



S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20330327

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



JTF-GTMO-CDR

27 March 2008

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 US9YM-000576DP (S)

JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment

1. (S) Personal Information:

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Za Her Omer Khamis
- Current/True Name and Aliases: Zahar Omar Hamis Bin Hamdoun, Ayash, Ayash Zahir al-Hadrami, Abu Thar
- Place of Birth: Ash Shihr, Hadramawt, Yemen (YM)
- Date of Birth: 13 November 1979
- Citizenship: Yemen
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9YM-000576DP



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 recommended detainee for Continued Detention Under DoD Control (CD) on 13 July 2007.

b. (S//NF) Executive Summary: Detainee is assessed to be a member of al-Qaida who swore *bayat* (oath of allegiance) to Usama Bin Laden (UBL). Detainee is a veteran jihadist who participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces in Afghanistan. Detainee served in a leadership combat position on the front lines and was also an instructor at the al-Qaida al-Faruq Training Camp, where he provided instruction in physical fitness, weapons, and explosives. Detainee is assessed to have received basic and advanced training, including explosives, at al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan. Detainee possessed phone numbers linked to al-Qaida facilitators, including a phone number recovered during the capture of senior al-Qaida operations planner Khalid Shaykh Muhammad, aka (KSM), aka (Mukhtar), ISN

CLASSIFIED BY: MULTIPLE SOURCES
REASON: E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)
DECLASSIFY ON: 20330327

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US9KU-010024DP (KU-10024). Detainee was captured with numerous other extremist and al-Qaida members at a safe house operated by senior al-Qaida facilitator, Abdu Ali al-Haji Sharqawi, aka (Riyadh the Facilitator), ISN PK9YM-001457 (YM-1457). **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DETAINEE IS AVAILABLE IN AN SCI SUPPLEMENT.]** 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 **MEDIUM** intelligence value

c. (S//NF) 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.)

- Added new alias for detainee, Ayash Zahir al-Hadrami¹
- Added information pertaining to detainee's involvement in an al-Qaida training video
- Added further evidence of detainee's connection to explosives
- Added further information on possible associates to detainee

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 had no prior military service. From 1996 to 1999, detainee attended the Hadramawt Institute for Religious Studies in Yemen.²

b. (S//NF) Recruitment and Travel: In 1999, Muammar Said Abbud Dayan, aka (Abd al-Salam al-Hadrami), provided detainee with \$50 US and airline tickets for travel to Afghanistan (AF). Detainee, along with an individual named Abu Hafs al-Yemeni and two other individuals he met at the Sanaa, YM, airport, left together sometime between January and April 1999. They traveled from Sanaa to Karachi, Pakistan (PK) and Quetta, PK, to Kandahar, AF, before stopping at a guesthouse in Kabul, AF. Abu Hafs assisted the group's travel to Afghanistan.³

¹ ➤000252 FM40 23-Feb-2005, 000252 SIR 27-Jul-2007, 000252 SIR 26-Apr-2006, 000817 SIR 31-Oct-2002, IIR 6 034 0420 05; Analyst Note: A variant of Zahir al-Hadrami is Zahir al-Hathrami. The alias al-Hadrami represents a person from Hadramout, YM.

² 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002; Analyst Note: This is probably the Hadramawt Institute for *Sharia* (religious law) Science. For additional information see IIR 5 399 8023 05, TD-314/71519-04.

³ 000576 HANDNOTE 02-MAR-2002, 000576 MFR 27-JUN-2002, 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002

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c. (S//NF) Training and Activities: At the guesthouse, an Egyptian named Shaykh Abu Hassan took detainee's passport from him and stamped it with the Jordan entry stamp to make the passport appear more authentic. Detainee received light weapons, tactics, and topography training for two or three months at the al-Faruq Training Camp. UBL visited al-Faruq during detainee's training and spoke to the trainees and instructors on the history of the jihad against the Soviets in Afghanistan. Following his training at al-Faruq, detainee traveled to a guesthouse in the Wazir Akbar Khan district of Kabul, where he stayed for six months. He then traveled to Karachi to have laser eye surgery performed, which was paid for by Shaykh Abu Hassan. He stayed in Karachi for two months, after which he returned to the Kabul guesthouse for another year. He spent the entire 18 months at the guesthouse memorizing the Koran under the supervision of Shaykh Abu Hassan. In mid-October 2001, detainee left Kabul and traveled to Karachi, PK, via Jalalabad and Khowst, AF. Detainee spent about a month in the mountains near Jalalabad and then an additional month near Khowst before arriving in Karachi. Detainee then stayed at a safe house operated by YM-1457.⁴

