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Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 264

*The Administrative Review Board was called to order.*

*The Designated Military Officer (DMO) was sworn.*

*The Board Reporter was sworn.*

*The Translator was sworn.*

*The Detainee entered the proceedings.*

*The Presiding Officer announced the convening authority and purpose of the Administrative Review Board proceedings.*

*The Administrative Review Board members were sworn.*

*The Assisting Military Officer was sworn.*

*The Presiding Officer asked the Detainee if he wishes to make a statement under oath. (Muslim oath offered).*

*The Detainee accepted taking the (Muslim) oath.*

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

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

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

*The Assisting Military Officer read the AMO Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form, Exhibit EC-B.*

Assisting Military Officer: The Detainee's initial Administrative Review Board interview occurred on 19 August 2005 and lasted 45 minutes. After a review of the Administrative Review Board's purpose and procedures, the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence was read to the Detainee. When the Detainee was asked if he wanted to attend the Administrative Review Board, present a written or oral statement, or have the Assisting Military Officer speak on his behalf, the Detainee stated, "No." When asked why he didn't want to attend the Administrative Review Board the Detainee stated, "I might be a criminal but I am not. I see some Detainees who are not criminals who are still here. I am not going to talk much. One thing I would like to say, if you have proof of these allegations they can present it to the court and the court will decide." The Assisting Military Officer explained the Administrative Review Board

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process emphasizing that this is not a legal proceeding, not part of the United States criminal justice system. The Detainee indicated that he had a lawyer. The Detainee stated, "I don't believe in the lawyer they appointed me. I don't trust all the American lawyers. All these allegations are false." The Detainee was again told that the Administrative Review Board was not a legal proceeding. The Detainee indicated that he wanted to pray and then make a decision to attend or not attend. The Detainee was given a copy of the translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence for his record. A follow up interview occurred on 22 August 2005 and lasted 30 minutes. The Detainee was asked if he wanted to attend the Administrative Review Board, the Detainee said, "Yes." When asked how he wanted to answer the allegations or statements, the Detainee indicated that he wanted to answer each allegation or statement in the Unclassified Summary after it is presented. The Detainee was polite and cooperative during the interviews. The Detainee elected not to submit written comments regarding the Unclassified Summary of Evidence.

***The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1, and DMO-2 to DMO-4, other unclassified information to the Administrative Review Board.***

***The Designated Military Officer stated that a copy of these exhibits had been previously distributed to the Assisting Military Officer and Detainee.***

***The Presiding Officer noted from the Enemy Combatant Election Form that the detainee wanted to respond to each item of information from the Unclassified Summary as it was presented.***

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

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee was identified as an individual who collected 4.5 million Saudi Riyals (\$1,199,876 USD) for al Wafa in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The money was collected under the cover of al Haramayn, and the Detainee's two cousins assisted him with the money collection.

Detainee: First I didn't say that I collect[ed] 4.5 million Saudi Riyals and this amount of money I have never seen it in my life. I never had some in my hand in my life. Hopefully, in the future I wish to have this amount.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: Hasem al Balushi sent the money, which was collected by the Detainee, to Pakistan through an unknown hawala. The Detainee was with al Balushi on two or three occasions when al Balushi sent the money. Approximately 100,000 Saudi Riyals (\$26,664 USD) were sent on each occasion.

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Detainee: Second, I did not [send] to Hasem al Balushi any dollar to any places. I don't have any relation[ship] with this man. [Our] relation[ship is] superficial, very superficial.

Designated Military Officer: Ramadan Abdul Walid al-Balushi al-Sindi, a possible al Qaida financier and courier, withdrew the money from a bank in Pakistan and took it to al Wafa in Kabul. Al Balushi gave the money to Abdul Aziz al-Metrafi, and/or al-Somali.

Detainee: I don't have any relation[ship] with this al Balushi. If he [took] the money from the bank or [sent] it to anybody, you need to talk to his accountant. If he was an expert for al Qaida, accountant for al Qaida, I have no idea about that. He's responsible for his action not me.

Designated Military Officer: Abu Mohammed al-Somali (FNU) and Abdullah Aziz al-Metrafi lived in Mecca, Saudi Arabia close to the holy places (NFI). The Detainee saw al-Somali with al-Metrafi before going to Afghanistan.

