



**S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20331015**

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



JTF-GTMO-CDR

15 October 2008

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

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo  
Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

### **JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment**

#### **1. (S) Personal Information:**

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Abdul Saleh
- Current/True Name and Aliases: Abdul Rahman Muhammad Salih Nasir, Abu Mazen, al-Batta
- Place of Birth: Marib, Yemen (YM)
- Date of Birth: 1980
- Citizenship: Yemen
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9YM-000115DP



2. (U//FOUO) **Health:** Detainee is on a list of high-risk detainees from a health perspective but is in overall fair health. Detainee has a history of Major Depressive Disorder which is controlled with frequent follow up to mental health services but he refuses antidepressant treatment. Detainee had a history of H. Pylori (an infection) for which he completed treatment. He participated in hunger strikes and has chronic low body weight, but his medical problems are stable.

#### **3. (U) JTF-GTMO Assessment:**

a. (S) **Recommendation:** JTF-GTMO recommends this detainee for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO). JTF-GTMO previously recommended detainee for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) on 1 January 2007.

b. (S//NF) **Executive Summary:** *If released without rehabilitation, close supervision, and means to successfully reintegrate into his society as a law abiding citizen, it is assessed*

**CLASSIFIED BY:** MULTIPLE SOURCES  
**REASON:** E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)  
**DECLASSIFY ON:** 20331015

**S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20331015**

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

*detainee may seek out prior associates and reengage in hostilities and extremist support activities. Since transfer to JTF-GTMO, detainee has occasionally expressed animosity towards the US, indicating he might engage in future extremist activities.* Detainee is assessed to be an Islamic extremist who served as a fighter in Usama Bin Laden's (UBL) 55th Arab Brigade.<sup>1</sup> Detainee fought against Northern Alliance forces on the front lines near Kabul and in northern Afghanistan near Khwaja Ghar. Shaykh Abdul Majid al-Zindani, declared a terrorist financier by the US in February 2004, recruited detainee in Yemen. Detainee's name was found on multiple documents recovered from al-Qaida affiliated guesthouses. JTF-GTMO determined this detainee to be:

- A **MEDIUM** risk, as he may pose a threat to the US, its interests, and allies
- A **MEDIUM** threat from a detention perspective
- Of **LOW** intelligence value

**c. (S//NF) Summary of Changes:** There are no significant changes to detainee's assessment since the last JTF-GTMO recommendation.

#### **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 stopped attending the Abu Bakr Middle School in the 8th grade. Detainee worked as a farmer and as a produce stand clerk until 2001. Detainee traveled to Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia (SA), fifteen to eighteen times for the Umra.<sup>2</sup>

**b. (S//NF) Recruitment and Travel:** Detainee attended the Muyed Mosque in Sanaa, YM, where he heard Shaykh al-Zindani speak about the atrocities in Chechnya.<sup>3</sup> When detainee expressed to Shaykh al-Zindani an interest in going to Chechnya, al-Zindani suggested detainee go to Afghanistan instead, due to the extreme difficulty getting into Chechnya. Detainee heard about Russians fighting alongside Masoud's forces and the Northern Alliance, so detainee decided to go to Afghanistan to fight. In January 2001,

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<sup>1</sup> 55th Arab Brigade 01-FEB-1998, Analyst Note: The Arab Brigade served as UBL's primary battle formation supporting Taliban objectives, with UBL participating closely in the command and control of the brigade. Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi had primary operational command of the Arab Brigade, serving as UBL's military commander in the field

<sup>2</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, 000115 KB 13-JUN-2002, Analyst Note: Detainee did not elaborate on dates of his travel to Mecca. The Umra is a smaller scale Hajj that many Muslims make during Ramadan. It is believed that the word "Median" in the memo is a typo and actually refers to Medina, corroborated in 000115 302 12-JUN-2002.

