

How to Confront Raiding Special Forces

In October 2012, Al-Qaeda's official media institution, Al-Fajr, which is responsible for the distribution of official publications written by Al-Qaeda affiliates around the world, published an article titled, "How to Confront Raiding Special Forces" by Badr al-Subhi. In the article, the writer discussed ways to deal with Counter-Terrorism Forces, Emergency Forces, Special Forces - or any other group whose mission is to raid secret houses in cities, or factories and military centers in forests and mountains - in order to prevent mujahideen from being killed, injured or taken into captivity.



First, the author emphasized that the mujahideen are working for a lofty goal: the fulfillment of the word of God and the establishment of an Islamic Caliphate. Therefore, the enemies of God should not be feared; indeed they are numerous, they are trained and they have much equipment and means at their disposal, but their hearts are soft and cowardly, as history has shown. They are unable to stand behind their acts of heresy since they also know that hell awaits them in the end. When enemy armies plan raids on houses, the plans themselves show just how afraid they are; however, when one jihad fighter faces dozens and hundreds of enemies in battle, he does so with his head held high.

Currently, military forces have only one method of raiding cities and facilities, and their various raids differ from one another only in the specific details, such as the type of electronic devices used according to the relevant country's degree of technological advancement. The following are the stages of a raid:

1. Set the target: personality, its influence and whereabouts.
2. Gather intelligence information about the area in which the target is located.
3. Determine the precise location of the target and his movements.
4. Determine the appropriate time for action.
5. Surround the area and close off all entrances and exits to the site.
6. Call for surrender using loudspeakers.
7. Move through the stages of the raid towards the target while preparing assistance

forces.

8. At this stage, the raid is carried out as long as there are no signs of resistance; sometimes, if there is strong resistance or doubt in determining the target's whereabouts the place is completely bombed.

The above-mentioned method of operation has many drawbacks. Possible ways to foil plans for a raid include: maneuver; find an opportunity to retreat and evacuate the location; confuse the enemy; force the enemy to change his tactics; change the fighting order from defense to offense; kill as many enemy soldiers as possible.

In order to mount a successful defense, several issues must be addressed: First, do not be complacent: train and be well-prepared for the event, specifically by creating a good contingency plan and practicing it many times upon arrival at a new location; also, be familiar with how to use explosives. In addition, be well-acquainted with the security patrol schedule. It is recommended to dig tunnels to connect several houses, or to connect a relevant house and a hiding place. Communication should be made in a confidential and reliable manner by using modern, secure means that allow for louder voices and the conducting of confidential conversations remotely. Moreover, one should always try to listen in on the conversations of the enemy and of his Intelligence contacts in order to find out about planned raids in advance. Make good use of the element of surprise and take advantage of appropriate opportunities to react, either by attacking, escaping or any other action.

There are several factors that indicate when the enemy is planning to carry out a raid somewhere. First, as the raid approaches, the enemy will be forced to assemble cars and forces in the relevant area; the raid may also involve the use of the helicopters, which are easily noticeable, and the enemy will need to begin assembling weapons from various hiding places. All of these signs hint at an approaching raid and when these signs are discovered you must be prepared for it. In addition, a raid must be planned in advance and the area carefully selected. You must look at it through the eyes of the attacker and try to figure out the best methods of defense, taking into account the enemy's weaknesses: look for a place that will give the mujahideen a strategic advantage during a battle. It is recommended to plant explosive devices in areas leading up to the relevant location through which the enemy is expected to pass if and when a raid is carried out on the building. The

important principle is to cause the enemy to change his tactics: when the enemy is confused and forced to change his plans, he becomes vulnerable and you should use this to your advantage. In addition, the best way to avoid drones, which are used both in spying operations and in attacks, is to use underground tunnels.

In general, when selecting a location for jihadist operations, one must think ahead of a contingency plan in case of a raid. It is recommended to use poor villages without many services or means, since in such places it is easier for the mujahideen to carry out their activities and more difficult for the enemy to spy on them unnoticed. It is also possible to defend against raids in city centers and urban neighborhoods but it requires double the effort.

Another issue that must be addressed is the use of various advanced electronic tools in order to defend against raids. These tools are used by armies and governments, and include advanced communication devices, communication scrambling devices, and remote-controlled explosive devices. The necessary time and effort must be invested in finding the relevant devices in order to achieve the best possible defense. In addition, it is recommended to watch military documentaries as they reveal the tactics used by various armies around the world and can be of great value; one such film is “Enter the Ninja”, an American martial arts film from 1981 that has a lot to offer on the subject.¹

¹ October 10, 2012 <http://www.as-ansar.com/vb>

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