Summarized Administrative Review Board Detainee Statement

The Presiding Officer read the Hearing Instructions to the Detainee and confirmed that he understood and had no questions.

The Assisting Military Officer presented Exhibit EC-A, the Enemy Combatant Notification Form to the Administrative Review Board.

The Assisting Military Officer presented Exhibit EC-B, the Enemy Combatant Election Form to the Administrative Review Board.

The Designated Military Officer presented Exhibit DMO-1, the Unclassified Summary of Information to the Administrative Review Board.

The Designated Military Officer gave a brief description of the contents of Exhibit DMO-1, the Unclassified Summary of Information to the Administrative Review Board.

The Designated Military Officer confirmed that he had no additional unclassified information to present and requested a closed session to present classified information relevant to the disposition of the Detainee.

The Presiding Officer opened the Administrative Review Board for the Detainee to present information with the assistance of the Assisting Military Officer.

Presiding Officer: At this point in the hearing the Detainee may present information to the Administrative Review Board. Assisting Military Officer, does the Detainee want to present any information to this Administrative Review Board including written statements, oral statements, or witness statements prepared on his behalf?

Assisting Military Officer: Sir, the Detainee would like for me to speak on his behalf.

Presiding Officer: (To the Detainee) Would you like to make your statements under oath? An oath is a promise to tell truth. We have prepared a Muslim oath if you wish to use it.

Detainee: He is going to speak for me. I told him everything yesterday.

Presiding Officer: However, if you would like to add to what he says, would you like to take an oath?

Detainee: No, I [would] have to have washed myself and I haven’t done that so I will just speak. It is not a problem because in these words I do not have any lies. I talked yesterday to the officer.

Presiding Officer: OK. (To the Detainee and the Assisting Military Officer) You may begin.
Assisting Military Officer: OK, in response to the unclassified summary of evidence, the Detainee made the following statements: under 3.a., Commitment: I know nothing about Maktab Al-Mukhabarat. I only worked in a relief organization. That is slander and a false accusation against me. Number 2 and number 4, Jamat Al Tabligh is based in Raiwand, Lahore, Pakistan. I was in JT in Pakistan. JT does not have any evil; it just does missionary work and calls people to Islam. Number 3, I don’t know anything about this organization. Under 3.b., Training: Number 1, I never fired an AK-47. I don’t know this weapon. I was never in Afghanistan, only on the Afghan/Pakistani border. Number 2, this is not true. This is slander and a false accusation against me. I was not a commander or trainer for al Qaeda. Number 3, I was living in Pakistan in 1994 until approximately 1997/1998, then went to Jordan for approximately one year to one and one half years. Under 3.c., Connections and Associations: Number 1, this is not true. I was arrested in Peshawar, Pakistan, not in Kandahar. When I was arrested I did not have a letter on me. Number 2, this is not true. My father-in-law is a modest man. He is approximately eighty years old and lives in Pakistan. Number 3, my father-in-law did get me out of jail with a bail bond. This is a normal procedure. Number 4, I worked for this organization full-time (The International Islamicic Relief Organization). This organization helps poor people, immigrants and orphans and feeds people during Ramadan and Eid Al-Adha. Number 54, I don’t know anything about this. Number 6, yes, that’s true, for Omra. Under 3.d., Other relevant data: I only spit at the guard after he spit at me and I never threw any water or fluids. This guard was spitting in front of detainees taking a shower and had many complaints about him. The guards record a lot of information about the detainees that is not true. It is personal revenge. I never slammed the door on the guard’s arm. Under 4.a., Primary factors favoring release or transfer: Number 1, killing of innocent people and children is wrong. Our religion doesn’t tell is to do that. Number 2, yes, for Omra. In summary, people accuse me of things I did not do. I’m a person who was living in Peshawar, Pakistan. I had my job and I had my kids and they grabbed me from Pakistan. Are all people terrorists to you? If America respects human rights, why are you killing innocent children and not the terrorists you are after? Our religion is truthful without a doubt, and Islam, the religion of Allah the Great the Almighty, is the one that truly wants human rights. And in closing the Detainee would like to make a request to the board. The Detainee requests books in his cell. And that summarizes the comments the Detainee said.

