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The Afghan-Pakistan War: The Rising Intensity of Conflict 2001-2007

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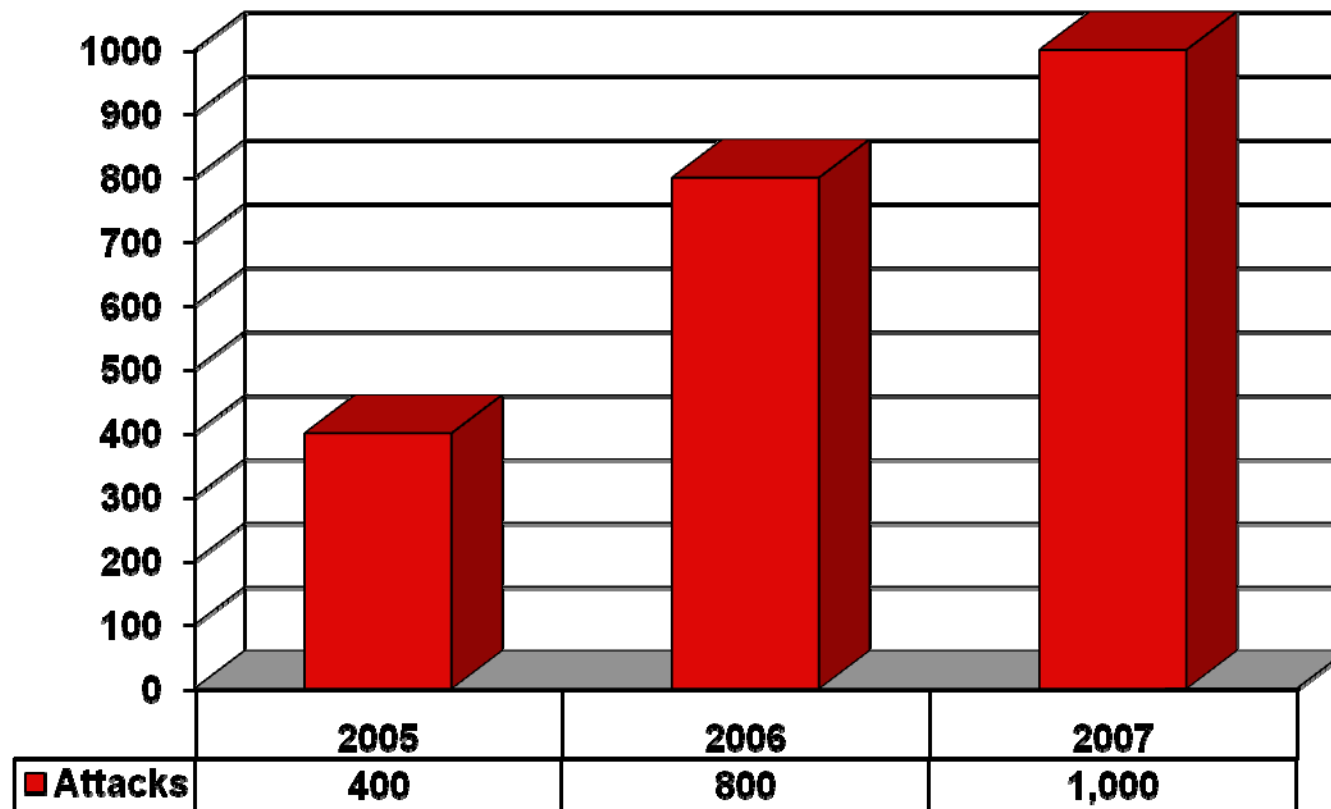
Burke Chair
in Strategy

