

BATTLE FOR BAGHDAD

by

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October 2009  
(c) 2009

November 2011

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BATTLE FOR BAGHDAD

FADE IN:

EXT. MONTAGE OF PHOTOS -

Montage of pictures: of Arab lands, Arab people, US soldiers, British soldiers, Iraqis, President Bush, General Abizaid, Zargawi, bombings, Prime Minister Maliki.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

America tires after three years of war. The Iraqi population faces a growing Al Qaida network and organized Shia militia groups sponsored by Iran. Baghdad is the center point where US and Iraqi forces meet growing terrorist groups using asymmetric IED and suicide attacks. Hundreds of young Arab men answer the call of Usama Bin Laden to be martyrs against the powerful American military in the Land of the Two Rivers. The Al Qaida in Iraq leader, Abu Musab al Zargawi, decides to create a civil war. His network terrorize the local population in order to facilitate foreign fighters and suicide bombers against the Shiite population. The Shiite militia's turn to Iranian supports for new weapons. The average Iraqi citizen is expendable in the Battle for Baghdad.

INT. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:08, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT HUTCHISON (37 years old) and CAPTAIN ELIZABETH PARKER (24 years old, Marine Civil Affairs officer) sit in the back of an UH-60, Blackhawk helicopter. The helicopter is just above the Tigris River near the Green Zone of Baghdad, Iraq. They are about four hundred feet above the buildings.

Hutchinson points out the smoke from two explosions to Parker.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They have a clear view of the intersection for about thirty seconds. Destroyed civilian vehicles and the confusion of dead and wounded throughout the intersection. An Army patrol of four vehicles, the second is destroyed and soldiers are performing first aid to the wounded.

HUTCHISON

(yells)

It's tough in the city and getting worse!

PARKER

(yells)

Your right, Gunny! It'll get worse, before it gets better.

HUTCHISON

(whispers)

Glad I'm not down there.

The door gunners aim their weapons and scan the ground as the helicopter quickly speeds away.

EXT. MOSQUE IN RIYADH - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 September 2005, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

FAHD NASSIF (17 years old), UMAR (17 years old) and his FRIEND (18 years old) wearing traditional white Arab dress stand outside the front entrance of a large mosque.

IMAM SHARIF (52 years old, heavy beard, well dressed, religious leader of the mosque) and ABDULLAH (28 years old, beard, scar on his face, expensive suit) approach the group of teens. Abdullah begins to walk with a limp.

IMAM

ASalaam 'Alaykum brothers.

FAHD

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam Imam Sharif.

FRIEND

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam Imam Sharif.

UMAR

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam Imam Sharif.

IMAM

This is the one who I was telling you about.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IMAM (CONT'D)

He has been with our friends in the Land of the Two Rivers. He has returned for a short time to seek some medical help before returning to the fight.

FAHD

How is the war going?

ABDULLAH

Very well. The Americans are good soldiers, much better than back in Somalia but no match for our brave followers of Allah!

UMAR

Have you seen Shihab? He was our friend who left five months ago and we have not heard from him since.

ABDULLAH

Yes, everyone has heard of our brother, Shihab. He is a great warrior and has killed many crusaders. Last month, he set a bomb that killed over thirty of the Americans.

UMAR

I follow the war very closely and have not heard of such an attack. The press reported only twelve killed all of last month.

ABDULLAH

(upset)

Boy, were you there?! Do you know what you are talking about? Your hair is clean and your hands are those of a babe. We kill thousands of soldiers, but the press doesn't report every death. I was there and saw it with my own eyes. There were American bodies everywhere. You should not believe the press. When thirty soldiers are killed, the press reports three to keep the American population blind to the facts.

The teens nod.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IMAM

This is Fahd, the son of Haidar, who I fought with. He was a hero of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan and killed many Russians. Hopefully, Fahd will follow in his footsteps and make his family proud.

ABDULLAH

Do you have the courage to fight the Jihad? Zargawi needs good fighters and there are many great rewards for Mujahideen fighters in Iraq.

UMAR

Fahd's sister is braver than he is!

Umar and their friend laugh, Fahd is upset about being teased in public.

FAHD

You will see how brave I am when I am enjoying Paradise!

FRIEND

That is the only way you will get a girl!

Everyone laughs.

ABDULLAH

Learn from Imam Sharif, he will teach you how to be a good Muslim. When you are ready.

Abdullah points to Fahd.

ABDULLAH (CONT'D)

You will call me.

Turns to FRIEND.

ABDULLAH (CONT'D)

You, are not ready for a goat, let alone all the beautiful women a Mujahideen can handle!

Abdullah's cell phone RINGS. He answers it and walks away with a limp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IMAM

Here is a CD.

Hands a CD to each boy.

IMAM (CONT'D)

For each of you. To prepare you  
for your responsibilities as a  
good Muslim, in ōâ Allāh.

EXT. BAGHDAD HOSPITAL - DAY MID MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 September 2005, Baghdad, Iraq

The front entrance to a hospital, there is fresh paint and decorations, including Iraqi flags. There are a few US soldiers standing around talking with well-dressed Iraqi hospital officials. There are about one hundred Iraqi citizens standing around in front of a podium with speakers and a microphone (many are dressed in hospital uniforms and coats). US Army and Iraqi policemen block traffic.

HOSPITAL OFFICIAL and ARMY COLONEL (47 years old) stand near the podium.

There is an Al Jazeera news team, with ARAB REPORTER (32 years old). They stand at a distance from the crowd. There is a US news crew close to the microphone with video camera, but not videotaping.

ABU HASHIM (29 years old, bearded) and FAYIZ (34 years old), with sunglasses standing in the back of the crowd near a building watching events.

A convoy of SUVs pulls up in front of the hospital. A personal security detail of American contractors jump out of the first and third vehicles. An Iraqi Minister MASOUD (58 years old, Iraqi Kurd, dressed nicely), and STATE DEPARTMENT DIPLOMAT 1 (33 years old, male, dressed in a suit) exits the second vehicle.

The Hospital Official steps up to the microphone.

HOSPITAL OFFICIAL

Welcome. Thank you for coming to the reopening of the hospital. I would like to introduce Mister Masoud, from the Ministry of the Interior who is responsible for coordinating all the improvements in order to reopen this hospital.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HOSPITAL OFFICIAL (CONT'D)

His hard work combined with generous support from the Americans has allowed us to rebuild, add new medical equipment, new medicine and hire new doctors, nurses and staff. Please welcome Mister Masoud.

All clap. Masoud steps up to the microphone.

MASOUD

I would like to thank you all for coming today to help celebrate the re-opening of this hospital.

Turns to Diplomat 1.

MASOUD (CONT'D)

Our American friends have contributed time, money and effort to rebuild this wonderful hospital. They have donated a new x-ray machine, new medicines and new computers in order to provide service to this community.

Clapping.

MASOUD (CONT'D)

You represent the future of Iraq, a small step in the right direction. On your staff, there are Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds, Christians, but we are all Iraqis and proud of the accomplishments of this great nation.

Abu Hashim and Fayiz look across the street towards a mosque.

A group of three terrorists sneak between the mosque and the street, approaching the Iraqi policemen.

They jump out and begin shooting AK assault weapons at the crowd. One throws grenades.

ATTACKERS

(yell)

Allahu Akbar!

Many civilian people are injured and begin running away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The American soldiers quickly respond and shoot the attackers, while the Iraqi police duck and fire weapons into the air.

The personal security detail quickly moves Masoud and the other American officials into the SUVs and drive away.

The hospital staff helps the wounded civilians.

The American soldiers search the attackers. Two attackers are dead, one wounded. SERGEANT SANCHEZ (24 years old, Hispanic, medic, 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia National Guard) begins treating him for gunshot wounds in the shoulder and leg.

The ARAB REPORTER nods to Abu Hashim while the cameraman videotapes the attack.

EXT. BAGHDAD STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Abu Hasim and Fayiz walk away from the attack. The street is busy with policemen and the sounds of ambulances and American Army vehicles responding to the attack.

ABU HASHIM

Brother, what do you think?

Rubs a set of worry beads.

FAYIZ

They were brave, but this attack was a waste. There must be better training for our fighters.

Passes an American military vehicle.

FAYIZ (CONT'D)

There are more Americans here than what we face in Afghanistan. Hopefully the video will be good enough to help the recruiters. But,

Looks towards a news van.

FAYIZ (CONT'D)

We need to show more Americans being killed on TV, then they will run away.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ABU HASHIM

Have faith brother, we have a plan. We are preparing equipment and Allah willing, the martyrs will be able to inflict more punishment.

They pass the last military and police vehicles, then continue to walk along the street.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, you will see a martyr mission. The martyr missions have better results, but we need more recruits and more money. We have an excellent network of facilitators and plenty of explosives.

FAYIZ

We have many young recruits ready to come to Iraq to fight, but we want to see results, not just waste. If your martyr mission is a success, you will have about twenty to thirty a month and as much money as you need.

ABU HASHIM

Brother, give us more martyrs and money and we will run the Americans out of Iraq.

FAYIZ

Bush is under a lot of pressure and the more deaths we can inflict the better. Our Brothers report the news in America is turning against Bush, now is the time to step up the attacks. The Americans cannot take too many more deaths before they run home with their tail between their legs.

ABU HASHIM

If you can deliver the Martyrs we will turn this place into hell on Earth. In ō Allāh

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FAYIZ

(whispers)

Then we will be in position to  
kill the Shiites.

INT. BAGHDAD APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 September 2005, Baghdad, Iraq

The family sits in a simple apartment living room on the outskirts of Baghdad. The TV plays Al Jazeera news coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Several young children play in a corner of the room with small toys.

There is a KNOCK on the door and FATHER (42 years old, Shiite) rises to open it. He is surprised by his eldest son, AHMED (20 year old, Iraqi soldier) who is in uniform in an Iraqi military uniform. Everyone in the room stands in excitement.

AHMED

ASalaam 'Alaykum, father.

Embrace. Ahmed enters the room.

FATHER

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam . How was the training? Were the Americans good to you? So many things to talk about, come sit down and tell us everything.

AHMED

The training was very hard. The Americans were excellent instructors and very good to all of us. I have seven days before the unit begins operations here, around Baghdad.

Ahmed sits on the couch and opens a backpack.

AHMED (CONT'D)

Here are some presents I picked up.

He hands out a new soccer ball to one brother, hands out books, pens, a new doll for his SISTER (10 years old), scarf for his mother, and a nice looking watch for his father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FATHER

So many wonderful gifts!

AHMED

The job is exciting and we have many good people in the unit from all over Iraq. Cousin Aziz is in another unit that will probably deploy to Basra to provide security.

FATHER

I was just chosen to start a new job with the Ministry of the Interior working on engineering plans for power plants. It should be an excellent opportunity, something that would not have been possible under Saddam and the Sunnis.

AHMED

Did you hear about the attack on the hospital today? The terrorists didn't stand a chance because of the excellent response of the Iraqi and American Army.

FATHER

Yes, we are not sure if they were trying to kill Mister Masoud, who I will work for, or the American soldiers. We have been watching the news, but most reports are about the hurricane that hit New Orleans.

AHMED

We heard a lot of talk from the Americans about a hurricane, but we didn't understand what it was all about. One of the American soldiers might have to fly back because his family may have problems.

FATHER

The hurricane was very bad and may have killed thousands of Americans, but we hope President Bush will keep the soldiers here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FATHER (CONT'D)

He is under a lot of pressure about having so many soldiers here in Iraq, when they are needed in America. Many of the reporters talk about sending them home.

SISTER

(holding the new doll)

Ahmed, did you hear we are starting in the new school? The new school is open next week, just for us girls.

Smiles, showing three missing teeth.

FATHER

Yes, they just finished building the new school.

INT. HAIDAR'S HOME FAMILY DINING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 September 2005, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The family dining room is spacious in the huge house. It connects to a formal dining room and a huge living room. The family dining room has a counter with a flat TV screen mounted on the wall. RASHA (20 years old) is studying and doing homework. Fahd and his older BROTHER (19 years old) watch the latest news from Iraq. Fahd is now trying to grow a beard and long hair, but it is looking thin.

Al Jezeera news reports from Iraq. It shows the attack at the hospital.

TERRORIST (V.O.)

(yell)

Allâhu Akbar!

ARAB REPORTER (V.O.)

The Americans continue to lose hundreds of soldiers with each attack and cannot provide security they are losing the war in Iraq. Many congressmen are demanding a time line to withdraw from Iraq.

Fahd turns down the volume as he turns to talk with his brother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAHD

Did you see that on the news? I told you the Americans are losing. Soon the Mujahideen will drive them right out of the country. They will not last long against us.

RASHA

Shut up little brother, you are being foolish talking about "us" like you are a part of the Mujahideen.

FAHD

Rasha, know your place. Keep preparing dinner and do not address me disrespectfully.

RASHA

I am getting tired of you trying to pretend to be the perfect Muslim. You are only a young boy, do not try to pretend you are a great warrior.

BROTHER

Hey little brother, better watch out or Rasha will kick your ass.

Laughs.

BROTHER (CONT'D)

Quit pretending, you will never be brave enough to fight in the Jihad!

Haidar (49 years old) enters the room dressed in a very expensive business suit.

Haidar

What is this about fighting the Jihad?

RASHA

Fahd wants to fight the Americans in Iraq.

FAHD

Imam Sharif was talking about the Jihad in Afghanistan.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FAHD (CONT'D)

He explained how you were a hero and worked with Sheik Bin Laden to kill the Russians.

Haidar

I see.

Pours a drink of water.

Haidar (CONT'D)

Yes, we did good back then, but that was against the Russians. The Americans and British are our friends. You are too young to know the threat from Saddam in nineteen, ninety-one and how the Americans were there to defend the Kingdom as true allies. You need to concentrate on your schooling like Zahi and Rasha in order to attend a good university and have a great future in our family.

Fahd

I would prefer to attend a madrasah in Pakistan. It is time to study the Koran and defend our religion from the Americans.

Brother

Shut up. You don't know what you are talking about.

Fahd

Americans have been killing Muslims around the world, over two million and now it is time for retribution. Look how Allah punished America with the deadly hurricane.

Haidar stops Fahd from speaking.

Haidar

Look how many Muslims died during the tsunami in two thousand and four. Do you see Americans claiming success? No, they helped deliver food and supplies. The call of Jihad is strong, but Bin Laden has strayed from the true path and kills many innocent people, including Muslims.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Haidar (CONT'D)

It is important to know who your friends are and US soldiers died to keep your family safe in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

BROTHER

Brother, you like to drive your new Porsche. There aren't any AQ guys driving cars like that. Most seek Allah in pieces of shit!

Haidar

AQ will never make great things like my office or your Porsche.

Pause.

Haidar (CONT'D)

I am very proud of Rasha and Zahi and their efforts to attend universities in Europe. Get Mujahideen ideas out of your young head, there is no future there, only death.

Haidar puts his hand on Fahd's shoulder and looks him in the eyes.

Haidar (CONT'D)

These men are only murderers, who sin against Allah. This is not Jihad. Continue your studies, learn the Koran and become a man who benefits the country and Islam, bringing pride to our family.

Both nod to each other, a private moment in front of the other brothers and sisters.

RASHA

And shave that young fuzz, you need to be older to grow a real beard.

MOTHER (43 years old) enters in front of a servant, an Indonesian girl, with food.

INT. ARMY BASE CALL CENTER - LATE EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: 2 September 2005, Forward Operating Base, Iraq

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CONTINUED:

The building has plywood tables and basic white plastic chairs. There is a large screen TV with a mixture of old sofas and chairs for soldiers to sit and watch. The soldiers are dressed in a variety of clothes and uniforms. In the back of the room, there are ten telephones and ten computers and a hundred other soldiers. Sergeant Sanchez sits down at the next open telephone and uses an AT&T calling card.

SANCHEZ

Hola Mama, come ustad?

MOM (V.O.)

Juan, Juan, everyone come quick, it's Juan on the phone. How are you doing?

(yells)

Papa, Maria, come quick, Jaun is on the phone.

SANCHEZ

Mama, everything is going fine here. I am doing great and you will be real proud. I was promoted to Sergeant.

MOM (V.O.)

We are so happy to hear your voice. We are so proud of you getting promoted, but are so worried for you.

SANCHEZ

It is really hot, hotter than home. More like grandma's house, South of Juarez.

MOM (V.O.)

(crying)

The news, every day reports how many bombs are going off and killing so many American soldiers. We are all so worried about how you are in danger.