5. (U) Capture Information:

a. (S//NF) On 7 February 2002, the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID) raided YM-1457's Karachi safe house and arrested detainee along with about 14 others. Pakistani authorities held detainee for 20 days before transferring him to US custody in Kandahar, AF.⁵

b. (S) Property Held: None

- Although not held at JTF-GTMO, the following items belonging to detainee were recovered:

- Passport, five passport photos, and three photo negatives
- Yemeni ID Card
- Piece of paper with four Pakistani mobile phone numbers written on it⁶

c. (S) Transferred to JTF-GTMO: 5 May 2002

⁴ 000576 MFR 27-JUN-2002, 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002, 000576 HANDNOTE 02-MAR-2002, Analyst Note: The al-Faruq camp was located outside of Kabul before it relocated to Kandahar in 1999 or 2000.

⁵ IIR 2 340 6970 02, TD-314/43882-04, IIR 6 034 0926 02; Analyst Note: Detainee was captured with US9YM-001457DP, US9YM-000564DP, US9SA-000565DP, US9SA-000566DP, US9KU-000568DP, US9YM-000569DP, US9YM-000570DP, US9KU-000571DP, US9SA-000572DP, US9RS-000573DP, US9YM-000574DP, US9YM-000575DP, US9YM-000578DP, and US9PK-000581DP.

⁶ 000576 PASSPORT AFGP-2002-804550 21-OCT-1998, AFGP-2002-804499

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

- Al-Qaida or Taliban recruiter and travel facilitator Shaykh Abd al-Salam al-Hadrami
- Training at al-Faruq Camp
- Arab and Taliban safe houses in Quetta, Kandahar, Kabul, and Jalalabad, AF
- The city of Kabul, to include the Wazir Akbar Khan area and the al-Jamma Mosque

6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account: Detainee's account of his activities in Afghanistan is assessed to be only partially accurate. He contends that al-Qaida allowed him to reside in a guesthouse for a year and a half, and sent him to Karachi for laser eye surgery while receiving no services from detainee in return. This is assessed to be his cover story for activities and several JTF-GTMO detainees have given similar account of events. Detainee's reported duties within al-Qaida and the timeline gaps in his account, indicates he has withheld extensive information.

7. (U) Detainee Threat:

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 is assessed to be a member of al-Qaida. Detainee is a veteran who served in a leadership combat position on the front lines and participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces in Afghanistan. Detainee was an instructor at the al-Qaida al-Faruq Training Camp. Detainee provided instruction in physical fitness, weapons and explosives, and is assessed to have sworn bayat to UBL. Detainee was captured with a piece of paper containing phone numbers linked to al-Qaida facilitators.

- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to be a member of al-Qaida who served in a leadership combat position on the front lines and participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces in Afghanistan.
 - (S//NF) Detainee was recruited by a known al-Qaida member. Muammar Said Abbud Dayan recruited detainee and facilitated his travel to Afghanistan in 1999.⁷
 - (S//NF) Dayan is a known al-Qaida recruiter and facilitator, and was a sub-commander in UBL's 55th Arab Brigade. Dayan also recruited other JTF-GTMO detainees. Dayan reported directly to al-Qaida's military commander, Nashwan Abd al-Razzaq Abd al-Baqi, aka (Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi), aka (Abdallah Khan),

