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(Revised 25 Nov 05)

Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 489

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 and also took the standard oath.

The Presiding Officer read the hearing instructions to the Detainee and confirmed that the Detainee 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 ARB interview was conducted on 21 November 2005 and lasted 40 minutes. After the ARB's purpose and procedures the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence was read to the detainee. The detainee indicated that he understood the difference between the CSRT and the ARB. When asked if he wanted to attend the ARB, present a written or oral statement, or have the AMO speak on his behalf, the detainee said, "Yes! I would like to attend and gladly answer allegations myself. I don't have any letters to give." The detainee was very polite, attentive, and would like to respond to the Unclassified Summary of Evidence

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after each point is read. A copy of the English and Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence was given to the detainee for his review.

The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibits DMO-1 and DMO-2 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 claims that he stayed with an Imam for two to three days. During this time, the Imam gave the detainee money and suggested that the detainee should direct his life toward Jihad. The two discussed the Jihad in Chechnya.

Detainee: Yes

Designated Military Officer: In a video that was obtained from a senior member of al Qaida's residence, the detainee claims that he was recruited to join the Jihad in Chechnya.

Detainee: Do you mean me when you say senior member of al Qaida?

Presiding Officer: No, the video was obtained from the residence of a senior member of al Qaida.

Detainee: That's not true.

Presiding Officer: So you did not appear in the video that was made by al Qaida?

Detainee: Yes, I was in the video but I did not say that I joined to fight in Chechnya.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that he stayed at an al Qaida guesthouse in Kabul.

Detainee: It wasn't my choice, I was hated. They believed that I was a spy, so they took me to the camp by force. If I were a member of al Qaida, they would not accuse me of spying. They do not accuse their members of spying.

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Designated Military Officer: The detainee stated that he attended the al Farouq training camp in Kabul, Afghanistan between January and February 2000.

Detainee: True.

Designated Military Officer: While at the camp, the detainee claims that he received training in small arms, assault weapons (i.e., AK-47, G3 and M-16) and various other Russian and Saudi made weapons. The detainee also received training in mountain fighting tactics.

Detainee: It's true that I attended training for small arms, but it is not true that I attended training for tactics to fight in the mountains. I was only there for 18 days and this training takes three months.

Designated Military Officer: An associate of the detainee stated the detainee admitted to receiving military training outside of Afghanistan.

Detainee: This is a lie. If I were trained outside of Afghanistan, the training requires at least three months. From the day I finished attending the University to the day I went to Afghanistan it was only one month. I went to the Embassy of Canada, the Embassy of Germany, the Embassy of the United Nations and the Embassy of the United States to seek political asylum. This happened within days of me leaving my home and my University.

Presiding Officer: Did this happen before or after you met with the Imam?

Detainee: Before.

Designated Military Officer: An associate of the detainee claims that the detainee was possibly an agent for a foreign government.

Detainee: This is a lie. If I were an agent working for a foreign government it would be for the United States. I was accused of spying for the United States. If I were an agent for the United States I would not be sitting here right now. I would be out enjoying life.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that after a dispute with his father over a loan the detainee received from a friend, the detainee attempted to leave the United Arab Emirates.

Detainee: True.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that he sought asylum with numerous countries.

Detainee: True.

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Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that he requested to leave the training camp after eighteen days. As a result, the detainee claims that he was suspected of spying.

Detainee: True.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that while at the guesthouse, he worked on repairing and servicing heavy weapons. The detainee claims that he did not have any experience in this field and he learned on the job.

Detainee: I participated in cleaning weapons not fixing them. I never used heavy weapons in my life and it took me five days to clean these weapons.

Designated Military Officer: An associate of the detainee claims that the Taliban tortured the detainee to the extent that he had little use of his right arm. As a result, the detainee spoke poorly of the Taliban.

Detainee: This is true. I am showing you my hands. The fingers on my right hand cannot join together and if you look at them closely they are not the same as my left. My left one I can move, but my right one I cannot.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee claims that al Qaida tortured him until he admitted he was a spy.

Detainee: Yes, they claimed I was a spy for the United States.

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 Presiding Officer had the Assisting Military Officer read the Detainee Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form, Exhibit EC-B.

