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al-Qaeda Attack/Messaging Statistics
v1.0

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> _____	3
<i>AL-QAEDA OPERATIONAL TEMPO</i> _____	4
<i>TIMING OF MAJOR AL-QAEDA OPERATIONS: THE AUG-NOV WINDOW</i> _____	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY _____	5
FINDINGS _____	6
METHODOLOGY NOTES _____	6
ATTACKS DURING AUGUST-NOVEMBER WINDOW _____	7
ATTACKS DURING REST OF YEAR _____	8
<i>SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC AL-QAEDA COMMUNICATIONS</i> _____	9
NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS BY YEAR _____	10
NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY TACTIC CLASS _____	11
NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY TARGET CLASS _____	13

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INTRODUCTION

The following report provides a statistical breakdown of the timing of attacks by al-Qaeda and its affiliates over the course of the past five years, as well as the public and semi-public messaging by the group going back to 1993. An understanding of past trends and patterns in these two areas can provide a context for future developments and assist in the threat assessment process.

New versions of this report will be periodically released. You can find the latest version at <http://www.intelcenter.com>.

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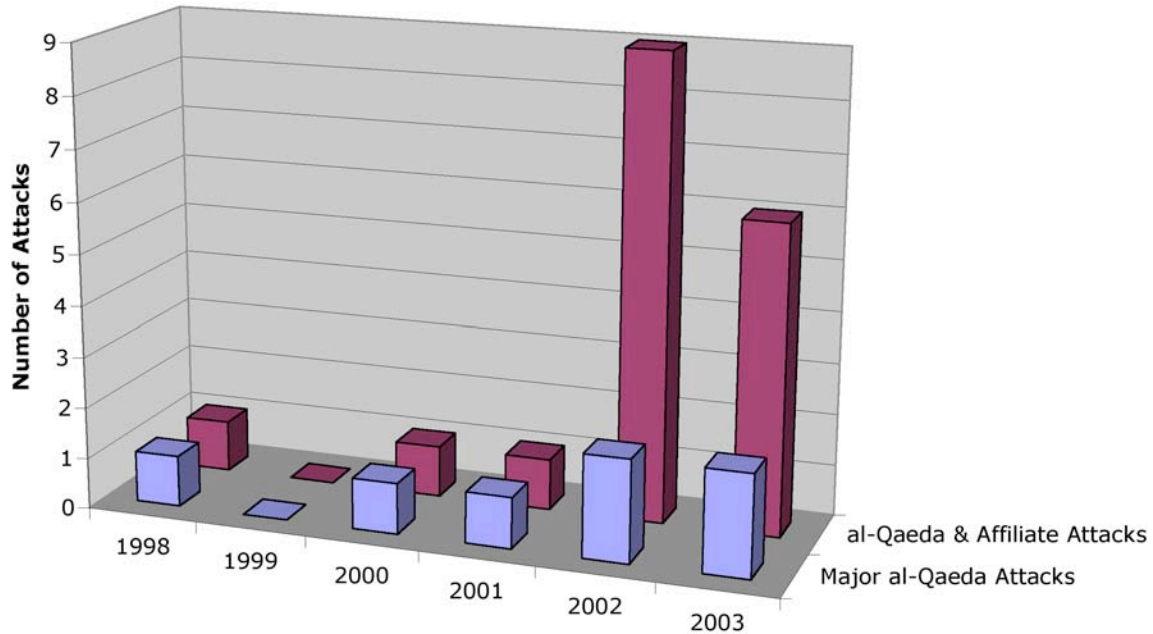
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AL-QAEDA OPERATIONAL TEMPO



The above chart illustrates the increased operational tempo of al-Qaeda and its affiliates post-9-11. Despite statements by many "experts" that the group was unable to conduct major operations, the two years following 9-11, during which it was under the greatest offensive pressure by the US and others, represent the most intensive and successful operational period in its history.

This data does not remove the significance of strikes against al-Qaeda and its affiliates that have occurred in the last two years. It does illustrate the resilience of organizations like al-Qaeda and the difficulty one faces when combating global, cellular, terrorist networks driven by religious extremism.

Note: The recent bombings of the Jordanian Embassy and the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq have not been factored in until more information regarding responsibility is obtained.

