INSURGENT GROUPS IN AL-ANBAR PROVINCE

S/NF: 1920 Revolution Brigades (KTI-Kata’ib Thawrat al Ishreen)—Type: FRE. 
Approximate founding date: June 2003. Goal: to expel US forces from Iraq and create an 
Islamic state. Sheik Mohammad al Kubaysi (cousin of Dr. Ahmed Kubaysi) is considered to be the group’s overall leader, financier, and facilitator. Dr. Harith al Dari is the group’s spiritual leader. Hatim al-Zawba’i was identified by the Iraqi Defense Ministry as one of the group’s commanders. He was arrested on January 2, 2005. The group had a substantial presence in Ramadi and Fallujah in 2004 and was a member of both umbrella organizations: FMS and RSC.

S/NF: Abd al-Rahman al Naqshbandi Network (ARNN)—Type SRE. Approximate founding date: Early 2004. Al Naqshbandi was a Salafist leader who waged attacks against the coalition throughout al-Anbar. His organization was comprised of approximately 1,000 fighters, most of whom were former Iraqi soldiers and intelligence officials who have converted to Salafism after Saddam’s downfall. Adil al-Hadithi, an associate of AMS leader Harith al-Dhari, was the head of ARNN’s military wing and played a key role in planning and organizing Operation Earthquake (a joint FRE/FRL attack on coalition forces in December 2003), which was never executed. The organization subsequently joined the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura in 2004 under the leadership of Sheikh Jamal Nazzal.

U: Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Fundamentalist Brigades (Alias: Salafist Brigades of Abu Bakr Al Siddiq)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: September 2004. No terrorist incidents have been attributed to the group since October 2004, although its members are believed to be active in the Iraqi insurgency.


S/NF: Ala Alafa’a Organization (AAO)—Type: FRE Approximate founding date: Spring/Summer 2003. This group was created by General Halaf La’al Russi in opposition to coalition forces for both, nationalist and religious reasons. It engaged in intimidation of Iraqis cooperating with the Coalition, as well as criminal activities in Hawijah (Diyala Province), Ramadi, and Kirkuk. Its ideology was Ba’athist, although it opposed Saddam Hussein and his immediate family.

1 Smart Sheet. 1920 Revolution Brigade. Location: Amsys\shareddocs\MCA\2003 & 2004\CD57 Devlin Report\Smart Sheets.
2 Terrorism Knowledge Base
3 CJSOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
4 Chapter 4, page 3.
5 Chapter 4, pages 11-12.
6 CJSOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
7 Terrorism Knowledge Base
8 Chapter 4, page 4.
9 Chapter 3, page 24.

S/NF: Al-Anbar Forces (AAF) — Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring/Summer 2003. The group operated largely in Ramadi and Fallujah and recruited as many as 3,000 former members of the military, the Ba’ath Party, and Fedayeen. It used religious rhetoric for recruitment purposes, as well as to justify its activities, although the organization lacked a comprehensive religious or political agenda.¹⁰

U: Al-Bara bin Malek Brigades — Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: June 2005. A subsidiary group of AMZ’s network that specializes in suicide attacks against Coalition and Iraqi targets and is allegedly responsible for the Amman, Jordan hotel bombings in November of 2005. It is led by Abu Doujana al-Ansari.¹¹


S/NF: Al-Shabani Group (ASG) — Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2004. This Khalidiyah-based, Syrian-financed organization was led by Ahmad Ibrahim Khalif al-Shabani, an explosives expert.¹³

S/NF: Anbar Mujahideen Brigade (AMB) — Type: Approximate founding date:

U: Ansar al-Din (AD-Supporters of Islam) — Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: April 8, 2004. Became known after it claimed responsibility for kidnapping 2 humanitarian aid workers, who were subsequently released. This group is not associated with any other incidents, although its members are probably still active in the Iraqi insurgency.¹⁴

U: Ansar al-Islam (AI-Supporters of Islam) — Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: June 2001. The group came into existence as a result of the merger between Jund al-Islam and Mullah Krekar’s organization in the northern Kurdish region of Iraq. Its original goal was to create a Kurdish theocracy under sharia law. Mullah Krekar, who is believed to be the organization’s leader, was arrested in Norway in October of 2004, where he has been living in exile. The group is believed to have received financial and logistical support from al-Qaeda and aims to expel US forces from Iraq and create an Islamic state.¹⁵

U: Ansar al-Jihad (AJ-Supporters of Jihad) — Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: November 2004. This group became known after kidnapping a number of relatives of