The Assisting Military Officer stated that he had no additional comments.

The Detainee made the following statement:

Detainee: I have four points I would like to talk about. My behavior in the camp is very good. The last six months I have been classified in level two. For the period I have been here I have not created any problems, fights, arguments, or any physical disputes with the guards. Second point, if I am released from here I would like to finish school, get

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married and join [a] Humanitarian Organization. The reason why I would like to do that is because I have seen how the Red Crescent has helped the detainees here. They made us happier by talking to us and doing other good things for us. I want to join this Organization to work with them or a translator would be nice. All the good things they have done for us I am grateful. This is my plan and my goal. Third point I do not pose a threat to the United States, never in my life have I had hatred toward the United States. The relationships between me and the guards, the doctors, the Psychiatrists and the General is good. I had good relations with the doctors, when some of them left I cried. If I had hatred for Americans when those people left I would not have cried. In addition to that I had American friends in United [Arab] Emirates. If I had hatred towards Americans I would have hurt the ones that were close to me first. Fourth point, there is a need to release me because I am a victim of the dispute between terrorism and the United States. Al Qaida took me to the guesthouse and to the camp by force, not with my consent. They thought I was a spy. When I found out I was going to be killed I asked to be returned to United Arab Emirates, but that did not help. My sentence from al Qaida was to spend 25 years in prison because I was spying for the United States. After two years the Americans came and saved me from the prison. When the Americans came I told them about the videotape the Taliban made of me. By me telling them about the video it created confusion to the point that the Americans believed I was working with al Qaida. Here I am now I don't know if I am a spy for America or I work for al Qaida. Thank you very much for listening to me.

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

The Designated Military Officer had no further questions for the Detainee.

Administrative Review Board Member's questions:

Board Member: Do you speak and understand English very well?

Detainee: Yes, I do.

Board Member: Where did you learn?

Detainee: I studied it in college. I had American friends and British friends and I have been here for three and a half years now. I have a good relationship with Americans and they help with the language.

Board Member: How are things going here for you?

Detainee: Great. I think being here is like a vacation for me after Taliban prison. It was the worst prison in the world.

Board Member: What prison was that?

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Detainee: Sarpouza in Kandahar. In the prison they did not feed you, no clothes, and no shower nothing for months. My weight went from 265 pounds to 162 pounds that's because of their torture and life conditions. Here I think I am better than other detainees because my relationship with the Americans is very good. The other detainees accuse me of being a spy. They threaten to cut my neck off. This is why I have been away from the other detainees. I have been in the Psych ward for 3 years. The interrogators are all trying to get me in Camp Echo with three of my friends, because I cooperate with the Americans and in Camp Echo I can get more privileges. Privileges such as television, CD player, cigarettes, music and stuff like that. They are trying to get me there. I am in level two now and they work hard to get me there.

Board Member: You mentioned that you have been in level two for the last six months where were you before that?

Detainee: I was Delta block. It was because of my emotional issues. I used to hurt myself. I had emotional problems. Thank God it has been about six months, maybe more since I have done any harm to myself. I have been cooperative with the MAs or the security forces.

Board Member: You were in a higher level because you brought harm to yourself?

Detainee: Yes, for hurting myself. The other detainees used to pick on me. I did not even go to the shower. The other detainees used to accuse me of being a spy, being an infidel, a hypocrite. So that was my reason to hurt myself. I used to hurt myself and the personnel in Psych, they used to treat me and helped me a lot. For that I am very grateful, I am thankful for General [REDACTED] he used to be here. He took care of me also. He would come and visit me often. It's been about a year now. I haven't done anything like physically assault myself or anything. I like it here.

Board Member: Are you Muslim?

Detainee: Yes. I am an open minded Muslim not a fanatic.

Board Member: The Imam that you met with for a couple of days, where was that?

Detainee: In Emirate.

Board Member: It was in the United Arab Emirates?

Detainee: It was in the [United Arab] Emirates. The Imam that you are talking about it is not like jihad Imam. It was Imam for prayer, like you say Priest.

Board Member: You discussed jihad with this Imam?

