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Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 703

The Administrative Review Board (ARB) 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 (AMO) 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 Administrative Review Board (ARB) interview was conducted on 4 October 2005 and lasted three hours and twenty minutes. After reviewing the ARB's purpose and procedures, the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence was read to the detainee. 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 stated he wanted appear and participate at the ARB. The detainee requested that the AMO present his responses at the ARB, point-by-point, to the Unclassified Summary of Evidence. These were then dictated by the detainee via the translator and are explained here within. Additionally, the detainee stated he wanted to make an oral

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statement at the ARB. The detainee was very cooperative, attentive, and cordial throughout the interview. At the conclusion, the detainee declined the offer for the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence.

The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1, (and DMO-2 to DMO-3, other unclass 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 the Assisting Military Officer to read his responses 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 admitted to going door-to-door with the Jama'at Tablighi (JT) for three days in Hamburg attempting to discuss Islam with people.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims to have only gone out to learn about the Jama'at Tablighi organization. The detainee didn't like this, so he stopped after three days.

Designated Military Officer: The Tablighi Jama'at is an Islamic missionary organization founded to spread Islam and recruit followers. Islamic extremists have been known to exploit the organization to enhance their ability to fight the perceived enemies of Islam.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee neither agreed nor disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge about the JT organization because he only spent three days with them.

Designated Military Officer: A member of JT traveled to Afghanistan while the detainee was there and asked the detainee to return to Germany with him in October 2001, but the detainee refused.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims this never occurred.

Designated Military Officer: Around March 2001, an acquaintance at the al Nur Mosque gave the detainee two videotapes of the mujahidin in Afghanistan and Chechnya. After watching the videotapes, the detainee contacted this facilitator and made arrangements for his travels to Afghanistan.

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Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: Originally, the detainee stated he traveled to Afghanistan to fight jihad to make amends for the wrongs he committed.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims to have traveled to Afghanistan in order to buy drugs. The detainee wanted to make enough money to open a store and live comfortably. This statement is a generality, but not his particular situation.

Designated Military Officer: Later, the detainee stated that prior to viewing the videotapes, he had begun thinking of a scheme to travel to Afghanistan to purchase drugs and then smuggle them back to Germany to sell. He said he made plans to travel to Afghanistan under the guise of training for jihad.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: In June 2001, the detainee purchased a fraudulent Belgian passport, while his facilitator purchased round trip plane tickets for the detainee to travel from Germany to Afghanistan.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: On 3 September 2001, the detainee and Bahaji traveled from Hamburg via Istanbul, Turkey, to Karachi, Pakistan. They remained for three days before flying to Quetta, Pakistan. In Quetta, the Taliban provided a driver to take them to a Taliban safe house in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims to have traveled to Pakistan with someone else, a friend named Bin Murabit Ismael. While in transit, they met Bahaji at the Istanbul Airport while waiting for a flight to Karachi, Pakistan. They spent three hours together, having breakfast and drinking coffee.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee volunteered to fight for the Taliban against the Northern Alliance around Bagram under the command of Abdul Wakhil.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: In December 2001, the detainee retreated with the Taliban to Zormut, Afghanistan. They remained in Zormut during the month of Ramadan and then traveled to Banuu, Pakistan.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee met a senior al Qaida Lieutenant in December 2001 who was smuggling mujahidin into Pakistan.

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Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. Detainee claims to have met someone doing this, but [the] individual was an Afghan Taliban, not an Arab. The Taliban provided detainee amenities (like food) during the month of Ramadan. Afterwards, the Taliban provided a car and driver (a native Afghan) for travel to Pakistan. Before departing, the detainee gave his Kalashnikov to the Taliban.

Designated Military Officer: During Ramadan 2001, a senior al Qaida lieutenant convinced 20 of approximately 100 mujahidin to leave Afghanistan at the request of local Afghan leaders. About one week later, the group of 20 proceeded to Banuu, Pakistan. The 20 men were told al Qaida would contact them to continue their jihad as soon as the situation in Afghanistan had improved.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee neither agreed nor disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge of this subject. Detainee has only stated that approximately 20 men traveled to Banuu, Pakistan. They intended to leave Afghanistan and return home [to] (Germany).

