Summarized Administrative Review Board Detainee Statement

The Presiding Officer read the hearing instructions to the Detainee and confirmed that he understood the process.

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.

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

Assisting Military Officer: I would like to submit to the board members comments provided by the Detainee during our initial interview, wherein he was read the Unclassified Summary. It also appears evident he wishes to speak to the board upon conclusion of my briefing sir. The following comments were provided by the Detainee in response to the Unclassified Summary:

3.a.1. In Kabul, the Detainee stayed at a Taliban guesthouse for an unknown length of time.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee stated that he was conscripted by the Taliban against his will and that he really had no choice but to stay at the guesthouse involuntarily. He stated that he was at the guesthouse for about six weeks and that he had provided this information to authorities on previous occasions.

3.a.2. The Detainee, along with other Taliban soldiers, traveled to Yonganack where they surrendered to Dostum's Northern Alliance troops.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee stated that Dostum received money for each Taliban that was turned into his forces and that members of Dostum's militia received a reward for their surrender whether they were fighters or not.

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3.b. The Detainee spent about one month in Kandahar where he received basic informal courses on the Kalashnikov rifle.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee denies receiving training on the Kalashnikov rifle or any other weapons.

3.c.1. The Detainee was identified as Mullah Abdul Rauf, a Taliban troop commander.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee denied he was ever a Taliban leader or troop commander.

3.c.2. The Detainee stated that he was one of about 12 other conscripted people who were guarding the communication building called Sadarat in Konduz.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee denies he was guarding this communications building and that his duties only included serving food to the Taliban who were present in the building.

3.c.3. The Detainee and other Taliban soldiers would monitor the radio and receive updates on various fighting ongoing in the area by local Taliban soldiers.

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee stated that while he was in the room serving food to the Taliban there was in fact a radio that they were listening to and he overheard what was being said. However, he stated that his duties never including monitoring radio transmissions or receiving updates and stated that he also never received any training in radio operations.

Assisting Military Officer: Sir, those complete the replies that the Detainee provided me during our initial briefing.

Presiding Officer: Thank you Assisting Military Officer. Abdul Rauf, would you like to make a statement at this time?

Detainee: Yes, sure. I will go ahead and say a few things.

Presiding Officer: Do you want to make your statement under oath? An oath is a promise to tell the truth and we have prepared a Muslim oath if you wish to use it. We do not require an oath and it is entirely up to you. It is voluntary.

Detainee: I was going to talk about two or three things that you guys mentioned. It is up to you guys if you want me to swear.

Presiding Officer: It is entirely up to you. We will continue if you don't.

Detainee: That's fine.

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Presiding Officer: Abdul Rauf, you may begin.

Detainee: About the allegation that I was caught among the other Taliban, I've already told you that Dostum was getting a reward for turning in anybody. He was getting paid for it and that's what happened to us over there.

Presiding Officer: Okay.

Detainee: About the radios or communication devices, even at that particular time the interrogator brought me that piece of equipment and showed it to me. I looked at the radio and said that I had never that thing before. He told me that they were going to do a finger print check on it. They did it and came back to me and told me that I was right and my fingerprints were not on the radio. Now all of a sudden I'm here in Cuba and they are telling me the same allegation. I thought I already told them that it was done.

Presiding Officer: Okay.

Detainee: About the allegation that you said that I did some kind of training on the Kalashnikov, I have no idea what you are talking about. I have never done this training at all. I already told them this before. Things just keep on appearing the longer I stay here. I explained very clearly about some of these allegations with the interrogator. They never existed back when I was captured. I don't know where these things come from and did not cause all of these allegations that are on me right now. I had no choice. I do not know if you guys know how the government used to operate in Afghanistan. I had some land and the Taliban came up to me and told me that they were going to give me a job. They told me that if I did not cooperate with them they were going to confiscate my land and I would be nobody. That's why I had to go and do the duties that were assigned to me, guarding the building. That's why I was with the Taliban. If I go back right now and there is Karzia's government, all I want to do is go there and work on my land. I know they are probably a little upset but I had no choice. If they do not mind, I'd love to go there and help them out with the new government and work for them.

Presiding Officer: Okay, anything else?

Detainee: I don't have much more to say.

Presiding Officer: Abdul Rauf, does that conclude your statement?

Detaince: Yes sir.

Presiding Officer: Did the Assisting Military Officer in the statements that he presented, did he provide the information that you wanted to hear?

Detainee: Yes, he stated whatever I told him before.

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Presiding Officer: Okay good. 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?

Designated Military Officer: No sir.