SANCHEZ

Mama, everything is going fine here. Most of us are more worried about all the crazy people in America and how many are dying in New Orleans. Don't worry about me, it is not as dangerous as you think.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

SANCHEZ (CONT'D)

Don't worry about what the news says, it is a lot better place than I thought.

MOM (V.O.)

We are still worried and miss you. Your father is doing great, he just got four more contracts. Maria is starting high school soon. Jose got a job at a new garage that just opened, but he is talking about enlisting in the Army.

SANCHEZ

It is safer here than at Uncle Rojer's store, remember when that robber shot him for twenty bucks from the register! At least here, we can shoot back and kill the assholes without getting arrested.

MOM

Your friend Kelly, has called a couple of times to see if you have called home and she is planning to send you a package.

SANCHEZ

I am looking forward to any mail and packages. Tell her, I will call her next time I get the chance. Tell Jose to join the Army now. There are a lot of good bonuses and it will get him away from the gang. Don't worry, I will be fine and will call soon. I will try to call every other week.

MOM (V.O.)

We love you very much.

Father and sister in the background.

MOM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Stay safe, we love you and miss you!

SANCHEZ

I love you, too. Miss everyone.

Realizes that the phone has been disconnected.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

He looks at his watch and the next soldier in line. He moves aside and turns towards a large screen TV showing the movie, Fantastic Four.

INT. FAHD'S ROOM - LATE MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 9 October 2005, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Fahd looks through a photo album of his family. He packs a small suitcase. He prays on a prayer rug. Brushes his thin beard.

Fahd wears earphones and listens to the letter from al-Zawahiri to al-Zarqawi.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

Letter from al-Zawahiri to al-Zarqawi October eleventh, two thousand and five. Dear brother, God Almighty knows how much I miss meeting with you, how much I long to join you in your historic battle against the greatest of criminals and apostates in the heart of the Islamic world, the field where epic and major battles in the history of Islam were fought. I think that if I could find a way to you, I would not delay a day, God willing. We received your last published message sent to Sheikh Usama Bin Ladin, God save him. It has always been my belief that the victory of Islam will never take place until a Muslim state is established in the manner of the Prophet in the heart of the Islamic world, specifically in the Levant, Egypt, and the neighboring states of the Peninsula and Iraq.

EXT. MOSQUE - AFTERNOON

Fahd talks with Imam Sharif outside the front of the mosque and next to the street. Abdullah is standing next to a taxi and holds the back door open. He holds a small suitcase. Fahd is dressed very traditionally in white Arab robes and has his small suitcase. He looks young, but more serious.

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CONTINUED:

IMAM

You have done well Fahd, I am glad to see that you are ready for your trip. Here is a letter for my friend

Imam gives Fahd an envelope.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Your ticket, passport, and a small suitcase for you to deliver to our brothers in Syria.

Sees Fahd's worried face. Motions to Abdullah, who hands the suitcase to Fahd.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Don't worry, this suitcase will not be searched and you are not to open it. Your personal passport, wallet, and cell phone.

Imam holds out his hand.

IMAM (CONT'D)

I will keep them safe here.

Fahd hands over his normal passport, wallet and cell phone.

They shake hands and embrace. Fahd enters the taxi.

After the taxi departs.

IMAM

Good job.

Pulls out a cell phone from his pocket.

IMAM (CONT'D)

There are three additional recruits we are working on. One of them is Umar, Fahd's friend. Come by here next Friday at prayers to meet them.

ABDULLAH

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you on Friday for more business opportunities.

They shake hands, then Abdullah walks away without a limp.

## EXT. DAMASCUS HOTEL - EARLY EVENING

Fahd carries two suitcases into the hotel room. The room is small with one twin bed and a small TV. He turns on Al Jeezera news. The news is reporting the results of the fifteen December two thousand and five Iraqi elections.

There is a knock on the door. Fahd opens to see FACILITATOR 1 (26 years old, beard, simple clothes, Kuwaiti) in the hallway. He motions for Fahd to follow and leads him downstairs bringing both suitcases.

## INT. SYRIAN SAFEHOUSE - NIGHT

The Syrian safehouse has a dining room and living room that are open. The kitchen is through a door in the dining room. The furniture looks very used.

FACILITATOR 2 (27 years old, Syrian) sits at the dining room table and sets up a laptop computer with video camera and microphone.

FACILITATOR 3 (26 years old, Syrian) enters the room followed by Fahd and MOHAMMAD (19 years old, Libyan). Fahd and Mohammad sit on a couch, each holding one suitcase.

Facilitator 1 stands next to a table in the kitchen. He is clearly visible through an open door. He opens the suitcase that Imam gave to Fahd to find it full of money.

FACILITATOR 3

Passports, cell phones, wallets.

Waits while Fahd and Mohammad pull out passports, cell phones.

FACILITATOR 3 (CONT'D)

And money.

Both hand over money. Facilitator 3 hands back one, one hundred dollar bill.

FACILITATOR 2

You first.

Points at Mohammad.

FACILITATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Sit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Points to a chair at the table and adjusts the video camera and microphone.

FACILITATOR 2 (CONT'D)

State your name, your jihad name, address, phone numbers, date of birth, coordinator, and what you want to do on this Jihad.

Sits in front of the computer, Facilitator 3 fixes video camera and nods.

MOHAMMAD

I am Mohammad Bin Safir, to be called Omar Abu Aziz, from Tripoli, Libya. Seven, two, nine, zero, three. Twenty April nineteen, eighty-eight. Ya'uqib. I have come to Iraq to conduct Jihad and be a suicide bomber to kill as many Americans as possible. It is important to fight the infidel invaders of the Arab lands and drive them back to America. I came here because I love UBL and want to be a martyr.

Facilitator 2 nods.

Mohammad trades places with Fahd.

FAHD

I am Fahd from the town of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. My father is Haidar. Age seventeen. I have come to Iraq to conduct Jihad, to fight on the front lines with my friend, Shihab. I want to train...

FACILITATOR 2

You mean you want to be a suicide bomber.

FAHD

No, I don't want to be a suicide bomber. I want to train with an AK and RPG and fight. I want to meet with my friend, Shihab who came here last year. You must know him, he is a hero.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FACILITATOR 2

No, don't remember him, we see thirty or more every month going to Iraq, none returning. Zarqawi only wants suicide bombers.

Looks at Facilitator 1 for guidance, who nods assent.

FACILITATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Do you know how to use an AK or RPG?

Fahd nods nervously.

FACILITATOR 2 (CONT'D)

Ok, Ok, continue.

FAHD

I want to fight Jihad in Iraq like my father fought in Afghanistan.

FACILITATOR 2

Done. You sit down over there.

Points to far side of the room.

FACILITATOR 3

You can have some water on the table, sleep over there.

Points to a corner on the floor with a couple of old looking blankets.

Facilitator 3 drops passports and documents on the table. Facilitator 2 opens an Excel spreadsheet with many names and dates already. He uses the information from the passports.

He types: Fahd, Saudi Arabia, 10 October 2005, suicide bomber.

EXT. BALAD AIRFORCE BASE - DAY MORNING (0500: 20 DECEMBER 2005)

SUPERIMPOSE: 20 December 2005, Balad Air Base

US Army Staff Sergeant ALEX CLARK (27 years old, 101st Infantry) stands with his squad of twelve men in front of four vehicles, gun truck HMMWVs (HUMMERS with turret mounted machine guns). On the side of the trucks is the unit logo of a snake and around the logo is: "Sidewinder".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SERGEANT HARRIS (23 years old, 101st Infantry), SPECIALIST WRIGHT (24 years old, 101st Infantry, 53rd Infantry Florida National Guard combat badge) and SPECIALIST HILL (21 years old, 101st Infantry) are present. Everyone looks cold in the morning under lights from generator. Some soldiers have coffee mugs and eat Christmas cookies from a box that looks like it arrived in the mail a couple of days ago.

In the background there are continuous aircraft taking off and landing (C-17, F-15, AH-64).

One Iraqi worker and one Indonesian worker stop working and set up their prayer rugs in the back ground.

The CALL to PRAYER of the MUEZZIN is in the background.

MUEZZIN

Allahu Akbar. Ashadu anna la ilaha illa Allah. Ashadu anna Muhammadan rasul Allah. Haiya 'ala al-salat. Haiya 'ala al-falah. Al-salat khayrun min al-nawm. Allahu Akbar. La ilaha illa Allah.

Other civilians of different nationalities continue to fill the trucks with gas and help prep the convoy.

CLARK

This mission is the first after the Iraqi elections. We have to escort a convoy of thirteen trucks to a FOB in Ramadi.

Staff Sergeant Clark lays out a map on the hood of his vehicle and talks about the mission.

CLARK (CONT'D)

We will be moving into the Marine's AO so we will have to make commo checks with them when we hit check point forty-two. The AH sixty-fours will be on call in case of contact. The route to Ramadi has been pretty active with IEDs and insurgent attacks, but the Marine operations and new check points.

Points to the map to show places on the route.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLARK (CONT'D)

Have significantly reduced the attacks on the route. So, we shouldn't have as many problems as the last convoy. Keep the local Hajjis away from the vehicles, you know the rules of engagement. I know you want to give them candy and food, but then the kids start running into the street and we don't want to run over anyone. Questions?

Folds up the map.

CLARK (CONT'D)

No. Good. Load up. Hey, Specialist, do you have that belt changed yet?

WRIGHT

All set Sarge. Changed it this morning.

Wright pats the hood of the vehicle.

LTC WATERS (38 years old, male, Army, 101st Infantry Division) and LT THOMPSON (25 years old, male, 101st Infantry Division) walk up.

WATERS

Sergeant Clark, all set?

CLARK

Yes sir. Everyone is briefed and ready.

WATERS

Very good, bring them back safe.

LT Thompson turns to view the various trucks lined up with the drivers outside their cabs. LT Thompson pumps his fist in the air as a signal for all the drivers and guards to load their trucks and start engines.

Clark's squad put on body armor and helmets. Then load the armored vehicles and check the machine guns in the turrets.

CLARK (V.O.)

Let's go.



INT. IRAQI POLICE STATION - NOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 20 December 2005, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

An Iraqi police station in a small town in Al Anbar Province. The police station looks out onto a square. Inside Marines meet with the police and local tribal elders. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Hutchison stands inside an Iraqi police station listening to Marine CAPT LEWIS (27 years old) speaking with NASIR (45 years old, Iraqi interpreter) the Iraqi interpreter to the Iraqi POLICE CHIEF (47 years old) and a TRIBAL ELDER (59 years old). AL-AZIZ (33 years old, Sunni Iraqi) stands behind the tribal leader. Gunnery Sergeant Hutchison watches outside the window as his soldiers pull guard duty in town.

Outside, Lieutenant Elizabeth Parker (Lieutenant at this time) is talking to several Iraqi women with children around them using hand gestures and broken basic Arabic, and smiling.

NASIR

The tribal elder, Sheikh Hadi al Karim, is saying that the chief of police here is arresting people for no particular reason. He would like to ask that two relatives be released because they are innocent.

CAPT LEWIS

I am sure that the chief of police is doing his duties and the tribal elder should understand that he working hard to keep the town peaceful. If these men are guilty, then there is nothing the Marines can do about it.

NASIR

The chief of police explained that the men will face the judge tomorrow and if innocent will be freed right away. The tribal elder agreed to this and thanks you for your assistance with this matter. The previous Captain promised additional money to build a new school.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAPT LEWIS

I will check on it. Can he provide any information on the foreign fighters moving into this area?

Clark's convoy of trucks HMMWVs with a "sidewinder" logo passes through the town square creating a cloud of dust.

Nasir talks with both Iraqis and they both look at each other before the chief of police responds to the Nasir.

NASIR

The chief of police said there are no Ali Babas around here. They will tell you when they see an Ali Baba, but they are more worried about Iranians and Shiite militias than peaceful Sunnis.

CAPT LEWIS

Please thank them and tell them we look forward to working with them. I will check on the request for a new school and will return next week to drink tea with them.

INT. APARTMENT IN BAGHDAD - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 20 December 2005, Baghdad, Iraq

The apartment is on the fourth floor of an average building on the edge of Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq. Inside, there are chairs, table, rags with old blood, boxes, and a pile of ammunition in the corner.

RASHNE (38 years old, Iranian Agent) and MUSTAFA (33 years old, Iraqi Shiite militia leader) watch out of the window.

Rashne smokes a cigarette.

Below, Iraqi soldiers conduct a roadblock and search vehicles and people on the street corner. Ahmed and SERGEANT YOUNG (24 years old, 1st Cavalry Division) joke and laugh with several older men and children.

Mustafa looks across the street to another window where ALI (25 years old, Iraqi, Shiite militia) watches the street from another apartment building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A patrol of four US up-armored HMMWVs with soldiers manning the various crew served weapons on top of the vehicles drive along the street towards the Iraqi checkpoint. Other vehicle traffic avoids or stops to clear the way for the military vehicles. The pedestrians on the street seem to disappear off the street into shops and apartment buildings.

There is a sudden explosion on the second vehicle, a huge cloud of dust fills the street around the vehicles. The platoon of Iraqi soldiers and US troops respond immediately to secure the area and begin assisting those people injured in the attack.

The vehicle hit by the IED is full of smoke and is on fire. The back door on the driver side opens and a passenger exits and falls on the street. The gunner was blown out of the top of the vehicle and lays on the ground rolling around holding his legs.

Mustafa turns to Rashne.

MUSTAFA

Excellent.

He nods and smiles.

MUSTAFA (CONT'D)

Allâhu Akbar!

RASHNE

I thought you would like it.  
Consider it a....

Blows smoke from the cigarette.

RASHNE (CONT'D)

A Christmas gift.

Smiles.

Mustafa laughs and shakes his head.

MUSTAFA

This is the best I have seen  
against the armored vehicles! It  
killed almost everyone in the  
vehicle, that guy without the leg  
probably won't make it. How many  
more of these do you have?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RASHNE

We have four more available to test right now and we plan to ship hundreds every month. We want you to kill as many Americans as possible.

Pulls out a piece of paper from his pocket.

RASHNE (CONT'D)

Plus these on the list.

Shows a list to Mustafa on a piece of paper, then takes the list back. Mustafa looks surprised at Rashne.

MUSTAFA

We can send some of the new explosives to our groups in al Nasariah, Najaf, al Kut and Basra. It is easy to set up along the main roads for the Americans.

Frowns and rubs his beard.

MUSTAFA (CONT'D)

Did Muqtada al Sadr approve the list?

Rashne points to the list and looks very stern.

RASHNE

Do not forget who you and Sadr work for.

Blows more smoke.

RASHNE (CONT'D)

The five people on the list are making too many demands and are not attacking enough Americans.

Sits back.

RASHNE (CONT'D)

We believe they may be working for the Iraqis. This way, they become martyrs and more useful for us when it looks like Zarqawi killed them.

MUSTAFA

Like the demonstration on the bridge a few months ago?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Rashne nods.

MUSTAFA (CONT'D)

No problems, we will take care of them easily. More importantly, when can you start shipping these new explosives?

RASHNE

You can expect us to start sending these new explosives soon. We will probably add some new RPGs and rockets. We need you to test them against the American armor.

MUSTAFA

We will video tape the attacks for you, like last time.

Looks out the window at the Americans providing medical aid to the injured.

MUSTAFA (CONT'D)

We will need more money to buy some new vehicles, storage areas, and additional personnel.

RASHNE

No problems. The commander is willing to pay one hundred dollars for each explosive set up. There will be an additional three hundred dollars for each successful attack. Plus, I can give you five thousand dollars up front to start operations.

MUSTAFA

Excellent.

RASHNE

Identify some of your best people who have experience with SA-sevens and rockets. They will need some training at one of our camps for a couple of months.

Mustafa looks surprised and pleased.

MUSTAFA

I have a few people with Iraqi Army experience that might work well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

They both look out the window as an Army helicopter circles overhead and the soldiers start to evacuate the wounded and dead.

RASHNE

Have them ready in about four weeks. We will take them through the Southern route across the lake.

INT. GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ OFFICE BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 20 December 2005, Iraqi Government

The office is nice, but the windows have sandbags on them for protection. Tariq takes notes while another assistant, HAMID (35 years old, Shiite Iraqi), brings in tea. Masoud meeting with ARMY COLONEL, VERONICA HILL (24 years old, heavysset), and Diplomat 1 sit at a small conference table in the front of the office.

MASOUD

The electricity throughout the region is better, but worse in Baghdad. There are a lot of improvements in water and sanitation. The school system and the number of schools are way up. We are very pleased with all your support.

Takes a drink of tea.

MASOUD (CONT'D)

But, the security is getting worse.