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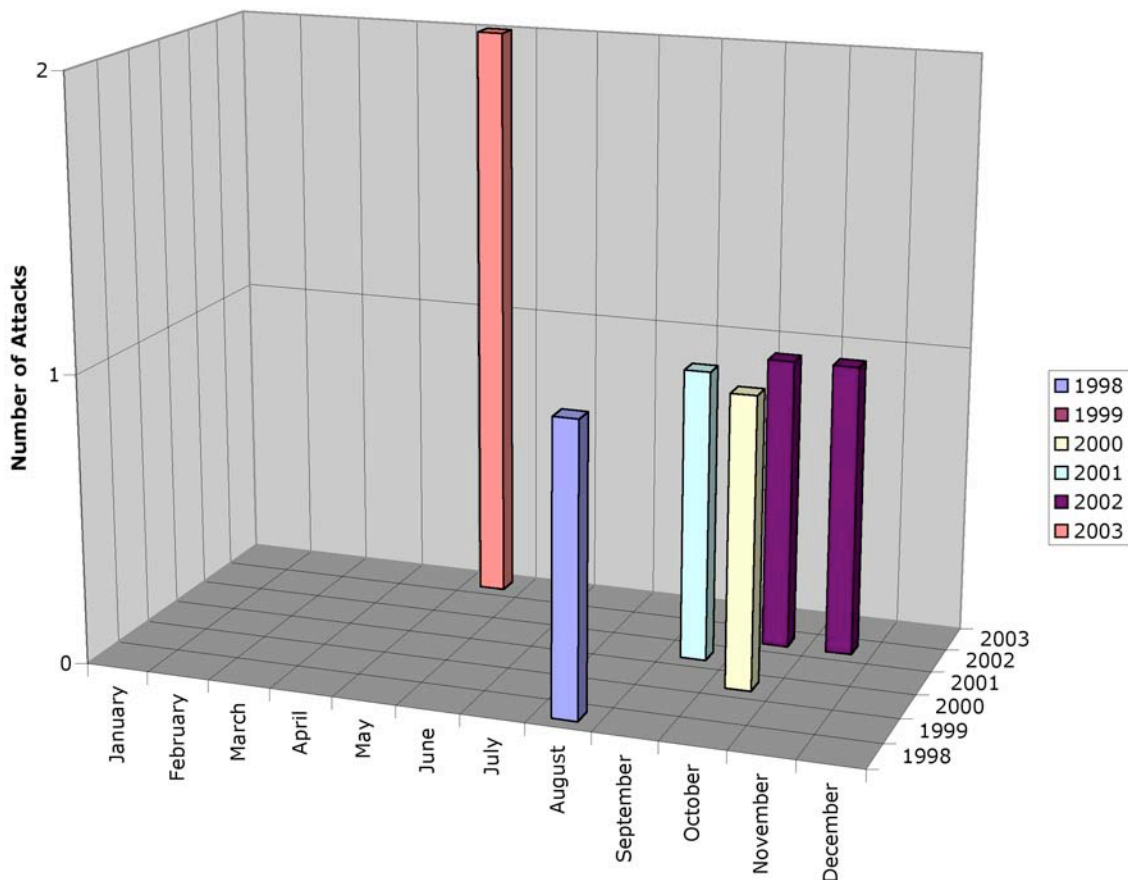
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TIMING OF MAJOR AL-QAEDA OPERATIONS: THE AUG-NOV WINDOW



The above chart reflects the most widely-recognized direct al-Qaeda operations (East Africa, USS Cole, 9-11, Limburg, Mombasa, Riyadh and Casablanca).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An examination of successful major al-Qaeda and affiliate group operations over the course of the past five years indicates a clear trend of these attacks occurring between August and November.

