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Summary of Administrative Review Board Proceedings for ISN 441

The Administrative Review Board was called to order.

The Detainee entered the proceedings.

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

Presiding Officer: Is it okay if I refer to you as Abdul?

Detainee (through translator): Abdul Ahmed.

The Designated Military Officer (DMO) was sworn.

The Board Reporter, Translator, Assisting Military Officer (AMO) and Board Members were sworn.

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

Detainee (through translator): I don't need to take the oath but I will speak the truth under God.

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

The Assisting Military Officer presented the Notification of the Decision of the Administrative Review Board, 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 27 November 2006. 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 to attend the ARB. The Detainee was attentive and polite throughout the interview. Copies of both the English and Arabic translated Unclassified Summary and detainee writing templates were provided to the detainee upon his request. Additional Comments: The detainee appeared at his interview wearing a tan uniform. The detainee asked questions about the ARB process which were answered by the AMO.

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The Designated Military Officer presented the Unclassified Summary of Evidence, Exhibit DMO-1; the FBI Redaction Memorandum, DMO-2; the CITF Redaction Memorandum, DMO-3; and the Terrorist Organization Reference Guide 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.

Detainee (through translator): Is this the unclassified portion? I have my statement with me.

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 (3.a.1): The detainee purchased and viewed a jihad recruitment video.

Detainee (through translator): I would like you to read the whole thing. I will make comments at the end.

Presiding Officer: There is an opportunity for a final statement or comments later in the Board. We will allow your statement at that time.

Detainee (through translator): Yes.

Presiding Officer: You are certainly allowed to offer a response. We will still translate bullet by bullet and you are allowed to respond at any time.

Detainee (through translator): I would like to respond at the end.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.2): The detainee attended speeches about jihad in Yemen.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.3): The detainee stated that another individual normally provided money for tickets from Yemen to Afghanistan, but the detainee chose to travel at his own expense.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.4): The detainee stated he flew from Sanaa, Yemen to Dubai, United Arab Emirates to Karachi, Pakistan. The detainee then traveled by bus from Karachi, Pakistan to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

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Designated Military Officer (3.a.5): After arrival in Kandahar, Afghanistan, the detainee stayed one week at the al Nibras Guest House.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.6): The detainee stated he traveled to the al Farouq Training Camp by bus.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.7): After attending al Farouq Training Camp, the detainee stated he traveled to Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he stayed in a guest house for three weeks.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.8): The detainee traveled to the Arab House in Kabul, Afghanistan and waited there for two to three months.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.9): The detainee stated he was injured during a United States bombing raid on the northern lines in Afghanistan.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.10): The detainee spent two weeks in a hospital in Konduz, Afghanistan. The detainee then followed an order for all Arabs to proceed to Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.11): A source identified the detainee as someone from the front lines in Afghanistan and in Konduz, Afghanistan. The source said that the detainee claimed to have training videos with him that he had produced about mines and minefields, a video camera, a bag full of money from all countries and many passports from dead Arab fighters.

Designated Military Officer (3.a.12): The detainee stated he would be honored to be an al Qaida member.

Designated Military Officer (3.b.1): The detainee stated he attended a 57-day training course at al Farouq Training Camp. Training included marksmanship and assembly and disassembly of numerous weapons.

Designated Military Officer (3.b.2): While at al Farouq Training Camp, the detainee stated he received training on the AK-47, pistols, M16, Uzi, G-3, Kalaco rifle, RPG and land mine theory.

Designated Military Officer (3.b.3): The detainee did well at al Farouq Training Camp and was given specialized training. The training included how to dress and act in an airport, a special way of talking, as well as how to resist interrogation and torture.

Designated Military Officer (3.b.4): The detainee stated he was aware of 80 individuals who were pulled out of al Farouq for special operations. The detainee also stated the nineteen 11 September 2001 hijackers trained at al Farouq.

