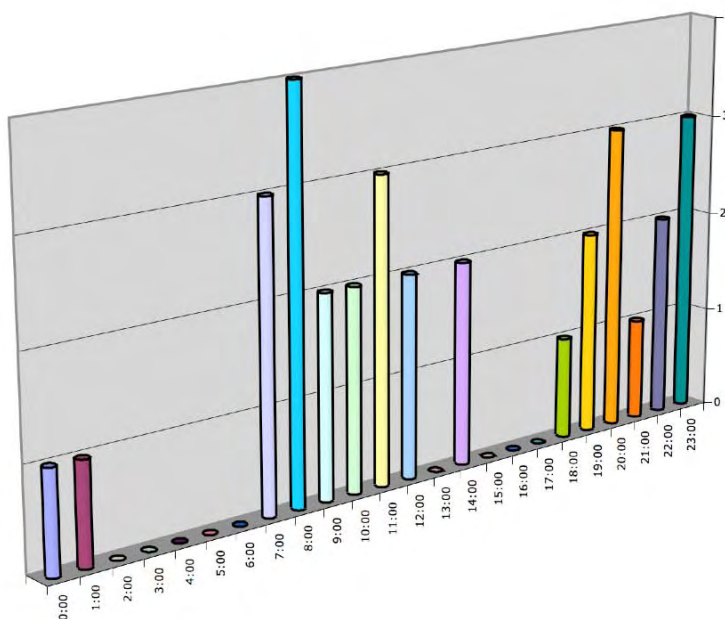


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Jihadi Tactical Execution Timing Statistics (JTETS)

v1.3

9 November 2005

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NOTE:

THIS IS A DYNAMIC WORKING DOCUMENT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
Questions or comments can be directed to Ben Venzke at bvenzke@intelcenter.com or bvenzke@leo.gov. The latest release can be found at <http://www.intelcenter.com>.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 7-year period examined for this report, jihadi attacks in the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits occurred with greatest frequency during two windows in a 24-hour period. The highest frequency window spanned between 0700-1500 with 56% of all attacks occurring during this 8-hour period. The second highest frequency window occurred between 1800-0200 with 44% of all attacks occurring during this 8-hour period. No attacks from the examined set over the 7-year period occurred between 0200-0700 and 1500-1800.

The majority of future attacks can be expected to fit within these windows. There are no golden rules banning jihadists from executing attacks at 1600 or any other times. However, the factors that have influenced the execution timing of these operations for the past seven years, to most importantly include target availability, are unlikely to change and therefore neither are the windows.

During the 7-year period examined for this report, jihadi attacks in the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits occurred 81% of the time during the workweek of the country where the attack occurred. The seven targets that were attacked on the weekend, with the exception of the 19 Aug. attacks in Jordan and Israel, all occurred at places of gathering where events or general weekend activity made them more attractive targets during the weekend. The majority of all jihadi attacks falling within the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits are likely to occur during the workweek of the targeted country.

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METHODOLOGY

This report uses two different subsets of the 50-jihadi-attack basis utilized in its sister reports, Jihadi Attack Kill Statistics (JAKS), Jihadi Operational Tempo Statistics (JOTS) and Jihadi Tactics and Targeting Statistics (JTATS). The attacks span from 1998 to 9 Nov. 2005. One subset of 32 attacks was utilized for the timing analysis and another subset of 38 attacks was utilized for the day of the week analysis. The sets were designed to be reflective of jihadi attacks designed to kill or take hostage more than two people that fit within the al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda affiliate orbit. Attacks that occurred in Afghanistan, Iraq and other insurgency arenas were excluded. While attacks occurring in Chechnya were excluded, those conducted by Chechen rebels in other parts of Russia were counted. Attacks occurring in Israel were excluded.

The objective behind the selection and manner in which the findings were put together was to provide a valid context for understanding likely tactical timing decisions made by al-Qaeda and its affiliates in future attacks.

The analysis of attacks occurring during workdays versus weekends takes into account country variations for when weekends occur.