¹⁰ Chapter 3, page 25.
¹¹ Terrorism Knowledge Base
¹² CJSTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY
¹³ Chapter 4, page 7.
¹⁴ Terrorism Knowledge Base
¹⁵ Terrorism Knowledge Base
Interim Iraqi Prime Minister, Ayad Allawi, who were subsequently released. It has issued a statement in February 2005 threatening an escalation of attacks against Iraqi and coalition troops, but has not been heard from since.16

S/NF: Ansar al-Sunnah (AS-Followers of the Tradition)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: November 2003. Comprised of former AI members, al Qaeda foreign fighters, Afghans, and Iraqi Sunnis aiming to expel the Coalition and establish an Islamic state in Iraq. It was established as a result of Abdullah al-Shafi’i’s (AI’s military chief) reorganization that aimed to unite other SRE groups under the AI umbrella.17 AS gained notoriety for kidnapping of 2 Nepalese contractors and beheading an Iraqi officer.18 In 2004, it became a member of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura under the leadership of Abu Abdallah al-Hassan bin Mahmud and played a role in the ensuing fighting in Fallujah.19

U: Ansar al-Tawhid wa al-Sunna Brigade (ATSB)—Type: SRE Approximate founding date: 2006. Regarded as a faction of the Sunni Extremist Mujahideen Brigades, responsible for only one attack in January 2006, involving the kidnapping of 2 German engineers, who were released presumably after a ransom was paid.20

S/NF: Armed Islamic Group of al Qaeda-Fallujah Branch (AIGAQ-FB)—Type: SRE Approximate founding date: 2004. This FMS-member organization was led by Abu Iyad, an Afghan war veteran.21


U: Fallujah Mujahideen—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. This group is tied to AMZ and has operated exclusively in Fallujah, focusing mainly on kidnappings of foreigners. The organization is led by a Saudi named Abu Abdullah.24

S/NF: Fallujah Mujahideen Shura (FMS)—Type: SRE Approximate founding date: 2004. An umbrella organization that has encompassed numerous insurgent groups in an effort to improve coordination of the insurgency. It was led by Sheik Abdallah al-Janabi.

S/NF: Fallujah Protective Army (FPA)—Type: FRE Approximate founding date: 2004. An FMS-member group, led by an FRE general with an estimated 1,100 members.25

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16 Terrorism Knowledge Base
17 Chapter 3, pages 31-32.
18 Terrorism Knowledge Base
19 CJTFAP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
20 Terrorism Knowledge Base
21 CJTFAP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
22 CJTFAP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY
23 Chapter 4, page 4.
24 Terrorism Knowledge Base
S/NF: Fallujah Resistance Brigade—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. Served as an umbrella organization for SAYB, KTI, and JBIAAT. 26

S/NF: Fedayeen Mujahideen—Type: Approximate founding date:

S/NF: Ferka et Hadi Network (FeH)—Type: FRL. Approximate founding date: End of 2003. A Saqlawiyah-based organization founded by Khamis Sirhan, former Ba’ath Party chairman in Karbala who facilitated attacks against coalition forces for numerous FRL, FRE, and SRE groups, although his organization fought under the banner of Hizb al-Awda (HA)—the main FRL group. Sirhan was captured by coalition forces on January 8, 2004, after which his network was absorbed by other FREs, which in turn led to the splintering and dissolution of HA. Consequently, FRLs lost their foothold in the insurgency and were ultimately taken over by various SRE and FRE organizations. 27

S/NF: Green Battalion (GB)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. Member organization of the Ramadi Shura Council. 28

S/NF: Hamza Battallion (HB-A.K.A. Hassan al-Mahlawi Organization)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: October 2004. This organization was comprised of members of the Abu Mahal tribe and became a member of FMS in 2004. 29


S/NF: Hasnah’s Sons (HS)—Type: Criminal. Approximate founding date: 2004. A Ramadi-based criminal group that has provided the insurgents with weapons, tools, etc. 31

S/NF: Hawra Network (HN)—Type: Approximate founding date:

S/NF: Hizb al-Awda (HA—“The Party of Return”—Type: FRL. Approximate founding date: Spring 2003. This was one of the most important FRL groups in 2003, led by some of Saddam’s inner circle such as Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri and Sabawi Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti. Members of the organization included former al-Quds Army soldiers, former Fedayeen, and Baathists, most of whom found themselves unemployed after the regime’s collapse. By August 2003, membership was estimated at 500-600. The group’s primary recruiters and couriers were women and the main hub of the organization was Fallujah. 32

