Global Jihad Online

Terrorist networks are more wired than ever.

Jihadi terrorists and their followers have taken to the Internet like freshmen to Facebook. But the authorities haven’t noticed that the front line is now online. “Al Qaeda is wired – we are not,” says Brian Jenkins, a terrorism expert at the research firm RAND. Not that it’s easy to monitor the world’s 42 million Web sites for the activities of a few evildoers. “Sure, we have the technology to listen to every signal,” Jenkins says. “But do we have the analytical capacity to make sense of it? Much less so.” At the University of Arizona’s Al Lab, the Dark Web Portal – the world’s largest archive of terrorist-related online content – aims to separate some signal from all the noise. Recent research found hundreds of hidden jihadist sites containing everything from beheading videos to games in which players try to assassinate President Bush. Take a peek inside the shadowy world of Jihad.com. – Frank Bures

DESPITE EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS THEM, COVERT TERRORIST WEB SITES ARE FLOURISHING

TOTAL NUMBER OF VIDEOS ON COVERT TERRORIST SITES

706
291 documentary
143 propaganda
126 message
70 beheading
26 hostage-taking
22 suicide attack
13 tribute
9 training
5 newsletter
1 instruction

TERRORIST TARGETS IDENTIFIED IN VIDEOS

5% infantry/pedestrians
10% supply vehicles
10% misc. facilities
24% military bases
32% military vehicles
61% vehicles

Source: Artificial Intelligence Lab, University of Arizona