Analysis of attack timing is all based on local time for where the incident occurred.

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ANALYSIS

Time of Attack

During the 7-year period examined for this report jihadi attacks in the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits occurred with greatest frequency during two windows in a 24-hour period. The highest frequency window spanned between 0700-1500 with 56% of all attacks occurring during this 8-hour period. Within that window, 39% of the attacks occurred during the first two hours from 0700-0900.

The second highest frequency window occurred between 1800-0200 with 44% of all attacks occurring during this 8-hour period. No attacks from the examined set over the 7-year period occurred between 0200-0700 and 1500-1800. The frequency of attacks within these two windows is a byproduct of the optimal or perceived optimal targeting windows of the attacked target sets more than any other factor.

Target selection during the 1800-0200 window was heavily focused on places of gathering (i.e. hotels, nightlife) and residential housing with 71% of the attacks occurring against these targets. This coincides with the period when both of these target sets present the highest volumes of people at their locations.

During the period from 0700-1500 the target sets were spread across a much broader range but consistent in that they all reflected a high volume of people present during the window. Government and military targets accounted for 44% of the targets during the period. The rest of targeting was divided between mass transit, places of gathering, educational and others.

The majority of future attacks can be expected to fit within these windows. There are no golden rules banning jihadists from executing attacks at 1600 or any other times. However, the factors that have influenced the execution timing of these operations for the past seven years, to most importantly include target availability, are unlikely to change and therefore neither are the windows.

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Day of the Week and Weekend Impact

During the 7-year period examined for this report jihadi attacks in the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits occurred 81% of the time during the workweek of the country where the attack occurred. The seven targets that were attacked on the weekend, with the exception of the 19 Aug. attacks in Jordan and Israel, all occurred at places of gathering where events or general weekend activity made them more attractive targets during the weekend as opposed to during the work week. With exceptions like those seven, the majority of all jihadi attacks falling within the al-Qaeda and al-Qaeda affiliate orbits are likely to occur during the workweek of the targeted country.

A chart is included below illustrating the number of attacks executed for each day of the week. While interesting, we have yet to discover any real value in this data primarily due to varying weekends around the world. When taking a global point of view there is not any one day of the week where attacks are less likely to occur. When looking at just one country, its weekend period will carry a distinctly lower risk of attack then during the week.

We are continuing to explore whether or not possible preferences exist towards executing in the beginning, middle or end of the week but this work is still in its early stages. Any relevant findings or lack thereof will be included in future releases of this report.