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26 Insurgency Groups_Final_18 Nov 04 (b)(3), (b)(6) Edit’s.ppt
27 Chapter 4, page 3.
28 Chapter 4, page 4.
29 CJSTTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY
30 CJSTTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY
31 Insurgency Groups_Final_18 Nov 04 (b)(3), (b)(6) Edit’s.ppt
32 Chapter 3, pages 26-27.
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN

S/NF: Imam al-Mujahideen Brigades—Type: Shi'a militant group. Approximate founding date: 2004. It served as an umbrella organization for 5 smaller groups, totaling an estimated 7,000 fighters countrywide.33

U: Imam Hussein Brigade—Type: Shi’a militant group. Approximate founding date: July 31, 2005. This group has emerged after claiming responsibility for three coordinated attacks against the British in Basra and against the Iraqi National Congress (INC) south of Baghdad.34


S/NF: Islamic Anger Brigades/Islamic Rage Brigades (IAB/IRB)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. Member organization of FMS37 with ties to FRB.38

S/NF: Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI- Jaysh al-Islami fi al-Iraq)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: July-2004.39 This group was established under the umbrella of the Islamic Jihad Brigades (IJB).40 Despite its stated goal of expelling US forces and creating a religious state in Iraq based on Shari'a law,41 its membership has been comprised of mostly nationalists, rather than religious extremists and it in turn served as an umbrella organization for other local and regional FRE groups, such as the Khaled bin Walid Corps (KWBC) and the Mujahideen Brigades (MB).42 It initially formed as a loose confederation of cells, consisting of foreign fighters and indigenous Iraqis, including former intelligence, military, and security officers, but rifts between the indigenous and foreign members of the group developed as a result of disagreements over strategy and long-term goals.43 The organization and its subsidiaries became members of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura44 and have been known to cooperate closely with AMZ's organization, as well as with Ansar al'Sunnah.45

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39 Terrorism Knowledge Base
40 Insurgency Groups_Final_18 Nov 04 (b3)(o6) Edit's.ppt
42 Chapter 4, page 13.
44 CJSOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET//NOFORN
U: Islamic Jihad Brigades (IJB)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2003. Emerged in the aftermath of the US invasion and responsible for kidnapping and killing 2 US construction company employees in December 2004. It also served as an umbrella organization for the Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) and cooperated closely with AMZ. It was led by former high ranking intelligence officers and Republican Guard officials.

U: Islamic Resistance Battalions (IRB)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: September 2004. The organization became known publicly after kidnapping a Turkish man working for a Kuwaiti construction company on September 4, 2004. The company agreed to cease its operations in Iraq in exchange for the release of the hostage. Subsequently, on January 18, 2005 8 Chinese contractors were kidnapped and released after China agreed not to send its nationals to Iraq. The IRB was known to be a member of FMS and its leadership was comprised of former high ranking IIS and RG officers who forged a close alliance with JTJ.

S/NF: Islamic Response Movement (IRM)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: June 27, 2004. Formed as a subsidiary of KTI (1920 Revolution Brigades) and operated as its security wing. It was also a member of FMS.

U: Jama’at Al-Tawhid Wa’al Jihad (JTJ)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: June 2003. The group began targeting coalition forces and Iraqis who were perceived to be collaborators, with the aim of establishing a Muslim state in Iraq.

S/NF: Jaysh Mohammed (JM—Army of Mohammed)—Type: FRL/FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2003. Originally formed by Saddam’s half brother, Sabawi Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, in an effort to drive coalition forces out of Iraq. The religious name was chosen to appeal to religiously-driven individuals, while concealing the intentions of the group’s leaders and founders. The organization gradually grew from 500 former Saddam Fedayeen and 75-100 Islamists to as many as 1,000 members, many of whom received specialized training in explosives and small arms from a former general, resulting in numerous attacks on coalition forces, including the downing of two US helicopters and sabotaging oil pipelines. JM was based out of mosques in Fallujah, Ramadi, and Samarra and has adapted a cellular structure with a council of seven amirs reporting to an unidentified sheikh in Baghdad. It became a prominent member of the RSC and FMS.

