



Reference Aid

(U//FOUO) *Inspire* Magazine at a Glance

29 May 2012

(U//FOUO) Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula's electronic magazine *Inspire* consistently revisits several themes, including training with/use of guns, use of encryption software, construction of explosive devices/materials, and the use of biological and chemical agents. While the two latest editions of *Inspire* also address these topics, they introduce new guidance in addition to previously established recommendations. Readers are still urged to act alone or in small groups, but they are also instructed to seek guidance for target selection, training, and media coverage from the group's "military committee and leadership." Whereas all editions exhort Western-based followers to stay and fight at home, the eighth issue of the magazine rates countries of strategic interest to the United States in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa as higher-priority operational arenas than the United States and Europe for those wishing to travel for *jihad*. The following table provides a reference of the major themes and trends addressed in editions of *Inspire* released thus far.

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Theme/Issue #/ Date Published	#1/Jul 2010	#2/Oct 2010	#3/Nov 2010	#4/Jan 2011	#5/Mar 2011	#6/Jul 2011	#7/Sept 2011	#8/Fall 2011	#9/Winter 2012
Encourages "individual jihad"	X	X		X	X ¹	X	X	X	X
Encourages attacks in the West	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Encourages overseas travel for violent jihad	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Encourages the use of chemical or biological agents		<i>C. botulinum</i> , ricin, cyanide, and a "nerve gas"		Anthrax ²				X ³	
Target suggestions	Individuals involved in "defaming" the Prophet Mohammed and Islam	Government employees in Washington, DC	Aviation industry	Mumbai-style attack near the White House	Army recruiting centers, nightclubs, highways, and shopping malls			Strong emphasis on Western targets in non-Western countries	Political leaders, critical infrastructure, military targets, government and Jewish facilities
Firearms training				X ⁴	X	X		X	
Step-by step instructions to construct a weapon	A pipe bomb	A truck with blades ⁵	Package bombs ⁵	Burning down and blowing up buildings		Triacetone triperoxide (TATP)		A motorcycle alarm as a detonator	Incendiary devices for wildfires
Western landmarks imagery used	New York City skyline	Chicago skyline	US Military Cemetery	US Capitol, Washington, DC	New York City skyline	Sydney Opera House	Grand Central Station, New York City		W.M. Keck Observatory, Hawaii; Sydney Opera House
Operational security suggestions ⁶	X	X	X						X

¹Indicates strong emphasis²No specific agents suggested³Indicates limited instructions⁴Indirect reference⁵Indicates a recurring theme of AK rifle/handgun training⁶Including encryption software use, explosives detection circumvention, and cultural proficiency

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