

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

HEADQUARTERS, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO U.S. NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA APO AE 09360



JTF-GTMO-CDR

28 April 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, United States Southern Command, 3511 NW 91st Avenue, Miami, FL 33172

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Continued Detention Under DoD Control (CD) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9SA-000074DP (S)

## **JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment**

## 1. (S//NF) Personal Information:

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Mesh Arsad al-Rashid
- Aliases and Current/True Name: <u>Mishal Saad Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid</u>, <u>Abu Hazeefa al-Bahari</u>, <u>Mesh Arsad al-Rashid</u>, Hudhaifah al-Dahri
- Place of Birth: Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia (SA)
- Date of Birth: 1980
- Citizenship: Saudi Arabia
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9SA-000074DP
- 2. (U//FOUO) Health: Detainee is in good health.

# 3. (U) JTF-GTMO Assessment:

- **a.** (S) Recommendation: JTF-GTMO recommends this detainee for Continued Detention Under DoD Control (CD). JTF-GTMO previously assessed detainee as Continued Detention Under DoD Control (CD) on 14 April 2006.
- **b.** (S//NF) Executive Summary: Detainee is assessed to be a member of Usama Bin Laden's (UBL) former 55th Arab Brigade, where he may have served as a

**CLASSIFIED BY: MULTIPLE SOURCES** 

REASON: E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)

**DECLASSIFY ON: 20320428** 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Analyst Note: UBL's 55th Arab Brigade was known to be UBL's primary formation supporting Taliban military objectives. It was almost exclusively comprised of Arabs, many of who had affiliations with other international terrorist groups. Al-Qaida leaders commanded the brigade and UBL is thought to have participated closely in its command and control. See also IIR 2 340 6093 02.

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counterintelligence or intelligence officer. Detainee received basic and advanced militant training at al-Qaida training camps, and may have served as a liaison for senior al-Qaida leader Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi at the al-Faruq Training Camp. Detainee spent several months on the front lines of Afghanistan (AF) fighting against the Northern Alliance (NA) and probably participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces. Variations of detainee's name and alias were found in a document recovered during a raid on a suspected al-Qaida safe house. JTF-GTMO determined this detainee to be:

- A **HIGH** risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies.
- A **MEDIUM** threat from a detention perspective.
- Of **HIGH** intelligence value.
- **c.** (U) Summary of Changes: The following outlines changes to detainee's assessment since the last JTF-GTMO recommendation. (Changes in this assessment will be annotated by ➤ next to the footnote.)
  - (S//NF) Detainee made his travel arrangements to Afghanistan at the Mecca Travel Agency, located near the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia.
  - (S//NF) Detainee's trainer at al-Faruq was a Pakistani named Abu Tariq, a well known instructor at al-Faruq who taught basic training, map reading, and explosives.
  - (S//NF) One of detainee's front line commanders, Mullah Abdul Satar (deceased), was suspected of being involved in intelligence activities, according to a Taliban intelligence officer.
  - (S//NF) Removed statement regarding detainee acting as a mid-level religious leader as it was incorrectly attributed to detainee.
  - (S//NF) Intelligence value changed from MEDIUM to HIGH in light of detainee's possible relationship with Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi and detainee's reported role as a counterintelligence officer.

## 4. (U) Detainee's Account of Events:

The following section is based, unless otherwise indicated, on detainee's own account. These statements are included without consideration of veracity, accuracy, or reliability.

**a.** (S//NF) Prior History: Detainee attended elementary school in his hometown of al-Hasa but acquired no further formal education. Detainee was recruited to play soccer for an amateur team in al-Hasa. Detainee worked as a policeman for the city of al-Hasa.<sup>2</sup> From

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 000074 SIR 16-Mar-2006

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1995 to 2000, detainee worked as a guard at the Emir Mohammed Harkia Palace in Damman, SA.<sup>3</sup>

