

The Videotape of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi - April 2006



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi



Usama Bin Laden

Figure 1

A new video recording featuring footage of Al-Qaida's commander in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, shows striking similarities to previous propaganda videos released by Al-Qaida depicting Usama Bin Laden touring his former training camps in Afghanistan. In both sets of videos, the "amirs" are shown reviewing their men while surrounded by approximately seven masked bodyguards.



Abu Musab al-Zarqawi



Al-Qaida member holding MANPAD

Figure 2

The new video of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi includes footage of Al-Qaida militants in Iraq brandishing mobile shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile launchers (MANPADS). This is the first known confirmation that Zarqawi's inner circle has access to MANPAD systems, which pose a significant threat to commercial aircraft. In late 2002, Al-Qaida tried and failed to shoot down an Israeli airliner in Kenya with a similar MANPAD system.