August 12, 2009

UNDSS 2007 vs. 2006

- **The security situation in Afghanistan is assessed by most analysts as having deteriorated at a constant rate through 2007. Statistics show that although the numbers of incidents are higher than comparable periods in 2006, they show the same seasonal pattern.**
- **The nature of the incidents has however changed considerably since last year, with high numbers of armed clashes in the field giving way to a combination of armed clashes and asymmetric attacks countrywide.**
- **The Afghan National Police (ANP) has become a primary target of insurgents and intimidation of all kinds has increased against the civilian population, especially those perceived to be in support of the government, international military forces as well as the humanitarian and development community.**
- **...the more significant change in 2007 is the shift from large-scale armed clashes in the field to asymmetric or terror-style attacks. The former do still take place and as air support is often used, casualty figures are still high. On average however these clashes are fewer and smaller than in 2006.**
- **Possible reasons include the high numbers of Taliban fighters killed during summer 2007 including many mid-level and senior commanders. Another reason must be the realization that these types of attacks are futile against a modern conventionally equipped military force supported by a wide range of air assets. The Afghan National Army (ANA) has also been improving throughout 2007**

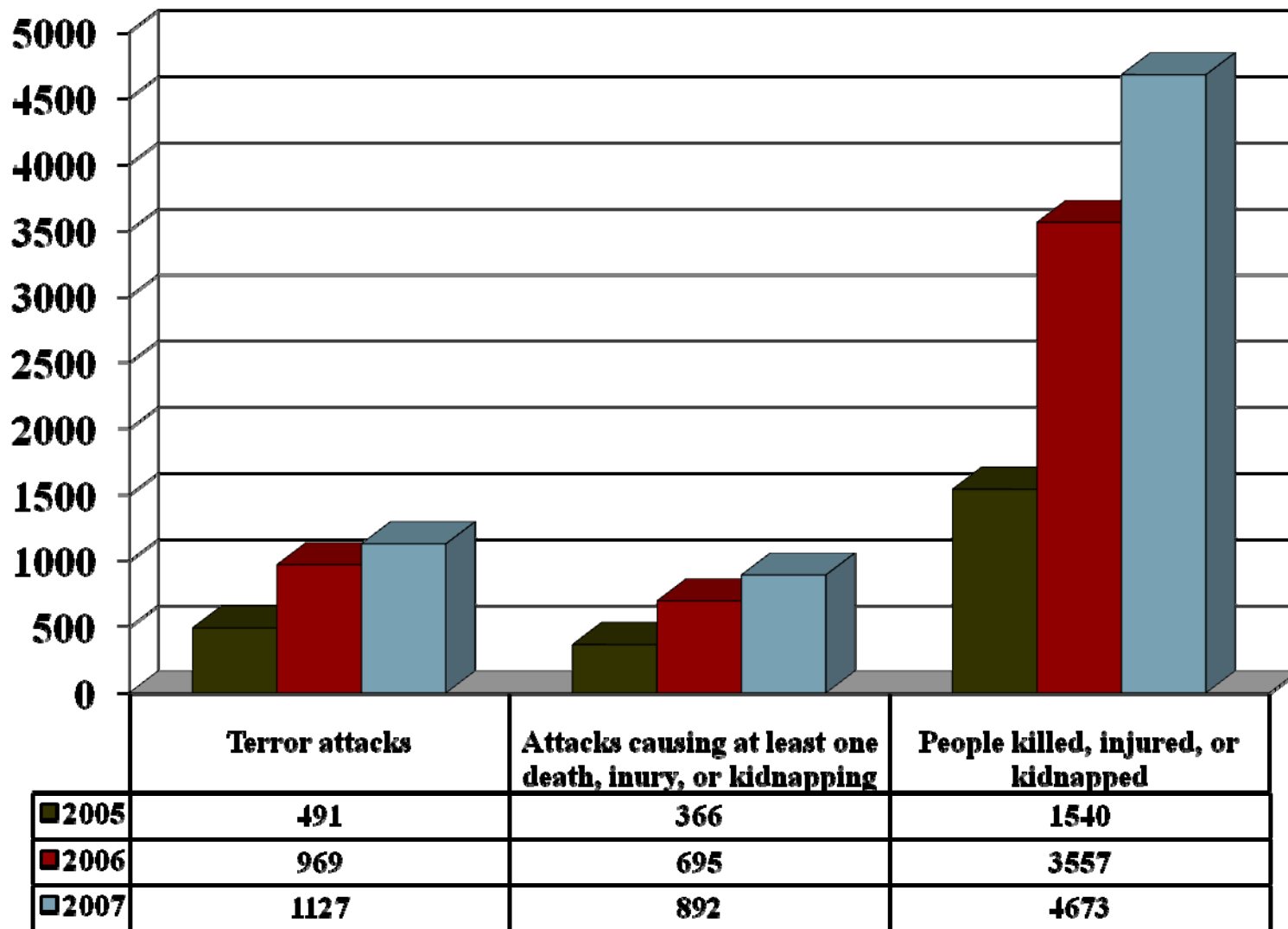
Trend in Number of Attacks in Peak Month: 2005-2007



