



Intelligence Fusion Brief



04 APR 2007

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION IS ~~SECRET//REL TO USA, ACQU//MR~~

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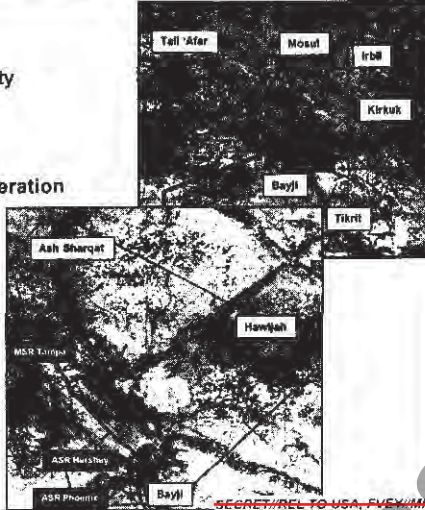
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Key Take Aways

Za'ab Triangle

- Hotspot for Sunni Extremist Activity
 - Limited CF presence
 - Corrupt ISF
 - Rough Terrain
- Sunni Extremist coexistence/cooperation
 - Sunni Terrorists & Foreign Fighters
 - Sunni Rejectionists
 - Former Regime Elements
 - Tribal Elements
- Sunni Extremist logistics/C2 node
 - Staging point into key cities
 - Sanctuary between attacks
- Sunni Extremist hideout
 - Movement away from CF/ISF Operations
 - Increasing activity



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The Za'ab Triangle is a conceptual area in MND-North, with the vertices formed by Ash Sharqat to the north, Bayji to the south and Hawijah to the east. Insurgents have migrated to this area in order to plan and conduct operations, primarily conducted outside of the Triangle in cities such as Mosul, Kirkuk, Tikrit and BAGHDAD(?). Compared to other areas in the north, there is a limited CF/ISF presence here – allowing a higher degree of operational success to the insurgent groups, and providing increased freedom of movement and a relatively safe “hide out. The cities of Bayji and Ash Shaqrqat are part of the Salah Ad Din province, while Hawija is part of the At Tamim, or Kirkuk, province. Multiple insurgent groups continue to use the area to plan operations, cache weapons, and build both IEDs and VBIEDs.

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Sir,

AQI and subordinate groups TWJ and JTJ, not depicted on this map, maintain an operational presence throughout the entire Za'ab region.

AAS area of operation covers heart of Za'ab Triangle

New Ba'ath Party primarily operates in southern portion of Triangle

1920s Rev. Brigade presence runs the length of Za'ab Triangle to the west

Threat Groups maintain local national, tribal support

Good relations are in part due to the fact that use of the area is not exclusive – One group does not dominate the region

Although these groups operate on a local/tactical level within Za'ab region, operational, and as organizations, there is still inter-organizational fighting

Tribal relationships are so cohesive because these groups are ingrained within the tribes – many of the respective organizations' constituents belong to local tribes

However, limited reporting cites conflict between AQI subordinate TWJ as attacking NBEP elements in a campaign designed to absorb Sunni extremist organizations within the region. (We have the reports)

Use of early warning systems, IED nets in order to mitigate intrusion and accelerate evasion

Push-to-talk; use of IEDs as safety nets around key hubs

Groups utilize dirt roads connecting Sharqat and Hawija for movement of personnel to safe houses and C2 nodes

Highways 3 and 1 facilitate movement to conduct operations in Kirkuk, Tikrit, Irbil and Mosul and Bayji