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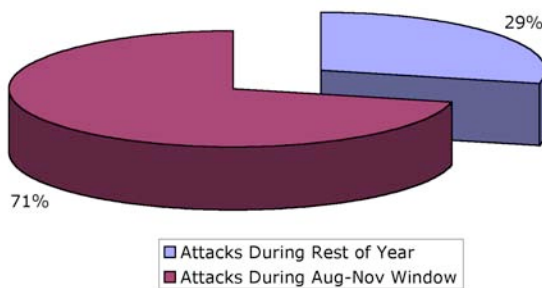
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FINDINGS

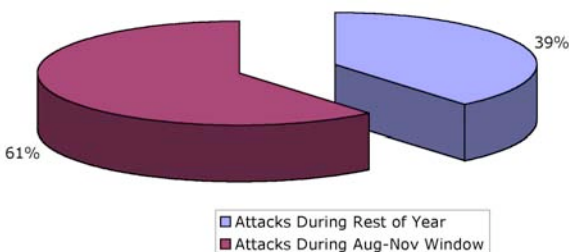
Out of 18 major operations by al-Qaeda and its affiliates, 61% (11 out of 18) have occurred during a 4-month window that runs from August to November. When only counting the largest and most widely-recognized direct al-Qaeda operations (East Africa, USS Cole, 9-11, Limburg, Mombasa, Riyadh and Casablanca), 71% (5 out of 7) have occurred during the August to November window. If you discount the Riyadh and Casablanca attacks of 2003, this number goes to 100%. When taking into consideration the size of this window, it means that 100% or 71% of al-Qaeda's largest operations have all occurred during an annual window which represents only 33% of the year. This trend has held for five years.

METHODOLOGY NOTES

- Started with East Africa Embassy Bombings in 1998
- Simultaneous multiple target attacks are counted as one attack
- Only successful attacks counted



Represents major attacks by al-Qaeda during August-November window.



Represents attacks by al-Qaeda and its affiliates during August-November window.

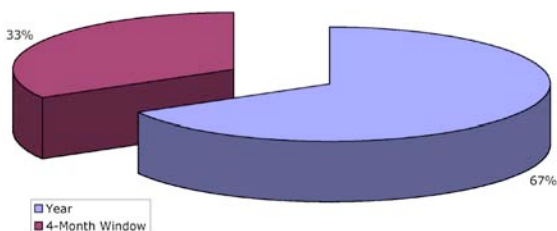
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Represents the size of the window in relation to the rest of the year.

ATTACKS DURING AUGUST-NOVEMBER WINDOW

(4-MONTH WINDOW, 33% OF A YEAR)

TOTAL ATTACKS - 11

- 7 August 1998 - Vehicular Bombings - US Embassies in Kenya & Tanzania - al-Qaeda Operation
- 12 October 2000 - Vehicular Bombing - USS Cole - Aden, Yemen - al-Qaeda Operation
- 11 September 2001 - Piloted Vehicular Assaults - WTC, Pentagon, US Capitol (failed) - US - al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 6 October 2002 - Piloted Vehicular Assault – The Limburg (French oil tanker) – Mukalla, Yemen – al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 8 October 2002 – Shooting – US Marines – Failaka, Kuwait – al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 12 October 2002 – Vehicular Bombing – Sari and Paddy's nightclubs – Bali, Indonesia
- 24 October 2002 – Hostage Taking – Theater – Moscow, Russia
- 28 October 2002 – Assassination, Shooting – Lawrence Foley (US Executive with USAID) – Amman, Jordan
- 28 November 2002 – Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) Attack – Israeli Arkia Flight 582 – Mombasa, Kenya
- 28 November 2002 – Vehicular, Suicide Bombing – Kikambala Paradise Hotel (Israeli-owned) – Mombasa, Kenya

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- 1 August 2003 - Vehicular Bombing - Russian Military Hospital - Mozdok, Russia - Chechen rebels
- 4 August 2003 - Vehicular Bombing - JW Marriott Hotel – Jakarta, Indonesia, - Suspected al-Qaeda affiliates

ATTACKS DURING REST OF YEAR (8-MONTH WINDOW, 67% OF YEAR)