Designated Military Officer: Sometime in February 2002, al Qaida sent the group to Lahore, Pakistan, and then to Faisalabad, Pakistan. Traveling with this group was Jose Padilla (aka Abdallah al-Muhajir) and Fouad Zouaoui (aka Talha al-Kini).

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge of these individuals. When traveling from Lahore to Faisalabad, Pakistan, a Russian and Yemeni accompanied the detainee. [The] detainee claims this allegation is a result of a translator error from one of his interrogations. Note: The detainee claims these two individuals are also detained at Guantanamo Bay, [Cuba].

Designated Military Officer: Abdallah al-Muhajir and Talha al-Kini were planning to build a bomb using conventional explosive and radiological materials and then detonating it in the United States.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee neither agreed nor disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge about these individuals.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee remained in Lahore for approximately three and a half months, moving between several homes. He was then taken to Abu Zubaydah's safe house in Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims the JT organization chose him and others to travel to Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Designated Military Officer: According to a senior al Qaida lieutenant, the Lashkar e Tayyiba as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

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Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge of the LET organization; the JT organization facilitated his movements in Lahore and Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Designated Military Officer: The Secretary of State has designated Lashkar e Tayyiba as a Terrorist Organization.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee neither agreed nor disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge of this subject.

Designated Military Officer: Pakistanis moved the detainee to Faisalabad, Pakistan, but they mistakenly placed him in Abu Zubaydah's house. Since the detainee did not have any connection or relationship to Abu Zubaydah, he should have been placed in the Yemeni house.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims to have stayed at this house while waiting for his papers (passport) in order to travel home [to] (Germany).

Designated Military Officer: The detainee and others at Abu Zubaydah's house had a 15-minute period between the time they realized the Pakistani police had surrounded the house and the time entry was made to hide their fake passports and concoct stories to tell the police.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee was asleep when the Pakistani police entered the house and he awoke to find guns pointed at him.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee served in the Algerian Army as a conscript for four years starting in January 1979. He served primarily as a physical training teacher and weapons guard, receiving training on the AK-47, Seminov and Dictaroff (a single-shot rifle).

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims to have served five years, from 1979-1984.

Designated Military Officer: In September 2001, the detainee attended the al Farouq Training Camp and the surrounding mountain training area for approximately thirteen days. While in the mountains, he received training on the Kalashnikov rifle, Rocket Propelled Grenade and physical training.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee also attended Camp Nine outside Kabul for approximately 25 days, receiving training in camouflage techniques, weapons, and physical fitness.

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Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims he had no training while at Camp Nine because his leg was injured.

Detainee: I wasn't injured. I was sick.

Designated Military Officer: During Ramadan 2000, the detainee met Sa'id Bahaji at the al Atrak mosque in Hamburg. Bahaji is a known al Qaida operative connected to the 11 September 2001 attacks.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims to have only met this individual once and had no knowledge about his activities.

Designated Military Officer: Bahaji allegedly facilitated the false identification papers, cash, visa and transportation for the hijackers of the 11 September 2001 attacks. He also networked with other al Qaida cells around the world to fine tune the attacks on 11 September 2001.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims neither involvement nor knowledge about this subject.

Designated Military Officer: An admitted al Qaida member identified the detainee as a friend of an explosives trainer.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee disagreed. The detainee claims no knowledge about any friend being an explosives trainer.

Designated Military Officer: Between 1973 and 1982, the detainee was arrested at least seven times in Algeria for stealing, robbery, receiving sentences varying from one week to two years. In 1985, he was found guilty of statutory rape after he married a 17-year old without her father's permission.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

Designated Military Officer: From 1990 to 1994, the detainee lived in Rome, Italy, where he dealt illegal drugs. He was arrested for stealing at least six times while in Italy.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims he was arrested about 13 times.

Designated Military Officer: From 1994 to 2001, the detainee lived in Hamburg, Germany, where he was involved in numerous illegal activities and spent over two years total in prison. His crimes included possession of a shotgun; pick pocketing, credit card fraud, prison escape and possession of fraudulent identification. He continued to deal in illegal drugs while in Germany.