Detainee: As far as al-Metrafi and Somali, you say that they lived in Mecca. They are free to live wherever they want and I don't know them. I have no relationship with them.

Designated Military Officer: A man named al Jarbi, who claimed he worked for a relief agency, urged the Detainee to travel to Afghanistan and fulfill the charity obligation of Islam.

Detainee: Yes, al Jarbi he taught me. He did not insist that I go to Afghanistan, but he taught me to be a human and to do human things and that's [my] religious obligation.

Designated Military Officer: Al Jarbi facilitated the travel to Afghanistan of the Detainee and his two cousins. They left Saudi Arabia on October 12, 2001 and traveled through Damascus, Syria to Tehran, Iran. They crossed into Afghanistan from Zabul, Iran.

Detainee: First of all, I talked about this in the first administration (CSRT) and the answer to this one you have it on the record.

Presiding Officer: We would like you to answer [it] again. For this purpose, if you wish to answer again, we'd prefer that.

Detainee: I did talk about that. There is no direct route from Saudi to Afghanistan. This is why I chose this road.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee, his acquaintances, and fellow al Wafa employees were guided from Iran to Afghanistan by an Iranian who routinely smuggled personnel across the border.

Detainee: I don't have an answer to this.

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Designated Military Officer: Once in Kabul, the Detainee, his cousins and al Jarbi, stayed at the al Wafa office. They met Abdul-Aziz, the man in charge of the office. The Detainee gave his passport and money to Abdul-Aziz for safekeeping.

Detainee: I don't have an answer for this one.

Designated Military Officer: Al-Metrafi used al Wafa to provide employment opportunities and cover for individuals connected to the Usama Bin Laden network. Some of the cover jobs were based in Kabul.

Detainee: I don't have any business in Metrafi's work and what if he does...I am not responsible [for] his work.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: While in Kabul, the Detainee observed Sulayman Abu Ghaith, an engineering advisor to Metrafi and a spokesman for al Qaida, Hammoud (FNU) and Metrafi plan the daily missions of al Wafa within the community.

Detainee: I didn't see Sulayman Abu Ghaith at all and I didn't say that.

Designated Military Officer: Due to the U.S. bombings of Kabul, Abdul-Aziz, the Detainee, and his two cousins left Kabul and traveled to Lowgar, Afghanistan. They all stayed in Lowgar at an al Wafa house for seven to eight days. They attempted to return to Kabul to retrieve their passports, but it had fallen to the Northern Alliance.

Detainee: This is proof that I don't want any problems. I don't have any problems between [you and I]. I was trying to protect myself.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee, his cousins, and Abdul-Aziz traveled through Khost and Jalalabad, Afghanistan. They traveled on foot across the border in Pakistan, where according to the Detainee, they turned themselves over to the police.

Detainee: There is no answer for this one.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee's and his cousins' names were identified as a part of a group of Taliban and al Qaida fighters who were captured at the border in Nangarhar Province by Pakistani forces. During the capture, one of the prisoners disarmed a guard and a breakout ensued. Ten prisoners and six Pakistani guards were killed.

Detainee: First time I've heard of this one. I didn't hear of this not before or after and I didn't say that at all. This is a false accusation. [It is] not true.

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Designated Military Officer: Sir, if I could just ask for some clarification. When the Detainee says word. Is he referring to the entire paragraph or just a specific word in the paragraph?

Detainee: The whole paragraph.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Designated Military Officer: Al-Metrafi also provided military training for newly arrived recruits in anticipation of the American attack. The training was conducted in al Wafa's offices in Kabul, Afghanistan, and consisted of familiarization with light weapons such as the AK-47 and rocket propelled grenades.

Detainee: First of all whatever al-Metrafi does I have no business in it.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee observed Abdul-Aziz, as well as other Saudis and Afghanis, carry rifles into and out of the al Wafa office.

Detainee: If they are carrying weapon[s] I don't have any connection with them. That's [them] doing it.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee and his cousins were also listed in an Arabic-language document associated with the London based Islamic Observation Center. The document states "(h)ere are the names of the seventy-six Muslim brothers, including thirty-five Saudis, who were fighting with Taliban against the Northern Alliance."

Detainee: The media, the news and the document they can write whatever they want. This is the first time I've heard about this.

Designated Military Officer: The names of the Detainee and his cousins were found on a computer file, a chart in Arabic listing the names of captured mujahidin. The information was found on a hard drive, which was associated with Khalid Shakykh Muhammad.