ARMY COLONEL

Yes, we are working very hard with the Iraqi Army to provide better security. One item that would assist us, is the help of the local population to point out the various Al Qaida in Iraq members, especially the foreign fighters.

Masoud sets down a cup of tea and nods his head.

MASOUD

The people of Iraq have started to leave the country to go live with relatives in Syria.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MASOUD (CONT'D)

The ones who remain are too scared. There is not enough security.

VERONICA

I understand that there are challenges, but why are they scared to help point out the terrorists and foreign fighters.

MASOUD

You are a diplomat and can negotiate. These extremists never, never negotiate. Their only solution is death, your death. Their version of diplomacy is to kill you. Every cease fire, they continue to build bigger and better bombs. That is what you Americans don't understand.

ARMY COLONEL

Sir, the Army plans to send additional forces to the Baghdad area in the near future. We are considering options for additional forces that will help provide additional security. The State Department has additional funds to improve the electricity, schools and other quality of life.

DIPLOMAT 1

We are prepared to offer an additional two hundred and fifty million dollars toward projects in Baghdad, with additional funds for other secure regions.

MASOUD

Thank you for everything you propose. I hope you are right and the plan works. I am concerned that things will get worse before they get better. We trust President Bush, but we are concerned about talk of withdrawal and time lines.

VERONICA

Many believe Iraq needs to stand on its own.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MASOUD

Do not underestimate these terrorists or you will have daily IEDs in America. Strength is the most important element of national power.

There is a large explosion outside that shakes the building.

MASOUD (CONT'D)

Yes, we will stand on our own, but only if America shows strength and commitment. Strategic weakness and tactical errors such as pulling out forces or telegraphing your next move will turn Iraq into another failed state like Somalia.

EXT. OUTSIDE SYRIAN HOUSE - DAY (23 DECEMBER 2005)

SUPERIMPOSE: 23 December 2005, Syria

The Syrian safe house has an inclosed courtyard area with two BMWs, one Mercedes, and one used, old Mercedes truck.

Facilitator 1 and Facilitator 3 are sitting on the hood of the Mercedes smoking cigarettes.

A cell phone RINGS. Facilitator 3 answers.

FACILITATOR 3

ASalaam 'Alaykum, brother. Things are going well, business is good, but the import taxes are rising... The friends are doing great and look forward to the gifts... Yes, he is still here waiting for the bus... Understand, will call when ready. Praise be to Allah.

Facilitator 3 hangs up the phone and puts it in his pocket.

FACILITATOR 1

What is the problem?

FACILITATOR 3

Sharif says Fahd's father is looking for him. Sharif wants him moved before he is traced to us.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

FACILITATOR 1

What did he say about fighters?  
We told him we only want martyrs  
here in Iraq.

FACILITATOR 3

Don't worry. Sharif said to use  
Fahd as a martyr, just tell him to  
go fight, then.

Holds up fist and pushes down thumb like setting off a  
bomb.

FACILITATOR 3 (CONT'D)

Go get the truck ready while I  
call Amir and set up the meeting.

EXT. OUTSIDE SYRIAN HOUSE - NIGHT

The Syrian safe house courtyard is almost completely  
dark, except for the lights from the cars and truck.

Facilitator 1 motions Fahd, Mohammad, and HASAN (28 years  
old, Yemeni, bearded) to the back of the truck which is  
full of boxes.

Facilitator 3 is on the phone.

FACILITATOR 3

The packages should be there in  
about two to three hours.

Hasan quickly finds a hiding spot in the back of the  
truck under the boxes.

Facilitator 3 hangs up the phone. He opens a trap door  
under the floor of the van where a false cargo space has  
been built.

FAHD

Where is my suitcase?

FACILITATOR 3

Are you fucking serious? Get in  
there, we are leaving!

Fahd quickly loads up under the floor boards of the  
truck. He can see through the floor to the street below.  
The truck doors slam shut and the engine starts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FACILITATOR 3 (CONT'D)

(yells)

Do not make a sound when the truck stops at the border. Wait until you are told to come out of the truck. If the Iraqi police capture you, explain that you were kidnapped and taken to Lebanon until a ransom was paid by your family in Baghdad.

BANGS on the rear door, the truck pulls out of the compound.

Facilitator 3 pulls out a cell phone from the right pocket and dials a number.

FACILITATOR 2

They are on the way.

INT. JOINT HQ - NIGHT (23 DECEMBER 2005)

The Joint Headquarters has five huge flat screen TVs mounted on the wall. One screen has the map of Iraq with various blue and red symbols, two screens have Predator feeds showing, one screen has people sitting at a conference table in suits and ties and the fifth screen has the Powerpoint briefing.

MAJOR ROBINSON (44 years old, Army Major, CENTCOM combat patch) addresses the group of fifty officers (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine) including generals and colonels.

MAJ ROBINSON

Multiple reports show foreign fighters moving into Iraq from Syria. In the past twenty-four hours, I MEF captured five individuals with fake Iraqi passports. The interpreters think these detainees might be from Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and North Africa. The intelligence assessment is that these people were to be suicide bombers for AQI. Zargawi's priority remains Baghdad. Sir, pending your questions, I will be followed by the J-three.

MAJ Robinson walks off the stage, replaced by an Army Lieutenant Colonel.

INT. JOINT HQ INTELLIGENCE CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

The Joint Intelligence Center is inside an old Saddam Palace, but divided by plywood to create computer workstations. The area has Christmas lights and other decorations around. MAJ Robinson enters and approaches MASTER SERGEANT WALKER (38 years old, Army). Walker has gathered the mixed group of forty civilians and military (soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines) into a small area.

ROBINSON

Good briefing today. The CG expressed his thanks for your hard work. He knows it's Christmas, but we need to keep our heads in the game. We need to continue working with One-MEF, MNC-I., CENTCOM and the Intelligence Community to understand how the foreign fighters continue to enter Iraq. The smuggling routes are the same used for many years, just different business. There are growing concerns that AQ in Iraq takes the fight to the Shia to create a civil war. The CG is also concerned about reports of the Iranians supplying the new explosively formed penetrators, EFPs. Report trends and let's see if we can ID the networks using these more deadly weapons.

WALKER

(loud for the entire room to hear)

Time for shift change, next CG update is in twenty-four hours, need to have the briefing slides ready for review tomorrow at fourteen hundred. Tomorrow is Christmas Eve, we plan to have a small party at nineteen hundred and a reduced work schedule to give everyone a little time to call home and relax. Remember, we still have a lot of soldiers out there in the sand that need our work to stay alive.

Half people start to work on computers at desks. The other half depart the area.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAJ Robinson speaks to CAPT HARRIS (25 years old, Air Force) in front of ANALYST 1's desk (24 years old, female, Air Force Technical Sergeant, Intelligence Analyst).

ROBINSON

Enjoy your four day pass to Balad.

ANALYST 1

(loudly, for everyone  
in the room)

Honeymoon time for the Captain and  
Raven!

Laughter.

ROBINSON

When did you two get married?

CAPTAIN HARRIS

We got married only two months  
before this deployment. She will  
rotate home with her unit in about  
three weeks and I will be here  
another four months. Hopefully  
she will not redeploy with the  
unit about the time I get home.  
Our first Christmas together and  
we get to spend it in Iraq.

INT. COCKPIT OF A F-15 - NIGHT

Inside the cockpit of a jet. The pilot is LT AMANDA HARRIS (24 years old, Air Force, Pilot). Her breathing in the mask is steady, the jet engines change in pitch as the plane turns.

LT HARRIS (V.O.)

Cherokee twenty-seven, this is  
Raven, target confirmed. Twenty  
seconds, over.

The cockpit view of the video screen is green as a bomb strikes a house. CHEROKEE (Male, Air Force Combat Controller).

CHEROKEE (V.O.)

Raven, this is Cherokee twenty-  
seven, next target painted. Two  
story building five hundred meters  
West, danger close.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LT HARRIS (V.O.)  
Roger, I confirm target is two  
story building, danger close,  
fifteen seconds, over.

The cockpit video screen of a house as a bomb strikes it.

EXT. AMIR'S HOUSE IN IRAQ - NIGHT (23 DECEMBER 2005)

Amir's house has a compound with high walls. Everything is blacked out. The Mercedes truck pulls into the compound gate. ABDULLAH (17 years old, Iraqi, Sunni) closes the gate behind the truck and runs over to the back of the truck.

Facilitator 2 gets out of the passenger seat and greets AMIR (39 years old, Iraqi, Sunni). They go to the back of the truck and open the door.

Facilitator 2 pulls out the boxes and then the passengers. Fahd gets out of the truck coughing and dusty, then pushed by Facilitator 2 to follow Abdullah into the house.

INT. AMIR'S SAFEHOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Abdullah leads Fahd, Mohammad, and Hasan into a dark room. He lights a match so everyone can see they are in the kitchen, then lights a candle.

FAHD  
May we please have some water and  
food?

JAFAR (12 years old, Sunni, Iraqi) is in the kitchen and steps forward. He pours three glasses of water and hands each man a roll of bread and some fruit, which they begin to eat.

Jafar opens a cupboard under the sink. Then opens a trap door in the floor to show HUSSEIN (17 years old, Palestinian, dirty, and smelly) waiting at the top of a ladder.

Abdullah waves Fahd, Mohammad, and Hasan down the ladder. Hussein accepts a plate of the fruit from Jafar, then leads the group into the spider hole.

INT. SPIDER HOLE - MOMENTS LATER

MUKTAR (22 years old, Algerian) helps the three down the ladder. They around and see a small room with a table in the middle. Hussein puts the plate of fruit next to a couple of small bottles of dirty water. The floor is dirt and the walls are also dirt. The room is dark but lit with candles.

FAHD

ASalaam 'Alaykum.

HUSSEIN

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam.

Hussein starts eating fruit.

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

There is a little water there on the table. You piss and shit over there in the corner.

Hasan walks over to begin urinating.

FAHD

How long have you been here brother?

MUKTAR

I have been here in Iraq for over two years. He.

Muktar points at Hussein.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

Has been here about four months.

Points to ATEF (20 years old, Saudi Arabian, badly wounded) on the bed in corner.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

Has been here about ten months. We have traveled around a lot, arrived here at Amir's about twenty days ago, after the last fight.

Hussein picks up three vests from under the table and hands one to each new man.

HUSSEIN

Put these on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAHD

What is this?

Muktar opens his shirt to show a vest.

MUKTAR

It is your weapon, your Jihad.

Fahd hesitates.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

It is what we came here to Iraq for.

FAHD

I am not a bomber, I am a fighter.  
Where is my AK?

Laughs.

MUKTAR

Everyone is a bomber. You cannot be taken captive. If you are wounded in battle, there is little medicine and it is better to be a martyr. Trust me brother, you do not want to go to Guantanamo.

Everyone but Hasan puts on the vests.

HASAN

Don't talk to me about Guantanamo, brother. I just got out of that shithole and now it's time to kill some Americans again. But, I'm not pushing the button.

Points to the detonator.

HASAN (CONT'D)

GITMO was easy, a lot better than any prison in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria or Afghanistan! Trust me.

MUKTAR

You must always wear the vest in case we are attacked. When it is time, lift the safety switch and push the button.

Shows how to detonate the vest.

Mohammad walks near the bed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ATEF

Have you any food?

HUSSEIN

(whispers)

The Iraqi shit head.

Points upstairs

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

Is saving money. Doesn't know why he should feed someone who is going to be a martyr. Not like that other house we were in.

Pauses

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

You cannot fight the Americans, they are too strong. The Iraqis hate you for coming here. Watch them.

Points upstairs.

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

They will shoot you in the back or sell you to the Americans for a hundred Dinars.

MUKTAR

I am Muktar from Algeria. This is Hussein from Syria and Atef over there on the bed is from Saudi Arabia. He was wounded about three weeks ago. Zargawi wants him alive for some future mission. Hopefully he will live long enough to be a martyr.

MOHAMMAD

I am Mohammad from Libya.

HASAN

I am Hasan from Sana'a, Yemen.

FAHD

I am Fahd from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. But I came here to fight Americans not be a suicide bomber.

Fahd suddenly jumps up and BANGS on the door yelling. He surprises everyone in the room.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

FAHD (CONT'D)

(yells)

Let me out of here. I want to  
fight the jihad. I want my AK!

Talking upstairs stops and footsteps are heard heading to  
the door.

Fahd BANGS on the trap door until it opens.

AMIR

(yells into Fahd's  
face)

You want your fucking AK?! You  
will do as you are told, fucking  
Ali Baba! Take this!

Amir hands Fahd a couple of pills and a glass of water.  
Amir points a pistol at Fahd's forehead until Fahd  
follows the instructions.

AMIR (CONT'D)

You have just arrived in Iraq and  
you will fight according to my  
instructions. Now, go back and  
listen to the tapes and prepare  
yourself to be a martyr. This is  
not a game, stupid Saudi kid.

Amir slams the door shut and locks it. The door knocks  
Fahd back to the floor. His head starts to spin. Muktar  
and Hussein help him to a corner of the floor and give  
him some ear phones and turn on a tape player.

The four men continue to talk in whispers.

MUKTAR

That should quiet him down. How  
was the trip into Iraq?

HASAN

Not too bad. Had to get out of  
Yemen fast. It is pretty easy to  
travel if you pretend to be a  
student. Stay away from Jordan  
and keep quiet in Saudi Arabia. I  
was picked up right away in Syria,  
but they just want to make certain  
you keep moving to Iraq and don't  
want to stay and cause trouble in  
Syria.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MUKTAR

I have been thinking lately.

Long pause.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

To go home. But, I know the police will arrest me if I return. They will think that I am working for Al-Qaida and that I will bomb the government after this experience.

MOHAMMAD

How can you think of going home? The Jihad is everything. Killing Americans to save Iraq is glorious.

MUKTAR

We were in a fight, in some town that I don't remember the name. Atef was shot in the back by an Iraqi to distract the Americans, but Atef was able to crawl away and we carried him back here.

Lights a cigarette.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

The Iraqis do that sometimes. Not a lot of respect for Ali Babas, foreign fighters. A doctor has been visiting once a week, which is unusual because medical supplies are short. The doctor thinks Zarqawi is trying to sell Atef back to his parents in Saudi Arabia.

HUSSEIN

This place is not what I expected and is not like the stories I heard growing up about fighting the Russians in Afghanistan.

MUKTAR

The Iraqis want peace and now they are much better off than under Saddam. Maybe the Americans were right to come here?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

I know after two years of fighting, killing hundreds of Iraqis and Americans that when I die, these Iraqis will dump me in a hole and spit on my grave.

INT. MOSQUE - EARLY MORNING (15 JANUARY 2006)

Imam and Abdullah walk into the mosque.

IMAM

Is Umar ready?

Abdullah nods.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Good, we will send him on Friday night. Make the flight arrangements, then call Abu Nasir.

Pause while walking past two men.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Fahd's father is asking too many questions. He is seeking his son to return and has many influential friends that may cause problems for us.

Pause.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Go to Medina for three weeks to meet our brother at the mosque where we stayed last year during the Hajj. He has five potential recruits that you can work with. I will call you to return when business is better.

Abdullah nods and they continue to walk.

INT. SAUDI MINISTRY OFFICE - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: 15 January 2006, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Office of a Saudi Arabian government MINISTER (57 years old, dressed in a suit). The office is spacious and elegant with a view of the city and a couch with sitting area.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Minister greets Haidar as an old friend and introduces Haidar to an US Embassy DIPLOMAT 2 (46 years old).

MINISTER

ASalaam 'Alaykum, Haidar. This is Stephen Turner from the US Embassy. I have asked him here because I think he may be able to assist you.

Haidar

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam.

DIPLOMAT 2

Haidar, it is a pleasure to meet you.

The three men sit in the chairs. An OFFICE ASSISTANT (20 year old, male) brings tea for everyone.

Haidar

Karim, I would like to speak with you about my son, Fahd.

The men prepare their tea.

Haidar (CONT'D)

Several months ago he left home and I believe he is heading for Iraq. I would like to ask your assistance to find him and bring him home.

MINISTER

We understand that many of these young men hear the message of Bin Laden and seek adventure following the path of Takfirs. That is why I asked Stephen to join us today.

DIPLOMAT 2

Karim and I, are very concerned that young men from Saudi Arabia are making their way to Iraq where they join Al Qaida to become suicide bombers. They are targeting US soldiers and innocent Iraqi civilians.

MINISTER

We are concerned about their radicalization and the threat.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MINISTER (CONT'D)

If bin Laden sends trained fighters back to Saudi Arabia after Iraq and Afghanistan, they could kill many innocent people here.