Detainee: I did not discuss it with him. I told him that I ran away from home because my father was abusing me physically. I told him I could not go back home. He told me

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stay out of the streets, stay out of prison and away from drugs. He told me to occupy my life with something good. The fight in Chechnya against the Russians was not right, that was not the jihad. They accused me of being a spy because I told them I would not fight against the leader of the Northern Alliance, Ahmed Shah Masoud. I told them the jihad does not say anything about killing innocent civilians in Afghanistan the Taliban or al Qaida...they used to burn.... They did not like that and I told them I couldn't do it; they did not like that so they accused me of being a spy. I think that God saved me from killing innocents and poor people by putting me in the Taliban prison. God saved my life over there. Who knows what would have happened to me.

Board Member: They accused you of being a spy for a foreign Government. Why didn't they just kill you?

Detainee: They did not kill me because they do not kill Muslims, the Taliban does not kill Muslims. Al Qaida wanted to kill me but the Taliban said no, 25 years in prison would be enough. I prayed on Allah and I was very honest to my God to destroy Taliban and al Qaida and God saved me.

Board Member: You went to Afghanistan for what purpose?

Detainee: I had a friend that went to college with me. When he left he worked as a secretary for the Taliban Embassy. I asked him how much he would charge me to get me a passport, he said that he could not give me a passport to leave United Arab Emirates to go to Europe he said he could not give me a passport but he could deport me to Afghanistan. He said that when I got there I would get asylum and I believed that. When I got to the border I met an interpreter from the Taliban, he wrote a letter to his boss in Kabul telling him to send me to Kabul to the Arab's place.

Board Member: Did you know what was going on in Afghanistan?

Detainee: I knew there was war but I didn't know between whom.

Board Member: It just seems odd that the Imam counseled you on staying out of trouble but you knew there was a war going on in Afghanistan, but you went anyway.

Detainee: When I went to Afghanistan I went against what the Imam advised me. He didn't tell me to go to Afghanistan. He told me Afghanistan is not the best place for me to go, but I told him I had no other options. If I stayed in the [United Arab] Emirates more than a week or two my father would advertise in the papers that I was missing and the police would try to find me. The police would have arrested me and take me back to my father. I did not want to go back and I wanted to get out of the [United Arab] Emirates, away from that country.

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Board Member: In your statement an associate stated that you received military training outside of the camp and you stated that was not true. You said it would not have been enough time. How do you know that?

Detainee: When I went to Public School in Syria, the school used military customs. We wore military uniforms, and we did military training like using light weapons and using gas masks. I knew that in my second year in High School there would be that training. My brothers went through that training.

Presiding Officer: How long were you in Syria?

Detainee: I was in Syria until I was thirteen years old. Then I went to United Arab Emirates.

Presiding Officer: What country are you a citizen of?

Detainee: Syria.

Board Member: How are you feeling today?

Detainee: I feel great. I decided to come to the review board because I know that this can help me. There is nothing here against me, before it was like being in a bad dream a nightmare. That is all in the past. Whatever happens in the past it dies, this is an expression we have in Arabic. In other words what happens in the past does not equal the future. Even if you decide to continue my detention I don't think that is against me. I will still have hope. The past two years I was hopeless but this year, I don't know why maybe the medicine is working for me. My doctors and nurses all come to me and keep telling me to be hopeful.

Board Member: Will you be able to keep up with your medications if you are released?

Detainee: Before I left Syria, I was on medication for Epilepsy. I was on Mysoline and Phelebsine (phonetic spelling). If I leave here I asked the doctors if they would supply me with enough medicine to last until I find medicine in my home country.

Board Member: Tell me a little bit about being in college?

Detainee: I was in college for two and a half years. I did not finish. The college is a Saudi college but it is in the [United Arab] Emirates. I had a very good time with my friends. When I was taking a course in language it was only five of us. We would go to the blood bank and give blood. We were like college students. That's what my father did not like, he is a very religious man. He is basically an Imam. He abused me, especially when I borrowed money from my friends. He just didn't like it. I was in a different city and he was in a different Province. He said he would come and deal with me. That's when I ran away and went to the Embassy, and since that time I have been in

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trouble. I wish I did not run away, my father could have abused me, he would have slapped me two times and that would have been it, but I did not know that I would be in this much trouble. Now I wish I could go back

Board Member: Would you have any problems with your father?