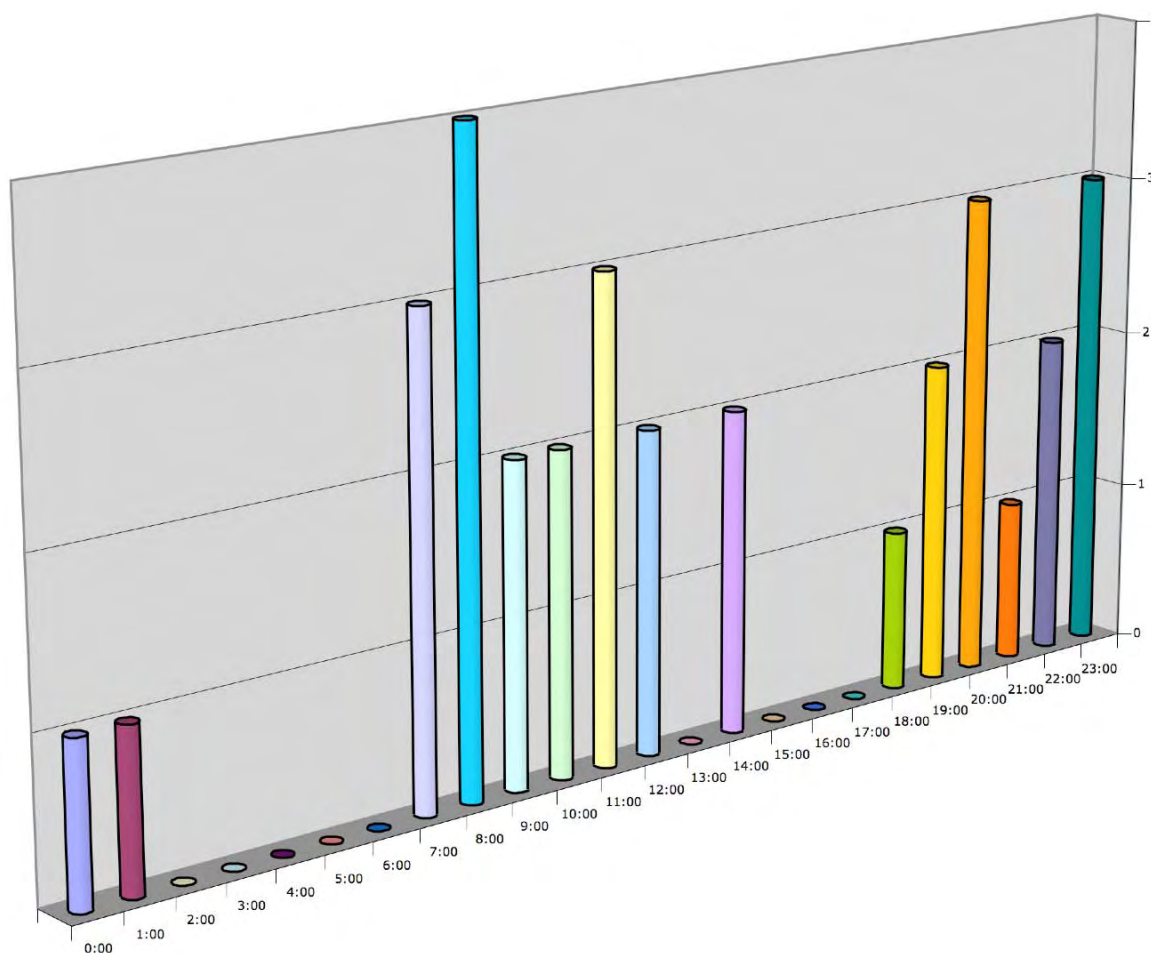
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JIHADI EXECUTION TIMING – TIME CHART



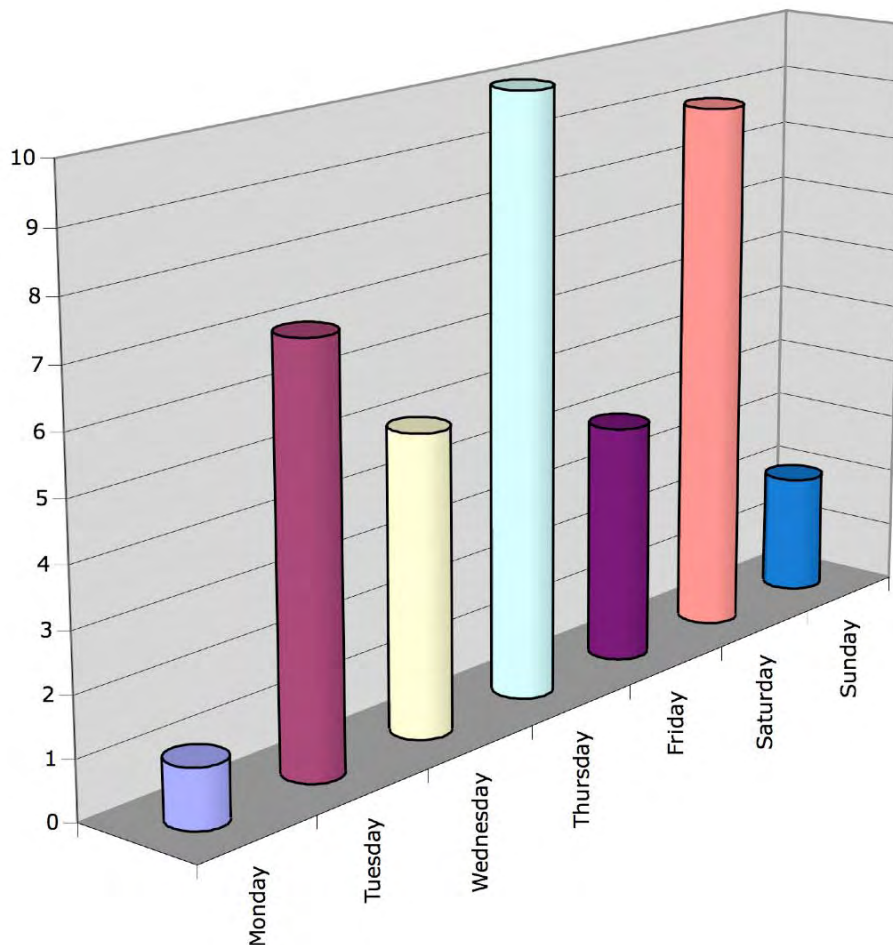
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JIHADI EXECUTION TIMING – DAY OF WEEK CHART