- **b.** (S/NF) Recruitment and Travel: Detainee was recruited for jihad around March 2000. Shaykh Hamoud Bin Uqla al-Shuaibi issued a *fatwa* (religious decree) telling Muslims to support the Taliban in Afghanistan against the NA. In response to Shaykh Uqla's *fatwa*, coupled with what detainee had heard about religious persecution of Muslims in Afghanistan, detainee quit his job and left for Afghanistan to join jihad. Detainee made his travel arrangements at the Mecca Travel Agency in Mecca, SA. During his travel from al-Hasa to Qatar (QA), detainee became friends with an individual named Qasim Abu Omar. Upon arrival in Qatar, detainee and Qasim learned they were unable to travel to Pakistan (PK) and decided to return to Saudi Arabia. From Riyadh, SA, they flew to Islamabad, PK, and then made their way to Peshawar, PK. At a phone center in Peshawar, they spoke with a Pakistani about their desire to travel to Afghanistan to join the Taliban. The Pakistani helped them cross the border into Afghanistan and escorted them to a Taliban house in Kandahar, AF.
- **c.** (S//NF) Training and Activities: In the fall of 2000, detainee attended training at the al-Qaida sponsored al-Faruq Training Camp. After training, detainee was assigned to the reserve lines (secondary line) for several months under Mullah Abdul Satar, <sup>10</sup> and later traveled to the front lines in the Khwaja Ghar region, where he was placed under the command of Mullah Thaker to fight alongside the Taliban. <sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 000074 BSD 17-May-2003; Analyst Note: In 000074 FM40 05-SEP-2002, detainee stated that he was a member of state security for the royal family for five years. In 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, detainee elaborated further that he was a guard for Emir Mohammed Bin Fahd in the village of al-Hasa, Shakia (assessed to be Ash Sharaqiyah) Province. Variants for al-Hasa are al-Ahsa and al-Ahsa. Detainee claimed he was a member of the General Security Division.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> IIR 6 034 1389 04

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002, 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, IIR 6 034 0875 04

<sup>6 000074 302 07-</sup>Apr-2002, Analyst Note: Deceased Shaykh Bin Uqla al-Shuaibi was the first person to issue a *fatwa* recognizing the legitimacy of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and declaring the perpetrators as holy warriors. Shaykh Uqla helped raise money for UBL until Uqla's death in Saudi Arabia in 2001. Detainee's travel arrangements were made at the Mecca Travel Agency, close to the Grand Mosque, Islam's most holy mosque.
7 ➤ IIR 6 034 1389 04

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Analyst Note: A variant for Qasim Abu Omar is Kassim Abu Umar.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, IIR 6 034 1389 04

<sup>10 000753</sup> SIR 21-MAY-2003, Analyst Note: Senior al-Qaida commander Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi reportedly took orders from Northern Taliban Commander Mullah Abdul Satar Ahmadi for his group of foreign fighters. The orders were primarily tactical military movements, such as moving the front lines, observation posts, and weapons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> 000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002, 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, Analyst Note: Aliases and variants for Thaker are Thacker, Zhacker, and Zaker. Mullah Thaker was a military commander in UBL's 55th Arab Brigade.

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# 5. (U) Capture Information:

**a.** (S//NF) After the Taliban withdrew, detained went to a Taliban house in Konduz, AF. Mullah Thaker told the Taliban fighters to surrender and that they would be allowed to return to their country. Detained surrendered to General Dostum's forces and was taken to the Qala-i-Jangi Prison at Mazar-e-Sharif. Detained was shot in the left leg and under his right arm during the November 2001 Qala-i-Jangi uprising. When the NA regained control of Mazar-e-Sharif, detained was transferred to Sheberghan Prison. On 29 December 2001, detained was transferred to Kandahar Detention Facility and placed under US custody.

# b. (S) Property Held:

- Various types and quantities of unidentified pills
- c. (S) Transferred to JTF-GTMO: 13 February 2002
- **d.** (S//NF) Reasons for Transfer to JTF-GTMO: To provide information on the following:
  - The uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif
  - Taliban membership

6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account: Detainee has denied having knowledge of any of the detainees that have identified him. Detainee has failed to provide any detailed information concerning his activities and associates while in Afghanistan, and has provided inconsistent information about his personal history. Detainee stated he joined a Saudi security service when he was 18 years old, and stayed the duration of his enlistment period of five years. Detainee was 18 years old in 1998, and his enlistment would have ended in 2003, after his capture. This would indicate that either detainee did not stay for the full five years, or detainee's year of birth is earlier than 1980. 15

### 7. (U) Detainee Threat:

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<sup>12 000074 302 07-</sup>Apr-2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, Analyst Note: Reporting corroborates the Mazar-e-Sharif transfer to Sheberghan and onward to Kandahar. See IIR 6 034 0298 02, IIR 6 034 0011 03. Many detainees stayed at Sheberghan Prison through the end of Ramadan (16 December 2001) before US troops arrived and transferred them to a detention facility in Kandahar under US control.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> 000074 CAPDATA 29-DEC-2001, 000074 CAPDATA 29-DEC-2001 (b), 000074 CAPDATA 29-DEC-2001(c)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> >000074 FM40 13-Mar-2004