Detainee: No, he has sent me several letters. They keep telling me don't give up and don't worry one day I will get out. They have prepared my future as well by engaging me to someone for when I get back.

Board Member: When you think of your country, do you think of Syria or the [United Arab] Emirates?

Detainee: Syria.

Presiding Officer: Is your father still in United Arab Emirates?

Detainee: Syria. My brothers and my sisters are all in United Arab Emirates, but my mother and father are in Syria now. So I wanted to go back to Syria [because] I have no problems with Syrians. I have not done anything wrong to my country.

Board Member: Do you know the young woman that your parents have engaged you too?

Detainee: Yes, she is my cousin. Not really my cousin but from the Janko tribe.

Board Member: Have you met her? What is she like?

Detainee: Yes, I have met her. She is from my village. She is very simple nothing to do with cars, televisions, cell phones or telephones. When I go back home I am going to take her from the village.

Board Member: Were you ever in trouble in College?

Detainee: No, I was always nice to my teachers, from primary school to High school.

Board Member: How old are you?

Detainee: 26 years old. I was born June 24, 1978.

Board Member: You mentioned that the Imam helped you with drugs.

Detainee: No, he advised me to stay away from it. Stay away from the bad life.

Board Member: Was there a chance that you might have done that?

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Detainee: Yes, if you want something to do. You will find something to do.

Board Member: Was he warning you for a specific reason?

Detainee: He was just worried about my future. He told me don't destroy my life by using drugs and by going to prison.

Board Member: In a statement made about your training with the Taliban, it stated that your training involved weapons.

Detainee: As soon as I got to the city I went to the Taliban because I did not speak the language and I did not know anyone. I explained to them that I ran away from home and I wanted to live there for six months to a year in a simple life and to gain asylum from the United Nations. The mujahideen said I did not speak the language so I needed an interpreter. The Interpreter asked me who sent me. I tried to explain to them that no one sent me I just ran away from my parents. They told me someone sent me because any Arab who comes to Afghanistan should be under supervision. They told me I had to go to the Northern Alliance and fight along with my brothers against Shah Masoud. I told them no, just a few years ago he was a Mujaeed and now he is a hypocrite and infidel, I am not fighting him. The interpreter then wrote a note to his boss telling him to take me to Kabul for training and to the Arab guesthouse. I spent five days at the guesthouse and then they told me I had to go to the training camp. When I told them I would not go, they told me I would go to prison. If I knew I was going to end up in prison I would not have gone to the training camp. When I arrived at the training camp and I saw the war I asked to go back but they would not let me. They told me I was a spy, I knew, saw and was taking pictures of their location and the guesthouse. They told me I was going to send that information to the American Embassy in Pakistan. This was after three months of torture. They told me to just say yes, so I told them I would if they would not touch me again. I had no choice but to say yes, they turned my life to hell and tortured me for three months. The names of people they asked for and I gave were all names of my teachers from school, but they never checked. I do not know how they consider themselves so smart and can cause so much trouble when they believed all the lies I told.

Board Member: You look familiar to me.

Detainee: Sir, my story was on the internet and reporters did interviews with me. They promised me that if I talked they would release me. I believed them. After I finished the interview with the reporter, they told me I was going to prison.

Board Member: When was that interview?

Detainee: February or March 2000. I am not sure. The investigators know about it though. The interrogators found it in the videos found at the residence in Afghanistan.

Board Member: What did your training on weapons include?

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Detainee: When I first arrived to the camp they did not trust me. They had me and another guy bring water back and forth and cut wood. I asked why I was in training and I was not training. They started letting me train, but they did things like give the other guys 23 bullets to shoot but only gave me five to shoot. They did not want me to suspect anything.

Board Member: You said that you shot the AK-47, the G3 and the M16?

Detainee: Yes, this is what I had.

Board Member: Did you shoot the G3?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Tell me about it?

Detainee: The G3 looks like the M16, but the gauge you open it and take it down. I think it takes 20 or 30 bullets. I am not sure this was a long time ago.

Board Member: What about the M16?