Adapted from DoD report on Stability and Security in Afghanistan, June 2008,

Rise in Afghan Terrorism: 2005-2007

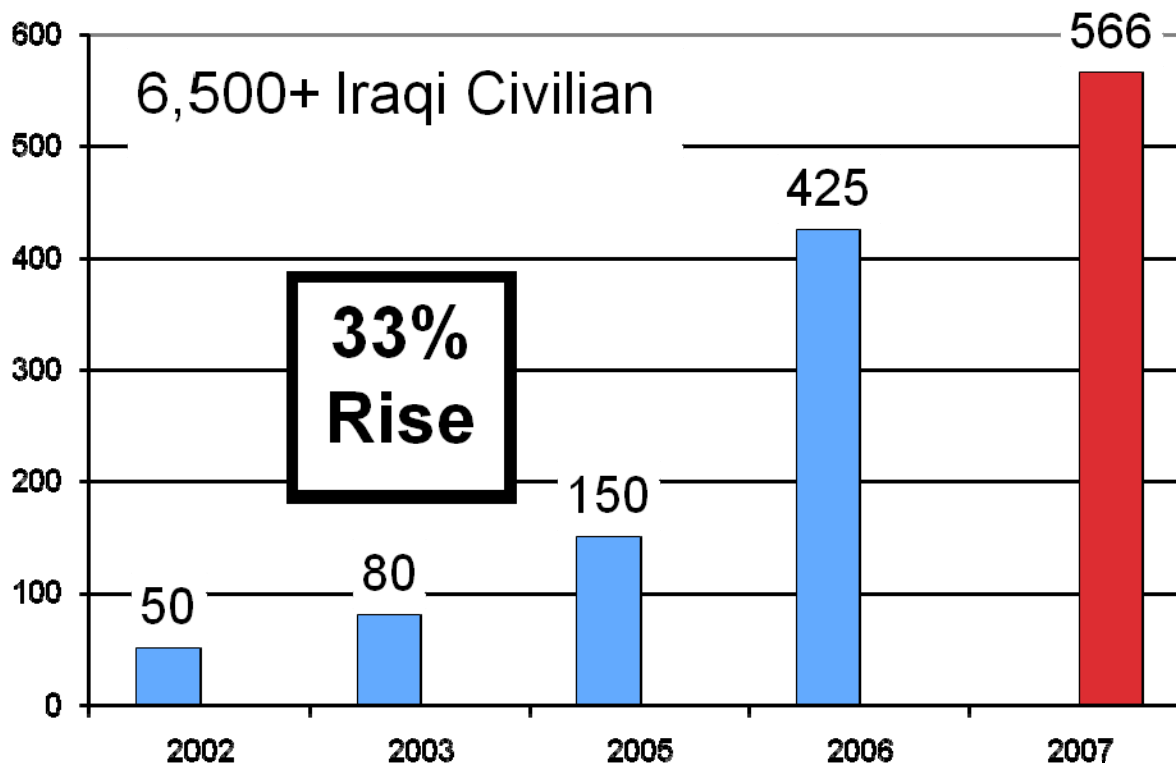
Attacks Targeting Non-Combatants



Adapted from US State Department, Country Reports on Terrorism. April 30, 2008, and www.nctc.gov