TOTAL ATTACKS - 7

- 23 January 2002 - Kidnapping - Daniel Pearl - Karachi, Pakistan - al-Qaeda Affiliate
- 11 April 2002 - Piloted Vehicular Assault - Synagogue – Djerba, Tunisia
- 8 May 2002 - Vehicular Bombing - French Engineers/Sheraton Hotel - Karachi, Pakistan
- 12 May 2003 – Vehicular, Suicide Bombing – Chechen Nadterechnyy District administration building – Znamenskoye, Chechnya
- 13 May 2003 – Vehicular, Suicide Bombing – Jedawal Compound – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 13 May 2003 – Vehicular Bombing – al-Hamra Compound – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 13 May 2003 – Vehicular, Suicide Bombing – Cordoval Compound – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – al-Qaeda claimed responsibility
- 13 May 2003 – Bombing – Saudi Maintenance Company (Siyanco) – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 14 May 2003 – Assassination, Suicide Bombing – Chechen Administration leader Akhmad Kadyrov – Iliskhan-Yurt, Chechnya
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing – Restaurant (Israeli ownership) – Casablanca, Morocco
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing – Spain House (Spanish social club/restaurant) – Casablanca, Morocco
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing/Vehicular Bombing (unconfirmed) – Israeli Alliance Circle Club – Casablanca, Morocco
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing – Farah Maghreb Hotel – Casablanca, Morocco
- 16 May 2003 – Suicide Bombing – Jewish Cemetery – Casablanca, Morocco

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SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC AL-QAEDA COMMUNICATIONS

The below findings are based on information contained in "The al-Qaeda Threat: An Analytical Guide to al-Qaeda's Tactics & Targets" (ISBN 0966543734) by Ben Venzke and Aimee Ibrahim. You can find more information on the book by going to <http://www.intelcenter.com/alqaedathreat/>. Additional data was incorporated from "The al-Qaeda Messaging/Attack Timeline v1.1".

The following counts are not comprehensive but serve as a good baseline for public communications by al-Qaeda and its core front organizations. Internal group messages and training material were not included. All of those communications, be they audio, video or written, which the group has a reasonable expectation will become public, were included. The full text of the references, as well as others can be found in "The al-Qaeda Threat".

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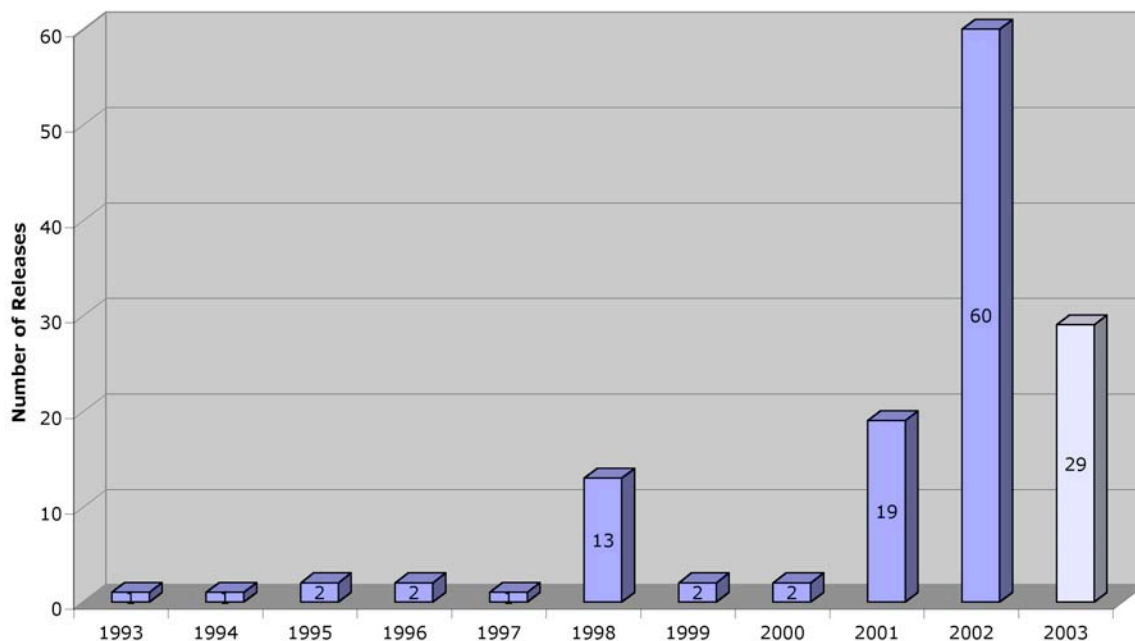


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NUMBER OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS BY YEAR

(includes articles, videos, audio tapes, interviews, etc.)