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- **a.** (S) Assessment: Detainee is assessed to be a HIGH risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests and allies.
- **b.** (S//NF) Reasons for Continued Detention: Detainee received basic and advanced militant training at al-Qaida training camps. Variations of detainee's name and alias were found in a document recovered during a raid on a suspected al-Qaida safe house. Detainee may have served as a liaison for senior al-Qaida leader Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi at the al-Faruq Training Camp. After receiving militant training, detainee became an armed combatant in UBL's 55th Arab Brigade, where he may have served as a counterintelligence or intelligence officer. Detainee spent several months on the front lines of Afghanistan fighting against the NA and probably participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces.
  - (S//NF) Detainee stayed at an al-Qaida related guesthouse and received basic and advanced militant training at al-Qaida related training facilities.
    - o (S//NF) A variant of detainee's name and alias, Mishal Saeed al-Rasheed aka (Abu Hazeefa al-Bahari), was one of 324 names listed on a document recovered during September 2002 raids on a suspected al-Qaida safe house in Karachi. The document indicated that detainee possessed a Saudi passport and a wallet. Detainee's name was associated with the number 366. (Analyst Note: Such lists are indicative of an individual's residence within al-Qaida, Taliban, and other extremist guesthouses, often for the purpose of training or coordination prior to travel to the front lines or abroad. The associated number is assessed to be a trust account number. Trust accounts were simple storage compartments such as envelopes or folders that were used to secure the individual's personal valuables, such as passports and plane tickets, until completion of training or other activity.)
    - o (S//NF) Detainee claimed that both he and his friend Qasim Abu Omar trained together at al-Faruq. Detainee claimed that his training included firing the Kalashnikov assault rifle and the Bika machine gun (Analyst Note: probably a reference to the Russian-made PK machine gun); using smoke cover and concealment; and employing fragmentation, incendiary, and vision burning grenades.<sup>17</sup>
      - (S//NF) Detainee stated a Pakistani named Abu Tariq was his leader at al-Faruq. 18
        - ♦ (S//NF) Humud Dakhil Humud Said al-Jadani, ISN US9SA-000230DP (SA-230), identified Abu Tariq al-Pakistani as Tariq Abu Ahmad, a jihadist

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> TD-314/40693-02, Item 223; AFGP-2002-905527 30-JUL-2002, Item 223; Analyst Note: Listed as Mish'al Sa'd al-Rashid aka (Abu Hudhayfa al-Bahri).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> IIR 6 034 1389 04

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> >000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002

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leader and trainer at al-Faruq Training Camp during 2001. Abu Tariq al-Pakistani was associated with several senior al-Qaida members and commanders, including Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi aka (Abd al-Muhayman al-Iraqi)<sup>19</sup> aka (Qutaibah),<sup>20</sup> Abd al-Salaam al-Hadrami, Abd al-Qaddus, Abu Ubaydah al-Masri, Omar al-Saif, and Abu Muhammad al-Masri. Abu Tariq al-Pakistani was also associated with deceased Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as they had several associates in common.<sup>21</sup>

- ♦ (S//NF) According to Abd al-Razzaq Abdallah Ibrahim al-Sharikh, ISN US9SA-000067DP (SA-067), Abu Tariq al-Pakistani was an instructor at al-Faruq for basic training, map reading, and explosives. 22
- o (S//NF) David Michael Hicks, ISN US9AS-000002DP (AS-002), identified detainee as being in the City Tactics course.<sup>23</sup>
  - (S//NF) AS-002 claimed to have attended the City Tactics aka (Urban Warfare) course in June or July 2001 at Tarnak Farm aka (the Ubaydah Camp) located somewhere near the airport in Kandahar. (Analyst Note: The Tarnak Farm Camp was considered an important al-Qaida training camp in Afghanistan, since it was where al-Qaida operatives received advanced operational training including urban assault and other tactics.)
  - (S//NF) The City Tactics course was reportedly five to six weeks long and primarily covered assassinations in urban areas.<sup>25</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee was reportedly associated with UBL military leader Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, and may have acted as a counterintelligence or intelligence officer for the 55th Arab Brigade.
  - o (S//NF) Ali Abdul Motalib Awayd Hassan al-Tayeea, ISN US9IZ-000111DP (IZ-111), identified detainee as a trainee at al-Faruq who worked with wireless communication systems. IZ-111 reported that detainee was responsible for transporting trainees between Kabul and al-Faruq, and served as Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi's liaison when he came to the camp. In addition, IZ-111 stated that detainee reportedly collected intelligence on trainees and soldiers for al-Iraqi and that the two men had frequent contact. (Analyst Note: This reporting indicates detainee had direct access to al-Iraqi and served in a significant role in UBL's 55th Arab Brigade, possibly as a counterintelligence officer. Al-Iraqi was one of UBL's closest

