

Pages 1 through 32 redacted for the following reasons:

National Intelligence Council (NIC)

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Multi-National Force - Iraq
Combined Intelligence Operations Center

CIOC INFORMATION PAPER

5 March 2006

(U) SUBJECT: Nahrwan Civilian Murder Surge

~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ *Summary: The purpose of this paper is to analyze the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan since the 22 February Golden Mosque attack. This paper examines the pattern of attacks and likely responsibility for the surge. This product draws on*
1.4c *and open-source reporting.*

(U) Key Findings:

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ AQI, or associated elements, are most likely responsible for the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan since the 22 February Golden Mosque bombing; however, there is no intelligence reporting conclusively linking them to these attacks.
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ One or two small groups may be responsible for the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan, because of the close proximity of the attacks, their concurrence, and the similar TTPs.
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ While AQI-associated tribal elements may be playing a role in these attacks, the attacks are probably part of AQI's broader anti-Shi'a strategy to stoke civil war.

~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ **AQI likely responsible for Nahrwan Surge:** AQI, or associated elements, are most likely responsible for the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan, since 22 February Golden Mosque bombing; however, there is no intelligence reporting conclusively linking them to these attacks. Approximately 100 bodies have been discovered, while reports of additional discoveries continue to emerge. The majority of these bodies are assessed to be Shi'a. AQI has historically targeted Shi'a civilians and previously operated in the vicinity of Nahrwan. The Mujahidin Shura Council (MSC), including AQI, also claimed a 25 February attack, which matches a discovery of bodies and a burnt out vehicle near Baqubah; this matches the TTPs for four other attacks in the vicinity of Nahrwan. Additionally, the 12 bodies in the vicinity of Baqubah were located near Route Detroit; three of the other discoveries of bodies occurred further South near Route Detroit.

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ The MSC, which includes AQI, claimed it had killed 11 Badr Corps members on 25 February 06 near Baqubah. Iraqi Police found 12 bodies identified as Shi'a, near Baqubah on 25 February 06.

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- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ AQI members relocated to Diyala Province from Ramadi to execute attacks, according to December 05 1.4c
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ There is sensitive reporting that AQI is currently conducting anti-Shi'a civilian targeting in the aftermath of the Golden Mosque attack but is concealing these operations to avoid negative publicity.

~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ **One or two groups possibly responsible for surge:** One or two small groups may be responsible for the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan, because of the close proximity of the attacks, their concurrence, and the similar TTPs. (See: Figure 1: Distribution of Attacks)

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ March 06 unit reporting suggests that approximately 40 individuals using 10 cars were responsible for the 02 March attack on the Nahrwan power plant.