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Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims the firearm was neither a shotgun nor an automatic gun.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee denied seeing American forces while serving with the Taliban fighting the Northern Alliance, and did not know they were even fighting until the bombing began.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed. The detainee claims he was not a front-line fighter, but was placed in the third (Arab) line, for logistic support and strategic reserves. [The] detainee was armed with a Kalashnikov.

Designated Military Officer: The detainee has no ill feelings towards the United States. He is aware he has made mistakes in the past and is willing to pay for these mistakes. He has spent most of his life in jail or prison and is hoping this will be his last detention, as he no longer wants to live a life of crime and wants to settle down with his family.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee agreed.

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 submitted documents on behalf of the Detainee marked as Exhibits EC-c thru EC-c6.

The Assisting Military Officer read the Detainee Comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form.

Assisting Military Officer: The detainee claims that since he arrived, he has been completely open, honest, and cooperative. The detainee claims that he has never been evasive or uncooperative during his interrogations and that he has been questioned on over 70 separate occasions. The detainee further commented that he provided much of the information within these allegations during his interrogations. The detainee declined the Arabic translated Unclassified Summary of Evidence because he did not want other detainees to know anything about his "private" interview.

The Detainee made the following statement:

Detainee: I would like to mention one important thing that all these allegations that you just read. All of it, I have mentioned it. I have provided it to the interrogators or the investigators. They added some stuff, which was not true. Ever since I was captured

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from Pakistan until the present day today, I have seen about 71 interrogators and I was always cooperative with them, very honest, and helpful. You can verify that with the interrogators or investigators.

Presiding Officer: Do you have anything else to add?

Detainee: I have one thing, honest to goodness from the bottom of my heart, I would like the board to know that I have no problems whatsoever with any country in the world, any nationality or the United States. All my utmost concern now [is that] I want to be with my wife and my kids. I don't propose a threat to the United States or any other country.

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: When you lived in Germany, approximately 1994 to 2001, how did you get your money?

Detainee: I brought it from Italy. I had Italian friends and families that used to hide my money and hold on to my money and any country I go to, they used to send it to me.

Presiding Officer: How did you earn the money though? What did you do for a job?

Detainee: From stealing. After I [would] get out [of] prison, I used to work a month or two months here and there at a restaurant, save some money and then get out. All my money is from theft in Italy.

Board Member: Were you selling drugs during the entire period of time of 1994 to 2001?

Detainee: Yes, in Germany.

Board Member: What kind of drugs was it?

Detainee: Cocaine and I used to deal with cars, buy and sell.

Board Member: You decided that you were going to go to Afghanistan and buy some drugs there and then return to Germany?

Detainee: Yes Sir.

Board member: At some point you met a guy who showed you a videotape, you watched that video and you changed your mind?

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Detainee: At the beginning I did not know that Afghanistan is a country that has cocaine or drugs that are inexpensive. Not cocaine [I mean] heroin. Cocaine was in another country.

Presiding Officer: Cocaine was in Germany and heroin was in Afghanistan.

Detainee: Heroin is very cheap in Afghanistan. I heard about this opportunity [of] buying heroin in Afghanistan a long, long time ago, but I didn't have the opportunity to go into Afghanistan. Then when I watched the Chechnian tape and Afghani tape, then I decided to go to Afghanistan to help myself out and go to. The person who got these tapes to me, I was told by him that you could go for three to six months training and you could come back. I found this opportunity [would be of some] help for me. Then I took this opportunity, I told them yes [that] I would go to Afghanistan. He requested a Pakistani visa so I can lead the way to Afghanistan. I brought the visa and he took a look at it and then he went to the travel office and bought me plane tickets. I was told by him that [I] would meet someone by the Airport that will take me or lead me to where I need[ed] to go in Afghanistan. I rarely met with these people and all that [they] told me was true.

Board Member: Your purpose of going to Afghanistan was to cooperate with the Jihad, but also to buy drugs and return?