DIPLOMAT 2

What leads you to think he is heading for Iraq and how can we assist? Several months is a long time to be missing.

H Aidar

We have been working with the local police. We contacted all of his friends as well as our family members whom we thought he might stay with. His friends explained that six months ago he was interested in the war in Iraq. He may have met an Iraqi war veteran named Abdullah at the mosque where Imam Sharif preaches. Also, one of Fahd's friends, Umar, may have just left for Iraq.

Minister Karim nods like he understands something the American does not.

MINISTER

We will check with the airports and speak with our friends in Jordan and Syria. I will do everything possible to find your son.

DIPLOMAT 2

Many of the young men we detain in Iraq are very extreme in their ideas. Al-Qaida's teaching and influence along with their battlefield experience makes them extremely violent. They have no respect or understanding of normal law and order. We will check with the Army, Iraqi officials, hospitals and prisons. Do you have any photos or description that will help us identify Fahd?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MINISTER

Please understand that if found, it will take some time and special circumstances to transfer Fahd to our custody. Then, if he has spent much time with Al Qaida in Iraq, he will need a lot of attention and support for him to be a normal citizen again. The indoctrination process, terrorist training, and some use of drugs takes time and professional counseling.

Haidar

I have copies of some photos, and personnel identification. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Hands copies to both Minister and the American diplomat.

Haidar (CONT'D)

Mister Turner, I did not raise my son to be a murderer.

Looks at the American diplomat.

Haidar (CONT'D)

If Fahd is part of AQ, he is no longer my son. If your troops must kill him to save the lives of innocent Iraqis and Americans, I will understand.

Diplomat 2

We will do everything in our power to return your son and protect the lives of Americans and Iraqis.

Haidar

Allah willing, praise be to him.

INT. OFFICE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 15 January 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

LT Elizabeth Parker, Gunnery Sergeant Hutchison, and Veronica talk in an office. The Marines are dusty and wearing battle gear. Veronica Hill is clean and neat wearing nice civilian clothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PARKER

I would like to introduce myself, Lieutenant Elizabeth Parker, and Gunnery Sergeant Hutchinson from the Marine Expeditionary Force.

They all shake hands.

VERONICA

It is a pleasure to meet you both. What can we do for you?

PARKER

Gunny and I are part of a PRT team out in MND-West and seek better coordination and support from the State Department and other government agencies. Hopefully, additional funds for some new projects?

VERONICA

Yes, what's a PRT team?

PARKER

Provincial Reconstruction Team and Multi-National Division-West.

VERONICA

I am certain that we can help with additional funds. We will need a list of the proposed projects and your estimate on the cost and if you have the contractors lined up.

PARKER

No problems. Here is a list of the projects we are interested in.

Parker hands over an Excel spreadsheet, about five pages of paper.

PARKER (CONT'D)

This list covers the MND-W area.

Veronica looks through the list, surprised at the number of items.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HUTCHISON

We would also like to see if there are additional personnel that can come out to MND-W and help work with the Iraqis, maybe USAID, State Department and some NGOs.

Veronica looks and talks to LT Elizabeth Parker.

VERONICA

I am a little surprised by the size of this request. We have invested a lot of money and energy in the area already. There are State Department personnel working at MND- West HQ. Have you presented this request to them?

PARKER

There have been a lot of operations and fighting the past couple of years and we believe that the area is ready to be rebuilt. Building projects will reduce the unemployment and probably reduce the violence levels. Our commander asked that we meet with you to expedite the request to see some results before we RIP with the next MEF. I'm sorry, "before we conduct the Relief in Place with the next Marine Expeditionary Force."

VERONICA

We can research the request and see what we can do to expedite this matter. We will be in contact through our liaison officer at your HQ.

HUTCHISON

Mrs. Hill, what about some additional people to assist us. We visit many of the small towns throughout the region and it would be value added for the State Department and others to visit.

VERONICA

Gunnery Sergeant, we used to have many people out in Ramadi, Fallujah and other places.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

VERONICA (CONT'D)

The region is not very secure. It is too risky to send our personnel to many of the areas. I do agree with you that we can provide a lot of great services, but we need the situation to be a little more safe.

Speaks like this is common knowledge.

HUTCHISON

Yes, we are very familiar with the dangers. Our daily patrols encounter many friendly Iraqis

Smiles at Veronica.

HUTCHISON

And a few not so friendly, but nothing we can't handle.

Parker looks at her watch.

PARKER

Thank you very much Miss Hill. We must be going to coordinate with Mister Masoud's office for his visit next month. We are coordinating a helicopter flight for him to visit some new projects in the region.

Veronica looks a little surprised.

VERONICA

I didn't know he was coming out to visit. All requests are usually coordinated by our office.

PARKER

Mister Masoud met our commander recently and expressed interest in visiting our area, so I have an appointment with Colonel Martin to set up the visit. We will be in contact through your LNO for the additional funds. I am sure Mister Masoud will appreciate the additional assistance.

VERONICA

Lieutenant, I have one request for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Pauses and pulls out a piece of paper with a photograph of Fahd on it.

VERONICA (CONT'D)

We have had a request from the Government of Saudi Arabia through our embassy. We are seeking any information on this seventeen year old boy named, Fahd Nassif. They think he may be a foreign fighter. If you see him or detain him, please contact our office.

PARKER

We have fought and detained many foreign fighters in our Area of Operations. I am surprised that Saudi Arabia would actually request something like this. In the news the other day, a State Department spokesman was talking about how Saudi Arabia wasn't helping.

VERONICA

You would be surprised by how closely the governments are working. This is a good example of how we must maintain, a certain public perception. Thank you.

Marines get up to leave.

INT. AL-AZIZ'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON (5 FEBRUARY 2006)

SUPERIMPOSE: 5 February 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

The house has two floors and looks like it was once very expensive. Outside, there is a dust storm. The sky is dark, yet the sun makes an eerie orange glow. Amir and Abdullah sit upstairs in a room with a window overlooking the city. Amir sits in front of a computer reading e-mail, while Abdullah is looking through an American car magazine at expensive cars.

ABDULLAH

Father, do you like this car?

Points to a black Range Rover and holds out the page to his father.

Stops reading e-mails and turns to look at the picture.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMIR

Great looking car. Too bad the American's attacked and killed Saddam or we would be able to buy you one.

Looks at his son as if trying to make a decision.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Abdullah, do you remember the way to Najaf?

ABDULLAH

Yes, I remember the way.

AMIR

You are looking through an American magazine. What do you think about your future?

Looks quizzically at his son.

ABDULLAH

My friends know that Saddam protected the Sunnis. Now the Shiites are in power, we have to struggle for the best jobs. My friends like the Americans. The movies and cars and stuff, the soldiers are really fun to be with. They give us things like the soccer balls and school supplies and I am learning some English. Now we have these stupid Ali Babas coming here to blow themselves up and kill Americans instead of attacking Israel.

AMIR

I see you have figured this whole thing out.

Leans back in his chair and thinks for a moment, then leans forward again.

AMIR (CONT'D)

You are very thoughtful and perceptive for someone only seventeen years old. Saddam was extremely terrible. The things we did in the Army are hard to talk about.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMIR (CONT'D)

What we did to Iranians when we caught them, the poison gas we killed the Kurds with, Kuwait. Saddam was a stupid idiot, but a very brutal idiot. You did what you were told in order to live. We did very well for ourselves because of my position in the Baath Party. When the Americans came, many of us thought we had a future, but they disbanded the Army and prevented anyone in the Baath Party from getting a job. Now, we make money from al-Qaida.

Leans back.

AMIR (CONT'D)

So what if these stupid extremists blow themselves up, as long as I can make money for our family instead of working for some piece of shit Shiite.

Abdullah nods in understanding.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, I need you to take two of the Ali Babas down to a place in Najaf, to a friend's house. While you are there, the friend will give you twenty-five thousand American dollars.

ABDULLAH

Yes, father. What if I have problems with the roadblocks?

AMIR

I will give you the directions and a phone with my number programmed in it. If you are stopped, explain that you are a taxi driver and trying to get these men to Kuwait from Damascus. If you are stopped on the way back, explain that you have just delivered your sister to her new husband and are returning with the money for our family.

ABDULLAH

Will you give me an AK?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AMIR

No, you will have to stop for several check points and I don't want you found with a weapon. Do not worry, you will do well. You are becoming a man and I am proud of you Abdullah.

EXT. MARINE FORWARD OPERATING BASE - SUNSET

A four HMMWV convoy parks inside the Marine Forward Operating Base. The vehicles are protected by sandbags and HESCO barriers. The Marines that exit the vehicles all wear protective body armor, goggles, and carry backpacks, weapons, and ammunition. There is a dust storm blowing.

LT Elizabeth Parker gets out of one of the vehicles, waves, and walks towards one of the containerized living units, CLU.

INT. MARINE LIVING UNIT - MOMENTS LATER

The Marine living unit is a modular container (CLU) that is a four-person room with two bunk beds and wall lockers.

LT Elizabeth Parker has body armor, Kevlar, M-16, and small back pack. She looks tired and dusty from a long day driving in western Iraq.

Inside she finds three female officers, PILOT (24 years old, female, Army First Lieutenant, CH-47 pilot, 1st Infantry Division), NURSE (22 years old, female, Navy Ensign), NURSE 2 (25 years old, female, Navy Lieutenant Junior Grade, African-American) relaxing, reading books and one is using a laptop computer.

PARKER

Hey girls, I'm back. What a long day.

NURSE

Is it getting any better out there? Or is the dust storm still going on?

PARKER

The storm is still going and the sun is orange.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She puts down her backpack, takes off her body armor, and jacket top. She has a bandage on her left arm above the elbow. She puts on a sweatshirt with the name of a university.

PARKER (CONT'D)

How is everybody doing?

NURSE 2

How did the school opening go?  
Did the news reporter show up like  
you requested?

Parker smiles.

PARKER

It went awesome! We opened the school in the morning and had twenty-seven girls and forty-nine boys who showed up. We gave them books, notebooks, pens, pencils, everything they need for school. Then we brought out the soccer balls for recess. It is amazing how good some of these boys are, playing with sandals on the dirt ground! No, none of the reporters showed up. Probably looking for some poor dead or wounded Marine to photograph.

PILOT

Or some terrorist to interview.

NURSE 2

You have that right. By the way, Captain Wilson came by asking about you today. Wants to know how your arm is doing after getting shot last week. Suggested you should come in for a checkup.

Parker looks at her left arm.

PARKER

Great, tell him I am doing great. You can change the bandage after dinner so I don't have to go see him again. Isn't he married?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NURSE

He's married, but says he is available because he is getting divorced soon.

PARKER

No thanks.

She picks up her M-16 and starts to take it apart. She cleans all the parts while everyone is talking.

PILOT

Didn't Liz tell you? She met a really cute guy in Baghdad on our trip there. Some State Department or CIA guy.

Looking at Parker.

NURSE

Are you holding out on us?! What's he do? How old is he? Did he e-mail you? Out with it.

PARKER

I got an e-mail from him yesterday, but there isn't anything to it. He was cute. Too bad I am out in the desert and not in the Green Zone. But the Green Zone is a lot of big office buildings like back home while this is a lot more interesting.

NURSE 2

Don't try changing the subject.

PILOT

Liz, are you freaking nuts? Has your brain been fried riding around in the heat and dust all day? You can have this screwed up place. I am going to Hawaii on my next assignment! Sun, beach, waves, green trees, good looking guys in bathing suits.

NURSE

What about your boyfriend? I thought you guys were getting serious?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PILOT

Nope, not any more. He decided to volunteer for the Special Forces and will probably spend his career going from Ft. Bragg to the Middle East. Not me, I want to fly my helicopter and enjoy the beautiful beaches of Hawaii! Hopefully my unit will stay here flying support to the MEF so I don't have to deal with him in Balad.

NURSE 2

My older brother is in the Special Forces. He's been in Afghanistan, Iraq, Jordan and a few other places. I can understand what you mean. He now has two ex-wives, three kids and spends about ten months a year in the Middle East or training in the woods. Pretty hard to have a family at that pace. I can't wait to get back to see my husband and son. When I return from this deployment, he gets just finishes a six month sea cruise. It will be nice to settle down again.

PILOT

Settle down, screw that! Don't get me wrong, my guy is or was a stud and we had a lot of fun. Snowboarding, sky diving and a few other things, if you know what I mean. But I joined the Army to go to Hawaii or Europe. Not live in Fayetteville, North Carolina waiting for him to come home. Too many things to see and places to go. Come on Marine, finish putting that weapon together and let's go eat.

NURSE

Tonight is Mexican food, my favorite, and then hopefully a peaceful night in the ER.

Everyone gets up and puts on their various uniforms and pick up their weapons.



INT. AMIR'S SAFEHOUSE - NIGHT

Fahd and Muktar whisper in the semi-darkness of the hiding place. Everyone else is asleep on the floor. Dust hangs in the air.

FAHD

When did you arrive here in Iraq?

MUKTAR

A few years ago, I came here with some friends. We were living in the West Bank. Fighting with the Palestinians against the Israelis when the Americans attacked Iraq. We decided to fight the Americans instead of the Jews. There were about eleven of us who arrived and I am the last one alive.

FAHD

Some of my friends traveled here to Iraq in the past year.

MUKTAR

I wanted to be like Mohammad Atta, who killed over twenty thousand Americans in the nine, eleven attacks.

FAHD

The nine, eleven martyrs killed around three thousand Americans, not twenty thousand.

MUKTAR

Brother, don't be misled by the press. He killed over twenty thousand, but the Americans don't want you to hear it. Look how big the World Trade Center was! And you tell me there was only three thousand in the buildings, I don't think so. If the Americans tell the true number of deaths, Bush would have to admit he is losing the war.

FAHD

What happened to your friends?  
Did you see a lot of action?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MUKTAR

Yes, we were always fighting when we first arrived. The locals call us 'Ali Babas'. We earned the reputation of being the best fighters in Iraq. All the men I arrived with were killed in different battles. The Palestinians and Yemenis were the bravest and usually in the front. The Iraqis don't like them and shot a few in the back. Over the past couple of months we have suffered a lot and started the martyr operations.

FAHD

Are the martyr operations working better?

MUKTAR

Yes, the martyrs attack groups of Shiite, police, or Americans. It is easy to find large groups. Police recruits line up and are easy targets. The Americans are harder because they spread out so you only get a couple at a time.

FAHD

Why are you killing the Shiite, they are Muslims. Why don't you attack the Americans more?

MUKTAR

They may be Muslim, but they are infidels. These Shiites in Iraq are controlled by Iran. Iran is the evil in the region, you should know that from living in Saudi Arabia.

Fahd nods. Mukhtar leans back and pauses, then leans forward and continues.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

I wanted to go to America and make a big attack like Mohammad Atta, but Al Qaida needs people who speak English, have passports and prove yourself here in Iraq first.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

I speak English but don't have a passport and wouldn't fit in, trying to live a normal life again. Now, I can't go home. I can't see myself as a farmer, shepherd or shop keeper. I wouldn't even know how to get home without a passport or money. They tell us al-Qaida will pay my family one hundred and fifty thousand dollars if I do a martyr operation, but I don't know of anyone actually getting the money. My family needs money for my brother to have an operation.

Pause.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

I will be on one of the martyr operations soon, this war has gone on too long for me. I am tired.

FAHD

My father, he is very well off and maybe he can give you some of the money you need. He went to Afghanistan to fight the Russians and now it is my turn to fight the Americans in the Jihad. I am not here for the money. I want to help the Iraqis fight the American invaders.

Muktar laughs a little.

MUKTAR

A boy must prove himself a man.

Pause.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

When I first arrived, there were many Palestinians, Lebanese, Syrians, Saudis, Yemenis, and Jordanians to set up ambushes and fight the Americans with AKs, mines, and RPGs. We used to think we were helping the Iraqis. But the Iraqis don't want us here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

The only Iraqis willing to help us are the Sunnis who lost a lot of money and power when Saddam was captured.

FAHD

What about Amir? He seems like an excellent fighter.

MUKTAR

Amir, Amir is an ex-Iraqi colonel. He is doing this for the money. Al-Qaida pays him to keep us safe and feed us. The less he feeds us, the more profit he makes. This is not the worst place I have stayed, but far from the best.

Lights a cigarette.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

This is the only way for some of Saddam's Army officers to make a living. Everyone is a businessman.

Inhales his cigarette.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

Hasan, the Yemen, he is a fighter.

Exhales the smoke.