Detainee: And also put me with Jordanians, the people from my country.

Presiding Officer: (To the Detainee) Does that conclude your statement?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: Did the Assisting Military Officer’s statement provide the information you wanted us to hear?

Detainee: Excuse me?
Presiding Officer: Did the Assisting Military Officer's report provide the information you wanted us to hear?

Detainee: Yes, he said everything but I do have some additions.

Presiding Officer: It is your turn.

Detainee: (Prays) In the name of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful. First of all, in response to the statement that the Assisting Military Officer presented, it had everything that I said and I thank you. In response to the fact that the religion of Islam truly wants human rights, everyone knows this...the scientists, religious scholars of Islam, the religious scholars of Judaism and the religious scholars of Christianity all know that our religion truly does want human rights. The things that we do for people and the services that we present to people, that is part of human rights. So the things that I was doing in Peshawar, Pakistan, were part of human rights. And the things that I was doing, I was working for the relief organization that was extending help to orphans, poor people, people that had been struck by catastrophes like floods. So, all these things America wants them, so why...for example you say about all the Islamic relief organizations now that they are terrorists [like] Jamat Al Tabligh is a terrorist organization. And this is [a] hypocrisy on the part of the Americans, for example there are Christian relief organizations in Pakistan right now. And we all work together in these organizations. This is all God's work. And regarding the training and you say that I am a senior trainer...I want to clarify this statement. I was in the Army. I was in the Jordanian Army. And this is something normal. They tell me [that] this is proof that I was a trainer [and] that I was in the Army. When I was in the Army, I was playing sports. I was playing soccer...and all these things. I was living in Pakistan...I had my children...I had my wife. They grabbed me from Pakistan, kidnapped me. They accused me of being a terrorist and I never killed anyone. I never killed any person. I never did anything with Jamat Al Tabligh. They tell me that I am a senior trainer and I have been here for the past four years. This is unfair and if you continue to detain me here and if you kill me, that does not make a difference because I know that Allah, in his eyes, I am being wronged. And the Americans are very sensitive. Everything, they make it bigger. Something that is small, they make it bigger. And this way is not beneficial to the American people. Because I know that in the Army there is always a lot of unfairness because it is all high ranks and so on. They wrong each other. For example, with normal people, with civilians in America, people are being wronged. We are not fighting people and we are not fighting the Army, the military either. I never fought the military. I didn't get involved in these things. So why do you force everyone to say that they are with Usama bin Laden and that they are with al Qaida? Why? A lot of people they could have taken me from Pakistan. They could have written something about me because of revenge that could be in correct or not true. So why are you (inaudible) me, I didn't do anything. It says here incorrectly...did I participate in killing any Americans? Did I participate in the attacks in the buildings in America? A lot of people here are a wronged. And you are opening doors against yourselves this way. For example, I have a lot of relatives... a lot of people here have relatives. So if this is the way that you want peace in the world, this is not the way to do it. There is something else that I want to say. Can I keep talking? Is that a problem?
Presiding Officer: (To the Detainee) I want to remind you of one item.

Detainee: Go ahead.

Presiding Officer: This session is your opportunity to be heard and present information to the Administrative Review Board. You can explain why you believe you are no longer a threat to the United States and its' allies and why it is important for you to be released or transferred or any other relevant information you wish us to consider. So I would reiterate why you believe you are no longer a threat.

Detainee: Are you done?

Presiding Officer: This is about your statement that pertains to your release not global politics.

Detainee: I talked about politics because this is part of my statement because I am trying to explain to you why my being here is unfair. You are telling me to talk on my behalf?

Presiding Officer: Talk on your behalf.

Detainee: Shall I speak?

Presiding Officer: Yes.