(does not include al-Qaeda training material or internal material)



The above chart represents the number of public communications by al-Qaeda per year. The trend of almost constant communications since 2001 is continuing today. Around the September 2002 time frame the group restructured its media efforts and became even more prolific in its release of material. In addition, there appears to be greater coordination in focusing on common themes across a variety of different release methods and speakers. During the last quarter of 2002, the focus was on the targeting of US allies. This theme coincided with a series of attacks on US allies. During the end of the 4th quarter of 2002 and carrying through into the 1st quarter of 2003, the focus shifted to the unity of Muslims in the jihadi effort and organizing their efforts against the US and its allies.

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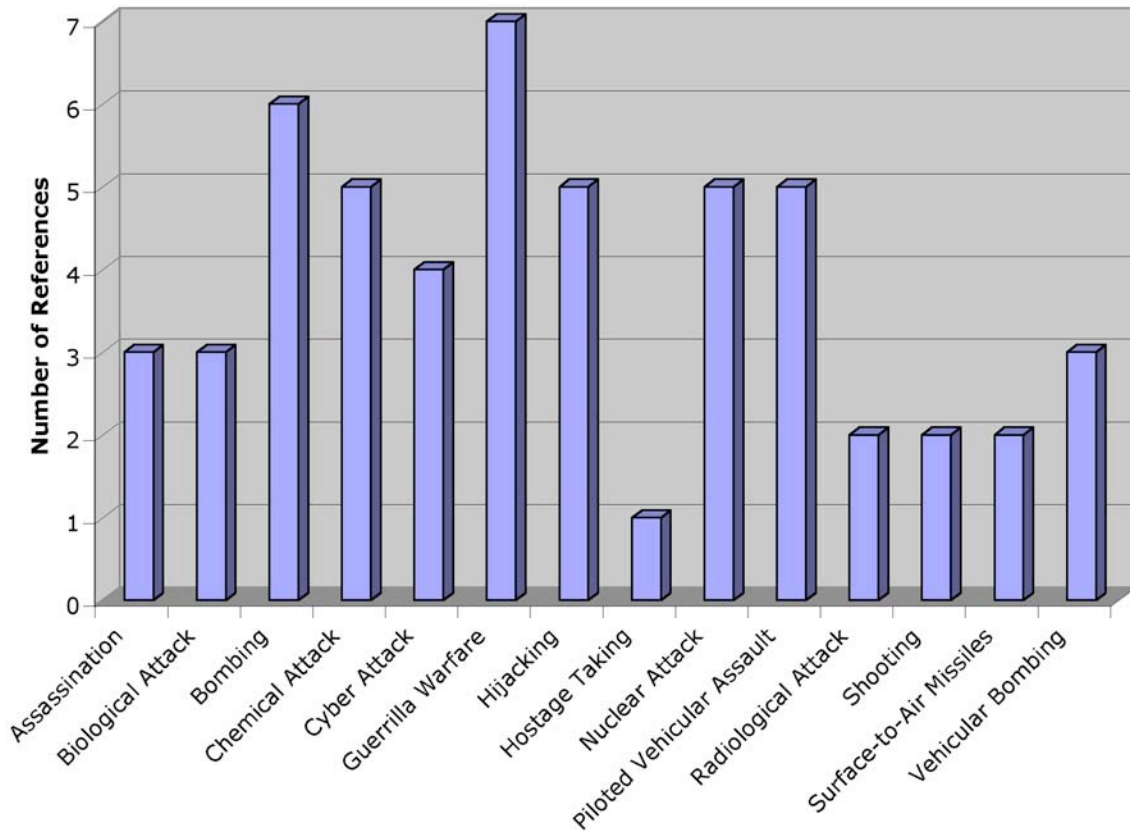


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NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY TACTIC CLASS

(includes articles, videos, audio tapes, interviews, etc.)

(does not include al-Qaeda training material or internal material)



This chart represents references by al-Qaeda in its communications between 1993-2002 to various tactics. These numbers are not representative of threats to execute attacks utilizing these methods, although this is the case in some instances, but rather, any reference to the tactic by al-Qaeda in a public communication. In cases such as chemical, biological and nuclear, the numbers are skewed by the tendency of media interviewers to ask questions in these areas. In the case of guerrilla warfare, this is not

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the reason and the group has demonstrated a tendency to regularly refer to the benefits of this type of fighting. While these numbers are of note and can be factored into assessments, they are not a good sole indicator of the likelihood that the group will use one tactic over another.