Rise in Afghan Violence: 2002-2007

Average Annual Monthly Incidents

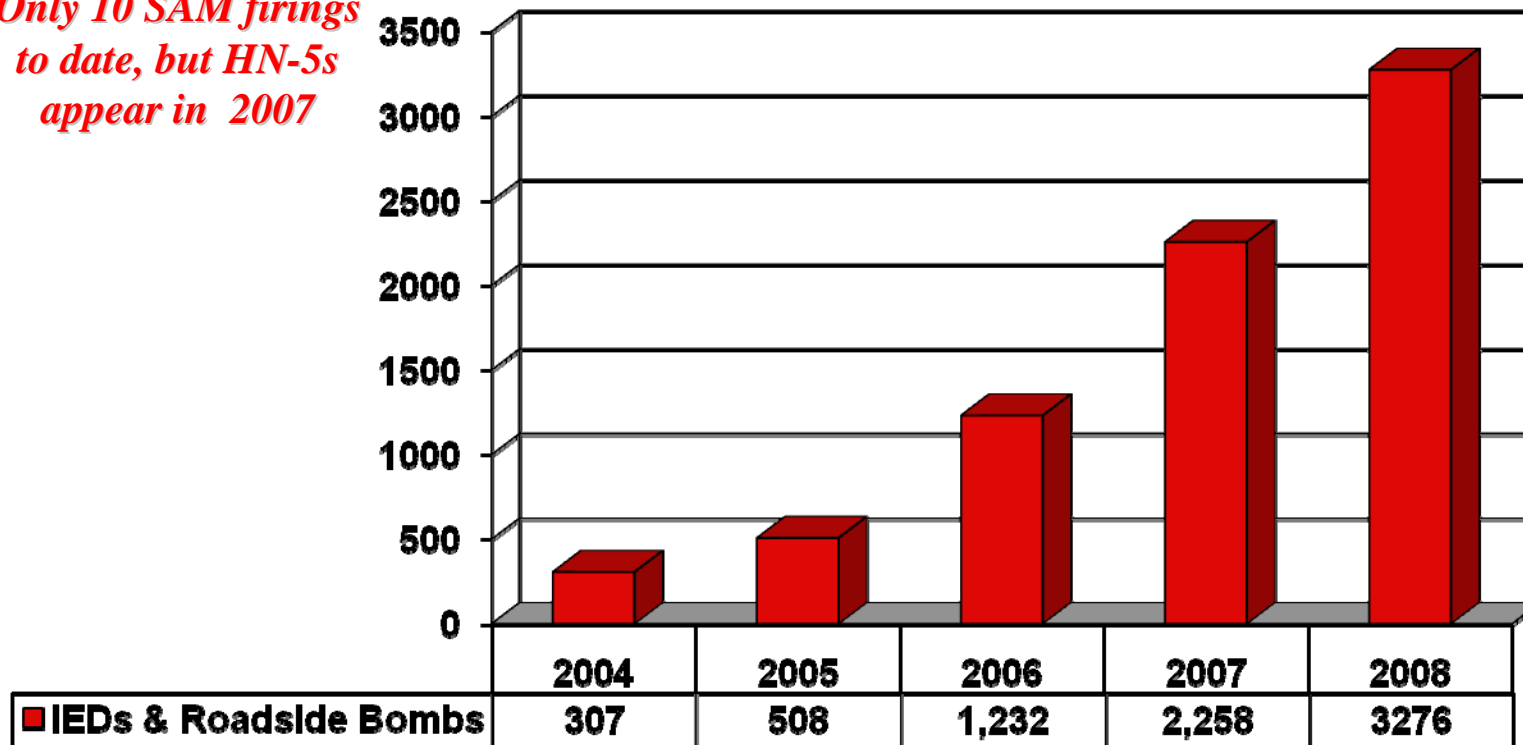


Adapted from USCENTCOM brief & UNA/62/722-S/2008/159, 6 March 2008.

