

TERRORISM: Keeping score

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One of the problems with fighting a global war on terrorism is that, unlike traditional wars, all the battles aren't reported, with body counts and attrition of enemy resources documented.

A new book, *Shadow War*, by Richard Minitier will strengthen the beliefs of anyone who supports America in this war.

Minitier has been all over the globe talking to apparently credible sources and he recounts in considerable detail a wide range of victories in the world war.

"There have been many clandestine victories against al-Qaida," Minitier says. "More than 3,000 al-Qaida operatives have been seized or slain in 102 countries since Sept. 11, 2001."

Although some successes cannot even be revealed because of fear the information might help the enemy, the book traces the shadowy terrorist organizations and their leaders, including Osama bin Laden, across a wide expanse of the globe. He says bin Laden has been sheltered in Iran, and the master terrorist currently might be in the trackless Sahara.

No matter where he is, bin Laden is feeling the heat. Minitier's research indicates bin Laden is constantly on the move, as was Saddam Hussein before he was captured hiding in a hole.

One striking fact is how the United States, under President Bush, has been able to gain the cooperation of intelligence agencies in countries that formerly had not been helpful, such as Sudan, Syria, Libya and Yemen.

This could be vitally important. Sudan, for example, was a major headquarters for bin Laden at one time.

Failures and mistakes are noted as well as gains. Minitier is devastating on how the previous administration's "visa express" program made it easier for enemies to gain access to the United States. The pilots of the four aircraft hijacked on Sept. 11, 2001, already were ensconced in this country when Bush took office.

America and its allies have been able to avoid several terrorist attacks, but Minitier warns that the threat remains real, and terrible.

Assassination and mass attacks on the civilian population are on the terrorists' drawing boards.

Continuing to kill them may prevent them from killing us.

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