Detainee: So I am just giving advice to the American Armed Forces and you are saying "who is this to give advice to the Americans?" But I am giving you advice because I know the religion of God the all mighty and I read in the Koran that unfairness is going to be the end of the person who is being unfair. You don't want advice from people. Don't you want peace in the world? Why are you hitting people in Iraq? Why are you hitting people in Afghanistan? If you want Usama bin Laden... if you want Sadam Hussein, why are you hitting people and children? This is a policy that is not good for the Americans. Then problems arise for them and for the American people. And we want the good for people. We want good for every person. So I do not pose a threat against the Americans. If I wanted to pose a threat on the Americans...we have plenty of Americans that come to Jordan (to live) and tourists. I didn't grab anybody in Jordan...any of these tourists and do anything to them because the American military is doing something... if I was going to be a terrorist, there is no easier terrorism than...we respect people, [and] we respect human beings. If someone is being unfair to us...right now I am being wronged. I did not do anything and you took me away from my family and from my job all in the name of terrorism. So what have I done? I am a person that is forty-five years old. Do you have it recorded that I have ever killed anyone? I [have] never killed anyone. I [have] never participated in killing anyone and I don't want anything to do with it. And in Jamat Al Tabligh, it is missionary work. We explain to people and help them understand why they exist. Jamat Al Tabligh tells people to stay away from terrorism and things that are bad. In summary, I am a person. I am a Tablighi person. I help people. I do work that is helpful to people. If I go to Afghanistan, I help the poor people and the immigrants and I do the work of God. That is my religion. Excuse me, the last thing in summary, and I am...
sorry that I have been talking for long. I don't pose a threat to anyone or anything American or non-American. I just want to return and take care of my children and my wife and my job. I work in electricity. I am an electrician...so I want to take care of that. So if you are saying that you truly want human rights then you should release people that are here unfairly and I consider myself one of the people that are here unfairly and most of the people here are here unfairly. They did not do anything. So this is not good for the American people. It is not good for anyone else. You wish to contain terrorism and stop terrorism but you are doing just the opposite, you are spreading terrorism. And that is it...the last thing (the Detainee laughs)...the last thing...solve this thing and promote peace in the world. People who are killers...we do not help them. Our religion does not tell us to do this. If you kill me, it is not a problem...I will go to Allah as a person who was wronged. I am giving you an example using myself. I kill anyone who is wronged, no one will accept this, you will not accept this, the American military will not accept this. Does anyone accept the killing of his friend, his neighbor or his brother? So what you are doing, don't just say it in the public...in the media...to the world do it really. And here in prison unfairness is rampant, why don't you give us our rights here in prison? If you are not going to release us, then give us our rights here, whether we were terrorists, or fighters or innocent people or wronged people...give us our rights as prisoners. Now all of you are free and I am shackled and you are saying this is the law. Did I cause a problem? What have I done? I am shackled to the floor. I gave you a promise that I wasn't going to do anything...that is it...I am honest. Why are you scared like that? We are human beings like you. And you are the American military, is the American military scared of a person like this? We don't have anything. And threatening to kill someone or shutting the door on someone...writing that...what is this? Do I have a weapon to kill? But of these things...you have to investigate these things. If someone spits at me, I will spit at them. If someone is respectful to me...you talk to me with respect [and] I am talking to you with respect. We didn't do anything. That's it.

Presiding Officer: OK. We are going to move into a piece of this where we ask questions of you and you can continue to speak.

Presiding Officer: Assisting Military Officer, do you have any questions for the Detainee?

Assisting Military Officer: No, sir.

Presiding Officer: Designated Military Officer, do you have any questions for the Detainee?

Designated Military Officer: No, sir.

Presiding Officer: Do any Administrative Review Board members have any questions for the Detainee?

Board Members: Yes, sir.

Questions for the Detainee:
Board Member: Some other Detainee’s in the name of Allah, identified you as belonging to al Qaida. Can you explain that?

Detainee: You bring these people that said this about me, I don’t know them. Are they Detainee’s here?

Board Member: I can’t answer that. I don’t know.

Detainee: If it is someone you can bring and have them say this in front of me then OK.

Board Member: We know for certain that they were members of the Maktab Al-Kid-Mat (ph).

