

Web SITE educates surfers on terrorism

By Dave Crozier

Before Sept. 11, 2001, most Americans thought of terrorism as something that happened in third world countries, in the air over Scotland, on the streets of Israel, in South and Central America, or in other far away places. Since then Americans read about it in the newspapers, see it on the headline newscasts and talk about it over coffee breaks. But how much does the American public really know about the terrorist networks and their ability to effectively communicate their desires across the world?

Thanks to the efforts of Rita Katz, author of the book *Terrorist Hunter* and director of the SITE (Search for International Terrorist Entities) Institute, an organization dedicated to educating the public about the history, ideology, tactics, and methods of Islamic terrorists; Americans get to go face-to-face with the terrorist mindset. Located at <http://www.siteinstitute.org/index.html> the Institute's Web site takes surfers on both an educational and virtual tour of the terrorist Internet network while at the same time providing links to headline news generated by the news leaders such as the Associated Press, Washington Post, New York Times, Reuters and more.

The SITE Institute (Search for International Terrorist Entities) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides information related to terrorist networks to the government, news media, and general public. It has been said by some that Katz and her organization are conducting terrorist witch hunts, but there is nothing that this writer can find which substantiates that claim. Everything this site provides is straight from open source documents, Web sites, news reports and news wire. While the SITE Institute does reserve its complete library of material to those who pay a subscription service for complete translations of

documents and Web sites they obtain, much of the information on the site is free and open to all.

When entering the site the reader is greeted by a news ticker and an INTEL Update area that gives the surfer a quick glimpse

This is a snapshot of SITE's front page for Dec. 2 which shows just how current their information is.

of world happenings, click on any of the links and you are taken to a synopsis of the topic highlighted. For instance on Nov. 30, a Web surfer would have found at the top of the INTEL Update a link to "11-29-2004 Zawahiri Releases New Video Tape Message" which took them to a SITE Institute Publications page that provides you with an overview of that very message.

At the top of the site there are links to several different sections. They are outlined below:

ABOUT – As one would imagine, this section introduces SITE; its staff and its purpose. This page explains a bit of the history behind SITE; its unique methodology of obtaining information; its track record and educational mission.

SITE Publications – Here the surfer can look at articles written by SITE staff members that outline the most recent news events regarding all aspects of extremist activities. The most recent events in this section at the time of the writing of this article included Zawahiri's video release, information on the recruitment of Indonesian volunteers for the Iraq Jihad, Zarqawi's latest audio message and other information making the terror news headlines. Each publication is but a snippet of

the entire story, but gives enough information so the reader can discern the overall message.

News – Here is the latest and greatest from around the globe concerning extremist/terrorist activities. On Nov. 30, the headlines grab stories from the Associated Press – *Arab States Launch Terror Financing Watchdog*, Agence France – *Jailed Militant Says Bashir Never Spoke to Him of Plotting Attacks*, the Daily Telegraph – *Hamas Calls Halt To Suicide Bombings*, and more.

Each of the stories found in the Current News section have added links to the entire story as it appeared in the press.

Terrorism Library – Surfers can go here to find out all the background information of designated foreign terrorist organizations. Find out information on Al-Qaeda, Jama'at al-Tawhid wa' al-Jihad (Al-Zarqawi network), Ansar al-Islam, Hamas and more. Learn about their beginnings, leaders, activities, strength. Location/area of operations and external aid. For instance clicking on Al-Qaeda one learns that it was established by Usama Bin Ladin in the late 1980s to bring together Arabs who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. Their current goal is to establish a pan-Islamic Caliphate throughout the world by working with allied Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it deems “non-Islamic” and expelling Westerners and non-Muslims from Muslim countries-particularly Saudi Arabia. Issued statement under banner of “the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against the Jews and Crusaders” in February 1998, saying it was the duty of all Muslims to kill US citizens-civilian or military-and their allies everywhere.

When the Terrorism Library link is clicked, other information also becomes available in linked areas to the far left of the page. Here one can link to Terrorist Publications, Government Documents, Court Cases involving terrorists, charts and maps and a Library search area.

Terrorist Web sites – Most of the Web sites shown on SITE are captured websites and are not active links. The sites are however updated as soon as personnel from SITE find an active link. Most terrorist Web sites are quickly shut down by the host servers who are finding them piggybacking on their networks. So if the Soldier clicks on a particular link he/she might find that it no longer works. Still SITE checks some of the links on



Webzines Al-Khansa (above) and Al-Battar.

SITE INSTITUTE

Background on Terrorist Groups

Terrorist Publications

Government Documents

Court Cases

Charts & Maps

Library Search

News Ticker

December 2, 2004 - Two Pakistani Physicians, Suspected of Treating Militants, Released on Bail
Associated Press

There are many documents to peruse at SITE, including government documents, court cases and terrorist publications. If video is your choice of medium, there's plenty of that also, some very graphic in nature.

a regular basis to provide its readers with at least a glimpse of the content and messages being purported by the terrorist groups.

Multimedia – Be careful here. This section shows disturbing pictures and events, including videos of dead Soldiers, body parts, suicide bombings and more. Those areas are labeled, “GRAPHIC CONTENT.” If a surfer wants to see it all, he/she will see some tactics the terrorists are using to build improvised explosive devices, setting land mines, using suicide bombers to attack positions and convoys and more. Surfers soon realize it is the terrorist’s video and shows just how close they are to the actual scene in taping these various events. It is rather mind-numbing.

Lastly, there is the **Donation** section where Katz hopes visitors will contribute to SITE’s ongoing mission of seeking out and exposing terrorist Web sites, activities and information while at the same time educating the general public.

Surfers who want more translations and deeper intelligence, can purchase a subscription. But as said before, much of the information on the Web site is free to peruse. So if the surfer is looking for the latest information on terrorist activities, this is one “SITE” you should visit.

Multimedia - Video Clips	
Displaying Video Clips 1-10 of 13. Sorted by Newest First	
Date	Name
November 16, 2004	Insurgent Fighting in Iraq
November 11, 2004	Nighttime Fallujah Attack
November 7, 2004	Martyrdom Operations - Car Bomb
November 7, 2004	Martyrdom Operations - Ramadi
October 29, 2004	Osama Bin Laden on Al Jazeera
October 11, 2004	Humvee Attack in Iraq
September 16, 2004	Russian Hell 1 [GRAPHIC CONTENT]
September 16, 2004	Russian Hell 2 [GRAPHIC CONTENT]
September 16, 2004	Russian Hell 3 [GRAPHIC CONTENT]
September 16, 2004	Russian Hell 4 [GRAPHIC CONTENT]