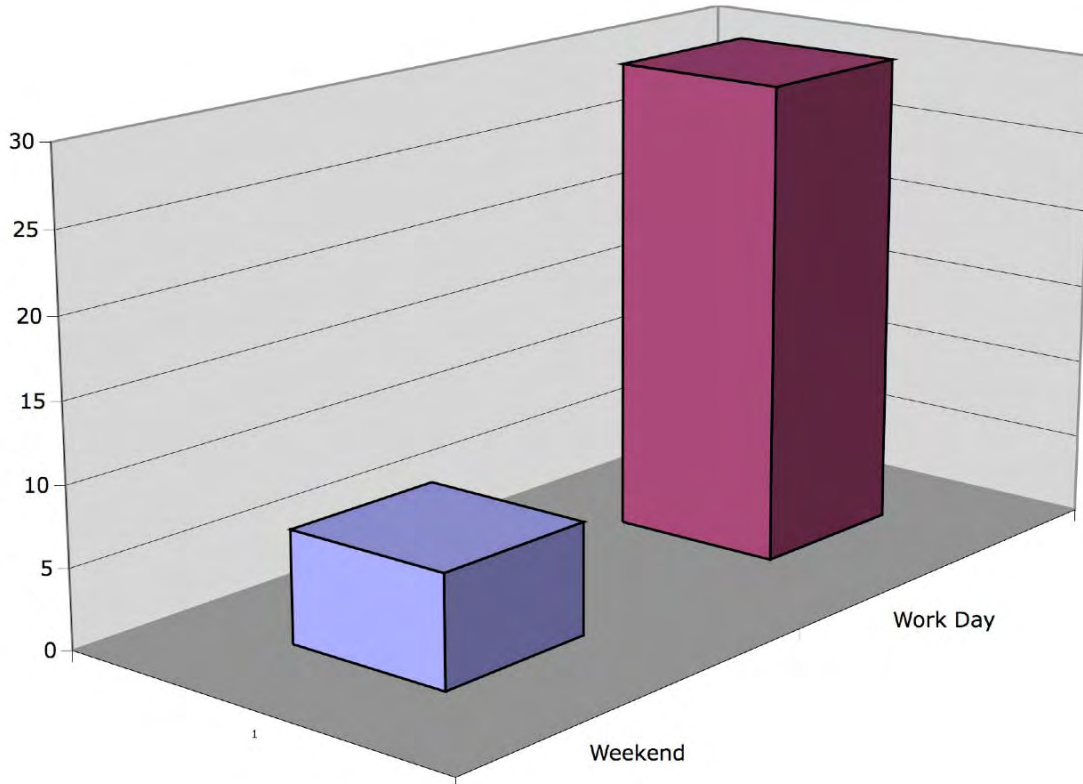
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JIHADI EXECUTION TIMING – WEEKEND VS WORK DAY



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