Detainee: It is easier you pull the charger back and leave it. It's more accurate than the AK-47 and the G3. I think it takes the same bullets like the AK-47. I can't remember it has been a long time.

Board Member: Did you get to shoot it?

Detainee: Yes Sir.

Board Member: After shooting you had to clean these weapons?

Detainee: Yes, they taught us how to take it apart and clean it.

Board Member: Do you remember how to do that?

Detainee: Really no. The AK-47 I do remember, the villages in Syria almost every house you go to you will see an AK-47. The M16 and the G3 I only saw it in the camp where I stayed for eighteen days.

Board Member: Tell me about taking the AK-47 apart.

Detainee: I am not going to lie to you and tell you I didn't and that I don't know how to take that one apart. You push the button at the top, at the end of the AK-47 and pull the top part off. Press the spring in the back, take it out and there should be something like a needle inside you turn it and take that out. You then take the gas tube out and that's all you can take off.

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Board Member: You said that you got in trouble with your father over a loan?

Detainee: Yes, my father used to give my brothers and me money and the college that we attended gave us money. The college would give us money in an effort to encourage us to study there; they gave us like a thousand dinars a month. My father wanted to know why I was borrowing money and I was getting all this money already. My friends and I went camping one day and I borrowed money from each of them, I then bought all the stuff for the camp. When we got back they wanted their money back but I had no more I already spent all of it. I had no money, so I went to another friend and asked to borrow money, I told him I would go to the bank later and give it back to him. He did not trust me and told my oldest brother about it. My brother came to me and told me that he was going to call our father, I begged him not too. He called our father and told him. When my brother passed me the phone my father told me that I was not his son anymore and he was coming right now to deal with me. I got scared. As my brother closed the door I ran away. I still had the money in my pocket from my friend, so I went to the highway and got in a truck that was headed to Abu Dabi Province. I was afraid of my father and I had no idea that I would be in prison because of the war. If I knew that I would not have run away. I know that was all bad but it was in the past and everyone makes mistakes and can start over again.

Board Member: Was your father abusive to your other brothers?

Detainee: Yes. When my brother was two years old he wanted to go to the park with the neighbor's son. He begged my mother so she told him to go. My father grabbed my brother from the car by his hair; drug him into the house and just started smacking him. The boy is two years old if you smack him twice he is already dizzy, my father did not think about that instead he began to punch and kick him like an enemy instead of a son. My older brother once did something to the neighbors when we were in Syria. My father took him outside and put a knife to his neck [like] he wanted to kill him. My aunt knocked the knife out of my father's hand and made my brother go away until my father calmed down.

Board Member: Which brother called your father?

Detainee: My older brother called my father. He called my father because before we left home my father told us the older ones were to look after the younger ones.

Board Member: Why did he call your father?

Detainee: He called my father because before we left home my father told us the older ones were to look after the younger ones. This is why he called my father.

Board Member: If your older brother was mistreated then why did he call your father?

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Detainee: Regardless to what he did to us, we have to respect him. It is part of our society; if we don't then we shame his name.

Board Member: You are sure you can go back without any trouble?

Detainee: Yes, I will be in trouble with him for about two three weeks but that's it. They are still my parents.

Board member: So you being here or in this situation does not shame your family?

Detainee: No, I told International Committee for the Red Cross about a year ago. I wanted to know how my family was doing. My father denied me three times. He said I was not his son anymore. This is the third time. The first was for borrowing money from my friends, the second time I was in Taliban prison and the Taliban advertised me on television and the internet, my father denied me again.

Board Member: How did you know about that?

Detainee: They told me. The guards used to watch the news in the prison and they would come tell me about it.

Board Member: Do you think they were just telling you stories?

Detainee: No, it's true when I got to the prison in Afghanistan my parents disowned me. One of the guards told me they saw my parents on CNN and they said that they disowned me, and then they showed me the TIME magazine with my picture and story.

Board Member: It was you on the TIME magazine?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Who did you borrow the money from in Qatar?

Detainee: His name was Khaled Nobarak.

Board Member: How did you know him?

Detainee: He was a student in the college

Board Member: Whom did you go camping with?

Detainee: My friends and the students from the class.

Board Member: Yet they were pressing you this hard to get the money back?

Detainee: Yes sir they asked for their money.