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52 Insurgency Groups_Final_18 Nov 04 (b)(3), (b)(6) Edit's, ppt
53 CJSTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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U: Jaysh al-Mujahideen (Mujahideen Army)—Type: SRE/FRE. Approximate founding date: November 2004. This group is known for kidnapping multiple foreign and Iraqi contractors. One of its lieutenants and propaganda masters, Ahmad Ni’mah Kudayyir Abbas (A.K.A. Abu Shihab), was captured in October 2005.57

S/NF: Jihad Brigades of Imam Ali bin Abi Taleb (JBIAAT)—Type: Shi’a militant organization. Approximate founding date: 2004. A Shi’a militant organization affiliated with Moqtada al-Sadr, which served on the FMS to support the insurgency. 58

U: Kata’ib al-Tha’r al-Iraqi (KTI-Aliases: Iraqi Revenge Brigades; Al-Isawi Martyr Brigade; Brigades of Vengeance; Iraqi Vengeance Brigades)—Type: Approximate founding date: January 2005. Became known for its kidnapping of Minas Ibrahim al-Yusufi, leader of the Iraqi Democratic Christian Party, in January 2005. He was subsequently released in March. The motives of the group seem to be criminal, not religious.59

S/NF: Katibat al-Faruq (KAF)—Type: SRE (foreign fighters). Approximate founding date: Late 2003. Led by Sadiq Arif al-Karkhi, a former Iraqi soldier who embraced Islamism, along with other FREs. The group was infiltrated by both, FRL and FRE agents who used religious rhetoric to encourage anti-coalition strikes. Despite receiving $23,000 from Taha Yassin Ramadan, former Iraqi Vice President, the leaders of KAF had no loyalty to former regime officials.60

S/NF: Khaled bin Walid Corps (KBWC)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2004. Formed as a subsidiary of IAI and became a member of FMS. 61

S/NF: Lajnat al-Iman (LI)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. Member organization of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.62

U: Liwa al-Islam (LI-Banner of Islam)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2006. This group was responsible for 1 incident involving the kidnapping of a UAE diplomat in May 2006. He was subsequently released unharmed.63

S/NF: Majmuat Abu Ulayan (MAU)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. This FMS-member organization was led by Abu Ulayan.64

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60 Chapter 3, page 30.
61 CJSOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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S/NF: Martyr Khattab Brigade (MKB)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* This FMS-member organization was established as a subsidiary of Ta’if al-Mansura (TAM) and comprised of foreign fighters.\(^{65}\)

S/NF: Mohammadi Jihad Brigades (MJB)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* Member organization of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.\(^{66}\)

S/NF: Mohammed Messenger of God’s Forces (MMGF)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* Member organization of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.\(^{67}\)

S/NF: Mujahideen Brigades (MB)—*Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2004.* Formed as a subsidiary of IAI and became a member of FMS.\(^{68}\)

S/NF: Mujahideen Front (MF)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* One of the member organizations of the FMS.\(^{69}\)

**U:** Mujahideen Shura Council (MSC)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2005.* An umbrella organization of SRE groups, including AMZ’s network, which first emerged in the spring of 2005. The purpose of the organization is to manage the struggle for liberation of Iraq.\(^{70}\)

S/NF: Munadhamat Mujahideen al Fallujah (MMAF)—*Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* One of the member organizations of the FMS, led by Sheikh Abdullah al Janabi.\(^{71}\)

S/NF: National Front for the Liberation of Iraq (NFLI)—*Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.* One of the member organizations of the FMS, led by both, secular and religious elements.\(^{72}\)

S/NF: Omar al-Mukhtar (OAM)—*Type: SRE/Criminal. Approximate founding date: 2004.* This group was led by Ghanem Mohowsh and operated in al-Qaim, Anah, Rawah, Haditha, and Muhammadi.\(^{73}\)

S/NF: Ramadi Shura Council (RSC)—*Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2004.* Formed as an informal coordinating body for insurgents based in the Ramadi area, as well as throughout Al-Anbar. The organization was dominated by Dr. Mahmoud Latif and Mohammed Daham.\(^{74}\)

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\(^{73}\) Chapter 4, page 5.

