to conceal their identity.**
 - **Were described as Middle Eastern.**
 - **Used gift cards or cash.**
- **DHS and FBI assessed that most individuals engaged in such purchases were taking advantage of discounted prices in the U.S. and reselling the phones for profit overseas.**
- **DHS and the FBI determined some buyers were associated to terrorist networks. The suspected motive was fundraising.***

*DHS/FBI Joint Homeland Security Assessment 7 February 2006



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Suspicious Activity: AQ Casing Reports



- High degree of detail and awareness of site vulnerabilities, security operations, and law enforcement and emergency response
- Extensive use of open sources to obtain background information on targets, employees, and building structure
- Illustrates AQ's interest in financial industry facilities as targets
 - Commercial facilities, mass transit and rail are often co-located with financial institutions in Chicago, New York, Washington, DC, and other major cities



Dhiren Barot



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Areas of Focus

- **Police/security forces:** The notes provided details on the **private security personnel and police officers** for each institution
- **Traffic Flow:** Location and traffic flow near police stations or other security agencies
- **Cameras:** Number, location, and function of all visible cameras on the exterior and interior of a given facility
- **Building construction/vulnerabilities: Glass** and its destructive power is noted in one of the casing reports
- **Other building/vulnerabilities notes:** Location of HVAC systems, emergency exits and escape routes, sprinklers and fire detection systems
- **Secondary targets:** Alternative target options considered in case the primary target site proved logistically unfeasible; focus on collecting data on alternate, less protected targets **indicates AQ's interest in softer targets**
- **Attack timing:** The surveillant clearly recognized the **exploitability of large crowds** that gather at **set times** on a **recurring basis**



Suspicious Activity: Some Conclusions

- **Interesting convergence of incidents; but no definite terrorism nexus**
 - Foreign intelligence may provide valuable start points for data evaluation
- **No discernable patterns or trends emerged to date to suggest preoperational activity**
- **Building increased relationships with Private Sector**
 - Useful in outreach and evaluation of their security
- **Cross sector evaluation challenges but potentially beneficial**

Al-Qa'ida Priorities

- U.S. is still the “Brass Ring”
- Other Western countries and Western interests are valid Targets
- Aiming for the Spectacular... or the Achievable?



Conclusions

- **Al-Qa'ida remains intent on attacking the Homeland and US interests overseas**
 - Opportunities may be reduced through increased security, but not eliminated— al-Qa'ida continues to adapt to security environments
 - Homeland-specific operational planning continues
- **Affiliated Sunni extremists and like-minded individuals also harbor intent to conduct mass-casualty attacks in the Homeland**
 - An attack by domestic extremist elements or affiliates (to include “homegrown” extremists) will be viewed by al-Qa'ida as a success
- **DHS lacks credible information to indicate transnational terrorist planning for an attack against food and agriculture,**
 - But al-Qa'ida and other Islamist groups have shown interest in targeting the food and agriculture sector
- **Food and agriculture is not the primary focus of domestic animal rights and environmental extremists,**
 - They have attacked food and agriculture-related targets in the past, and likely will continue to show an interest in the sector