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> TD-314-28084-02

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> TD-314/32273-03

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> >000230 SIR 30-APR-2006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> >000067 SIR 28-APR-2006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> IIR 6 034 0039 04; IIR 4 201 2106 05, paragraph G

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> 000002 302 17-Dec-2002, IIR 6 034 0101 02

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> IIR 6 034 0101 02

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> IIR 6 034 0015 04, IIR 6 034 0183 06

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commanders and the person in charge of non-Afghan Taliban troops and al-Qaida fighters that made up the 55th Arab Brigade on the Afghanistan northern front.<sup>27</sup> Detainee's close association to al-Iraqi, as reported by IZ-111, is uncorroborated by other sources and requires further exploitation.)

- o (S//NF) Detainee stated his supervisor for several months on the reserve or secondary lines in Kabul was Mullah Abdul Satar.<sup>28</sup>
  - (S//NF) Abdul Matin, US9AF-001002DP (AF-1002), identified Mullah Satar as being involved in intelligence activities. Muhammad Yacoub, ISN US9AF-001004DP (AF-1004), stated Mullah Satar received and passed along information via a ham radio installed inside his car. Mullah Satar was killed during the US Special Forces raid in which Abdul Ghafaar, ISN US9AF-001032DP (AF-1032), and Mullah Basir were captured. (Analyst Note: With Mullah Satar as his supervisor, detainee was likely involved in similar intelligence-related activities.)
- (S//NF) Detainee was a member of UBL's 55th Arab Brigade and is assessed to have participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces while fighting on the northern front lines of Afghanistan.<sup>33</sup>
  - o (S//NF) Admitted al-Qaida member John Philip Walker Lindh aka (Abu Lief) aka (Suleyman al-Faris) aka (Abdul Hamid), photo-identified detainee as a member of the group of 20 men who served with Lindh on the front line. Lindh believed that the detainee had spent approximately one year on the front line north of Kabul. Lindh reported detainee arrived in Afghanistan in late 2000 or early 2001.<sup>34</sup>
  - o (S//NF) Said Ibrahim Ramzi al-Zahrani, ISN US9SA-000204DP (SA-204), photo-identified detainee as being in SA-204's group of 20 to 22 men on the front line. (Analyst Note: This is the same group described by Lindh.) SA-204 reported that detainee carried a fully automatic weapon, which had twice the range of the Kalashnikov assault rifle.<sup>35</sup>
    - (S//NF) Detainee admitted that he carried a Bika machine gun, but claimed he never got a chance to use it. <sup>36</sup>

<sup>30</sup> ≽001004 SIR 09-MAY-2003

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> IIR 2 340 6093 02, IIR 6 034 1301 04, IIR 6 034 0913 03, IIR 2 340 7121 02

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> >000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002, 000074 302 07-Apr-2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> >001002 SIR 14-DEC-2004

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> ≽001032 HANDNOTE 06-MAY-2003

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> >IIR 6 044 1719 03

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> 000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002, 000074 302 07-Apr-2002, 55th Arab Brigade 01-Feb-1998,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> John Walker Lindh - 302 12-Sep-2002; IIR 4 201 3149 05, paragraph 18; Analyst Note: Lindh identified detainee as using the alias Hudhaifah al-Dahri and being from al-Bahri, SA.

<sup>35</sup> IIR 6 034 0386 02, paragraph 8; Analyst Note: SA-204 reported that detainee's real name is Mish'al but used the alias Abu Huzayfah.