Detainee: There was no jihad. It was just military training. When I got to Afghanistan I had never seen a shotgun or war. There was nothing. Then I heard about the September 11 [attacks] that happened in the United States. Then one month later or two months we started seeing the bombs coming down on us. Then we went to Pakistan. [In] the first place I wanted to leave, but we were told by [the] Taliban, that we could not leave until they told us we could leave.

Board Member: On the Unclassified Summary on Item 9, page 2, it says that you volunteered to fight with the Taliban?

Detainee: Yes, because I was in camp 9. There were people there in charge that would tell you what to do. There were people there in charge that would ask, would you like to go with this group, would you like to work with this group. I chose to be with them.

Board Member: I want to go back a little bit to where you leave Germany and you are going to travel to Afghanistan. You are with a friend named Bin Murabit Ismael.

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Were you and he in agreement that you were going to go there originally and buy drugs?

Detainee: No.

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Board Member: He wasn't going to buy the drugs?

Detainee: I did not tell him my private intentions.

Board Member: Do you know why he was going there?

Detainee: I was told by him, I want to go to Afghanistan for a week or a couple of weeks just to see Afghanistan. I only told a friend of mine in Germany where I was going. I did not tell him what my intentions were. But since somebody offered us a plane ticket and was all for free, he decided to go for a couple of days. I did not tell him what were my intentions.

Board Member: When you go to Istanbul, you meet up with a man named Bahaji. Is that the first time you met him.

Detainee: I met him the first time at the mall and I met him a few times on the street. The first time I really got acquainted with Bahaji, it was in [the] subway where we got coffee and breakfast. Any other occasion, it was just Hello or Good-bye.

Board Member: From Istanbul, did he travel on with you to Afghanistan?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: Someone was paying your way there. You had a free ticket. Was it Bahaji that was paying for it?

Detainee: No, it wasn't Bahaji, it was someone by the name of Al-Moghrabi. It was the same guy who gave me the videotape. He is the one who bought me and Bin Ismael the plane ticket.

Board Member: Did he have anything to do with Bahaji as far as you know?

Detainee: No. I don't think so.

Board Member: How is your health today?

Detainee: Good.

Board Member: It is hard to be healthy with a drug lifestyle.

Detainee: There were many kinds of drugs and some of the drugs could be good to you and some of the drugs are not good to you.

Board Member: What sort of drugs did you use?

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Detainee: We use to deal with cocaine and we sell [it] to the very rich people. I used to use some of while I was in transit to sell it.

Board Member: Just cocaine?

Detainee: When I was younger I used to use the grass, but as I grow older I used the cocaine. When I left to Europe I used the cocaine because it is very, very expensive. [The] seller employees can't afford this kind of drug. It is very, very expensive. You have to deal freely in this kind of business in order to afford buying it.

Board Member: What about heroin?

Detainee: I never used heroin because it causes a lot of disease. I just went to Afghanistan to buy it because it is in demand in Europe. One kilo of heroin in Afghanistan costs \$700 (American) while in Europe it costs \$30 thousand.

Board Member: When was the last time you were high? When was the last time you used drugs [or] cocaine?

Detainee: December 1999.

Board Member: That is a long time to not use it, which is good.

Detainee: It doesn't cause any health problems, whether I use it or not.

Board Member: Are you a good Muslim?

Detainee: Yes, I am a good Muslim and I have parents that are Muslim. If I said I wasn't a good Muslim, I would be lying to you.

Board Member: What does the Koran say about stealing?

Detainee: It is forbidden.

Board Member: You see the problem?

Detainee: The problem is that if you don't own anything then you would have to steal to live. Since I was young my dad had a store and we kept asking for things, and when he would say no I would go to his store and steal [things]. For example, if I want to go watch a movie and my dad said no, then I would steal the money to buy the ticket. This is normal for me.

Board Member: You seem to be a man that makes friends easily?

Detainee: Yes, this is normal for me.

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Board Member: What did your friends in Italy and Germany think about your stealing?

Detainee: I have good Italian friends there. They have trust in me and I have trust in them. I would say anywhere I am or whenever I get with people and if they are honest with me I am honest with them; that is the most important thing.

Board Member: What about your Muslim friends in Germany? What do they think about your stealing?