⁷ 000576 HANDNOTE 02-MAR-2002

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- ISN US9IZ-010026DP (IZ-10026).⁸ Dayan is believed to have been killed during a US bombing campaign in Khwaja Ghar, AF.⁹
- (S//NF) Senior al-Qaida member Zayn al-Abidin Muhammad Husayn, aka (Abu Zubaydah), ISN US9GZ-010016DP (GZ-10016), stated he saw detainee in Zumat, AF after the 11 September 2001 attacks and noted detainee manned the front lines of Afghanistan. GZ-10016 identified detainee as a Yemeni who spoke with an Egyptian accent.¹⁰ (Analyst Note: GZ-10016 did not provide additional information on the front lines. This may have been a reference to fighting positions in the Zormat-Khowst area prior to and following the al-Qaida retreat from Kandahar, but is normally a term used for those positions north of Kabul.)
 - (S//NF) Sulayman Saad Muhammad Awshan al-Khalidi, ISN US9SA-000121DP (SA-121), reported while serving with the Taliban on the front lines near Konduz, SA-121's commander was Abu Thar (detainee's alias). Abu Thar was subordinate to Abdul Salam al-Hadrami (detainee's recruiter Muammar Said Abbud Dayan).¹¹ (Analyst Note: IZ-10026 was the commander of UBL's 55th Arab Brigade fighting in Northern Afghanistan. Following the collapse of the front lines, IZ-10026 fled to the Zormat and Khowst areas.¹² After leaving the al-Faruq Training Camp in September 2001, detainee could have traveled to the front lines and then retreated through Khowst.)
 - (S//NF) Detainee admitted occupying a fighting position on a mountain side near Khowst, AF, for approximately one month beginning around mid-November 2001 after fleeing the mountains near Jalalabad. This area is assessed to be the Tora Bora Mountains. Detainee stated there were approximately 100 armed men, who were supplied weekly with food. The fighting position was under the command of Abu Muhammad al-Masri.¹³ Abu Muhammad al-Masri was reported to be the leader of all the training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and was directly subordinate to UBL.¹⁴
 - (S//NF) Analyst Note: Detainee's admission of occupying a fighting position confirms he participated in hostilities against US and Coalition forces which were known to have conducted strikes in the Khowst area in mid-November 2001.¹⁵

⁸ IIR 6 034 1474 03, IIR 6 034 0385 02, IIR 6 034 0180 04, IIR 6 034 0183 06, 000215 SIR 13-OCT-2005; Analyst Note: The 55th Arab Brigade served as UBL's primary battle formation supporting Taliban objectives, with UBL participating closely in the command and control of the brigade. IZ-10026 had primary operational command of the brigade, serving as UBL's military commander in the field.

⁹ IIR 2 340 6400 02

¹⁰ TD-314/37245-05, Analyst Note: GZ-10016's statement indicates detainee probably spent time in Egypt.

¹¹ >IIR 6 034 0302 02, 000121 MFR 09-Apr-2002

¹² >TD-314/39020-03, TD-314/57072-04

¹³ >000576 302 05-MAY-2002, 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002

¹⁴ >000067 SIR 24-FEB-2007

¹⁵ >OEF Handbook 25-Sep-2003

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- (S//NF) Detainee claimed he spent several months in a Kabul guesthouse receiving Koran instruction from Shaykh Abu Hassan. Detainee also claimed Shaykh Abu Hassan funded his laser eye surgery in Karachi. Detainee stated that Shaykh Abu Hassan took his passport while staying at the guesthouse in Kabul and fraudulently stamped it to make it appear as if he had traveled through Jordan.¹⁶ (Analyst Note: There is no reporting to confirm detainee actually received eye surgery, but given the associated costs, the sponsorship for surgery would indicate he was more than a student of the Koran.)
 - (S//NF) Abd al-Rahim Rassak Janko, ISN US9SY-000489DP (SY-489), identified Shaykh Abu Hassan as an important member of al-Qaida who visited al-Faruq to see that the “jihad was being taught properly.”¹⁷
- (S//NF) Detainee was an al-Qaida instructor at the al-Faruq Training Camp. Detainee provided instruction in physical fitness, weapons, and explosives.
 - (S//NF) Richard Dean Belmar, ISN US9UK-000817 (UK-817, transferred), saw detainee at the al-Faruq Training Camp between July and September 2001. UK-817 claimed detainee, whom he knew as Ayash, was the primary weapons trainer at the camp and that he also taught explosives.¹⁸ (Analyst Note: To instruct explosives, detainee would first require explosives training and he is assessed to have received such training.)
 - (S//NF) Two aircraft passenger flotation devices were recovered at the home detainee was captured in. Both vests tested positive for explosive residue. Detainee has admitted being aware of the presence of these vests.¹⁹
 - (S//NF) Mohammed Souleimani Laalami, ISN US9MO-000237DP (MO-237), identified detainee as an explosives and physical fitness trainer at al-Faruq when MO-237 received six weeks training there beginning in July 2001.²⁰
 - (S//NF) Abd al Rahman Ahmed Said Abdihi, ISN US9YM-000441DP (YM-441), identified detainee as the leader of his training group at al-Faruq in mid-2001. YM-441 reported he received training at al-Faruq on the AK-47 assault rifle, pistols, M-16s, Uzis, G-3s, rifles, and rocket-propelled grenades (RPG). Training also included land mine theory.²¹