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

He was with UBL in Afghanistan and was taken prisoner by the Americans and sent to Guantanamo for three years. They returned him to Yemen where he was released from prison after four months; now he is back in the war. He said he was in some operations in Somalia, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia before he was sent here to Iraq.

FAHD

Amazing. He is so quiet I would not suspect that he was so important.

MUKTAR

That is what makes him so valuable to the Father.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MUKTAR (CONT'D)

He can blend in and people don't notice him. The network is huge and has many operations against these apostate regimes. Listen to your CD, brother. UBL is the true leader and will help you be a true Muslim, help you build your courage to be a martyr.

Rolls over. Fahd puts on the ear phones and begins to listen to UBL speeches.

FAHD

Thank you, brother, for your kindness and teaching.

Muktar nods and continues to smoke his cigarette as he prepares to sleep.

EXT. AMIR'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 18 February 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

Amir, Hasan, and Jafar are outside of Amir's house smoking cigarettes. Amir is talking on his cell phone, he is excited. An old looking Mercedes drives up with three men inside. The driver waves for Amir and Hasan to get in. They pick up AK-47s and get in the car. The car drives off.

EXT. BUILDING - SUNSET

Amir, Hasan, Al-Aziz, SUNNI LEADER (30 years old, Iraqi, Sunni), and six men all with various automatic rifles and RPGs stand next to a building in town. Amir and Sunni Leader have small radios.

Amir looks around the corner of the building to see the town center in front of the Police Station with billows of black smoke. He hears WEAPONS FIRING and has to duck behind the wall to avoid bullets.

AMIR

What's the situation?

SUNNI

An American patrol came into town and we set off an explosive that destroyed a large truck, just like you planned a week ago.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUNNI (CONT'D)

Some Ali Babas are preparing to attack from the souq. Now the Americans are moving in a response force and we are setting up to ambush them on the road near the soccer field.

AMIR

Good work, move to your positions at the ambush site. There is no where they can land a helicopter, so they must get a ground unit for the wounded. Have you set up anyone on the road from the bridge?

SUNNI

No, not enough fighters yet. Besides, the American base is past the soccer field.

AMIR

We must cover every approach!

Points to Hasan and three men, one with an RPG

AMIR (CONT'D)

Go to the road that comes from the bridge and get ready to stop the Americans. We will continue the attack on the patrol and you.

Points to the Sunni Leader.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Will ambush the relief force near the soccer field.

They follow Amir's orders and run at a low crouch down the street.

Amir looks up at the roof of the building.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz are on top of a flat roof overlooking the square in front of the police station. He peers over the edge to see. The American Marines are pinned down and under fire from several buildings. The Marines have six vehicles, two are on fire (a 5-ton truck and a HMMWV). He sees a suicide bomber run at a Marine vehicle

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUICIDE BOMBER

(yells)

Alihu Akbar!

The Marines shot him, but he EXPLODES near one HMMWV spraying blood, guts, and shrapnel in a cloud of dust.

Al-Aziz hears EXPLOSIONS from mortars. Al-Aziz shakes Amir's shoulder and points to the smoke in the distance.

Bullets begin to hit near Amir and Al-Aziz from a helicopter.

AMIR

(yells)

Downstairs!

EXT. BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz exit the building onto the street, they look left and right. There is a wounded terrorist laying on the ground. He is badly wounded in the chest and close to death. Amir pulls out a pistol.

AMIR

Syrian, time to meet Allah.

Amir shoots the terrorist. Then booby traps the body with a grenade.

Amir and Al-Aziz hear TANKS and EXPLOSIONS. They begin to run down the street away from the police station.

EXT. CITY STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz run down the street and suddenly stop.

A Marine HMMWV stops at the next corner with the turret gunner aiming a weapon in their direction.

Amir points to a door and together, they quickly break it open and enter the house.

INT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz enter the living room. All lights are off, but they see a man, women, and six children under thirteen trying to hide.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amir pulls a pistol from his belt. Amir points it at the husband's head and shoots him. Then shoots the wife in the head.

AMIR

Put on that abaya! Kids, get over here!

Waves pistol at kids and points to door.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Let's go!

EXT. STREET CORNER - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz (now dressed like a woman in the abaya) lead the six crying kids down the street. They move quickly toward a Marine HMMWV with a MK-19 firing grenades down the street behind them.

Gunnery Sergeant Hutchison sees them approach and waves the 'family' to move down a side street behind the Marine vehicle.

Moments later, the kids run back to Hutchison.

KIDS

(yell, crying)

Ali Baba! Ali Baba!

HUTCHISON

(yells)

Nasir, get over here and talk with these kids!

INT. MERCEDES - MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Al-Aziz drive in the Mercedes away from the fighting and explosions. They stop near the soccer field. They watch four men next to a car about two hundred yards away.

The four men get open the trunk, pull out a mortar tube, and set it up. They quickly fire three rounds. When the crew pulls out additional ammunition from the trunk, Amir gets on the radio.

AMIR

(yells into the radio)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

AMIR (CONT'D)

Get out of there! I told you no  
more than three rounds!

Amir and Al-Aziz watch as they prepare to fire the fourth  
round. There is a huge EXPLOSION and dust cloud.

EXT. PREDATOR VIDEO SCREEN - NIGHT

The screen of the video shows a huge explosion. A car  
races off about two hundred yards from the dust cloud.  
VOICE 2 (male) controls the Predator.

ANALYST 1 (V.O.)

Good strike. Looks like that car  
might be trying to get away or may  
be in the wrong place at the wrong  
time.

The screen of the video follows the car as it races away  
from the explosion site.

ANALYST 1 (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Follow the car, let's see where it  
goes.

VOICE 2 (V.O.)

Roger. Vehicle heading North  
West.

The car finally turns into a walled compound with a  
house, it is Amir's home. The car stops and the two  
images of men get out and go into the house. The  
Predator circles over the home, but sees no lights or  
additional movement.

VOICE 1 (V.O.)

Mark that site for additional  
imagery. There are more reports  
of troops in contact forty  
kilometers to the South requesting  
full motion video support.

VOICE 2 (V.O.)

Roger. Heading West, we have  
ninety minutes left on station and  
one Hellfire.

EXT. BALAD AFB BX AREA - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 21 February 2006, Balad AFB, Iraq

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Outside the main BX front doors is an area with Pizza Hut, Subway, Green Bean coffee. There are picnic benches where off duty service members and civilians eat, smoke, and talk. Clark, Wright, Hill, and a FEMALE SOLDIER (18 years old, female, Army Private First Class, 377th Theater Sustainment Command) sit at one table.

CAPT Harris and his wife, LT Amanda Harris, walk past on the way to enter the BX. She wears a tan flight uniform and he is in DCUs.

WRIGHT

There was a beautiful Air Force girl.

CLARK

Which one? We joined the wrong service.

Clark and Hill laugh.

CLARK (CONT'D)

She looks married.

FEMALE SOLDIER

What are you talking about, us Army girls are the best looking!

Everyone laughs.

HILL

Wright gets shot down again. Aim high, go Air Force!!!

LT Thompson walks up with a pizza and sits down to join the soldiers.

WRIGHT

Hey LT, have you heard anything about Sergeant Harris?

Thompson opens the pizza box.

THOMPSON

Sergeant Harris is on the way, got out on a plane early this morning. Should be home in two to three days; max. His wife is in the ICU, they did a C-Section. The baby girl is fine, but a month premature.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

Hope he makes it back in time, the doctors say she has a fifty - fifty chance, fortunately she is young and is in excellent shape.

Eats a slice of pizza.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

Also, second platoon got hit by an IED about an hour ago. One KIA and two WIA. Battalion will release the names as soon as the next of kin are notified.

Everyone quiets down and looks a little sad.

FEMALE SOLDIER

That sucks. Second platoon is supposed to take leave in three weeks. Half way through the deployment and they get hit again.

THOMPSON

We'll have to take their convoy duty tomorrow. Staff Sergeant Clark, need you to have your squad ready at oh-six hundred.

CLARK

No problems sir. We'll be ready to go.

EXT. IRAQI OFFICE BUILDING - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 21 February 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Masoud, Tariq, Hamid, MARINE COLONEL (49 years old, Male), and LT Parker walk out of the Iraqi office building. They walk to a waiting UH-60, Blackhawk helicopter parked in front of a CH-47, Chinook helicopter. The Blackhawk takes off, quickly followed by the Chinook.

Hamid pulls out a cell phone and sends a text message:  
WORK IS OVER.

EXT. ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

ALI (22 years old, Iraqi, Shiite Militia) is on a rooftop of a building. He sees the Blackhawk and Chinook rising above the rooftops about two kilometers away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He lifts a SA-7 to his shoulder and fires and aims it at the larger helicopter. He fires the weapon. A missile zooms up into the air and hits the engine of the Chinook.

The helicopter starts smoking and heads towards the ground.

Ali smiles.

EXT. FIELD CRASH SITE - MOMENTS LATER

The CH-47, Chinook is on fire and crash lands in a park.

A joint Army and Iraqi patrol quickly arrive at the helicopter. Ahmed and Young are two of the soldiers who provide security. Sanchez puts down his aid bag and begins to help the first wounded.

Two Marines exit, carrying a Marine Lance Corporeal with a bloody shoulder to Sanchez.

Two Marines next bring PILOT (the female Army Officer) out of the helicopter with a very bloody leg and arm. She is unconscious.

INT. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - MOMENTS LATER

Masoud sits next to the Marine Colonel and Parker. The Marine Colonel leans over and speaks loudly to Masoud.

MARINE COLONEL

(loudly, over the  
rotor noise)

We will continue to the electrical  
plant.

MASOUD

(loudly)

Colonel, this is what I have been  
saying to your generals. There  
has got to be better security in  
Baghdad.

INT. HOUSE IN US - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 21 February 2006, America

LTC Waters' WIFE (36 years old) prepares a lunch of sandwiches in the kitchen of her home in America.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Two children are eating breakfast in front of the TV in the next room. The phone RINGS.

WIFE

Hello.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

Hello Love, it's me. It is great to hear your voice.

WIFE

(surprised)

Honey, it's great to hear you, how are you doing? We hear such terrible things.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

I'm fine.

WIFE

I was very worried about you because of helicopter that was shot down earlier today.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

Don't worry, it wasn't me. I'm not in Baghdad.

WIFE

How long can we talk?

She looks at the clock on the wall to note the time.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

A few minutes. Don't believe everything you hear, we have been doing great work building schools and helping the Iraqis. How are the kids doing?

WIFE

Everyone is doing OK, but Billy fell off the swing and cut his elbow that took two stitches. We plan to visit mom during the spring break in a couple of weeks.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

Billy is a tough boy, he will be fine. First stitches, get used to things like that, I am sure there will be more. How is Sergeant Harris's wife?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WIFE

Mom and baby are in stable condition after the car wreck. The doctors had to perform a C-section and the baby was born a month early, but they are out of surgery and in the ICU.

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

Thought you might have more information through the wives network. Sergeant Harris is on the way, we sent him out on emergency leave. He was expecting to get a flight out of Ramstein, Germany and should arrive back home within the next forty-eight hours.

WIFE

The Lieutenant is taking care of picking him up at the airport. We have the family readiness group and several of Amy's friends helping her as well as taking care of the dog and house. Before we run out of time, the boys have been waiting to talk with you.

She presses the speaker button on the phone.

WIFE (CONT'D)

Boys, daddy is on the phone.

Two boys run into the room.

KIDS

(yells)

Daddy, daddy, daddy! Hello daddy. I got some stitches!

LTC WATERS (V.O.)

Hello boys, it is great to hear you! I love you guys very much.

INT. AL-AZIZ HOUSE IN IRAQ - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 21 February 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

Amir is on the computer reading an e-mail. Al-Aziz looks over his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amir picks up a cell phone and calls.

AMIR

(upset)

What is the problem?! Can't you read? Al Jezeera reports we killed thirty-seven Americans and wounded another twenty-one! You owe me thirty-seven thousand dollars! Not this, eight thousand dollars you are offering.. I know what the Americans are reporting. You know the Infidels are liars... We had an agreement... I don't know if he is here, he may be on a mission... What do you mean he belongs to you! He is mine until I get paid the money you owe me... No, I will not do it for religion or that bastard UBL. Pay me and you can have Fahd and that Ali Baba who was wounded two months ago.

Hangs up the phone and turns to al-Aziz.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Al-Aziz, go to my house and start getting the Ali Babas to move to the other house. They have been at my place too long and the doctor knows where they are now. Zargawi might try to do something stupid; the fucking asshole doesn't want to pay us what he owes us.

EXT. PREDATOR SCREEN - MOMENTS LATER

The Predator screen follows a car into the compound of Amir's house. The car parks and a man gets out, then enters the house.

ANALYST 1 (V.O.)

Victor Kilo six, one male has entered objective Michigan, over.

VICTOR KILO (V.O.)

Roger, out.

EXT. HELICOPTERS - MOMENTS LATER

There is a six ship formation of three MH-60s, one MH-47, and two AH-6 Little Birds. They fly lower to the ground and have no lights on. Ahead is a clearing about one hundred yards from Amir's house.

VICTOR KILO (V.O.)

Thirty seconds.

The helicopters flare and land in a small open field next to the Amir's house.

Special Forces soldiers exit and run toward the house. They are wearing body armor, helmets with night vision goggles, and M-4 rifles. They take up positions outside the compound.

INT. AMIR'S SAFEHOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jafar and Al-Aziz have the spider hole open when they hear helicopters.

NASIR (O.S.)

(using loud speaker)

Open the door and come outside  
with your hands raised.

Al-Aziz quickly shuts and locks the spider hole doors.

Al-Aziz and Jafar slowly open the door and raise their hands. American soldiers enter the kitchen and lead them out.

INT. SPIDER HOLE - MOMENTS LATER

Fahd, Muktar, Hussein, and Atef listen to the soldiers above them in the kitchen. They hear multiple foot steps almost over their heads.

VICTOR KILO (O.S.)

(talks into radio)

Hotel Bravo six this is Victor  
Kilo six, objective Michigan  
secure. We have one adult male of  
interest and one boy approximately  
ten to twelve years old, over...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

VICTOR KILO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

No other adults in the house, the boy claims the adult male is his uncle, his mother is in Syria and his father is on a trip to Baghdad, over... The closest house is two kilometers South and looks empty, over... Roger, will bring the boy back with us. Out.

(talks loudly)

We can't leave the boy alone here in the house. The JOC is working with the Iraqis to notify them of the situation and coordinate with the US embassy in Damascus.

Footsteps enter.

SOLDIER (O.S.)

Helicopters are thirty seconds out.

The sound of helicopters is heard.

The soldiers depart, leaving absolute quiet. Fahd and the other fighters look at each other in the dark.

INT. HAIDAR'S OFFICE - DAY (22 FEBRUARY 2006)

SUPERIMPOSE: 22 February 2006, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Haidar is in his office watching a news report on the al-Askari mosque bombing.

The phone RINGS.

HAIDAR

Hello.

IMAM (V.O.)

ASalaam 'Alaykum, my friend.

HAIDAR

(guarded)

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam, Imam Sharif. What can I help you with today?

IMAM (V.O.)

I am calling to seek your assistance with another donation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IMAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Your gift last time was generous and I am hoping you will be able to help the orphans in Iraq.

Haidar

I was hoping you were calling to tell me good news about my son, Fahd.

IMAM (V.O.)

I am sorry, but I still no word. If Fahd is on the Jihad, you should be proud. You remember what it was like to fight the Russians, the smell and sounds of battle.

Haidar

Yes, I remember and that is why I am worried. This war has just taken an ugly turn. Blowing up a mosque is cowardly. The Americans and Iraqis are not our enemy. The Americans helped us and provided arms and money to help the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. I want my son back.

INT. MOSQUE - MOMENTS LATER

The mosque with Imam talks on a cell phone.

IMAM

You are right Haidar. You always understood the big picture. I will continue to ask our friends if they have seen Fahd.

Pulls out his worry beads.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Can we count on you to assist our collection of financial gifts?

Haidar (V.O.)

I am willing to provide assistance. My business would like to provide some medical supplies to a hospital in Baghdad. Possibly a new X-Ray machine.

Imam frowns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IMAM

How gracious of you, Haidar. We were counting on a financial gift. It is much easier to transfer money directly to the people who need it most.

Haidar (V.O.)

I understand, but my business can easily order and arrange delivery of medical supplies that the hospital can use. It is better this way.

IMAM

Of course. Everyone should give what they can. Your gift is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Hangs up. Turns to Abdullah, looks upset.