Detainee: You know that my case is international and the whole world talks about it. Everybody who is interested in my case will have my name and everywhere without my knowledge, personal knowledge. That is not my decision.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee and his cousins were also listed in a computer file recovered from a suspected al Qaida safehouse in Islamabad, Pakistan, listing 78 associates incarcerated in Pakistan.

Detainee: The previous allegation would answer this allegation.

Designated Military Officer: The names of the Detainee and both his cousins were found on an Arabic-language computer file listing them as mujahidin who had come to

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Afghanistan in December 2001, but who had not completed their training and therefore were not ready to fight in the war.

Detainee: The people can write whatever they want and I have no business in that.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee said he was encouraged to go help the poor in Afghanistan by Wali Jaber, an employee at the Detainee's father's furniture store. The Detainee said he left Saudi Arabia in June 2001.

Detainee: Yes, I left in 2001 and I went to Afghanistan for humanitarian help.

Designated Military Officer: Fulfilling a religious obligation to help the poor, especially in connection with the al Wafa charity, is a common cover story for Detainees.

Detainee: I said I did not work with al Wafa. I went there [to] help only. That's it.

Designated Military Officer: Al Wafa and al Haramayn are Specially Designated Global Terrorist Entities as per Executive Order 13224.

Detainee: I am not responsible for that. I have one question for the Presiding Officer. Can I ask [my] question now? You say that al Haramayn is [a] terrorist organization, is that true? Yes or no?

Presiding Officer: The United States has determined that al Wafa and al Haramayn have been used as covers for terrorist organizations.

Detainee: You know that organization, al Haramayn, employs 100 people. Here we are because of the war on terrorism. I didn't see any employee of al Haramayn enjoy themselves at home. I didn't see Achel al Achel or Fuker Suleyman al Aziz al Saud... You say that they are a terrorist organization and if they are a terrorist organization like the President of al Haramayn and CO of al Haramayn. They are out there enjoying their lives. [Why are] they out there enjoying their lives? [Why are] they not here, if this is a terrorist organization. I don't want an answer, but [these are] questions you need to think about.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee stated that the \$100 USD bills he had in his possession at the time of his capture were brought with him to Afghanistan from Saudi Arabia.

Detainee: Yes and thanks to god I am a person that my situation is very good (inaudible) my country. I have from the dollar whatever I want or I need. The case is not that I have dollar or I own dollars. The question here is do I present danger or not.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

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Designated Military Officer: The Detainee hand carried the equivalent of \$25,000 USD to Afghanistan.

Detainee: I didn't say that I transferred \$25,000 dollars. This is not true. I said, "I transferred 25,000 Saudi Riyals, which is approximately \$7,000 USD." From my own money, like I wish that you [had] some translator with a high capacity, so that they can translate the correct translation and the right understanding.

Presiding Officer: Thank you. We'll note the Detainee [said] that, referring to number 5, (*The Detainee hand carried the equivalent of \$25,000 USD to Afghanistan*) he didn't carry \$25,000 USD, but it was 25,000 Saudi Riyals, which were transferred with him, which is approximately \$7,000 USD.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee has traveled to Syria, United Arab Emirates and Turkey.

Detainee: Yes, I travel like I wish and like I want, as far as (inaudible) possible.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee stated that prior to arriving in Afghanistan, he had not heard of al Wafa.

Detainee: This is an answer.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee denied ever working for al Wafa. He stated he traveled to Afghanistan with his own money, which he distributed to Afghani refugees at their homes. The Detainee said he did not carry a weapon.

Detainee: This is an answer.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee stated that he and his two cousins worked as volunteers for al Wafa, bringing items such as milk, sugar, rice and clothes to the people living in villages near Kabul.

Detainee: I don't have an answer for that.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee denied visiting any military training camps in Afghanistan or receiving any military training. The Detainee denied going to Afghanistan to participate in a jihad against the Northern Alliance or the United States.

Detainee: This is an answer.

Designated Military Officer: The Detainee has heard of Usama bin Laden and al Qaida and does not agree with their methods or radical ideology.

Detainee: This is an answer.

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Designated Military Officer: The Detainee denied being present during a firefight that resulted in the death of 16 prisoners and a Pakistani guard.