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Designated Military Officer (3.c.1): The detainee heard about al Qaida training courses available in intelligence collection, mountain warfare, artillery, topography, land navigation, Stinger and SA-7 anti-aircraft missiles, military leadership, urban warfare, building and planting explosive devices, forgery and poisons.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.2): During the detainee's stay at al Nibras Guest House, Usama bin Laden visited twice with senior al Qaida operatives, including Abu Hafs.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.3): The detainee stated Usama bin Laden was a great man and that he knew the detainee and sat with him.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.4): Usama bin Laden visited al Farouq twice in late July, early August 2001.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.5): The detainee claimed Usama bin Laden told him al Qaida would set up a headquarters in Yemen after al Qaida was forced out of Afghanistan.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.6): The detainee stated he attended a meeting prior to 11 September 2001; the attendees discussed an upcoming operation that was going to take place and whether the Americans would invade Afghanistan after the attack. Al Qaida decided if America did not respond, al Qaida would launch another operation until Americans did respond.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.7): The detainee explained that every al Qaida operational team has a manager who makes decisions without having to consult Usama bin Laden.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.8): The detainee stated he sat with Usama bin Laden more than ten times and that the detainee has information regarding future attacks planned against the United States.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.9): The detainee stated he may have been on a mission for Usama bin Laden when he was caught or arrested, but he refused to be specific.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.10): The detainee was selected at al Farouq to be taken to see the fighting at the front lines. There, the detainee had the opportunity to sit down with al Qaida leaders and talk to them.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.11): The detainee's name appeared on a list of al Qaida Mujahedin trust accounts seized during raids of al Qaida associated safe houses.

Designated Military Officer (3.c.12): The detainee's name appeared on a list of killed or wounded al Qaida martyrs recovered during the capture of a senior al Qaida operative.

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Designated Military Officer (3.d.1): The detainee stated he was captured at Mazar-e-Shariff, Afghanistan, spent 52 days in prison and was present during the uprising.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.2): The detainee stated he knew Usama bin Laden was preparing a big strike and several smaller attacks on the United States. The detainee stated his sources of information were good and believed the attacks would happen.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.3): The detainee stated he planned deception with personnel in the cell blocks with the goal of learning interviewing styles and approaches.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.4): The detainee stated his mission was to collect information on our techniques and to waste our resources investigating his lies.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.5): The detainee claimed he was a terrorist and that he would never give the United States information that would help them fight Muslims and terrorists.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.6): The detainee remained imprisoned at Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan until shortly after it fell to Northern Alliance Forces.

Designated Military Officer (3.d.7): The detainee attempted to escape from the prison at Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan with fifteen others. The detainee stated some of the others were killed; he was shot, wounded and recaptured.

Designated Military Officer (4.a): The detainee believes Usama bin Laden is a heretic who goes against the teachings of the Koran.

Designated Military Officer (4.b): The detainee does not agree with al Qaida because they target the innocent, which the Koran forbids.

Designated Military Officer (4.c): The detainee was against some of the policies of al Qaida, including suicide missions and killing innocent people.

Designated Military Officer (4.d): The detainee stated he did not go to train to fight the United States Forces. The detainee went to fulfill his religious duty to protect himself and his honor, and did not consider his training to be offensive in nature.

Designated Military Officer (4.e): The detainee claimed he was against the 11 September 2001 attacks and did not consider them jihad. The detainee believes jihad is man fighting man, not man fighting against innocent people.

Designated Military Officer (4.f): The detainee denied having any knowledge regarding the World Trade Center attacks, the bombing of the USS COLE, the embassy bombings or any other terrorist attacks.

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Designated Military Officer (4.g): The detainee claimed he was not a part of al Qaida or the Taliban.

Designated Military Officer (4.h): During an interview with the detainee in early 2003, the detainee stated the stories regarding his experiences with Usama bin Laden and al Qaida were fabricated.

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 translated comments from the Enemy Combatant Election Form, Exhibit EC-C.

Assistant Military Officer: Yes, the Detainee would like to make an oral statement.