IMAM (CONT'D)

Call Fayiz and find Fahd. We need to know if he is a martyr yet. Haidar still has hope. It's taking longer than we thought and we cannot let Haidar find him first.

Abdullah

Why not?

IMAM

Haidar has many friends who are very, very generous and influential. Haidar's wrath could hurt us, Fahd's return might ruin us.

INT. TEAM ROOM - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 21 February 2006, Forward Operating Base, Iraq

Jafar is sitting in a team room on an old couch. The room is mostly homemade plywood furniture with a TV and lots of paperback books. He is drinking water and looks quiet. Nasir is sitting with him.

At the back of the room three people speak in low whispers. INTERROGATOR 1 (25 year old, female, Lebanese American, civilian) wearing khaki pants and polo shirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INTERROGATOR 2 (33 years old, male, Army), INTERROGATOR 3 (26 years old, male, Army).

INTERROGATOR 1

(reads from a notepad)

He is only a little scared but doing well. His name is Jafar and the man who was with him is his uncle, Al-Aziz. His mother is visiting her sister in Syria. His father, Sheikh Hashim, is on a business trip to Baghdad and his uncle takes care of him. He doesn't know anything about foreign fighters, except from what the other kids talk about.

A soldier enters with a tray of food and sets it on the table. The boy's eyes light up as he picks up a fork to start eating.

INTERROGATOR 2

Thanks Samantha. We'll get in touch with his mother and make arrangements to get Jafar to her. Set him up with a nice room on the base where he will be comfortable. He looks like a great kid that just needs a chance.

Turns to Interrogator 3.

INTERROGATOR 2 (CONT'D)

What are we getting out of the uncle?

INTERROGATOR 3

He is not talking much. He says his name is Al-Aziz, but it probably isn't his real name.

Refers to notes on a pad of paper.

INTERROGATOR 3 (CONT'D)

Says he is taking care of Jafar while Jafar's father is out of town on a job. We are checking the military databases, both US and Iraqi for information on Sheikh Hashim. Not sure if it is his real name.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

INTERROGATOR 3 (CONT'D)

We found these three passports,  
they look fake, but the photos  
might help the analysts.

Hands over three passports, one is opened to Fahd's  
photo.

INTERROGATOR 2

Roger. Let's keep Al-Aziz a few  
more days. Hopefully he will  
start talking before we have to  
move him to Abu G. Did you guys  
see the news about the al-Askari  
mosque being bombed?

INTERROGATOR 1

That should really increase the  
killings between AQI and the  
Shiites.

INTERROGATOR 2

Yeah, ask Al-Aziz about it, maybe  
he knows something.

INT. HAIDAR'S HOME IN SAUDI ARABIA - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 25 February 2006, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Haidar walks into the house after work.

Rasha quickly meets him at the entrance. She is very  
happy and excited. She shows a paper to show to Haidar.

RASHA

Father, I have been accepted at  
Kings College to attend medical  
school in London next September.

MOTHER follows her daughter into the room.

HAIDAR

Rasha, what great news. I am  
very, very proud of you.

MOTHER

Rasha has been waiting for you to  
come home and tell you in person.

HAIDAR

This calls for a celebration.

Brother walks in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Haidar (CONT'D)

Zahi, call Al-Nakheel and set up a reservation, then call Fatima, and get the cars ready.

Haidar seems pleased, but distracted.

Haidar (CONT'D)

Tell her, we will pick them up in about forty-five minutes.

MOTHER

Come, Rasha, let's get ready to go out. Haidar, we will be ready in about fifteen minutes.

INT. SITTING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mother and Rasha enter a nicely furnished sitting room.

RASHA

What is wrong with father? He seems distracted.

They both sit at a large make-up table and look through jewelry.

MOTHER

He is happy and so very proud of you.

She tries on a large gold necklace.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Your father received a phone call today. The government believes that Fahd might be in Iraq. They know he made it to Syria because he flew to the airport in Damascus several months ago. The Americans just found a passport with Fahd's photograph in Iraq.

Rasha puts on a gold necklace and gold bracelets.

RASHA

I hope he is still in Syria. Iraq is such a dangerous place. Everyone talks about how terrible it is and how the Iranians are killing Sunnis.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MOTHER

I am sure he will be fine, he has been to Damascus before. He was frustrated and not doing well in school and now he is ...

Rasha touches her Mother on the shoulder and sees a small tear.

RASHA

Mom, I know what he wrote about finding a new school and staying with friends. Zahi and I are still worried he might try to fight the Americans.

MOTHER

I know what you say, but Fahd is a quiet boy who has never hurt anyone. Not even touched a gun. He would never do something so stupid and dangerous.

They apply the last touch of make-up.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

After dinner, we will call my sister. That should be the right time for her in London.

Mother and Rasha stand up and put on burqas.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

We can tell her the good news.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSE: 25 February 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

The hotel restaurant is packed with newsmen and women eating dinner and working on laptop computers.

MARK HARRISON (32 years old, male, Caucasian) in a black polo shirt and jeans eats a sandwich and drinks a beer. He has a laptop computer open and he is reading news articles on the internet.

Arab Reporter, dressed in jeans, T-shirt and bullet proof vest with "Press" on the back walks over to Mark, then sits at the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Mark looks up, nods and then goes back to reading as if this is a normal situation.

ARAB REPORTER

Mister Harrison, what story are you working on today?

Mark looks up.

MARK

I don't know yet. Haven't found anything really interesting or new.

ARAB REPORTER

I have enjoyed your stories over the past couple of days. Your report on the mosque bombing last week was very good. It was a most unfortunate event.

Leans back in the chair away from the computer. He doesn't seem to know the Arab reporter.

MARK

Thank you. I wish I could have gone to see the mosque and interview some of the guards.

ARAB REPORTER

The damage was terrible. We shot a lot of video. The people are very upset about the lack of security.

MARK

Yes, I wish we had the freedom to move around and talk to the people. But, I prefer to keep my head on my shoulders, thank you. It is a very dangerous place out there, as you know.

Arab Reporter laughs.

ARAB REPORTER

Yes, I know what you mean.

MARK

You sound like you have more freedom.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

ARAB REPORTER

Speaking Arabic helps. I have some contacts that might assist you. You will be perfectly safe. Look at me, I can come and go as I like.

Mark looks at the body armor.

ARAB REPORTER (CONT'D)

That is to protect me from American friendly fire. As the military likes to call it.

Smiles.

MARK

What about the foreign fighters from Syria? I am interested in understanding the foreign fighters and writing stories to convince the Bush Administration and American public to pull the troops out of Iraq.

The Arab leans forward.

ARAB REPORTER

(talks quietly)

Then we share the same goals.

Leans back.

ARAB REPORTER (CONT'D)

It is normal for Arabs to travel throughout the region. It is also true that some come here to Iraq to fight against the Americans. But, they are also here to defend the Sunnis from the Shiite terrorists. The real threat is from Iran. They send in terrorists to kill as many Sunnis as possible.

Mark thinks before talking.

MARK

I am not reporting on Iranians. I don't want to give the Bush Administration any more information that would lead us to war with Iran.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ARAB REPORTER

Are you really sure that Iran is  
not at war with America?

Both look at each other intently.

ARAB REPORTER (CONT'D)

I will give you the name and phone  
number of a good friend. This  
brother speaks very good English  
and will be able to assist you to  
safely meet with some of the local  
Iraqis and understand the truth.

The Arab Reporter hands Mark a piece of paper with a  
name, Abu Hashim, and phone number.

MARK

Thank you very much. I appreciate  
the assistance and look forward to  
speaking with your friend.

ARAB REPORTER

You Americans are only here for  
three to four years? We have been  
here thousands.

INT. WAREHOUSE WORK BENCH - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 25 February 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Mustafa sits at a work bench with three computers,  
multiple cell phones, boxes of batteries, parts to  
computers, and tools. He work on a remote control  
device. Beside him on a second work bench are nine round  
EFP devices and various explosive components.

In the corner are seven AK-47s and two RPGs. On the  
floor is an old looking SA-7 rocket tube. There are  
noises of metal HAMMERING and WELDING.

Ali enters the work area.

ALI

Mustafa, come and have a look.

Mustafa turns his head toward Ali, then puts down his  
tools.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ali leads Mustafa to an old Toyota and has the two front doors open.

ALI

Have a look.

Points to the inside of the door packed with SEMTEX explosives.

ALI (CONT'D)

Now we attach the panel.

He picks up the interior panel and holds it in front of the explosives.

ALI (CONT'D)

And you can drive past any checkpoint.

MUSTAFA

Good work. These new explosives are working well.

Looks over the roof of the car toward a man welding rails on the bed of a long truck.

MUSTAFA (CONT'D)

How is the launcher coming?

ALI

It will take a few more days.

They hear SCREAMING in the background, but neither man reacts.

ALI (CONT'D)

The rails are almost ready, but we need to improve the suspension to take the load of the launch.

SQUAWK of the radio on Ali's belt. Ali picks up the radio and listens closely.

ALI

The patrol picked up six Sunnis from that mosque near the bridge, the AQ mosque.

MUSTAFA

Good. Bring them to the room when they get here.

INT. WAREHOUSE JAIL - MOMENTS LATER

Mustafa enters a room with cement walls and floor. In the middle of the room, a man tied to a chair. He has a bloody face and bloody hands. Hamid lean against a table with a big, bloody knife in one hand. He examines a gold ring in the light. On the table are several fingers and teeth.

MUSTAFA

Hello, how is our friend doing?

HAMID

He won't need this anymore.

Puts the ring in his pocket.

HAMID (CONT'D)

He doesn't know anything. I think he wasn't even part of the group. It's possible they.

Points through a doorway into another room. There are three bodies on the floor.

HAMID (CONT'D)

Might have just tried to blame this idiot.

He kicks the man in the chair.

HAMID (CONT'D)

The only thing we found out is that he was hired to help build that girl's school last summer.

MUSTAFA

I don't know why this guy is on Rashne's list.

Ali opens the door. Three armed men push four prisoners with bags over their heads inside. One of the guards hits the three prisoners with his AK-47 to knock them to the floor. Two guards lift one prisoner's hands onto a hook in the ceiling with just his toes touching the ground.

MUSTAFA

Building schools for girls is against Sharia law. Cut his tongue out and let him go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALI

These were picked up near the al-Qaida mosque. See if they have any information on where the bombers are hiding and if they are planning more attacks against other Shiite mosques.

EXT. CITY STREET IN BAGHDAD - DAY (1 MARCH 2006)

SUPERIMPOSE: 1 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Sergeant Young and Ahmed are part of the checkpoint at the intersection in Baghdad where the vehicle was attacked in December.

Ahmed and Sergeant Young approach Ali, MAN 1 (50 years old, Iraqi, Shiite), and MAN 2 (55 years old, Iraqi, Shiite) are selling papers and phone cards on the street.

AHMED

How's business today?

MAN 1

Last week there was a bombing again. But, today business is better.

AHMED

We are still looking for the people who are responsible for the bombing.

MAN 2

Where is the security? The streets are very dangerous now. We used to have security around here, now only bombs.

ALI

The Sunnis come here and kill all the Shiites. Look what they did to the al-Askari mosque!

AHMED

We assure you that things are better than before. My father was imprisoned and my uncle had his ears cut off under Saddam.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALI

You're in the Army, but go ask any policeman. Ask if they used to be Saddam Fedayeen, Iraqi Intelligence or the Republican Guards. Go, ask them!

Ali walks a little away to sell a phone card to a customer, but still listens.

MAN 1

There are bombings every week against the Americans. Maybe they will leave and go back home and we will have peace again.

MAN 2

People disappear every night.

Ali walks a another customer. Man 1 and Man 2 are quiet around Ali.

YOUNG

Do you have any information that will help us find who is responsible?

MAN 1

The people responsible are not from around here. They come from Iran and bring a lot of weapons and money. If you try to stop them or work with the Americans, they will kill you.

MAN 2

But they protect us from the police and foreign fighters. As long as we pay them taxes.

YOUNG

Can you tell us where they live?

MAN 2

No, that would be death for us. Either from Sadr's group or from the Sunnis, what choice is that?

An explosion occurs about two blocks over. People do not seem surprised or scared. The soldiers bring their weapons up and scan the area. There is black smoke in the distance several blocks over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAN 1

There is no security from these terrorists. The Americans killed Saddam, but now they must protect us.

The soldiers receive radio calls and start to move out toward the sound of the explosion.

INT. SPIDER HOLE - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 1 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Fahd, Muktar, Hussein and Atef suddenly hear noises upstairs. The DOOR MOVES and FOOTSTEPS. The men quietly adjust the suicide vests they are wearing. The sweat rolls off their faces. They look fearful as they finger the triggers of their vests.

The person stops, unlocks the door, and opens it.

AMIR

Are you still alive?

INT. AMIR'S SAFEHOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Amir opens the trap door and sees Fahd's thin, dusty face look back. Fahd smiles, then relaxes his finger on the trigger of his suicide vest. He blinks and uses his hand to shield his eyes from the light of the kitchen.

FAHD

Yes, praise be to Allah. We need some water and food.

AMIR

Come on up here, all of you.  
Here, here, have some water.

The men take off the suicide vests and one by one climb out of the hole. They are very thin and dirty.

Amir searches the kitchen to find glasses and water. They start drinking as fast as Amir can fill the glasses.

AMIR

What happened to my son and brother?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MUKTAR

The American soldiers were here  
and took them. We were worried  
they would talk.

Amir looks down the hole.

AMIR

If they talked, you would be dead  
right now.

MUKTAR

The Saudi, Atef, is still alive,  
but can barely lift his head and  
cannot walk.

Amir pulls out some old fruit and gives it to them.

AMIR

You are right, I have to make a  
couple of phone calls.

Gets up and walks outside. Picks up three phones.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - MOMENTS LATER

The internet cafe has fifteen computers lining the wall.  
Nine customers are using computers. Fayiz picks a  
computer at the end and sits down. Abu Hashim approaches  
the owner of the store.

Fayiz pulls out an USB port, sticks it into the computer  
and opens Internet Explorer.

He logs into a Yahoo e-mail account and begins to see  
fifty-eight unread e-mails over the past twenty-four  
hours. Most e-mails are spam for loans and XXX sites.

He sees one particular e-mail and opens it: "The  
Americans attacked, call".

EXT. CAFE - LATER

Fayiz and Abu Hashim sit at a cafe across the street from  
the internet cafe. They sip tea and watch the flow of  
traffic and the security procedures.

Abu Hashim picks up a cell phone.

ABU HASHIM

ASalaam 'Alaykum brother.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

AMIR (V.O.)

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam.

(mad)

The Americans took my son and brother. How can I get them back? Do you know anyone who can get them released?

ABU HASHIM

I am sorry to here about your troubles, but you know the Americans have rules. Your son will be free in a couple of weeks and you brother in six months. But you must clear out of your house for a few days in case they come back.

AMIR (V.O.)

There are four packages here, but one is really busted up and will not last long.

ABU HASHIM

His father has not paid, take him to Sheikh Hadi al Karim's house. Then take the other three to Baghdad, to the mosque.

Sergeant Young and Ahmed walk past.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

Do you still have a brother named Fahd? We have been trying to contact him.

AMIR (V.O.)

Yes, he is safe. You still owe me money and I will stay here until the payment is received.

ABU HASHIM

The last package you were supposed to deliver has still not shown up.

AMIR (V.O.)

They left days ago.

ABU HASHIM

Deliver two to Baghdad and we will pay you twelve thousand dollars.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AMIR (V.O.)

Twenty thousand.

ABU HASHIM

We will only pay the price agreed on. Our future lies together but there are many more ready to follow the light of Allah.

AMIR (V.O.)

There are not as many Iraqi supporters as you think. Our costs continue to rise, the Americans are making it very difficult.

ABU HASHIM

I understand your costs go up, but we are bringing you a lot more business, brother. We expect more loyalty and sacrifice for the common goals.

Drinks his tea.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

I will explain your position to the council, but you should plan to bring the packages to the mosque.

Hangs up the phone as he sits down at the table and joins his friend.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

He wants more money. Stupid Iraqi pain in the ass.

FAYIZ

We didn't expect the Americans to come here to Iraq. Now we have to deal with ex-Saddam soldiers who only want money.

Points to Sergeant Young.

FAYIZ (CONT'D)

It is easier to fight the Americans in Afghanistan because you can control the locals or run to Pakistan to escape the Americans.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FAYIZ (CONT'D)

Here the Americans can capture you, the Iranians can kill you and the Iraqis only want money. This place is dangerous. Like the American movie Batman, "nice people shouldn't live here anymore."