¹⁶ 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002, 000576 MFR 27-JUN-2002

¹⁷ IIR 2 340 6814 02

¹⁸ IIR 6 034 0420 05, 000817 HANDNOTE 06-JUN-2002, 000817 MFR 31-OCT-2002

¹⁹ >TD-314/10982-02, 000576 302 14-JUN-2002, Analyst Note: Subsequent tests for explosives were not as conclusive.

²⁰ IIR 2 340 6302 02

²¹ IIR 6 034 0391 02, IIR 6 034 0042 02

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- (S//NF) Abdul Rahman Nashi Badi al-Utaybi, ISN US9SA-000268DP (SA-268, transferred), reported Ayash was a small arms instructor at al-Faruq. SA-268 received training on the AK-47, Makarov pistol, and the M-16.²²
- (S//NF) Yasin Muhammad Salih Mazeeb Basardah, ISN US9YM-000252DP, reported detainee taught Pashto and Farsi as part of the religious studies at the al-Faruq Training Camp. Detainee also taught weapons and explosives.²³
- (S//NF) GZ-10016 stated detainee may have been an al-Qaida instructor.²⁴ GZ-10016 also reported, “to move beyond the basic military training for al-Qaida, one had to be selected and agree to swear *bayat* to the organization.”²⁵ (Analyst Note: Detainee’s identification as a trainer at al-Faruq in mid-2001 indicates detainee probably followed the process GZ-10016 described, including swearing *bayat* to al-Qaida, normally attributed as bayat directly to UBL or to UBL through a proxy.)
- (S//NF) Adel Zamel Abd al-Mahsen al-Zamel, ISN US9KU-000568DP (KU-568, transferred) photo identified detainee as Zahar, an individual who provided KU-568 with extensive and detailed information about training and individuals in an al-Qaida training video.²⁶ The video shows methods to conduct different types of attacks and also presents a scenario for conducting an assassination. Detainee admitted to KU-568 that he (detainee) was the individual in the video who shot an RPG.²⁷
- (S//NF) Detainee admitted receiving training in 1999 for two or three months at al-Faruq on the AK-47, M-16, pistols, PK, RPGs, hand grenades, physical fitness, and religious studies. Detainee stated he was told the weapons training was for jihad and attended the training willingly.²⁸ (Analyst Note: Detainee has given varying accounts of his time and activities at al-Faruq.)
- (S//NF) Detainee was captured with a piece of paper containing several al-Qaida-related phone numbers. (Analyst Note: All four of the numbers were probably provided to detainee as contacts to assist in his escape from Afghanistan. See SCI Supplement for further information about the phone numbers.)
 - (S//NF) The phone number 03002137293, probably fully rendered as the Pakistani mobile number 923002137293, was associated with the name Ismail in detainee’s pocket litter. The same phone number was found in the memory of a cell phone belonging to al-Qaida member Moazzam Begg, ISN US9UK-000558DP (UK-

²² >IIR 6 034 0067 03; Analyst Note: Other instructors included Quais, Jarrah, Rahoof, Hamza, and Abu Harrera and the commander of the camp was identified as Abdul Qadus.