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Board Member: Sounds like you had to pay it all back at that time?

Detainee: I had to pay them all back. I went to the first one before my brother found out to give him one hundred dinars, I only had a 500 piece but he said that he did not have change. I told them that I would make change tomorrow and give them each one hundred, but those people could not be patient.

Board Member: Why could they not be patient?

Detainee: They were all foreigners in United Arab Emirates; they were Palestinians, Egyptians and Syrians so they also needed the money. Most of them were poor; their parents were not working government jobs.

Board Member: You were getting money from your father and the school?

Detainee: Those people only got money from the college.

Board Member: What were you spending your money on?

Detainee: Going to the cinema to watch movies, going to the beach and hanging out with my friends. My friends and myself bought a Playstation and a television. We would buy games and CDs.

Board Member: You mentioned that the United States came after two years and released you from the prison?

Detainee: I was in Taliban prison from January or February 2000 to January 2002, after the bombing. When the United States forces bombed Afghanistan, the Taliban guards all ran away from the prison. The new Government called Mujahideen came in and took me and five other foreigners and placed us together in a guest room inside the prison. After a month the United States Special Forces and another guy from FBI or CIA, I am not sure which one. They came to us and said since we were in Taliban prison and tortured by Taliban they wanted us to give them information. Myself and my Russian friend Ira Muhitir Muscovich (phonetic spelling) told the reporter from TIME magazine, his name was Mike, that we wanted to be witnesses against the Taliban in court. The reporter went and told the guy from CIA or FBI and the Special Forces. The United States Forces told us and the International Committee for the Red Cross [that] they needed to take us to the detention camp for three days to get information and they would send us to our Embassies. After three days they told us sorry we had more information for them and they were going to send us to Cuba. I could have been released a year ago, but I talk too much and give you too much information. That's why I am here longer. My interrogators used to work very hard to get me out of here without the tribunal or the review board, but they were told no, I had to go to the Tribunal.

Board Member: So you think that you are here because you have a lot of information?

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Detainee: I am talking too much.

Board Member: That does not answer my question. Why do you think that you are here?

Detainee: Yes sir

Presiding Officer: In your culture I understand the importance of your family. You said that your family will receive you back, it will be hard for the first couple of weeks but they will receive you back?

Detainee: Yes sir.

Presiding Officer: If you do not get employment with NGOs, with Red Crescent or another Organization, what skills do you have that you can use to gain employment if these organizations do not hire you?

Detainee: I can be an interpreter. I speak Arabic, English, Pashtu and Urdu. I know a little bit of Spanish I am working on that now and I will learn French and Russian.

Presiding Officer: Do you consider yourself a soldier?

Detainee: No, I was a soldier. I will never be a soldier again in my life, especially after what I saw in Afghanistan.

Presiding Officer: Have you been on a Haj?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: With your family?

Detainee: No, my college taught students to Haj.

Presiding Officer: How do you think Americans view Muslims?

Detainee: I had American, Lebanese and Syrian friends that were Christians. Personally I have no problems with any kind of people, they are just Americans. I'm growing my beard now in the blocks because they were giving me a hard time for shaving.

Presiding Officer: I have no problem with you growing your beard. That is your religious conviction.

Detainee: Sir, what I am saying is that I don't have problems with having a beard or not having a beard. Talking to the females or not talking to the females. I play cards with the females I am very open-minded. You were asking if I had problems with Americans right?

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(Revised 25 Nov 05)

Presiding Officer: No, I was asking what you believed Americans thought of Muslims.

Detainee: I heard there are seven million Muslims in America and I know that there is Democracy in America. No one will ask you for your religion and it does not matter what color you are. To me Americans are good and the government in America is good.

Presiding Officer: If you go to Syria what will you say about your experience here at Guantanamo Bay?

Detainee: I would tell them that I was on vacation after Taliban prison. I had fun and it was like I was hanging out until procedures were complete. Just like when you go certain places it takes awhile for you to get your visa and stuff. I will tell them it just took some time, but I will write a book I will write about the guards that were with me and my friends. I will write about the doctors and the nurses who have spoiled me for the last two to three years while I was in the Psych ward. I had a good time here.

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

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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