\(^{74}\) Chapter 4, page 4.
S/NF: Saddam Mujahideen (SM)—Type: FRL. Approximate founding date: Spring 2003. This small group was led by a local Fallujah demagogue and supporter of Saddam Hussein, Jalil al-Nur, who placed his agents in a crowd of peaceful protesters during a demonstration at a school house and provoked a violent confrontation by shooting at coalition troops, forcing them to return fire, which resulted in 15 deaths and 85 injuries.75

S/NF: Salafi Jihad (SJ)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2003. Mahdi Sumaydi, the self-proclaimed “Amir al-Salafi,” formed this organization to fight coalition troops after OIF, which eventually led to his capture and detention from January to November, 2004. During this time, the organization’s military leader, Abd al-Jabbar al-Habuth al-Saidi (Abu Rukiya) took over as the group’s leader and formed close alliances with both, JM and AMZ’s network. The latter alliance was facilitated by SIA. SJ had an estimated 3,000 followers in Kirkuk, Baghdad, Mosul, and Fallujah and was able to secure funding from Salafist movements in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Morocco, and Egypt, as well as from al-Qaeda’s Lebanon-based leader, Muhammad Salim and the Secretary General of the Arab Nationalist Movement in Lebanon, Ma’an Bashur.76

S/NF: Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. An Algerian organization associated with al-Qaeda that became a member of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.77

U: Saraya al-Ghadhab al-Islami (SGI-Islamic Rage Brigade)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: May 2004. This group, allegedly connected to AMZ, became known for kidnapping an Iraqi American contractor, whose whereabouts and condition remain unknown.78

S/NF: Saraya al-Jihad (SAJ)—Type: FRL. Approximate founding date: Summer/Fall 2003. Subsidiary organization of Jaysh Mohammed (JM), which was formed by more sincerely religious individuals that began to replace the leadership of JM, resulting in the radicalization of the organization.79 In 2004, SAJ joined the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura under the leadership of Riyadh Matloub (Abu Abdallah).80

S/NF: Saraya al-Mujahideen Brigades (SMB)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004. An FMS member organization.81

S/NF: Sarhid Abdi Sarhid Network (SAS)—Type: FRE. Approximate founding date: Spring/Summer 2003. This organization was named after its leader, Sarhid Abdi Sarhid, a former member of Iraqi Military Intelligence who founded the group with Rukan Razuki

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75 Chapter 3, pages 14-15.
76 Chapter 4, page 11.
77 CJISOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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79 Chapter 3, page 28.
80 CJISOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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Abd al-Ghafar Sulayman al-Nasiri, a former Saddam family bodyguard. Sarhid recruited approximately 750 fellow former regime elements from the military, IIS, and the Saddam Fedayeen, as well as fellow kinsmen from the Zuba tribe.\textsuperscript{82}

\textbf{S/NF: Secret Islamic Army (SIA)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2004.} Founded by Abu Mohammad al-Adnani and served as an umbrella organization to facilitate the alliance between SJ and AMZ.

\textbf{S/NF: Sheik Ahmed Yassin Brigades (SAYB)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.} Founded by members of Palestinian HAMAS who have traveled to Iraq to take part in the insurgency and became members of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.\textsuperscript{83}

\textbf{S/NF: Ta’if al-Mansura (TM)—Type: FRE/SRE. Approximate founding date: Spring 2003.} First emerged as one of the earliest FRE organizations following OIF. It was led by Sheikh Ghanim al-Sabawi who recruited former Ba’athists to avenge the perceived grievances of the Iraqi Sunni community.\textsuperscript{84} As a large number of its leading members embraced Sunni religious extremism, it transformed into an SRE organization, operating as a satellite of Ansar al-Sunnah. It became a member of FMS, along with its foreign fighter wing, Martyr Khattab Brigade (MKB) during 2004.\textsuperscript{85}

\textbf{U:} The group engaged in kidnappings of foreigners, as well as mortar attacks against the Coalition, Iraqi Government, and Shi’a targets. It’s still considered extremely active, aiming to expel the coalition and create an Islamic state in Iraq.\textsuperscript{86}

\textbf{U: Tanzim Qa’idat al Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (TQJBR-Aliases: Al Qaeda Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers; Tawid and Jihad; JTJ; AQI; AMZ Network)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: October 2003.} Considered the largest and most powerful insurgent group in Iraq, responsible for the greatest number of attacks against coalition and Iraqi troops, as well as Shi’a religious targets.\textsuperscript{87}

\textbf{S/NF: Tanzim al-Qari’ah (TQ)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.} One of the member organizations of FMS, which mainly collaborated with AS and JM.\textsuperscript{88}

\textbf{S/NF: Usud al-Islam al-Mujahideen (UIM)—Type: SRE. Approximate founding date: 2004.} Member organization of the Fallujah Mujahideen Shura.\textsuperscript{89}

\textsuperscript{82} Chapter 3, page 25.
\textsuperscript{83} Chapter 4, page 24.
\textsuperscript{84} Chapter 3, page 24.
\textsuperscript{85} CJSOTF-AP INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY #393 - 29 MAY 2004
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