<sup>3</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, 000115 KB 13-JUN-2002, Analyst note: Shaykh Abdul Majid al-Zindani is a veteran of the Afghanistan War, terrorist supporter, associate of UBL, and leader within the Islam Reform Party in Yemen.

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

detainee told his brother he wanted to go to Syria (SY) for vacation and his brother gave him 180,000 Yemeni Riyals. Detainee used the money to travel to Afghanistan via Syria and Iran (IR), per Shaykh al-Zindani's directions.<sup>4</sup>

**c. (S//NF) Training and Activities:** Detainee reported directly to the Kabul lines without receiving prior military training. Abdul Salam (the Emir),<sup>5</sup> Kaka,<sup>6</sup> Mullah Khadeem, and Muhammad Rafiq trained detainee while on the Karabakh lines and at the Omar Saif Center.<sup>7</sup> Detainee spent three or four months at the Karabakh lines and then six months at Khwaja Ghar.<sup>8</sup> Detainee's immediate commander was Turab al-Najdi,<sup>9</sup> who reported to Abdul Salam.<sup>10</sup> When Coalition forces began bombing Khwaja Ghar, al-Najdi gave the order to pull back. Detainee and his two friends, Azzan and Dardah, traveled in a cab to Konduz, AF, and stayed at a guesthouse for two weeks with ten other people. They joined a larger group, totaling approximately 100, and traveled to Mazar-e-Sharif.<sup>11</sup>

## 5. (U) Capture Information:

**a. (S//NF)** The group surrendered to General Dostum's Northern Alliance forces and was held at the Qala-i-Jangi prison near Mazar-e-Sharif.<sup>12</sup> Reporting stated that approximately 700 Taliban soldiers from Konduz were held in a prison area at the Qala-i-Jangi Garrison. Several hundred Taliban soldiers retrieved concealed weapons from their vehicles or seized weapons from guards and attacked Coalition forces within the compound. During this revolt, CIA Officer Mike Spahn was killed. US air strikes assisted in quelling the uprising and prevented prisoners from escaping.<sup>13</sup> The Red Cross came to examine the prisoners prior to their transportation to the Sheberghan Prison.<sup>14</sup> Transfer operations from Dostum's custody

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<sup>4</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, 000115 KB 13-JUN-2002, Analyst Note: 180,000 Yemeni Riyals is approximately \$1,500 US.

<sup>5</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, Analyst Note: Detainee's *emir* (leader), Abdul Salam, is assessed to be Abdul Salam al-Hadrami, who commanded between 140 to 150 Arab fighters and was killed as a result of US air strikes on 1 November 2001 in the Khwaja Ghar region of Afghanistan along with 11 Arab volunteers (IIR 2 340 6089 02).

<sup>6</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, Analyst Note: Kaka is assessed to be allegedly deceased Qaqa al-Tabuki, Abd al-Salam al-Hadrami's second in command at Khwaja Ghar.

<sup>7</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, Analyst Note: The Omar Saif Center was a known logistics support center for the 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade. In IIR 6 034 1608 03, detainee added additional information concerning his route of travel and where he went first upon arrival in Afghanistan. This was a slight variation to his previous reporting.

<sup>8</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03

<sup>9</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03, Analyst Note: Deceased Turab al-Najdi was the cousin of SA-096 (000096 FM40 16-JUL-2002), as well as one of UBL's former protective guards (TD-314/07538-02).

<sup>10</sup> IIR 6 034 1607 03

<sup>11</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

<sup>12</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

<sup>13</sup> Multiple ISNs OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM - Part 3 - November 2001, Analyst Note: Multiple detainees discussed the uprising that occurred at the Qala-i-Jangi Prison.