Detainee: I should know if they came and said this in front of me if this person is a member of this organization.

Board Member: OK. Thank you. How does spitting on the guards reflect his beliefs in human rights?

Detainee: I didn’t spit on anyone. This is something that I did in spite of myself. If you had been there in my place and you had seen what happened, you would have spit as well. Because the guard taunted the entire cellblock. If you bring other people from the cellblock and ask them they will tell you the same thing. And he was a soldier in the Marines. Bring him here...bring the soldier here and investigate into this matter and you will know why I spat. Human rights...I do respect a person but if a person but if a person taunts you...the law that you have for you...he violates that. Before he spat at us, I told him, we were in the shower. There were three of us and there are four showers and we were in three of us and he came in and in front of us he made fun of us and I told him [to] bring the supervisor...bring the block sergeant and he didn’t do it. And there are a lot of other soldiers that respect themselves and respect us and we respect them. And I have been here for three years and I am a human being and human beings make mistakes but I didn’t spit until he spit at me. And these soldiers...I know that a lot of them sometimes they have problems [for] example with their girlfriends or with their wife or something is bothering them and they come and they take it out on us. I am sorry...I don’t mean to say this but this is something that they did. This is something that the soldiers did. He spit at me and violated his own law so I told him to bring the block sergeant that is a higher rank than him and I told him ‘is this what you law says to do?’ So they told me ‘did you spit at the soldier?’ I told them ‘yes I did spit at the soldier after he spit at me.’ And then they punished me but they didn’t punish the soldier. I didn’t cause any problems...a lot of times they write stuff about us like threatening to kill someone or slamming the door on someone but that is not true. That is all lies. Ask the officer; you are saying that I threatened to kill them...how am I going to kill them? And what good would it do to kill? I could’ve hit them. I had the ability to hit them but they hit me. My hand is broken in four different places. See it’s clear...and you see? And they punished me without treating me and they put the whole thing on me. A lot of things like this they do.
Presiding Officer: When did the incident happen with your hand?

Detainee: This is old. This is maybe about two [or] two and a half years ago when we first came here.

Presiding Officer: And was it investigated at the time?

Detainee: I told them about my finger and they took me to the infirmary and they looked at it and the Doctor said [that] there wasn't anything in it.

Presiding Officer: For the record we have to note that there was an incident where he was injured.

Detainee: And there is another one here in my elbow. They hit me here and I stayed for one here.

Assisting Military Officer: Sir, I believe it is the Assisting Military Officer's job to report allegations of mistreatment or abuse or torture so I will take that on to report that. But I do have some questions about the situation here. Can I ask him some questions?

Presiding Officer: OK. We will go back in the procedure and allow the Assisting Military Officer to ask questions.

Assisting Military Officer: Ok, the situation with your hand...you are saying that the guards broke that here at this camp?

Detainee: Yes, in this camp.

Assisting Military Officer: OK. About two and a half years ago?

Detainee: Yes, approximately two and a half years ago.

Assisting Military Officer: OK and can you explain what happened?

Detainee: We were in cell block India...the solitary one...and there was a problem...the soldiers violated the book of Allah...the Koran. And they hit someone and he got paralyzed...he is in the hospital.

Assisting Military Officer: OK. The guards hit another Detainee and he was sent to the hospital?

Detainee: First of all they violated the Koran. They took the book and they threw it down and they know that we respect all books of other religions...the Jewish and the Christian and we said that this was against Allah. So we started making a fuss when we saw this happen and then the guards that were with us at the time were not good. The ones that
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were in that shift were not good. And then the guards came in...they caused a problem in the cellblock. They took our brother, the one that went to the hospital. They said that he tried to kill himself for the sake of the Koran...God knows.

Assisting Military Officer: OK but I want to focus on the situation with your hand. What happened to you?

Detainee: The officers came in and they saw what was happening. They told the other soldiers that this was not right...this was against the law...to violate the holy book and so they took our brother to the hospital and they started coming in to all the cells and looking in all the cells. They started beating us and my hand got broke.