Detainee: In Algeria this is something normal, people respect their religion but it is not so strict that you can do whatever you want. Especially the region in the north of Africa. There they respect their religion but still do whatever they want. In Italy, I had a lot of Italian friends and we used to go out with them and drink, but when Ramadan comes, that holy month we stop drinking until Ramadan is done, then we resume ourselves and we go out and start drinking. Since I was young I [have grown] accustomed to this and am used to this kind of life.

Board Member: It did not answer the question about your Muslim friends in Germany. What did they think about your theft or your stealing?

Detainee: Even then they steal. Everybody has a different hobby... When I get out of the prison they will celebrate and they will make [a] ceremony celebration and they will give me money. This is normal. People don't do anything if they recognize that I've been stealing they will say "haram" [which] means forbidden. I'm dealt my own life and I am free to do whatever I want. When I was capture the first time I was 15 years old. A lawyer came to me and visited me in the prison. I spent seven years in jail. My father used to visit me in prison and bring me clothes. Even when I left the last time when I got out of prison in 1986 my father used to come and visit me in prison and talk to me about my doing and my behavior and the way I conduct my life. I believe I am free to do whatever I want. This is my life and everyone is free to do whatever they want. When I was young I used to steal money my dad never touched the money I stole because he said it was "haram" [which] means it is forbidden money. My dad never took money from me. Every time I was captured [and put] in prison he came and checked on me. This is [a] normal lifestyle.

Board Member: It sounds like he was a good father, which is a blessing. You have been in many prisons in many countries: Algeria, Germany, and Pakistan. How do they compare to here?

Detainee: I [have] enter[ed] 21 prisons in my life [and have] spent [approximately] sixteen years.

Presiding Officer: How does this one compare to the others?

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Detainee: This is the hardest prison. This is the most difficult prison in my life I have seen. If this detention were to have been my first detention, I would have learned my lesson because it is so difficult. I would have learned my lesson and never stole again in my life. This is the hardest prison I have seen in my life. I used to come and go, something routine. I used to own a supermarket inside prison. I used to have money inside prison. I had TV, CDs. Everything was provided. Even women used to be with us in prison. We had everything. We even played soccer, all kinds of sports. They used to open the doors for us; from seven o'clock in the morning until eleven o'clock in the morning we were free in Germany. Everything was provided. This one compared to the others there is a big difference.

Board Member: Suppose that this board decided to transfer you to another country on the condition that the other country kept you in prison. You called Germany home today. Do you think the Germans would have you back?

Detainee: I don't know. I have no idea if Germany would take me back. If my own country, my native country does not care and nobody would come and talk to me. I don't know what Germany would do.

Board Member: You can imagine how they could be suspicious?

Detainee: Yes.

Board Member: I respect how the Jama'at Tablighi, the Taliban, and al Qaida are warriors and how they work. It is very difficult for me to imagine how those men would accept you in their company.

Detainee: Who are these men? I don't even know anybody. All these people that you mention, I don't really have anything to do with them.

Board Member: But you were arrested with them in Pakistan?

Detainee: I wasn't dealing with them. I was just trying to leave. I was going from one house to another. I had no opportunity to sit back and relax. I have no connection with all these people. You know everything about me. You have everything in my file. Ever since I was young I have nothing. Even my brothers have nothing. Even in Algeria we had no problems with the government or anybody else. We had nothing.

Board Member: Except for the stealing.

Detainee: This is something normal. This is my hobby. This is my profession.

Board Member: Deserting the Army?

Detainee: Which Army?

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Board Member: Algeria.

Detainee: It wasn't mandatory. Every Algerian has to serve two years. The reason I wasn't there for five years is because I was in prison. I never really stayed with the Army. One month I am in prison the next month I am out. I wasn't steady there. I don't like the Army anyway in Algeria.

Board Member: I look at the problem and I say Taliban are very smart. I say they have very good way of dealing with the world. They have very good security. I cannot believe the Taliban would allow a stranger who was a thief, who drank except for Ramadan. I cannot believe the Jama'at Tablighi would allow a stranger to get close to them, especially the men in the house where you were captured, very smart men. I can't imagine them letting you get close to them.