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

Administrative Review Board members' questions

Q. You mentioned in your statement that you have land. I would like to know what you do for a living on your land.

- A. I had two bulls that were pulling the plow to soften the soil and we grew vegetables and rice and corn and that's how I survived from my own land. That's what I'm planning on doing. To go there and feed my family and myself.
- Q. I would like to know because you mentioned that you have never been through training, do you know how to use a Kalashnikov rifle?
- A. Everybody knows how to use a Kalashnikov in Afghanistan. I have seen them. They are there and it shouldn't be hard. I have never taken any training to use it somewhere. No specific training on how to use a Kalashnikov. There are all over Afghanistan and yeah I can fire a Kalashnikov.
- Q. How did you sustain your injury?
- A. I walked over a mine.
- Q. When did this occur?
- A. During the time of Russia.
- Q. You say that you performed as a guard and one of the charges was that you worked as a guard. Were in charge of men when you worked as a guard?
- A. The only thing I did there was bring food when they would come into the building. That is all I have done. I have not done any security guard duties.
- Q. How did you deliver the food? Were you a driver?
- A. I was bringing the food from the bakery. They had a chariot with a horse. I would take one of those, load it up, and bring the food for different meals.
- Q. Where did you do this? Where were you serving food, what towns what of the country?
- A. In the province of Konduz.

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- Q. You state that you were conscripted. Did you receive any training as a result of being conscripted?
- A. No, they just gave me this job being in charge of feeding the Taliban who were coming there.
- Q. Can you tell me why they chose you? Why they conscripted you specifically?
- A. I was not the only one. Throughout the whole district they were acquiring people for service duties. Through the district manager I was called up on duty.
- Q. You said that you want to go back and farm. Were you a farmer prior to being conscripted?
- A. Yes, I was farming on my own land before they took me away.
- Q. You mentioned that you grew corn and rice, is that correct?
- A. Corn, Barley, watermelon, and melons, we couldn't get the rice going. We tried to in our area but it didn't do good.
- Q. How do you grow rice? Do you know how to grow rice?
- A. In our area we do not have a lot of water to grow rice. Rice needs a lot of water.
- Q. Can you tell me how the conscription process works? Do they knock on your door and then what happens next?
- A. I had my own house where my whole family lived right near my land and there no papers or any type of warning sign. They just came and knocked on my door and said you are being called up to join the duty.
- Q. The Assisting Military Officer in his comments stated from 3.c.1 that you denied you were a Taliban leader or a troop commander. Do you have any idea or can you explain why somebody may have identified you as a troop commander by mistake?
- A. First of all I think there are a lot of Mullah Abduls there and I may have been picked up by that name because I happen to be Abdul Rauf. I was never a commander and at that time the Farsi speaking people or the Northern Alliance had a huge grudge against the Pashtuns and they just took people in and made up stories to get revenge. That is a big part of it and why I never heard of part of my allegations.
- Q. Can you tell this board why should consider you no longer a threat to the United States?
- A. I wish there was a way that I could physically show to you what you are really for to see in me, so I could prove to you that I will not be a danger anymore. I never was. I've already told you the answer to all of these allegations. If there is anything else I can do to make you believe I would do it but my strength was what I explained in terms of my allegations and about myself. That is all I can do at this time.

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Q. When I asked you about your injury you said that you stepped on a mine while fighting the Russians. Can you tell me what your role was in your organization when you were fighting the Russians?

A. I don't think I said that I was fighting. I was not fighting against the Russians. I just stepped over it and was not a soldier against the Russians. I said it was during

the time of the Russians.

Presiding Officer: Assisting Military Officer, do you have any other information you would like to present?

Assisting Military Officer: No sir.

Presiding Officer: Abdul Rauf, is there any other information you would like to present to this board?

Detainee: No, I don't have anything else to say. The only request that I have for the board is that when I was taken or captured; my accusations are way different from what they were there. I have explained to them that somehow things are being added and added and I don't have any idea where they are coming from. Please check this and give some attention to it to find where these things came from if you can.

Presiding Officer: We will consider all of the information that you have presented to us and what we have written down.

The Presiding Officer confirmed that all unclassified information had been presented to the Administrative Review Board and concluded the open session.

The Presiding Officer read the remainder of the Administrative Review Board script to the Detainee. When informed that he (Detainee) would be notified of his status upon completion of the review of the proceedings and a decision by the Designated Civilian Official in Washington D.C., the Detainee asked the following question:

Detainee: How long does that take?

Presiding Officer: I do not have an answer. I do not know how long it will take.

The Presiding Officer continued to explain the remainder of the Administrative Review Board process and adjourned the Administrative Review Board.

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AUTHENTICATION

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

Captain, USN

Administrative Review Board Presiding Officer

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