Detainee (through translator): (The translator indicated that the detainee recited a verse from the Koran prior to beginning his statement) To the Board, I didn't come here to defend myself. I have no need for that because, I didn't commit any crime. I have the right to come. Regarding what the United States has said, I do pose a threat to the United States and its allies. I admit to you it is my honor to be an enemy of the United States. I'm a Muslim jihadist and I'm defending my religion and my family. I did not come out for the money, fame, killing or blood shed. As God witnesses the worse thing is blood shed. We came out to worship God and nothing but God, all religion and the justice of Islam. We came out because of your infidelity and also your crusade. It is again the Muslim tradition and its inception and all the religious places and it resources. Just to be sure and evident to my decision to my mighty God, I will continue in the way of jihad. Against the infidel, the United States and its allies until all the property of the Muslims will come back to them. God praises the Muslim people and all the people of Islam. I will never return or come back from jihad. I will now explain my jihad. According to September 11, 2001, I praise the attacks and other attacks. These are simple attacks against you for your criminal acts and your military invasion to the Islamic countries and a letter to you and the whole world. Muslims do not care about you. Those attacks were great attacks and opening the door for jihad in this world and Muslim relevance. My relation to the prince of Mujahedin praise Usama bin Laden. God praises him. I'm not one of his men and not one of his individuals. I am one of his sons. I will kill myself for him and will also give my family and all of my money to him. I praise Mular Omar. Relating to my relationship with Taliban, it is a Muslim country. My duty toward them is like any duty of a Muslim person to defend the Taliban and its stay. The truth is under convincing, regarding your designation of me as a terrorist. It is right that I don't want to

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be classified. Changing the names does not change anything. You can say terrorist or Mujahedin but the truth stays the same. If say that every terrorist is a person that believes in God and worships God, I left my house to defend my family, country, and religion. I hope to God that I'm not the first and only terrorist. If you follow the history books, you are still the crusaders. You are vicious missions against Muslims and the Islam religion and blood shed, killing, invasion, and controlling countries. The United States is putting all the religions down with your criminal acts never seen in the history books. Whatever you are convinced with, you preach with democracy and human rights. This is all fabricated things you talk about. You hide underneath it with vicious killing and criminal acts. This does not convince anybody and doesn't change any of your truth. United States is nothing but a criminal gang. You are taking over the world and including Muslims. Your leadership is lead and all the Jews that are with you. This is nothing but a way to show your greediness to the world especially to Middle East. With the help of God, we will stand Mujahedin and terrorists against Americans. This is so God will praise Muslims and his people. Our jihad against you will stay. It is not based on individuals or certain people. It doesn't stop with these people. It is the duty of every Muslim that comes from a religious background. The United States cannot stop the jihad no matter what you do. The history that will come will be the dividing factor between us and you when we meet on the door step of a big conflict. I tell you do what you do and do what you say. There is only God. I don't care about you and whoever your allies. I'm assured from God I will win that war. I beg God to help us.

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

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

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

Board Member: When did you travel from Yemen to Afghanistan and what year?

Detainee (*through translator*): On Saturday, June 9, 2001, at eight o'clock in the morning. I went for jihad/for God.

Board Member: Who called you to jihad?

Detainee (*through translator*): It was an order from God/prophet.

Board Member: From whom?

Detainee (*through translator*): The Muslims.

Board Member: So a religious leader did not direct you to go to Afghanistan?

Detainee (*through translator*): My religion ordered me to do it nobody else ordered me.

Presiding Officer: Can you tell me if you are an al Qaida member?

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Detainee (*through translator*): No, I wish I was al Qaida.

Presiding Officer: Can offer an explanation of why your name appeared on multiple listings of al Qaida members?

Detainee (*through translator*): It was because I trained at al Qaida camps.

Board Member: Were you a leader since you were asked to go to Yemen to establish an al Qaida cell?

Detainee (*through translator*): I was not a leader but hope to God I will become one.

Board Member: Were you part of the 80 selected for special operations training at al Farouq?

Detainee (*through translator*): I don't know anything about this training.

Board Member: Were you ever in the presence of Osama bin Laden?

Detainee (*through translator*): Yes, I was present with him many times.

Board Member: You must have been an important person to have been in Osama bin Laden's presence, is that correct?

Detainee (*through translator*): Explain.

Board Member: To be in Osama Bin Laden's presence, you must have been an important person. Not everyone got to be in his presence.

Detainee (*through translator*): There no difference between the first and second question. It is the same thing whether I'm member of al Qaida or have relation with Osama bin Laden. My relation to him is religion. The only thing that gathered us together is the jihad.

Presiding Officer: Do you have anything else to add to the proceedings?

Detainee (*through translator*): I don't have anything but I will say to you I will stay as jihad no matter what you do or action you take. We don't care whether we are wounded or killed as long as our goal is going to be accomplished. A person that wants to reach his goal needs to sacrifice. We will sacrifice whatever we own, families, and our life for our religion.

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.

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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.



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