(U) Figure 1: Distribution of attacks

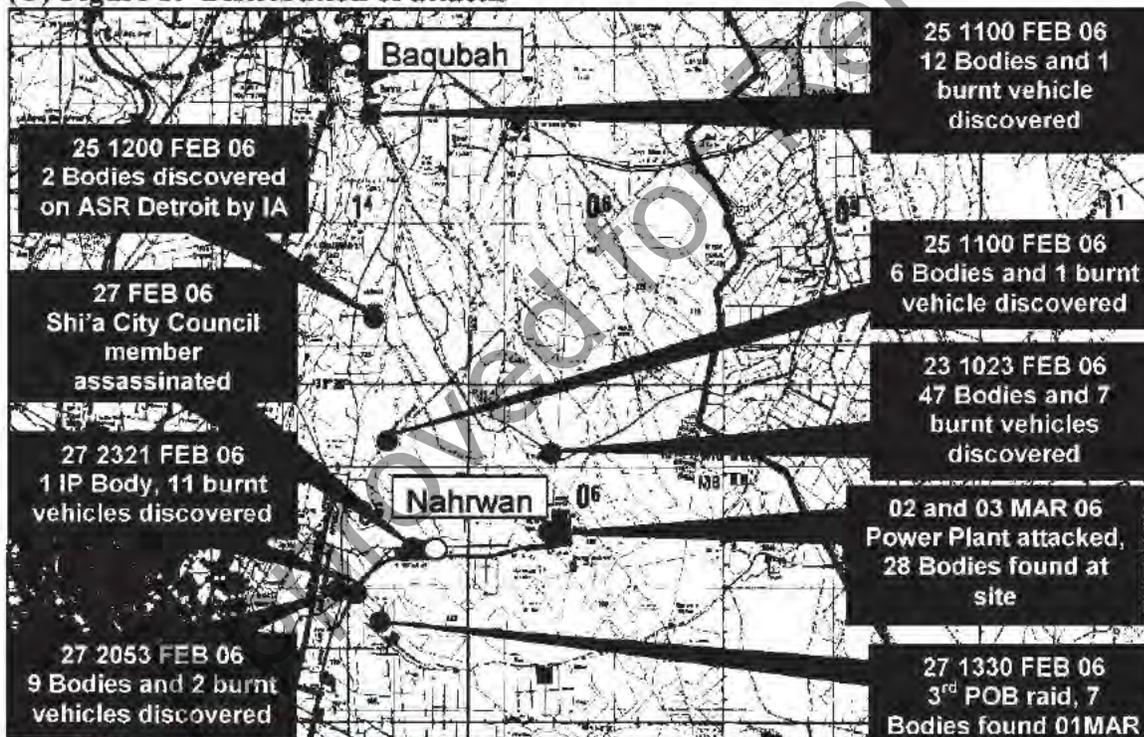


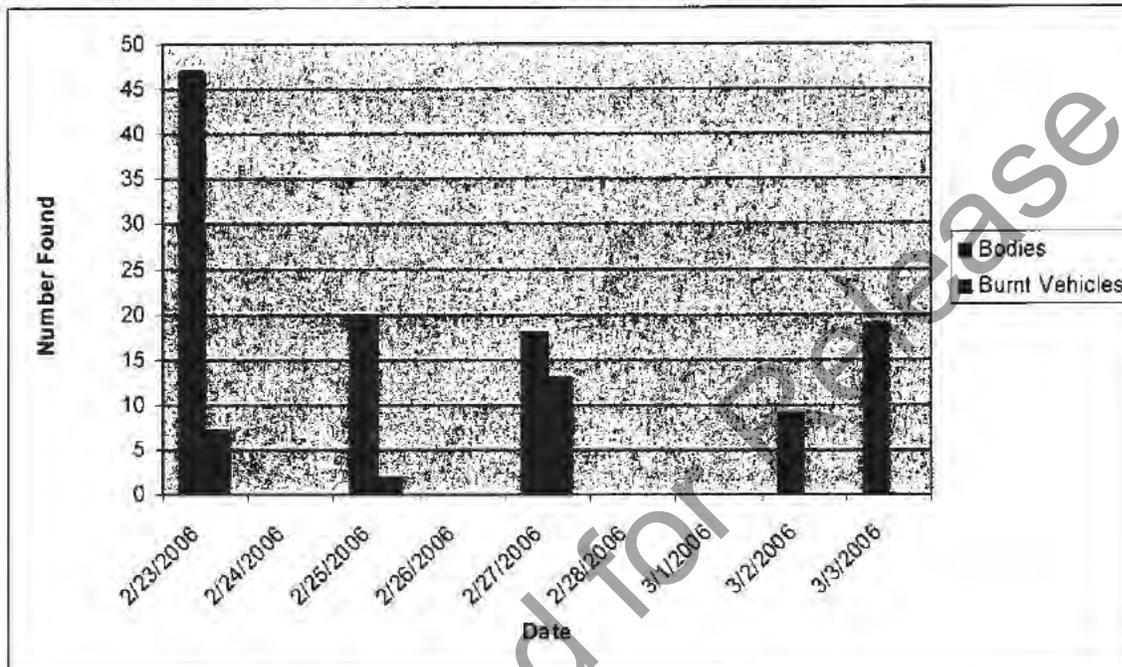
Figure: ~~S//REL TO USA, MCFI~~

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~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ **Attack Pattern:** The number of attacks has declined since 22 February Golden Mosque bombing, but casualties have remained high, (See: Graph 1: Nahrwan casualty numbers) The Nahrwan attack surge overlaps with the 28 February-1 March surge in SVEST/VBIED/IED attacks against Shi'a civilian targets in Baghdad, which we assess was also carried out by AQI.

~~(U)~~ **Graph 1: ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ Nahrwan casualty numbers**



Graph: ~~S//REL TO USA, MCFI~~

~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ **AQI may have had help:** It is unlikely the Nahrwan murder surge was carried out by Iraqi Sunni Rejectionists or Baathist groups. The Naqshabandi group has operated in this area, but has primarily attacked Coalition targets, and has no history of large scale attacks on civilian targets. Even post-Samarra Mosque attack, it is unlikely they would completely change their targeting strategy. The Naqshabandi group has reportedly cooperated with AQI in the past and may have assisted AQI in conducting some of the attacks against Iraqi Army targets in Nahrwan. AQI or associated elements were likely solely responsible for the incidents involving the mass murder of civilians

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ According to April 05 1.4c an insurgent opted to join the Naqshabandi group because he objected to slaying Muslims.
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, MCFI)~~ Naqshabandi fighters in the Kirkuk-Hawijah region were organized into a sniper group, who targeted Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces; and an IED and Mortar group, who targeted infrastructure and Coalition bases.

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~~(S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR)~~ Tribal elements are unlikely primarily responsible for the Nahrwan murder surge, as mass civilian killings are out of character with tribal behavior in Iraq. However, some local tribal elements reportedly share ideology or have links to AQI and may have provided support to AQI operations in the area.

- ~~(S//REL TO USA, AUS, GBR)~~ March unit reporting suggests members from the Mujema tribe had connections to AQI and were responsible for killing 12 people near Baqubah on 25 February. The attacks were allegedly aimed to create the impression of sectarian violence.
- ~~(S//REL TO USA, AUS, GBR)~~ The Benizad tribe is allegedly Takfiri and located North of Nahrwan, according to March 06 unit reporting.

~~(S//REL TO USA, IRQ, MCFI)~~ **Conclusion: AQI, or associated elements, were most likely responsible for the surge in civilian murders in Nahrwan. The attacks may be part of AQI's broader anti-Shi'a strategy in the wake of the 22 February Golden Mosque bombing to stoke civil war. There is no intelligence, however, that the Nahrwan attacks and the Golden Mosque bombing are part of an orchestrated campaign.**

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(U) Sources: [redacted b 3, 50 USC 3024(i)]
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