<sup>14</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

at Sheberghan prison to US custody in Kandahar, AF, began on 28 December 2001. This is the earliest detainee would have been transferred.<sup>15</sup>

**b. (S) Property Held:** None

**c. (S) Transferred to JTF-GTMO:** 12 June 2002

**d. (S//NF) Reasons for Transfer to JTF-GTMO:** To provide information on the following:

- Jihad recruitment procedures used in foreign countries, to include facilitators, travel routes, and indoctrination
- Safe houses used by the Taliban in Herat and Kabul, AF
- Jihad recruiter and travel facilitator Abdul Majid al-Zindani who gave detainee instruction on how to travel to Afghanistan and contact information to use upon arrival

**6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account:** Detainee's account is only partially truthful. Detainee has omitted or provided contradictory information in his account. Detainee stated al-Zindani gave him written travel instructions and a verbal message; however, detainee refused to discuss what al-Zindani told him or specifics of the written instructions. Detainee admitted to being a member in a military organization in Afghanistan, yet immediately recanted the statement.<sup>16</sup> Detainee's stated travel itinerary, from Yemen through Syria and Iran and finally to Afghanistan, is an unusual route for a Yemeni traveling to Afghanistan, except for Yemeni's from Hudaydah. Detainee is not forthcoming with his detailed itinerary. Detainee was either unable or unwilling to identify his companions who traveled with him. Detainee is currently uncooperative, indicating continuing support for extremist elements.

**7. (U) Detainee Threat:**

**a. (S) Assessment:** Detainee is assessed to be a **MEDIUM** risk, as he may pose a threat to the US, its interests, and allies.

**b. (S//NF) Reasons for Transfer out of DoD Control:** *If released without rehabilitation, close supervision, and means to successfully reintegrate into his society as a law abiding citizen, it is assessed detainee may seek out prior associates and reengage in hostilities and/or extremist support activities. Since transfer to JTF-GTMO, detainee has occasionally expressed animosity towards the US, indicating he might engage in future extremist*

<sup>15</sup> Various ISNs COMCFLCC SITREP 28-DEC-2001, Analyst Note: Detainee's initial screening was done on 30 December 2001 (000115 Initial Screening 30-DEC-2001).

<sup>16</sup> 000115 SIR 28-SEP-2005

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

*activities.* Detainee is assessed to be an Islamic extremist who fought in UBL's former 55th Arab Brigade. Shaykh al-Zindani recruited detainee to travel to Afghanistan to participate in extremist activity. Variations of detainee's name appeared on documents seized from al-Qaida affiliated guesthouses.

- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to be an Islamic extremist who participated in armed hostilities against US and Coalition forces as a member of UBL's former 55th Arab Brigade.
  - (S//NF) Detainee commented he lived in trenches while fighting on the front lines.<sup>17</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee remarked his immediate commander was Turab al-Najdi, who reported to Abdul Salam.<sup>18</sup> Najdi was the *Emir* of Markez Bilal under Abd al-Salam al-Hadrami, key subordinate to Nashwan Abd al-Razzaq Abd al-Baqi, aka (Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi), ISN US9IZ-010026DP (IZ-10026). Al-Najdi assumed command from al-Hadrami when al-Hadrami was injured.<sup>19</sup> (Analyst Note: Detainee's statements concerning Abdul Salam and al-Najdi, when compared with alternate reporting, corroborate detainee's placement on the front lines supporting UBL's former 55th Arab Brigade.<sup>20</sup>)
  - (S//NF) Ali Abdul Motalib Awayd Hassan al-Tayeea, , ISN US9IZ-000111DP (IZ-111), corroborated detainee's placement on the front line by identifying detainee as being at the front with IZ-10026, the commander of all non-Afghan Taliban troops, for a year.<sup>21</sup> (Analyst Note: Detainee has failed to denote any connection to IZ-10026)
  - (S//NF) Detainee admitted receiving training at two separate militant training sites: Omar Saif,<sup>22</sup> Karabakh Camp.<sup>23</sup> Detainee's training included instruction on the AK-47 assault rifle, hand grenades, and the PK machine gun.<sup>24</sup> Detainee's trainers were the *Emir*, Abdul Salam, Kaka, Mullah Khadeem, and Muhammad Rafiq.<sup>25</sup>
- (S//NF) Shaykh Abdul Majid al-Zindani, a known associate of UBL and a veteran extremist, recruited detainee at the Muyed Mosque in Sanaa. (Analyst Note: There is