Detainee: I didn't deny. I didn't hear and I didn't hear of that before.

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

*The Presiding Officer acknowledged the request.*

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

*The Detainee made the following statement:*

Detainee: First of all, I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to defend myself. Second, I am telling you that I do not pose [a] threat on the United States and its allies, not before, not after. Of course, I was a little bit influenced by American people their way of living and their lifestyle. I am fond of their culture. I didn't travel to America not before or after. I wish to travel to America. Like I told the interrogator before, as far as United States... it says that I am a criminal, that I did something wrong. I understand what American people have been through in 2001. Not to America only, but to the whole world. I was a victim of that too and I clarify that I do not have any relations with those acts. Yes, I say that I was in a dangerous place in a dangerous moment. I don't say it in front of the judge only, but I say it in front of the whole world. I spent four years in prison here. It was a point of change in my life and it starts from [my] travel. It was (inaudible), as far as I'm concerned for my future. I'm telling you four years is enough! I do have a wife and daughter. If I was wrong, four years is enough. My daughter is now seven years old. I'd like to go back to her. I'd like for her to feel that she has [a] father. I would compensate her for what she lost. I don't want other people to take care of my daughter. I like for me, myself to be with her. That's all I'd like to say.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

*The Assisting Military Officer had no questions for the Detainee.*

*The Designated Military Officer had the following questions:*

Designated Military Officer: Sir, I never heard your name before I worked on this package and yet you say that your case has drawn international attention.

Detainee: Not my name only. The name of all the people that have been here in Cuba.

Designated Military Officer: In spite of that, there have been computer records found in four different locations with your name associated with it. Not 500, 600, 800 or 2,000

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people, but your name. You say it is because your name has drawn international attention. Why?

Detainee: I said not my name only. All the people that are here.

Designated Military Officer: I say again, 70 or 80 names were found on these files, not 500, 800 or 1,000, 2,000 names, but 70 names or 80 names, why is your name one of those names?

Detainee: I am saying that all the Detainees that are in Cuba, 90% of them, their names are on the Internet. If you have no knowledge of that, please refer to the Internet. I wish you would follow my case more.

Designated Military Officer: I will ask the question one more time. The Internet contains the names of 500, 1,000, 3,000, whatever the numbers of Detainees are that may have been collected. Yet al Qaida network computers, hard drives associated with al Qaida, hard drives associated with terrorist organizations contain your name and not the names of 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 other Detainees, but the names of 70 or 80 people. Why is your name on that list?

Detainee: I said in first Combatant Status Review Tribunal that I was imprisoned in Pakistan. Pakistani officers took our names and our pictures. He asked me my name and I gave him my true name and my picture. After that he can do whatever he wants with it. He can put it in computer file of al Qaida or put it in another computer. That's all I know.

Designated Military Officer: My final question then. A Pakistani police officer placed your name in three or four different al Qaida databases, is that correct?

Detainee: The Pakistani police do as they wish. This is not true.

***Administrative Review Board Member's questions:***

Board Member: *Pleasantries exchanged.* How much money did you collect?

Detainee: What money are you talking about?

Board Member: It talks about you having a certain amount of money. You said it was 25,000 Saudi Riyals. Was that your own money or did you collect that from someone?

Detainee: My own money.

Board Member: You departed Saudi Arabia in the summer of 2001?

Detainee: Yes, after September 11. A month after September 11.

Board Member: When did you arrive in Afghanistan?

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Detainee: Approximately after September 11, 55 days.

Board Member: Were you aware that there was a war going on there?

Detainee: Yes, but I didn't go to war. I went for humanitarian purpose.

Board Member: You didn't have any involvement with al Wafa while you were there?

Detainee: No.

Board Member: Did you tell us earlier that you know who the leader of al Wafa is?

Detainee: No, I knew it in Afghanistan only.

Board Member: I thought that earlier, you said that...

Presiding Officer: The President...when he...al Haramayn.

Board Member: Only al Haramayn...

Detainees: These people (*President of al Haramayn*) their names were known. As far as the people I mentioned before about al Haramayn. I don't know them personally, but in the news media they talk about them. Well known people in charge of al Haramayn.

Board Member: Was it your intent to distribute your money through some organization or just on your own?

Detainee: For the Afghan people, my intentions were to distribute it myself for the civilians.

Board Member: Did you know anyone there?

Detainee: You mean Afghanistan?