They both laugh.

INT. HOSPITAL IN US - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 1 March 2006, Kentucky, USA

Sergeant Harris is at a hospital with his wife and holding his new baby. LTC Waters' WIFE and her two kids are there visiting with flowers. DOCTOR (47 years old) and NURSE 3 (45 years old) are in the room. CNN is running in the background on the TV.

WIFE

How is Charlotte doing?

HARRIS

She is doing better, been asleep for the past hour. Her shoulder is broken, a fractured skull and a bruised kidney. She is lucky to be alive, but will make a recovery. Thank God this little baby girl, Amy; is in perfect health.

WIFE

What a wonderful name. We are very happy that you made it back here so quickly to be with your family. Please let us know if there is anything, anything at all to help you with.

NURSE 3

Look at that.

Points to the TV.

NURSE 3 (CONT'D)

I can't believe they bombed a mosque. Iraq is such a horrible place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HARRIS

That's a normal day for those terrorists. They would bomb your church on Main Street if they could.

NURSE 3

I wish the fighting would end and the soldiers could come home. We never should have gone there in the first place. The news reports every day are terrible.

HARRIS

Most of these reports.

Points to FOX News on the screen.

HARRIS (CONT'D)

Are only for Americans because the Iraqis don't get these channels. The news just shows bad things, not the hundreds of great things the military does.

DOCTOR

It's hard to understand. I mean, Saddam didn't conduct the nine-eleven attack.

HARRIS

I don't know about nine-eleven. But, I know we are fighting a lot of foreign fighters.

SON

It is a lot better for the soldiers to get the terrorists over there than let them get to America and kill us.

DOCTOR

Son, you make a lot of sense, we just wish the soldiers were safer. We all really appreciate the sacrifices and are pleased that we could save your wife and child.

SON

Don't worry, my daddy will take care of those terrorists!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SON (CONT'D)

I mean like Duh, everyone knows it is better to capture the terrorists over there than to let them get to America and blow up our schools.

HARRIS

You are a strong one! Your father is an excellent commander. Most of the time the news only reports on how terrible things are back here at home. We are more worried about our families with all the reports about school shootings, mass murders, hurricanes, and tornados. It makes America look more dangerous

INT. JOINT HQ - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 1 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

MAJ Robinson and LTC ROGERS (42 years old, Army 3rd Corps, Intelligence Officer) stand together looking through a hardcopy of a Powerpoint briefing. One of the large screen TVs is running a FOX news segment on the al-Askari mosque bombing. ANALYST 2 (28 years old, Army Staff Sergeant, 18th Airborne Corps, 82nd Airborne Infantry combat patch) is sitting at a computer.

ANALYST 2

Sir, can you come over here for a moment and look at this?

MAJ Robinson and LTC Rogers come over to the desk.

ROBINSON

What have you got?

ANALYST 2

Sir, the MEF was recently in a TIC on eighteen February when they detained a wounded foreign fighter.

ROGERS

TIC?

ROBINSON

Troops in contact.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANALYST 2

The interrogators report that he won't talk. I sent his photo out to CENTCOM and the intelligence agencies and just received this report back.

Opens a Powerpoint slide with the photo. He hands a Word Document to Major Robinson.

ANALYST 2

Hasan was detained in Afghanistan and sent to GITMO. About twelve months ago he was returned to Yemen. He served about two weeks in jail and then was released.

ROGERS

(upset)

What the hell are they doing releasing this guy!?

MAJ Robinson reads a hard copy of the report.

ROBINSON

Looks like he promised the Yemenis that he wouldn't fight any more so they let him go. According to the GITMO record they thought he was of little importance and couldn't provide more information.

ANALYST 3 (27 year old, Marine) leans over from the next work station.

ANALYST 3

Some fucking bullshit civilian playing games and letting these assholes free. You can't reform these terrorists.

ANALYST 2

This is fucked up. I was in Afghanistan back in two thousand and two when we were capturing these guys. The catch and release program is bullshit.

WALKER

LTC Rogers will be taking the next briefing on this as he and I continue the change over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LTC Rogers and MSG Walker step back away from the discussion with the Analysts and MAJ Robinson.

ROGERS

Top, tell me who is who on the team here. It seems like an unusual group of Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and civilians from everywhere.

WALKER

It is a very professional group. Have you ever worked a joint assignment before?

ROGERS

No. I just spent the last two assignments between South Korea and then teaching at the school house. This is the first time over in the Sand Box.

WALKER

Sir, you have the most amazing team of thirty-seven individuals you'll ever work with. We have Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine, Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, civilians, DIA, NSA, NGA and a couple of other three letter agencies. They work twenty-four, seven as a great team. You won't find a better group.

There is a sudden explosion outside the office area. LTC Rogers ducks a little.

BIG VOICE is the base announcer over the loud speakers.

BIG VOICE (V.O.)

Incoming fire, take cover,  
incoming fire, take cover.

AIRMAN (19 years old, Air Force) dives under a desk.

ANALYST 3

Airman, what the fuck are you doing under there? Get your ass up and back to work.

AIRMAN

They're bombing us. The "Big Voice" said to take cover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANALYST 1

Airman, don't worry, you will get used to it. After a couple of weeks, you won't even notice the incoming fire. I know, but don't worry, they aren't very good shots and rarely hit anyone.

WALKER

Everyone here has more Joint experience than many of the Active Duty personnel. Only forty to fifty percent of the Active Duty soldiers deployed while many of the Reservists have spent two to three years here already.

ROGERS

Bunch of fucking idiots to volunteer over and over again! Don't know of any Active Duty soldiers volunteering for multiple deployments.

EXT. AMIR'S HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 1 March 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

Amir is outside his house smoking a cigarette. His cell phone RINGS.

He finds the phone and looks to see who is calling, "ABDULLAH" is the name on the phone screen.

AMIR

Abdullah.

RASHNE (V.O.)

No, this is not Abdullah, but you will be able to talk with him soon.

Amir is surprised by the stranger calling on his son's phone.

AMIR

Who is this? I would like to speak to Abdullah.

RASHNE (V.O.)

Your son is here. We were very surprised to find him.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

RASHNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

He seemed lost and out of place in Najaf, we offered to assist him to find his way..

Amir interrupts Rashne.

AMIR

I would like to speak with Abdullah.

RASHNE (V.O.)

Like I was saying, we were very surprised to find him with three Saudis. Now, what would Saudis want in Najaf we asked ourselves. There is no reason for these Sunni boys in a Shiite holy place.

AMIR

They paid Abdullah to drive them to Kuwait and probably stopped for rest. Abdullah is an excellent driver and is supposed to return to get back to school. I would like to speak to him.

RASHNE (V.O.)

I am sure you do.

Pause.

RASHNE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We recently captured a Kuwaiti with about fifty thousand dollars. He has been answering a few of our questions. He has been waiting for three Saudi suicide bombers.

AMIR

I don't know what you are talking about.

RASHNE (V.O.)

But then we saw the bombing of the al-Askari mosque, now we know why they are here.

Amir hears SCREAMING in the background of the phone.

ABDULLAH (V.O.)

(yells)

Father, father, help me. I didn't do anything wrong.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ABDULLAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Iraqi police stopped us at a checkpoint and arrested us.

AMIR

What do you want? I have some money and can pay you.

RASHNE (V.O.)

Money, we have plenty of that. The Saudis wanted to find Allah, so we will help them.

AMIR

My son is just a boy.

RASHNE (V.O.)

Your son. We need to make certain he doesn't deliver any more terrorists.

ABDULLAH (V.O.)

(yells)

Father, I am sorry. We tried to get away.

Amir hears the sounds of an ELECTRIC DRILL being turned on.

ABDULLAH (V.O.) (CONT'D)

(screams)

No, no, no!

RASHNE (V.O.)

Tell that piece of shit Zargawi not to send any more fucking Arab bombers down here!

Amir hangs up the phone.

AMIR

(whispers)

Abdullah, I love you. Praise be to Allah.

There are a couple of tears in Amir's eyes as he pulls out the SIM card from the phone. He breaks the SIM card in half and throws it on the ground, then kicks sand over it.

He lights a cigarette and smokes it a little as he looks around his home compound. He pulls out a small flask and takes a drink, his hands are shaking. Then he finds his second cell phone and dials.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AMIR

Hello Shazi. How are you and the children?

AMIR'S WIFE (V.O.)

Everyone is fine. We received word that Jafar will be here in a couple of days. When can you come and be with us in Damascus?

AMIR

I have business. Can't come right now.

AMIR'S WIFE (V.O.)

Can we come home soon? We miss our house.

AMIR

No, it is too dangerous.

Inhales his cigarette.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Abdullah was driving a delivery of goods to Baghdad and was grabbed by some Shiite gang.

Exhales his cigarette.

AMIR (CONT'D)

He was murdered.

AMIR'S WIFE (V.O.)

Allah!

(Cries and wails on the phone.)

AMIR'S WIFE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My son, my son. What have you done! First Jafar, now Abdullah is dead.

Amir takes another drink from the flask.

AMIR'S WIFE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What will we do?

AMIR

Shut up Shazi. Jafar will be there soon. Take care of the kids.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AMIR (CONT'D)

I have to go, the Shiite gangs probably know where our house is, and possibly Iranian spies.

Hearing only crying he hangs up.

INT. AMIR'S SAFEHOUSE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Amir opens the spider hole to let Fahd and Mustafa out. He opens cabinets and pulls out food for all to eat.

Amir is on the phone.

AMIR

The three packages are ready for delivery. We will be there at the mosque tomorrow.

He hangs up and turns to Fahd and Mustafa.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Eat, eat, we are leaving soon and I don't expect to be back here for a while.

INT. TACTICAL OPERATIONS ROOM - EARLY MORNING (24 MARCH 2006)

SUPERIMPOSE: 24 March 2006, Forward Operating Base, Iraq

The battalion tactical operations room is in an old Iraqi military room, all concrete and cinder block. The soldiers built plywood tables and desks for computer work stations. There is a large flat screen TV mounted on the wall showing FOX news, a second flat screen with a map of Iraq and blue & red icons (friendly forces and recent attacks). There is a large map of Iraq on one wall and a second spread out on the center table. Staff Sergeant Clark, 2nd SQUAD LEADER (25 years old, Army, male, Staff Sergeant, 101st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division combat patch), 3rd SQUAD LEADER (26 years old, Army, male, Sergeant, 101st Infantry Division), and the PLATOON SERGEANT (32 years old, Army, male, Staff Sergeant, 101st Infantry Division) are looking at the map. There is a route highlighted in green from Balad to Baghdad, Iraq.

LT Thompson walks in with Sergeant Sanchez.

THOMPSON

Morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLARK

Morning sir.

PLATOON SERGEANT

Morning sir.

THOMPSON

Before we start the mission briefing, the commander informed me that Sergeant Harris's wife and baby are doing fine.

PLATOON SERGEANT

I got an e-mail from him right before walking in here.

THOMPSON

Good. This is Sergeant Sanchez. He has been reassigned as the medic for our platoon. Staff Sergeant Alex Clark, first squad, Staff Sergeant Adams, second squad, Sergeant Wilson is taking over third squad and you will be riding with the platoon sergeant.

Everyone shakes hands with Sergeant Sanchez.

CLARK

Sir, I understand moving Sergeant Wilson to the squad leader position, but that means I am short three men.

PLATOON SERGEANT

Since Sergeant Sanchez is here, you can have Specialist Wright. It will be quieter in the HMWWV without him singing Country music all fucking day long.

THOMPSON

We only have fifteen minutes before third platoon comes in for their briefing.

He pulls open a notebook and uses the map to point out things.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

The battalion has been ordered to Baghdad to patrol the North East section near Sadr City.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

The Iraqi Army and Police elements have been improving but the situation is growing worse because of the sectarian violence. Sadr has been using his militia to hit Coalition forces with new explosive formed projectiles or EFPs smuggled from Iran. They also attack Sunni civilians in reprisal killings for the attacks AQI is making on Shiites.

2ND SQUAD LEADER

We should have taken care of that asshole back in two thousand and three when we had the chance.

THOMPSON

The other day, a patrol from third ID found a torture chamber with seventeen dead civilians believed to be Sunnis with their heads cut off.

PLATOON SERGEANT

That's fucked up, sir. The news complains about us torturing prisoners at Abu G., while Zarqawi and Sadr cut off heads.

CLARK

Nothing we can do about it.

THOMPSON

Bottomline, we leave tonight at oh-one hundred. Get your soldiers ready and in their vehicles by oh-thirty. Makes sure they have fuel and ammo. We have a lot of work to do to get ready today.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 24 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Mark is working on a laptop computer when his cell phone rings on the table. He checks the number calling, but it is unidentified.

MARK

Hello

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAYIZ (V.O.)

Hello, did you get the video?

MARK

Yes, we reviewed the tape.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

Why didn't you use it? We did you report such low casualty numbers?

MARK

You told us there were twenty-nine Americans killed. The Army reported only three killed. The Army also reported eighteen Iraqis killed, mostly Shiites. The video can't be shown in America because it might stir up more support for Bush.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

The Army tells you low numbers so that it will not upset the people back home. The Russians used to do this all the time in Afghanistan. You must show these videos to America.

MARK

You are probably right, but we will only report the official number of American casualties from the Army.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

Do not allow America to live in a fantasy, like Disney World. You must show them the truth. It would be hard for anyone to know how many people die, but the American soldiers kill thousands of Muslims every day.

MARK

The video of the attack you sent looks like a bunch of people in the desert, not a real attack. We want real action video.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

Hopefully, an attack doesn't occur anywhere near you, my friend, In ðâ Allâh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARK

I will agree with that.

FAYIZ (V.O.)

My sister, in New York wants to know when your next live report is so she can watch you. She was very surprised that I knew such a famous reporter.

Mark laughs a little.

MARK

I am not a famous reporter, maybe someday. I didn't know you had a sister in America. She can turn on the TV at six o'clock on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for our live reports.

INT. JOINT HQ - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 24 March 2006, Joint Intelligence Center, Iraq

Analyst 1 and Captain Harris brief LTC Rogers.

CAPTAIN HARRIS

Sir, one interesting event. The Special Forces detained an individual, Al-Aziz, on an objective in the Euphrates River Valley. He is related to an individual who was an Iraqi Special Forces colonel that goes by the name, Amir. He's suspected of facilitating foreign fighters for Zarqawi.

ANALYST 1

Special Forces are trying to track the High Value Target. Detaining him might help reduce the foreign fighters and provide information on the network.

ROGERS

Interesting. There are plans for additional troops that will help improve security.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ROGERS (CONT'D)

Keep working the network analysis, we will need to brief up the J-three tomorrow on targeting opportunities.

INT. MOSQUE IN BAGHDAD - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: 24 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Abu Hashim stands next to a door. Two guards with AK-47s are on either side, prepared to fire. Abu Hashim straightens up and opens the door a crack and looks outside.

He opens the door for Amir, Fahd, and Muktar to enter.

ABU HASHIM

ASalaam 'Alaykum.

AMIR

Wa `Alaykum As-Salaam.

ABU HASHIM

How was the drive here?

AMIR

The drive was long. There were about twelve checkpoints along the road, mostly Iraqi Army, but they are backed up by the Americans. Are they increasing security?

Abu Hashim nods, motions for Amir to follow him.

INT. MOSQUE OPERATIONS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The operations room is lit by an electric lamp. There are three computers on a desk, stack of CDs, DVD, video camera and a printer. There is a closet with nine suicide vests, AK-47s, and RPGs.

ABU HASHIM

Yes. The Americans seem to be setting up more roadblocks. They may be shifting forces around the country. Later, you can point the new checkpoints out on the map.

Abu Hasim pulls out three vests from the closet and starts to hand them around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amir pushes away the suicide vest.

AMIR

Tomorrow, I leave Baghdad. I  
don't plan to be a martyr tonight.

Abu Hashim nods. Fahd rejects the vest.

AMIR (CONT'D)

Brother,

Points to Fahd.

AMIR (CONT'D)

You need to wear the vest.

FAHD

I want to be a fighter. I  
traveled all this way and am ready  
to fight the Americans.

ABU HASHIM

Your courage is commendable, but  
we must insist on wearing the  
vest.

Abu Hashim opens his shirt to show his vest.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

We cannot have you captured by the  
Iraqis or the Americans. They  
will torture you to get  
information on our operations and  
leaders. It would be a disgrace  
to your family.

Fahd puts on the vest.

ABU HASHIM (CONT'D)

Good.

Umar enters the room.

UMAR

(loudly)  
Fahd, Fahd it's you!