Assisting Military Officer: OK, what did they hit you with?

Detainee: They came in to solitary...the room is closed because it is a solitary room. They slammed me on the floor and my hand got broke.

Assisting Military Officer: And you said that it got broken in four places?

Detainee: I don’t know what happened but I know that it got broken. Look at it now.

Assisting Military Officer: And you got sent to the clinic here at the hospital for medical help?

Detainee: Yes, they took me to the clinic. They took me and they photographed me and then they gave me a cast. And then when they investigated they said that ‘you posed a resistance to them.’ Maybe that is what they mean when they wrote that I had an incident where I tried to kill a guard. And I don’t have strength and I don’t want to fight and I didn’t want to fight at the time but we were asking why they had violated the book of Allah?

Assisting Military Officer: And then you said that you were injured in other areas too? Shoulders...arm...?

Detainee: (The Detainee points) In the elbow and it was a year ago and I’ve been getting treated for a year.

Assisting Military Officer: So that is a separate incident?

Detainee: Yes, separate.

Assisting Military Officer: Can you explain what happened there?

Detainee: The second one? Also [the] same thing. It was a violation against the book of Allah. Another soldier violated the book of Allah.
Assisting Military Officer: And then what happened?

Detainee: They came in and they told us to get out of our cells and we told them that we did not want to get out of our cells until you bring in the supervisor. So we didn’t get out and the soldier that had done this was the same soldier that had done this before so he was walking up and down the cellblock in a very arrogant way and he was trying to get a rise out of us. We said that we were not going to come out of our cells for anything...for them to look at it...or for showers or anything.

Assisting Military Officer: And then what happened?

Detainee: The soldiers came in with a plastic thing and the hit me with it. For two I was bleeding and things were coming out of it and they were trying to clean it.

Assisting Military Officer: OK and what was this plastic thing?

Detainee: They have this plastic thing and we kneel on the ground and we don’t know.

Assisting Military Officer: Ok so it’s to prevent fluids and water from hitting the guards. That’s the plastic thing? Some kind of shield?

Detainee: No, when they come in we just kneel we don’t resist. How could you resist when seven people come in and they spray this thing on you? I don’t know what they use to spray but they spray us with something.

Assisting Military Officer: OK and this happened during the incident when his arm was cut?

Detainee: Yes and they sprayed us a lot.

Assisting Military Officer: With pepper spray or tear gas?

Detainee: Maybe. I don’t know what the stuff is inside but when it comes on you when it comes in your eyes you don’t see anything. So I didn’t see anything...I just feel to the floor. I was kneeling and they came in and they pushed me to the floor and all of the sudden I saw the blood on my clothes...blood was coming out and they took me to the clinic. And that is what happened. They hit us and then they tell you and they write down that we were resisting or that we want to kill them and this is very unfair.

Presiding Officer: The first incident happened two and a half years ago and the last one was a year ago?

Detainee: The second incident happened more than a year ago but they have been treating if for a year.
Assisting Military Officer: OK and then just one last question. Why didn’t you tell me about it before in the interview? I am just curious [as to] why you didn’t mention it before.

Detainee: Now I remembered really. I had forgotten. It was two and a half years ago. If you ask me about something I will tell you that I forgot. My own children I have forgotten.

Assisting Military Officer: OK. Thank you.

Board Member: Do you feel the young soldiers disrespecting you’re your rank?

Detainee: A lot of the soldiers are very good with us. I know that at the least with the law that they have for them, they don’t do anything to us. Because I know about this law...I’ve served in the military and I know that is forbidden to do this...this hitting. Some of the soldiers are very bad, honestly. I am not saying that I am good and they are bad. I know that all people make mistakes but this is unfair. I am sorry. It is just that the way that we are living and the conditions...I don’t mean to raise my voice. I think that when a soldier respects himself, I mean look here, this officer is asking me a question with respect, would I spit at him? He treats me with respect, I treat him with respect. Because you are treating me like another human being in front of you not as an enemy combatant or someone who is killing people...just a human being.