Trend in Afghan IEDs and Roadside Bombs: 2002-2007

Incidents by Year

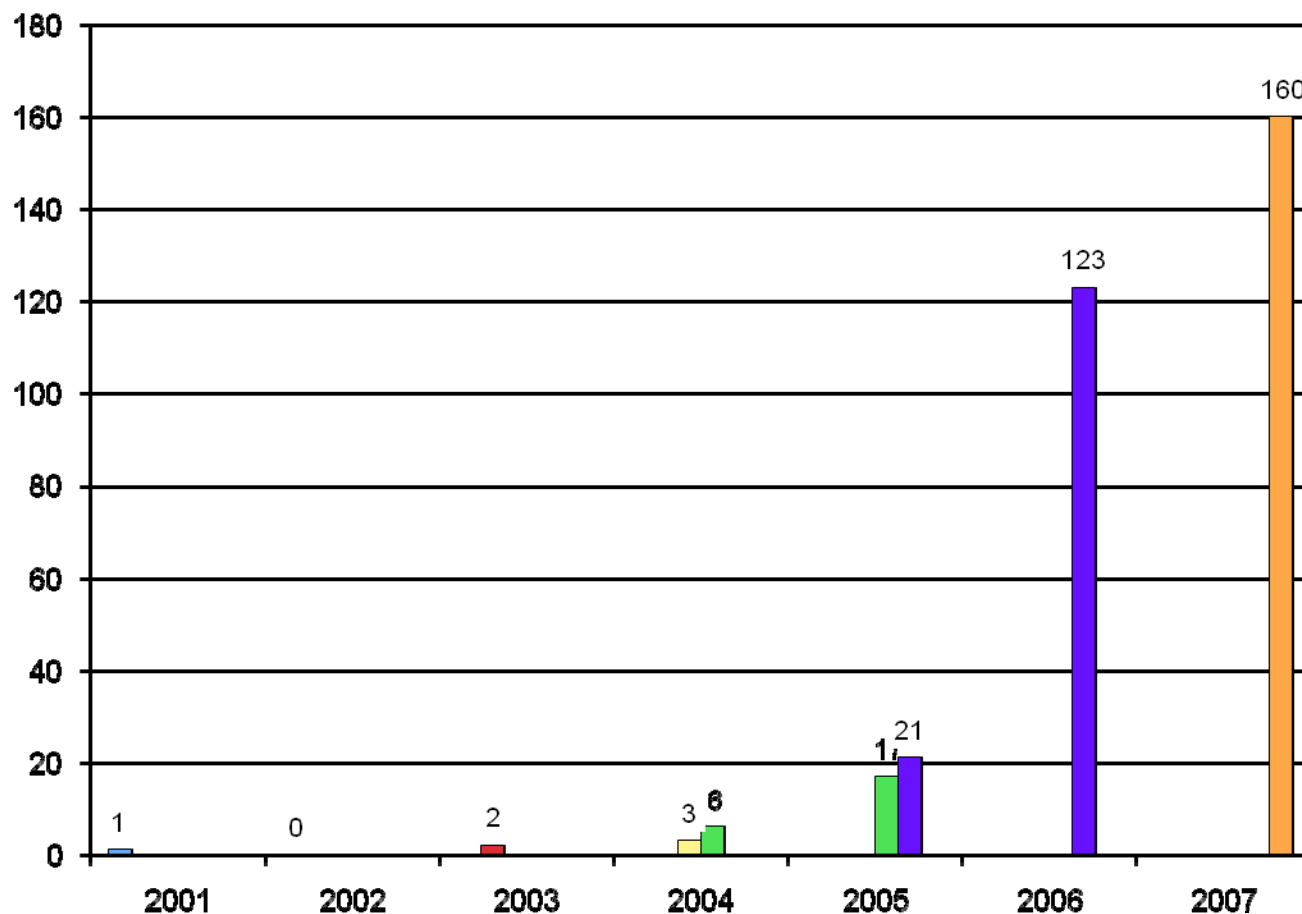
Only 10 SAM firings to date, but HN-5s appear in 2007



