



JTF GUANTANAMO NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JTF-Guantanamo Identifies Apparent Suicide Victim

GUANTANAMO BAY – Joint Task Force-Guantanamo announced yesterday that a Saudi Arabian detainee died of an apparent suicide early that afternoon.

The detainee is Abdul Rahman Ma'ath Thafir Al Amri, also known as Al Amri, a 34-year-old Saudi national and detained enemy combatant. Al Amri arrived at Guantanamo in February 2002.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service has initiated an investigation of the incident to determine the circumstances surrounding the death.

JTF-Guantanamo officials are handling the remains with the utmost respect for cultural and religious sensitivities. Under the supervision of a cultural advisor assigned to the JTF, the remains were transferred to the Guantanamo Naval Hospital morgue where they will be autopsied by a pathologist from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) and an independent observer from the Miami-Dade (Fla.) Medical Examiner's Office.

Upon completion of the autopsy, U.S. Navy Muslim Chaplain, Lieutenant Muhyaldin Ibn-Noel, will prepare the remains for eventual repatriation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

By his own account Al Amri, volunteered to fight with local Taliban commander Mullah Abdul Al Hanan, and fought on the front lines north of Kabul.

In November 2001, he engaged in combat with U.S. forces in the Tora Bora Mountains. During his time as a foreign fighter in Afghanistan, he became a mid-level Al Qaida operative with direct ties to higher-level members including meeting with Usama Bin Ladin.

His associations included UBL bodyguards and Al Qaida recruiters. He also ran Al Qaeda safe houses.

The mission of detention and interrogation at Guantanamo continues. This mission is vital to the security of our nation and our allies and is being carried out professionally and humanely by the men and women of Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

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