Detainee: ...is something normal with them. [In the] Taliban I didn't know anybody really. I know a lot of people in Tablighi and they lived with me in Europe and I know them very well. They go into bars and try to talk to people and make them get out of the bars and try to help them. They used to come to me to my coffee shop; my restaurant and we had drinks in the restaurant. Sometimes they would follow me home to my own house. They know I got out of prison and they come and visit me and see me. I like Tablighi and I admire them. I would spend a few days with them, but I don't like to get involved too much with them. I admire them, I like them but I didn't realize they have a lot of restrictions. They wanted me to stay all the time in the mosque. That is what I didn't like. There are a lot of restrictions with the Tablighi.

Board Member: The Taliban that you were captured with are very smart people. They knew you even if you didn't know them. You can be sure they knew you.

Detainee: I did not know them, how did they know me?

Presiding Officer: They gave you drivers to get out of Afghanistan to help you get out. Obviously the Taliban valued you. They helped you get out of Afghanistan...and go back to Pakistan.

Detainee: I have no involvement with them. I don't know anybody personally, but there are a lot of Arabs there and they will tell you they are Taliban and they will help you. I didn't know them personally. They help[ed] us and they [brought] us [what we] need[ed] and they will get us out of Afghanistan just by means of help.

Board Member: Why should they help a drug dealer and a thief?

Detainee: Nobody knows about what I do. They did not know anything about me. If they find out that I was a thief or a drug dealer then maybe they [would] kill me, so I didn't let anybody know anything about me. They might kill me. Some of the detainees

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here at Guantanamo Bay, they look at my right hand and they think something is wrong with my hand.

Presiding Officer: Are you talking about your tattoo?

Detainee: Yes.

Presiding Officer: Do you speak English? I see you answering sometimes. You understand English pretty well.

Detainee: No I don't.

Presiding Officer: Not at all?

Detainee: Some words. If I speak English I would tell you I speak it. I am honest.

Presiding Officer: I think you claim you didn't know anyone at the Taliban, but I think you are a very important man and that's why you ended up at Abu Zubaydah's house in Faisalabad.

Detainee: I swear to God I was taken by mistake and I have witnesses to Zubaydah's house. The house I entered Zubaydah wasn't there. After a couple of days he came to the house and I have witnesses, there was a Pakistani guy with us named...he lived with me in the house. One day I would...the three of us, the Yemeni, the Russian and me to that house, the Pakistani man told us we would leave this house in three days and we would go to another house. I liked the house. It was big and spacious and beautiful. I didn't want to leave the house.

Presiding Officer: Did you know any of the other people there? Had you seen any of them before, other than the one guy you mentioned?

Detainee: I did not know them personally. There were six to seven people there but after two days I did not know Abu Zubaydah and he told me he was responsible here. He was in charge in this house and [asked] who brought me to this house. I told him I am here waiting for my passport to get here. Then he asked me who am I, where am I from. [He asked] many, many questions.

Presiding Officer: Did you see any combat at all against the Northern Alliance?

Detainee: No I did not witness that.

Presiding Officer: None at all?

Detainee: No.

Presiding Officer: How is your family? Have you heard from your wife?

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Detainee: How would I hear from her?

Presiding Officer: Many people here receive letters, have you received any letters on your wife's health?

Detainee: Yes. I received two letters: one from my wife and one from my daughter. My daughter got married and she sent me a letter and pictures.

Presiding Officer: If we send you back to Algeria or another country will you be involved in drugs again or stealing? All of these might lead you back to fight with someone like the Taliban. That is our fear.

Detainee: I would look for a job. I would look for something to earn a living. Four years here I have spent it in prison here. It is just a waste of time.

Presiding Officer: We have to look at your future. We have to determine what your future holds and determine if you will be a threat to the United States.

Detainee: I have no involvement with anybody in the Taliban. All my concern is my wife and my kids.

Presiding Officer: You trained with the Taliban and were arrested with Taliban members, so I worry that you will go back into that type of activity.

Detainee: I never acknowledged these people. I never acknowledged the Taliban. They create problems throughout the world. I don't like them. I will never be involved with them. I am honest with you.

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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