Adapted Brook, Tom Vanden. "Afghan Roadside Bombs at Record." *USA Today*. January 26, 2009. Pg. 1.

Trend in Afghan Suicide Bombings

Body and Vehicle Born Incidents by Year



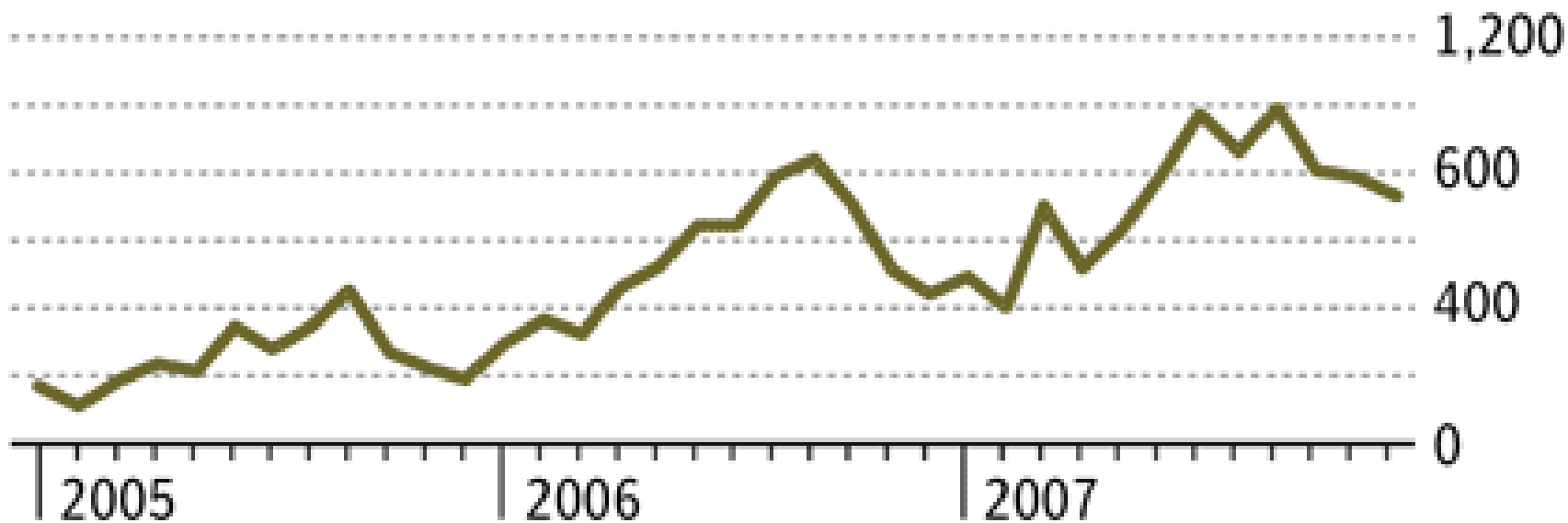
--17 more attacks were thwarted in 2006 and 68 in 2007

--40 humanitarian workers killed and 89 abducted in 2007 in 130 attacks.

--40+ food convoys attacked

80 killed and 90 wounded in attack on 17 February 2008; 35 killed and 28 injured in attack the next day

Total Security Incidents in Afghanistan: 2005-2008



Source: Tyson, Anne Scott. "A Sober Assessment of Afghanistan." *Washington Post* June 15, 2008.