

# Khorasan could pose bigger threat than IS

U.S. forces took advantage of the airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria to simultaneously target Khorasan, an Al-Qaeda affiliate that the U.S. says was plotting an imminent attack against the U.S. or Europe

## PROFILE OF KHORASAN'S LEADER

■ **April 24, 1981:** *Muhsin al-Fadhli* born in Kuwait

■ **1990s:** Fights alongside Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Becomes confidant of **Osama bin Laden** and one of few senior militants with prior knowledge of 9/11 attacks

■ **Oct 6, 2002:** Thought to be main fundraiser for attack on French oil tanker **MV Limburg** in Yemen, which killed one crew member

■ **2005:** Designated by U.S. as "major facilitator" for Al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, **Abu Musab al Zarkawi**, killed by U.S. airstrike in 2006

■ **Late 2000s:** Spends short period in Kuwait jail for terror funding – goes on to set up Al-Qaeda's franchise in Iran

■ **2012:** U.S. accuses al-Fadhli of tapping his network of Kuwaiti donors to move fighters and money from Pakistan via Iran and Turkey to Europe, North Africa, and Syria



■ **Apr 2013:** Al-Fadhli, along with group of Al-Qaeda veterans from Yemen, Pakistan and Afghanistan, dispatched to Syria by Al-Qaeda leader **Ayman Al-Zawahiri** to recruit Western jihadis and send them home to carry out attacks

Khorasan may include operatives who have learned from **Ibrahim al Asiri** – master bombmaker of Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula

■ **Sep 22, 2014:** U.S. launch strikes against eight Khorasan targets near Aleppo, Syria. **Group said to be nearing "execution phase" of attack involving bomb that could pass undetected through airport security systems**