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Jaish al-Mahdi in Afghanistan Presents a Video of a Joint Operation with al-Qaeda in a Rocket Attack on American Posts in Paktia Province

By SITE Institute

July 12, 2006



A 30:35 minute video presented by the Information Committee of Jaish al-Mahdi (al-Mahdi Army) in Afghanistan, which concerns a joint operation with al-Qaeda in firing rockets at American posts in Paktia province, was recently distributed to password-protected al-Qaeda affiliated forums. The attack is dated February 2006, and the video shows the Mujahideen receiving instructions from their emir, traveling to their battle location amidst snow and trees, setting up the rocket launcher, and launching the projectiles as a helicopter is seen patrolling the area. A report contained with the film states that as a result of the operation, five military cars were set ablaze and "more than a few" American soldiers were killed. In addition, the posts occupied by the enemy were purportedly abandoned due to the strike, and the Mujahideen walk into this base and survey it before they withdraw.

According to chatter on a jihadist forum, Jaish al-Mahdi in Afghanistan is a Sunni group with no affiliation to Shi'ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia in Iraq. It was formed by Abu Abdul Rahman al-Kendi AKA Ahmed Saeed Khadr following the collapse and withdrawal of the Taliban from Afghanistan.

The video and a summary are provided to our Intel Service members.

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