Board Member: Yes.

Detainee: No, I [didn't] know anyone.

Board Member: How did you get captured?

Detainee: I talked about that before.

Presiding Officer: He's asking again, just for clarity.

Detainee: I don't have an answer.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

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Board Member: Was there some kind of escape attempt where you? Where you were being held?

Detainee: I didn't escape I am here.

Presiding Officer: We were not asking if you escaped. Were you aware of an escape attempt where you were being held?

Detainee: No, I didn't hear. I didn't see and I didn't have anybody with me.

Presiding Officer: Thank you.

Board Member: How old are you?

Detainee: 22.

Board Member: [Do] you speak English?

Detainee: A little bit.

Board Member: Can you understand when we were asking you questions?

Detainee: Sure.

Board Member: So you can understand pretty well?

Detainee: Yes, little (inaudible).

Board Member: Where did you learn to speak English?

Detainee: Here.

Board Member: You're from Saudi Arabia?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Your family is wealthy?

Detainee: No[t] so very rich, but average.

Board Member: You left when you were 18?

Detainee: Approximately.

Board Member: Approximately 18, do you know al-Metrafi or have you heard of him? Do you just not know him?

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Detainee: I told the interrogator I knew about him in Afghanistan. I didn't know him personally.

Board Member: Why did you go to Turkey?

Detainee: Visitor.

Board Member: Just to visit for vacation?

Detainee: Yes and for work.

Board Member: What kind of work?

Detainee: Furniture work. My father has a furniture store in Saudi. [I was] in charge of going to get some people who work in our factory in Saudi.

Board Member: Is that also why you went to Syria?

Detainee: I went to Syria three times. I went to Lebanon. I went <sup>to</sup> Egypt and I went to Tokyo, but not like Afghanistan. I went only once. I went to United Arab Emirates.

Board Member: Were these also for work or vacation...for holiday?

Detainee: It was both. Tourism and work at same time.

Board Member: This is your father's store? Your father's furniture store?

Detainee: My father and my uncle.

Board Member: Your uncle. Is it a large store?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Very big?

Detainee: Yes, very big.

Board Member: Al Jarbi did he work for your father? Was he a customer or did he just visit you?

Detainee: No, he doesn't know my father. He doesn't talk with my father.

Board Member: Did he just...he just came to the store and started talking to you?

Detainee: Yes. Just visit me.

Board Member: Just visit you?

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Presiding Officer: Was he a customer of the store? He came in to buy furniture?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Where were you when you heard about the bombing of the World Trade Center? Were you in Saudi Arabia still?

Detainee: I was in Saudi Arabia. I saw everything. I saw a (inaudible)

Board Member: What did you think?

Detainee: I talk[ed] before. I didn't imagine a person [could] hijack a plane. Of course, this is not in our religion. I read the whole Koran. I didn't see any word like what Usama bin Laden did. The reputation of our religion...people who look at Usama bin Laden, they look at Islam. [This is] the case, they were persons, they have no relations and I swear to God if I had the opportunity to be there on September 11 and help the victims that were there. I'm not saying this so that you can get me out of here. I'm not saying that in order to convince you that I am innocent. My reality and opinion is opposite to what's happened. All this that I told you now, put it [a] side, so that you don't [think] that I'm trying to get myself out of here.

Presiding Officer: Thank you very much.

Detainee: I swear by God when I saw people throwing themselves from 110[th] floor. Psychologically I was shocked. Not only me, my wife was also with me. My uncles are officers in Saudi government. They were very angry. I live in Mecca and I was present at the prayer for the Imam. The Imam talked about the terroristic act. I was there listening to him. I remember his words, for more than four years now, word by word. I was present at that prayer one time and his words they are still in my mind. My heart was with [the] American people about what happened; because of course those people [were] innocent. Those people didn't have any relation with what happened. I don't know how to describe Usama bin Laden to you.

Board Member: Did you ever hear of any fatwas to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee: I talked to the interrogator a lot. This is not in my case, but I am going to help you understand with this information, if you have time.

Presiding Officer: Sure.