Fahd hearing Umar, they greet each other by kissing and  
hug.

FAHD

Umar!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

UMAR

You made it in time for the next operation.

FAHD

Umar, it is good to see you.

Abu Hashim directs Fahd and Umar outside to talk.

INT. MOSQUE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Umar leads Fahd along a dark hallway. They stop near a door that is slightly ajar. Umar motions for Fahd to be quiet.

They overhear TERRORIST 2 talking on a phone with a good English accent.

TERRORIST 2 (O.S.)

Hello brother. Yes, I am looking forward to getting back to school next semester there are many things to teach the students. Did you download the documents from the German brothers...? There has been a lot of success and we look forward to expanding the franchise... I heard from the British and Danish brothers, that they are planning a special party for the fucking cartoonist. I should be in New York in July, will call you when I arrive... Yes, look forward to a good pizza from D'Angelos!

Umar pulls Fahd by the wrist away from the door.

UMAR

(whispers excitedly)

They are planning a big operation!

Waves back at the door.

UMAR (CONT'D)

I just got here a couple of weeks ago, but am so excited about all the operations they are doing from here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAHD

(whispers)

How many fighters are here? It seems like a very active and exciting place!

UMAR

(whispers)

Lots of fighters, maybe thirty or forty from all over the world - Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, England, Germany, Turkey, Chechnya, everywhere. It's great how we keep striking the infidels. An emissary from Bin Laden just arrived last night and will meet with Zarqawi.

FAHD

(whispers)

I would like to meet Zarqawi.

UMAR

(whispers)

No one gets to see him. He is constantly on the move and has many body guards to keep him safe from the Americans.

Umar adjusts his suicide vest.

UMAR (CONT'D)

It took you a long time to get here. You must have seen a lot of fighting, tell me all about it.

FAHD

(whispers)

Yes, we saw a lot of fighting. It was great the way kept attacking the Americans. You should have seen me firing the RPG and AK I hit a couple of trucks and killed a bunch of American soldiers.

UMAR

(whispers)

Wish I could have been there with you! I should have volunteered when you did. But now I am ready for jihad and to be a martyr!

INT. SMALL TRUCK IN BAGHDAD - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 31 March 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Abu Hashim drives Fahd in a small truck. Fahd is looking out the window at the people and the traffic in Baghdad.

ABU HASIM

Brother, do you know how to drive?

Fahd looks at Abu Hasim, he is a little surprised by the question.

FAHD

Yes, I know how to drive.

ABU HASIM

Good. Pay particular attention to this intersection.

They approach the intersection with the joint American and Iraqi checkpoint. Many people are shopping at the market for fruits and vegetables.

ABU HASIM (CONT'D)

You will drive this truck to the intersection and the brothers will make their attack.

Fahd looks around a little confused.

FAHD

I don't see any Americans here? Who will they attack? How will they attack?

Looks at Fahd. Points out Sergeant Young talking with Ahmed on the corner.

ABU HASIM

There is one. The brothers in the back of the truck will jump out and kill the Americans. You need to get the truck close to the market like you are making a delivery.

FAHD

I understand. What do I do if there are no Americans?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABU HASIM

We have been watching this area for weeks. Every Friday, an American patrol comes through here after the prayer. There is a mosque over there.

Points.

ABU HASIM (CONT'D)

For the Shiites.

FAHD

Won't some of the people get hurt?

Abu Hasim looks at Fahd quizzically.

ABU HASIM

Hurt? I pray to Allah that they are killed. This is a Shiite area. The more Shiites we kill, the better the world will be.

Nods to Fahd.

ABU HASIM (CONT'D)

If the Americans catch you, you will be tortured in Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. If you are caught by these Iranians, you will be tortured in one of their prisons in Sadr City. You will beg to die.

They stop at a traffic light.

ABU HASIM (CONT'D)

I have to show you how to do this.

Fahd looks at Abu Hasim's hands.

ABU HASIM (CONT'D)

In order to open the back door of the truck. You need to stop the truck, keep the motor running, and reach down here under the dashboard and flip this switch. See?

Abu Hasim operates a small switch under the dashboard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FAHD

Just drive the truck up near the market, park it then flip the switch to open the back door. Then what?

Abu Hasim pauses, to think of what to say.

ABU HASIM

Then, once the shooting starts. Drive the truck out of the area and back to the mosque.

INT. SMALL FLAT BED TRUCK - EARLY MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 01:30, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Ali and Mustafa drive through the dark city of Baghdad. The small flatbed truck has five, fifty-five gallon barrels marked 'petrol' on the sides. They wear coveralls like workmen. There are few cars on the streets this late.

They are stopped at one checkpoint and show ID cards to the IRAQI SOLDIER, who allows them to drive past.

They approach the intersection that normally has the American and Iraqi checkpoint and stop at a traffic light.

EXT. TRAFFIC LIGHT - MOMENTS LATER

Ali and Mustafa men get out of the truck and look around for cars. Mustafa climbs on the bed of the truck while Ali continues to watch the road. He lifts a fifty-five gallon drum and Ali helps him lower it to the ground. Mustafa lifts the lid and Ali quickly pulls out a large box.

Ali sets the box next to the traffic light. It looks like an electrical box that might have a function for the traffic light. Mustafa opens the box and turns on a switch to activate the device. Then both men quickly get back in the truck and drive away.

INT. MOSQUE - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 05:00, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fahd, Umar, and Abu Hasim conduct the ritual for ablutions (wudu') of ritually washing the face, hands, and feet. Then the salat prayer ritual lead by Abu Hashim.

ABU HASIM

Allahu Akbar, Ashadu anna la ilaha illa Allah, Ashadu anna Muhammadan rasul Allah, Haiya 'ala al-salat, Haiya 'ala al-falah, Al-salat khayrun min al-nawm, Allahu Akbar, La ilaha illa Allah.

EXT. STREET IN BAGHDAD - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE: 11:55, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Four Army HMWWVs drive on a busy Baghdad street. Each vehicle is armored and a soldier in the turret searching. The vehicles have the 'Sidewinder' symbol showing they belong to LT Thompson's platoon from the 101st Infantry Division.

INT. HMWWV - MORNING

Staff Sergeant Clark is the troop commander of the lead vehicle. Specialist Wright is driving and Specialist Hill sits behind him. Another soldier is in the gunner turret position looking outside.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

Sidewinder One, this is Six, over.

CLARK

This is Sidewinder One, over.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

The Commander just linked up, so we have four vehicles in the patrol now, over.

CLARK

Roger, out.

HILL

Sergeant Clark, does your wife ever ask you some weird shit about Iraq?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CLARK

No, not really. My wife knows she is safer because we are doing our jobs.

HILL

No, I meant like why we are here? My girlfriend was asking some stupid questions last night about why we are in Iraq and Afghanistan is it worth it and stupid shit like that.

CLARK

You should ask Lieutenant Thompson, he graduated from college a year ago.

Clark thumbs backward indicating the vehicle behind them.

WRIGHT

That's because you got some fucking tree hugger girlfriend! I mean, where was she on nine-eleven?

HILL

I met her at the college before deploying. Now, she's a sophomore.

WRIGHT

You should dump her ass. You need to find a girlfriend who appreciates your sacrifice for her freedom.

CLARK

I can't think of anyone in my family, or friends that doesn't understand America is safer because we are here.

Wright reaches into a pocket and pulls out a lighter and tosses it back to Specialist Wright.

WRIGHT

Here, send this to that bitch.

HILL

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Looks at the lighter. There is a picture of the World Trade Center with the terrorist airplane crashing into it on one side. Bin Laden on the other side.

HILL (CONT'D)

Where did you get this crap?

WRIGHT

Amanda, the Commander's new interpreter. She got it off that Syrian Charlie Company detained last week. You should meet her, speaks Arabic, shoots forty out of forty.

CLARK

She just graduated from Michigan University and volunteered. She's probably too smart for Hill!

HILL

Is she the gunner on the Commander's vehicle back there?

Opens his door to look behind at the fourth vehicle in the patrol.

INT. MOSQUE - NOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 12:38, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Abu Hashim checks Fahd and Umar's suicide vests. Amir comes in and nods to Abu Hashim. Abu Hashim holds Fahd's cheeks and looks him in the eyes,

ABU HASHIM

Be brave young fighter and make your father proud.

Nods to Mustafa to go with Amir.

EXT. MOSQUE - NOON

Fahd and Umar are holding hands as they walk out of the mosque with huge smiles on their faces. Two trucks are parked on the street with engines running. Amir motions for them to hurry up. Fahd and Umar look into each others eyes.

FAHD

Allâhu Akbar!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

UMAR

Allâhu Akbar!

They embrace each other and kiss then go to their trucks. Fahd drives off first.

INT. HMWWV -

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:01, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Staff Sergeant Clark is watching the street ahead and sees the intersection with the Iraqi checkpoint ahead.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

Sidewinder one, this is six.  
Watch this intersection coming up,  
over.

Clark picks up the radio microphone.

CLARK

Is this the place Sanchez talked  
about? Over.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

Roger, there have been a few IEDs.  
Watch for changes in the civilians  
and there should be a joint Iraqi  
patrol checkpoint, over.

CLARK

Roger, out.

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

Fahd drives his truck. He is very nervous and sweating profusely. He sees the intersection three cars in front. An IRAQI POLICEMAN is directing traffic because the lights are not working. He looks in all directions, searching for American and Iraqi soldiers. One side of the intersection has a large market with many people purchasing food.

The Iraqi policeman begins waving traffic forward.

Fahd starts driving the truck slowly into the intersection, still searching. Sweat dripping down his face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He slow down in the middle of the intersection. The Iraqi policeman keeps waving at him and blows his WHISTLE.

Fahd sees Ahmed and Sergeant Young looking at him from the market area. Fahd tries to drive the truck towards the market but is stopped by a car. Fahd leans his head out of the window to talk with the policeman and points towards the market.

There is a huge explosion. The truck detonates spraying metal everywhere. Ahmed, Sergeant Young, and many others are knocked to the ground. Shop windows are broken, cars are knocked over.

EXT. STREET CORNER - MOMENTS LATER

Fayiz looks around the corner of the wall, safely away from the blast. All he can see is a dust cloud mixed with black smoke that begins to rise. He closes a cell phone.

As the dust settles, he sees the people in various states of shock, dead, screaming, wounded. Several people stumble past him dusty, bleeding, and holding their ears. American and Iraqi soldiers respond by setting up security and the wounded and dying.

Fayiz smiles, opens another cell phone.

FAYIZ

Sharif.... Fahd is married.  
Praise be to Allah.

EXT. HOTEL BALCONY - AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:03, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Mark stands on a fifth floor balcony of his hotel room. The city is behind him. Mark has a microphone in one hand and papers in the other.

MARK

Moments ago we heard a huge explosion only a couple of blocks away. We can see a cloud of smoke over there.

Points to a plume of black smoke.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARK (CONT'D)

That area might be where a market is. It is mostly...

Two huge EXPLOSIONS occur nearby. Mark ducks and the camera shakes.

MARK (CONT'D)

That was close. As I was saying, the area where these explosions occurred is mostly Shiite. These might be Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices or VBIEDs as the Army calls them. Usually driven by a suicide bomber. Reports are that the AQI leader Abu Musab al Zargawi is increasing attacks on Shiites in the hope of starting a civil war here in Iraq. Another grim reminder of the dangers faced everyday by Iraqi civilians because the US Army is stretched thin and Iraqi Army and police forces are not ready to assume the security mission. The death toll continues to rise everyday here in Iraq.

INT. APARTMENT IN BAGHDAD - MOMENTS LATER

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:05, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Mustafa, Ali, and Rashne sit in the apartment overlooking the intersection. The dust and smoke is still obscuring the center of the traffic intersection.

ALI

What happened?

MUSTAFA

Check your remote!

ALI

I didn't set it off!

Ali shows Mustafa the remote control, still blinking a light.

RASHNE

It was an AQ suicide bomber. Look!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Points to the remains of the truck.

MUSTAFA

There is an American patrol.

Points at LT Thompson's four HMMWV patrol, now heading towards the intersection.

RASHNE

Ali, hit them when they get to the intersection!

Ali picks up the remote control.

INT. HMMWV -

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:07, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

LTC Waters sits in the passenger seat of the armored HMMWV with a map on his lap. In front are the three vehicles in the patrol. The driver maneuvers between civilian cars radically changing speeds from zero to twenty miles an hour trying to keep up with the vehicle in front. Civilian traffic has moved to the right or turned down side streets to make way for the patrol.

Ahead, the dust has settled and the black smoke increases from two burning cars.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

Sidewinder One, take up positions on the east of the intersection, over.

CLARK (V.O.)

Roger.

THOMPSON (V.O.)

Sidewinder Four, set up a triage area, over.

PLATOON SERGEANT (V.O.)

Roger.

In front of LTC Waters there is a huge explosion. The driver has to stop fast before hitting the vehicle in front. AMANDA in the gunner position reports over the radio.

AMANDA (V.O.)

An IED hit the second vehicle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sergeant Sanchez jumps out of the vehicle in front of LTC Waters with an aide bag and runs toward the smoking vehicle in front of him.

PLATOON SERGEANT (V.O.)  
Sidewinder One, Six was just hit  
by an IED.

EXT. INTERSECTION WHERE EXPLOSION OCCURRED.

SUPERIMPOSE: 13:15, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

The Iraqi police, Iraqi Army, and US Army are helping the wounded and covering the dead with cloth. Platoon Sergeant is helping to load an American soldier into an Army ambulance.

Ahmed has a bloody face and carries a woman to the back of an Iraqi ambulance. A small boy of about six years old with a dirty, bloody face and ripped T-shirt holds onto the woman's hand.

Next to him, Sergeant Young carries a ten year old girl with blood soaked bandages on her legs, arm and head.

Sergeant Sanchez is doing CPR on Man 1.

The Arab Reporter and his news crew are walking through the destruction creating a news report. The Arab Reporter finds a spot so the news camera can get the most dead bodies behind him.

Ahmed and Sergeant Young finish helping the Iraqis into the ambulance. Ahmed turns back towards the intersection and stops. He grabs Sergeant Young by the armor vest and points out Fahd's severed head which lays on the pavement near the ambulance.

INT. MNF-I HQ - 14:50 PM

SUPERIMPOSE: 14:50, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

LTC Rogers sits at his plywood desk. He watches one of the multiple TV screens.

FOX & Friends Morning show is on, but the sound is muted. Across the bottom of the screen scrolls: "Multiple suicide attacks reported in Baghdad.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

No confirmed American military deaths, but as many as one hundred Iraqis may be killed and wounded in this latest attack in the Shiite section of Baghdad, most likely the work of Zarqawi and AQI."

Capt Harris, Analyst 1, and Analyst 2 walk up to LTC Rogers with multiple emails and documents.

HARRIS

Sir, reports of two VBIEDs, one IED, and possibly one EFP near Sadr City. The attack happened just after thirteen hundred.

ANALYST 1

The first attack looks like a suicide bombing VBIED by AQI. The truck detonated in the center of the intersection. Looks like they were targeting the Shiites at the local market.

ANALYST 2

The EFP hit an up-armored HMMWV responding to one of the VBIEDs. No way to know if this was a complex attack against first responders or not.

HARRIS

Initial reports. Three US Army WIA from the EFP. Probably one Iraqi Army soldier killed and five wounded. Approximately fifty-six Iraqi civilians killed, seventeen in one incident and thirty-nine in the other, over one hundred and fourteen civilians wounded.

ANALYST 2

Al Jazeera reports about seventy to eighty US KIA and over three hundred civilians.

Captain Harris hands LTC Rogers a Powerpoint slide. The slide has a bar graph by month and incidents. The graph clearly shows an increase in incidents each month.

ANALYST 1

Sir, this bar graph includes today's totals.

LTC Rogers looks at a bar graph.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

LTC ROGERS

Thanks. Appreciate the hard work tracking all these events. I was hoping this month would be quieter than last.

INT. HAIDAR'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

SUPERIMPOSE: 15:45, 1 April 2006, Baghdad, Iraq

Haidar sits in his office looking over documents. His cell phone RINGS. Haidar looks at the caller ID, "Imam Sharif".

HAIDAR

Hello.

He listens a moment. He closes his eyes and puts the phone down. Then puts his elbows on the desk and his head in his hands, crying.

INT. UNKNOWN

SUPERIMPOSE: 5 April 2006, Al Anbar Province, Iraq

A cell phone RINGS. A hand flips open the phone. The text message, "Expect 4 friends to arrive at the farm tomorrow night."

FADE OUT.

THE END