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<sup>17</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

<sup>18</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

<sup>19</sup> IIR 2 340 6400 02

<sup>20</sup> Analyst Note: For other reporting on the leadership structure of the 55th Arab Brigade, see IIR 4 201 0752 06 and 000111 SIR 27-JAN-2003

<sup>21</sup> 000111 SIR 27-JAN-2003, IIR 6 034 1301 04

<sup>22</sup> Analyst Note: Omar Saif was one of four centers that made up the Khwaja Ghar front lines. Two groups would be designated as the forward positions (FP), actively engaging the enemy and two were the rear or resting positions (RP). See 000111 SIR 27-JAN-2003 for more info.

<sup>23</sup> Analyst Note: In IIR 2 340 6323 02, Karabakh is denoted to be a Taliban militant training camp.

<sup>24</sup> 000115 MFR 11-JUL-2002, Analyst Note: The PK is a Russian made 7.62mm general purpose machine gun.

<sup>25</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

limited knowledge on al-Zindani and recruitment of individuals in Yemen. Detainee is one of the few that have admitted to being recruited by al-Zindani.)

- (S//NF) In February 2004, the US declared al-Zindani to be a terrorist financier.<sup>26</sup> Al-Zindani is allegedly a member of organizations which maintain a strong relationship with extremist groups in Yemen and Iraq, and is allegedly recruiting and training Yemeni nationals to fight in Iraq.<sup>27</sup>
- (S//NF) Shaykh Abdullah al-Ahmar created the Islah (Reform) Party as a vehicle to gain power in Yemen's electoral politics. In an attempt to build Islah's conservative credentials, al-Ahmar began affiliating with Shaykh Abdul Majid al-Zindani, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan and known associate of UBL. Through al-Zindani's connections, Islah garnered support from more hard-line elements and established the Wahhabi-oriented Iman University, which was suspected of militant activities and was closed by the Yemeni government.<sup>28</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee's name was found on two separate documents supporting his possible membership in al-Qaida.<sup>29</sup> (Analyst Note: Detainee claimed he lost his passport.<sup>30</sup> This suggests he probably left the passport at a guesthouse for safekeeping before going to training or to Khwaja Ghar, which would account for his name being found on the lists below.)
  - (S//NF) A possible variant of detainee's name, recorded as Abd al-Rahman Muhammad Nasir, was on a list of 128 names of al-Qaida mujahideen and their trust accounts recovered from computer files during raids against al-Qaida-associated guesthouses in Rawalpindi and Karachi, PK.<sup>31</sup> Trust accounts were simply storage compartments, such as envelopes or folders, which were used to secure the individual's personal valuables, such as passports and plane tickets, until completion of training or other activity.<sup>32</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee's name, listed as Abdul Rahman Mohammad Nasser, was included in a group of 324 names of mujahideen and their trust account contents. Detainee was noted as having a Yemeni passport in his possession, but no corresponding trust account number or alias was listed.<sup>33</sup> (Analyst Note: This list is indicative of an individual's residence within al-Qaida, Taliban, and other extremist

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<sup>26</sup> IIR 6 034 1608 03, Analyst Note: There are numerous reports about al-Zindani and at least two other detainees (YM-025 and YM-129) that al-Zindani recruited to travel to Afghanistan. See B5926034025902, TD-314/71519-04 and IIR 6 034 0249 02 for more info.