Detainee: People of Saudi, who are religious people, that knows about Islam. We call them Cheick and there are two types: one type with the government and the other type against the government. The one that is against the government, those are the ones that deliver fatwas in the Internet to the newspaper to the publication. I am Saudi and I live in Saudi. I have to listen to everything that is happening in my country, even if I want to or I don't. Of course, there were some fatwas not only for terroristic act, to kill American

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people and for terroristic act. Those fatwas they existed in my country and this is true. Those are the Cheick of Saudi and some of them they don't agree with the terroristic act that happened. They were talking about that in the mosques and giving lessons and speeches and Saudi T.V. That is what was happening in my country and this is the truth.

Board Member: Do you...how do you feel about Americans in Saudi Arabia?

Detainee: Honestly, I wish the civilization of America would come to Saudi. I like only one thing in Saudi, the democracy. I saw even the government...what's happening in Iraq. I saw the era of Saddam Hussein and I saw the difference after Saddam Hussein. This is my opinion about America.

Board Member: Thank you.

Presiding Officer: I'm very happy to see you in a white outfit, which means you treat people here with respect.

Detainee: I am happy of meeting all of you, but at the same time I am sad because of the circumstances in which I meet you.

Presiding Officer: I understand, same here.

Detainee: I'm going to tell you something. These things here (*Detainee refers to his shackles*) it adds a lot of sadness in my heart and at same time (inaudible). Of course, I swear by God I didn't do any terrorist act.

Presiding Officer: How are your wife and daughter? Have you heard from them?

Detainee: My wife's situation is good now. She finished her education at the University. I want to tell you something. From here, from the prison, I was sending a letter to my wife telling her to finish her education. When she found out I was here, she stopped going to school. Through the Red Cross, I was sending her letters asking her to go back to school. Now she went back to school and she finished.

Presiding Officer: Very good.

Detainee: She's in college now.

Presiding Officer: Very good. You come from at least a somewhat wealthy family and you traveled many times to Syria to Turkey to different places of Saudi Arabia. All of those on business or holiday and yet the first time you choose to go do philanthropic work is one month after September 11?

Detainee: Yes, I am saying it. I was excited to go to Afghanistan and I was a teenager. Of course, I was very young in age when I traveled to Afghanistan. It was the wrong decision I made in my life. I am ready to say that in front of [the] whole world.

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Presiding Officer: You [were] aware already that the United States, America, was already involved [in a] war with al Qaida and the Taliban by the time you arrived?

Detainee: I will tell you one thing. I know that al Qaida has problem between America. I didn't go to al Qaida. If I want to go to al Qaida, I would [have gone] to al Qaida from the beginning. The Saudi government themselves recognized the Taliban. I'm going to ask you a question. What do I have to say or to do if my government says they recognize Taliban as [a] government?

Presiding Officer: I believe the only country that recognize[d] the Taliban government was Pakistan at that point and time. I don't believe Saudi Arabia did. Either way you're a very educated man, you [said] yourself that you knew what was going on. You followed the world. You were well aware that traveling there put you at great risk, both physically and then being in a situation to be captured by going there.

Detainee: I will say one thing. I don't know exactly what [the] Taliban did. I don't. I went to Afghanistan to help. The Red Cross was there too. Even the Red Cross will (inaudible) pose threat to themselves by being there. I don't think about myself only. I think about the people I'm going to see and meet.

Presiding Officer: The Red Cross people have spent their whole life going places where you had never done it, until one month after September 11. You leave your wife, your young daughter, your business, you take a lot of money, a lot of money for Afghanistan, even \$7,000 is a lot of money in Afghanistan, and you traveled one month after September 11. That is why you are here.

Detainee: Yes, I recognize that I was wrong. [A] Human Being recognizes their mistake and they learn from their mistake. I wish I could prove to you that I do not pose threat [to] America, but I do not know how.

Presiding Officer: Thank you very much. Your answers today have been very helpful. I very much appreciate your responses. I'm very happy to see that you...it does not appear that you have fired weapons at the United States. Thank you very much for your responses today.

Detainee: I will tell you one thing, you are more than welcome if you come to my house in Saudi Arabia.

Presiding Officer: Thank you very much. I've been to your country. I love your country.

Detainee: Thank you.

*The Presiding Officer read the post-Administrative Review Board instructions to the Detainee and adjourned the open session of the Administrative Review Board.*

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*The Presiding Officer opened the classified portion of the session.*

*The Presiding Officer adjourned the classified portion of the session and the Administrative Review Board was closed for deliberation and voting.*

AUTHENTICATION

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



Captain, USN  
Presiding Officer

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