<sup>36 000074</sup> FM40 13-Mar-2004

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- o (S//NF) Detainee later served under Mullah Thaker in the fall of 2001.<sup>37</sup> Mullah Thaker was the commander of the Konduz area Arab Brigade units and served under Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi.
- o (S//NF) AS-002 reported that detainee was on the front lines "until they broke" and was then positioned in Konduz, AF. 38
- o (S//NF) IZ-111 identified detainee as fighting on the front lines in Khwaja Ghar with the Talha group.<sup>39</sup>
  - (S//NF) The Talha group was also known as Markez Talha, part of UBL's 55th Arab Brigade and one of four fighting positions on the front lines in Khwaja Ghar. 40
- (S//NF) During a 2003 debriefing, detainee stated to a translator, "You are helping the Americans, the infidels, they have done this to me, I will see you in hell along with them. May God kill you all." (Analyst Note: While this can be construed as only rhetoric, it also denotes the detainee's inclination to continue to wage or support jihad in the future.)
- c. (U//FOUO) Detainee's Conduct: Detainee is assessed to be a MEDIUM threat from a detention perspective. Detainee's overall behavior has been semi-compliant and rarely hostile to the guard force and staff. Detainee currently has 35 Reports of Disciplinary Infraction listed in DIMS, with the most recent occurring on 23 March 2007, when he was reported masturbating and making provoking gestures by shaking his penis and made a gesture of putting his finger in a hole then ran his prayer beads over his penis. Detainee has four Reports of Disciplinary Infraction for assault, with the most recent occurring on 13 December 2003, when he spat at a guard. Other incidents for which detainee has been disciplined include failure to follow instructions and camp rules, inciting and participating in a mass disturbance, use of provoking words or gestures, damage to government property, unauthorized communications, and possession of food type contraband. Detainee had seven Reports of Disciplinary Infraction in 2006, and four reports so far in 2007.

### 8. (U) Detainee Intelligence Value Assessment:

**a. (S)** Assessment: Detainee is assessed to be of HIGH intelligence value. Detainee's most recent interrogation session occurred on 20 November 2006.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> 000074 SIR 05-Mar-2002, 000074 302 07-Apr-2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> IIR 4 201 2106 05, paragraph G; 000002 302 22-Feb-2002, Item 66

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> 000111 MFR 22-Jun-2002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> IIR 2 340 6362 02, Analyst Note: "Markez" is Arabic for center.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> 000074 302 10-Mar-2003

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- **b.** (S//NF) Placement and Access: Detainee received training at al-Qaida's al-Faruq Training Camp in late 2000 and additional advanced training at Tarnak Farm in June to July 2001. Detainee was a member of a 20-man fighting group in Konduz, which was part of UBL's 55th Arab Brigade. Detainee admitted serving under Taliban and al-Qaida leaders and reportedly had direct access to senior commander Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi. Detainee reportedly gathered intelligence information on trainees and other fighters.
- c. (S/NF) Intelligence Assessment: Detainee was involved in training and fighting with al-Qaida units for over a year in Afghanistan. Detainee should be able to provide substantial information regarding associates, trainers, and al-Qaida and Taliban leadership, especially if he was actively gathering intelligence on fellow fighters. Detainee's ties to Mullah Abdul Satar may have provided him with knowledge of al-Qaida and Taliban intelligence gathering techniques and targets. Despite the extensive time in Afghanistan, detainee has provided only limited details of activities and associates. Detainee's reported close association to Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi indicates detainee held a more trusted role and responsibility than the average trained mujahid. In addition, his reported attendance of advanced training at Tarnak Farm indicates detainee was a capable fighter and committed jihadist, who may have been selected for future al-Qaida operations. Further exploitation of detainee is required to definitively identify detainee's role or significance in al-Qaida.

# d. (S//NF) Areas of Potential Exploitation:

- Al-Qaida military operations especially in Konduz and Mazar-e-Sharif
- Taliban and al-Qaida facilities including associated personnel and operations
- Detainee's relationship with Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, and with other al-Qaida personalities including leadership still at large
- Detainee's role as a counterintelligence officer; al-Qaida and Taliban intelligence and counterintelligence techniques and targetsTraining camps and curriculum including basic and advanced courses at al-Faruq and Tarnak Farm

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9. (S) EC Status: Detainee's enemy combatant status was reassessed on 6 October 2004, and he remains an enemy combatant.

HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.

Rear Admiral, US Navy Commanding

<sup>\*</sup> Definitions for intelligence terms used in the assessment can be found in the Joint Military Intelligence College October 2001 guide *Intelligence Warning Terminology*.