<sup>27</sup> B5926034025902

<sup>28</sup> Yemen Tribal Affiliations 01-FEB-2001

<sup>29</sup> TD-314/47683-03, TD-314/42895-02

<sup>30</sup> 000115 302 12-JUN-2002

<sup>31</sup> TD-314/47683-03 number 118, TD-314-42895-02 number 120

<sup>32</sup> IIR 6 034 0844 03

<sup>33</sup> TD-314/40693-02 number 161

JTF-GTMO-CDR

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

guesthouses often for the purpose of training or coordinating travel to the front lines or abroad.)

- (S) Federal law enforcement information indicated a person, using a name similar to detainee's Abdul Rahman Saleh with Yemeni passport number 0453850, entered the US in 1997.<sup>34</sup> (Analyst Note: There is no additional information to determine if this individual is detainee.)

- (S//NF) During an August 2003 interview, detainee overtly threatened that "America will burn and (the interrogator) and (the linguist) will be in hell."<sup>35</sup>

**c. (S//NF) Detainee's Conduct:** Detainee is assessed to be a **MEDIUM** threat from a detention perspective. His overall behavior has been mostly compliant and rarely hostile to the guard force and staff. Detainee currently has 54 reports of disciplinary infraction listed in DIMS with the most recent occurring on 18 May 2008, when he was reported being in possession of 19 photos in a manila envelope belonging to another detainee. He has six reports of disciplinary infraction for assault with the most recent occurring on 07 July 2006, when he was reported spitting on the guard force. Other incidents for which he has been disciplined include inciting and participating in mass disturbances, failure to follow guard instructions and camp rules, damage to government property, threats, assaults, and possession of contraband (food). In 2007, detainee had a total of twelve reports of disciplinary infraction and five so far in 2008.

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

**a. (S) Assessment:** Detainee is assessed to be of LOW intelligence value. Detainee's most recent interrogation session occurred on 20 February 2007.

**b. (S//NF) Placement and Access:** Detainee's access to useful intelligence was probably limited. Key events include: surviving the Mazar-e-Sharif incident with General Dostum's forces, his exposure to front-line leaders such as IZ-10026, staying in the Kabul guesthouse, and his training at the Omar Saif Center. No reporting indicates detainee served in a leadership or operational planning capacity. Detainee was recruited by Shaykh al-Zindani, a US-declared terrorist financier and probable recruiter for al-Qaida's terrorist network to support jihad in Afghanistan.

**c. (S//NF) Intelligence Assessment:** Detainee is assessed to have been a common foot soldier supporting the Taliban, and to have received no specialized training. Detainee has provided detailed information about the facilities and individuals he encountered in Afghanistan, while disclosing only limited incriminating information about himself.

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<sup>34</sup> 000115 HANDNOTE 30-APR-2002

<sup>35</sup> 000115 SIR 07-AUG-2003

JTF-GTMO-CDR

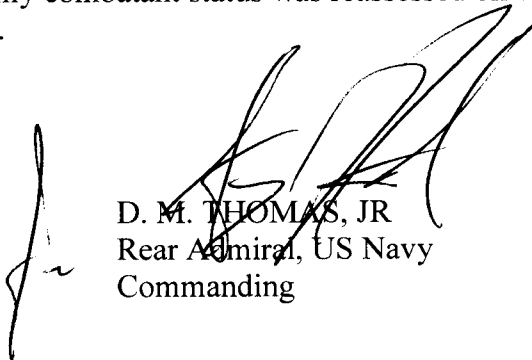
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO) for Guantanamo Detainee, ISN US9YM-000115DP (S)

Detainee is one of many that have provided information on personnel who supported the 55th Arab Brigade and on the incident at Mazar-e-Sharif. Detainee is currently uncooperative.

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

- Al-Qaida recruiting procedures in Yemen
- 55th Arab Brigade and Taliban leadership, personnel, organization, command and control
- Qala-i-Jangi prison uprising

9. (S) **EC Status:** Detainee's enemy combatant status was reassessed on 27 October 2004, and he remains an enemy combatant.



D. M. THOMAS, JR  
Rear Admiral, US Navy  
Commanding

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