Presiding Officer: The question in front of you though...(to the Board Member) Do you want to rephrase your question?

Board Member: Let me try to ask it a different way. In day-to-day events at the prison, do you young soldiers treat you according to your rank?

Detainee: Do you mean like because of my age?

Board Member: Possibly.

Detainee: Because of age, yes, a lot of them look at you and they respect you and I give them back that respect. Some of the soldiers look at us and [believe] what they read from the media [that] we are coming here and we are beasts...that we are killers and they treat us like that. And they are coming to take revenge on us. They look at us as ‘they are the people that killed all the people in the buildings’ (referring to 9/11) and we didn’t do anything: The problem is that when a soldier here wants to do something to us or take revenge on us, he does it through the law so he will write something like ‘he did not cooperate...I told him to do it and he did not do it’ and he records that that way. And so it appears as if we are all liars and the soldiers are telling the truth. There is no trust anymore because of things like these that are being written about us...he threw something, he did something. But the things I am telling you now are true.

Board Member: OK, thank you. I have no further questions.

Presiding Officer: Are you denying that you were at Khaled Training Camp?
Detainee: Yes, I was not.

Presiding Officer: When you were arrested in Pakistan, what did you have on your person at the time?

Detainee: I had Pakistani money. I was going to buy some things for my children from the bazaar.

Designated Military Officer: Mr. Presiding Officer, clarification, (the Detainee) was arrested twice by Pakistani authorities.

Presiding Officer: Right.

Detainee: Are talking about the previous prison? Yes, I was captured by Pakistani's earlier, but are you talking about this place?

Presiding Officer: In the unclassified summary, item C.1., says [that] the Detainee was arrested carrying a letter with the name with a senior al Qaida member, an aide to Usama bin Laden, written at the top.

Detainee: When they arrested me in Pakistan I had Pakistani money and the market was called Southern bazaar. I did not have anything else.

Presiding Officer: Do you still sings songs of killing America?

Detainee: Really, we've been here for three years. We sit and we talk and the soldier comes and says we were talking about killing Americans. When a soldier comes and taunts us or does something against the Koran we start chanting and they think that we are chanting about killing Americans but we are just chanting [about] normal things. For example, someone who bothers you or taunts you or does something against you, you want to bother him so you start singing in front of him. These are just words. What are they saying [about] us talking or singing about killing Americans? What is this? We are singing but they are just normal songs these songs.

Presiding Officer:

Questions from the Designated Military Officer

Designated Military Officer: Could you tell us why Pakistan arrested you the first time?

Detainee: Yes, the first time they arrested me we were going to the border of Afghanistan for relief work and they arrested us. They caught me at the border of Afghanistan.

Designated Military Officer: Is it normal for Pakistan to arrest relief workers for no reason?
Detainee: Really, I don’t really know what the Pakistanis government’s nature is. Before, when we used to go to the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan to give food to the people who need it, the Pakistani soldiers used to salute us and say hello. Now they catch you when you are right at the border and they ask you ‘why are you here without a visa?’ ‘Why are you at the border without a visa?’ Before, [when] we used to go they didn’t say anything. I don’t know why their policy changed. When the Russians left they (the policies) started changing. Excuse me, just one observation. This is truly something that has changed in the policies of the Pakistani government because before when the Russians were in Afghanistan, the Pakistanis used to be so afraid that the Russians would come in to Pakistan so they used to beg or ask anyone from Pakistan to go and give food and things to the needy at the border but now it is changed. These are all government policies. Whenever they want to get rid of people, this is what happens for their own advantage.

Designated Military Officer: But the first time he was arrested was over a year before the attack on the twin towers, right?

Detainee: Yes before the attacks on the Americans.

The Designated Military Officer and the Assigned Military Officer have no other information to present to this Administrative Review Board.

The Presiding Officer reads the post Administrative Board instructions to the Detainee and adjourns the open session of the Board.

AUTHENTICATION

I certify the material contained in this transcript is a true and accurate summary of the testimony given during the proceedings.

Colonel, U.S. Army
Administrative Review Board Presiding Officer