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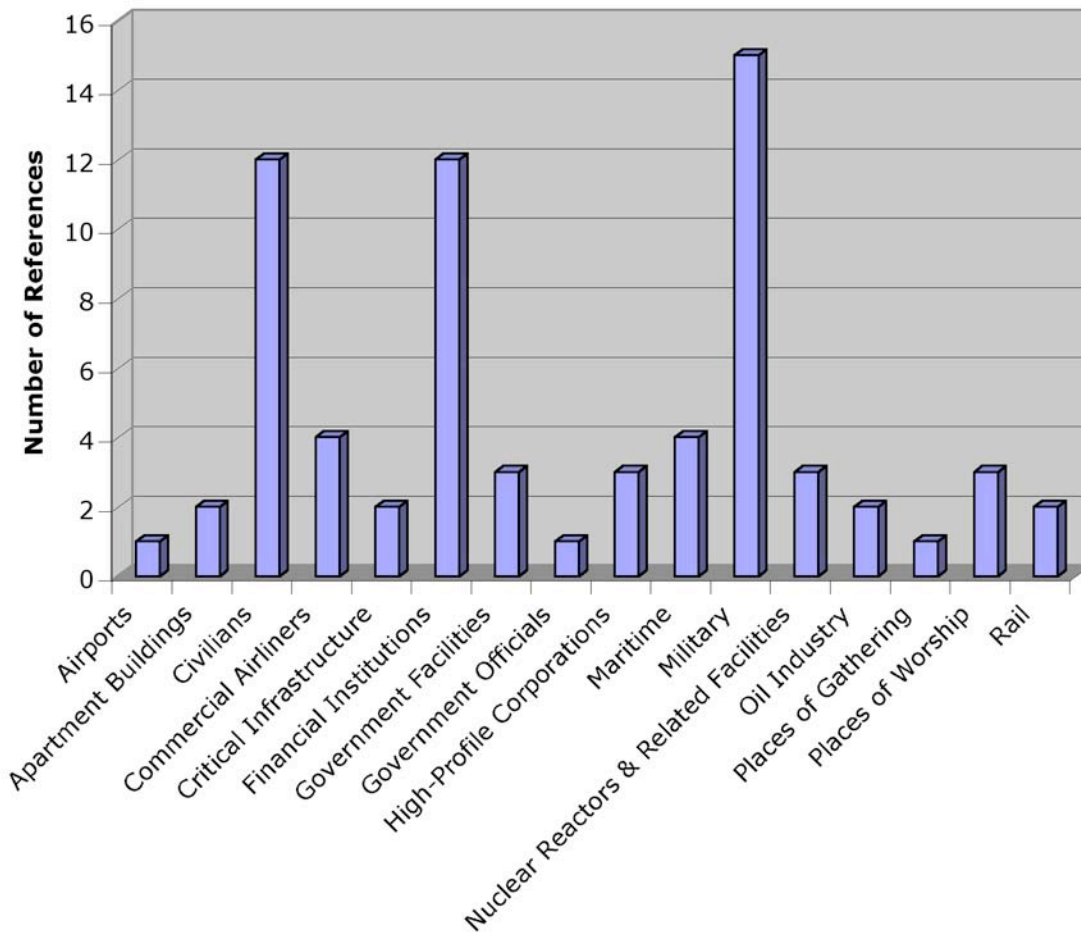


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NUMBER OF REFERENCES BY TARGET CLASS

(includes articles, videos, audio tapes, interviews, etc.)

(does not include al-Qaeda training material or internal material)



This chart represents references by al-Qaeda in its communications between 1993-2002 to various target classes. The majority of these instances refer to actual threats by al-Qaeda against a specific target class. However, there are instances where the reference

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was in connection to a past attack and was not a clear, direct threat. The reference counts clearly emphasize al-Qaeda's preoccupation with both financial and military targets. The group has also spent considerable time at the urging of media interviewers and on its own initiative addressing the targeting of civilians.

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