²³ >000252 SIR 27-Jul-2007

²⁴ TD-314/37245-05

²⁵ TD-314/36485-02

²⁶ Analyst note: Detainee is also referred to as Zaid in the reporting, a probable transliteration error for his name Zahar.

²⁷ >000568 SIR 02-SEP-2005, 000568 SIR 30-AUG-2005

²⁸ >000576 302 05-MAY-2002, 000576 KB 18-MAY-2002, 000576 HANDNOTE 02-MAR-2002, 000576 MFR 27-JUN-2002

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588, transferred), also associated with the name Ismail.²⁹ UK-558 separately reported that this number was used by an individual named Ilyas who facilitated the movements of personnel from Afghanistan to Karachi, PK.³⁰

○ (S//NF) The phone number 03009298831, probably fully rendered as the Pakistani mobile number 923009298831, was associated with the name Hashim in detainee's pocket litter. The same phone number, associated with the name Hashim al-Balushi, aka (Hafs), was found in the Rawalpindi, PK house where senior al-Qaida operative KU-10024 was captured on 1 March 2003.³¹

▪ (S//NF) The phone number may be associated with Hashim al-Balushi, aka (Abu Hafs), who received a money transfer from UBL-affiliated financier Abu Ahmad al-Harbi in the United Arab Emirates (AE) after the fall of Kabul in November 2001. Hashim then forwarded the money to the office of the non-governmental organization al-Wafa in Herat, AF.³²

c. (S//NF) Detainee's Conduct: Detainee is assessed as a **MEDIUM** threat from a detention perspective. His overall behavior has been compliant and sometimes hostile to the guard force and staff. He currently has 15 Reports of Disciplinary Infraction listed in DIMS, with the most recent occurring on 5 November 2007, when he threatened the guard force with feces. He has one Report of Disciplinary Infraction for assault occurring on 12 November 2003, when he spat on the guard force. Other incidents for which he has been disciplined include inciting and participating in mass disturbances, failure to follow guard instructions/camp rules, unauthorized communications, assaults, threats and possession of food and non-weapon type contraband. On 11 November 2003 detainee was reported smuggling a shaving razor back to his cell. In 2007, he had a total of four Reports of Disciplinary Infraction and none so far in 2008.

8. (U) Detainee Intelligence Value Assessment:

a. (S) Assessment: Detainee is assessed to be of **MEDIUM** intelligence value. Detainee's most recent interrogation session occurred on 7 June 2007.

b. (S//NF) Placement and Access: Detainee spent over two years in Afghanistan after recruitment into al-Qaida. He occupied al-Qaida facilities, received training, and served as a trainer for al-Qaida. Detainee participated in hostilities on the frontlines in Afghanistan as a

²⁹ TD-314/05430-02

³⁰ >IIR 2 340 6749 02, IIR 6 034 0422 05

³¹ TD-314/24201-03

³² TD-314/10221-02; Analyst Note: Wafa al-Igatha al-Islamia is a National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF) Priority 3 terrorist support entity (TSE). Priority 3 TSE's are defined as organizations that have demonstrated intent and willingness to provide financial support to terrorist organizations willing to attack U.S. persons or interests, or provide witting operational support to Priority 1-2 terrorist groups.

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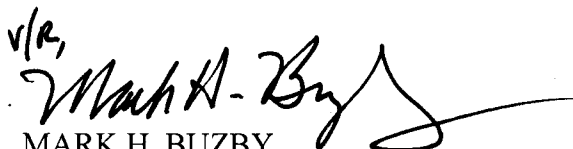
member of UBL's 55th Arab Brigade. His timeline includes a gap of more than a year and a half where he claims he stayed at a guesthouse.

c. (S//NF) Intelligence Assessment: Detainee is uncooperative. Detainee likely holds key information on his own associations and activities, as well as those of other al-Qaida members including current JTF-GTMO detainees. Detainee could probably provide information on his recruitment within Yemen, specifically the support structure in Hadramawt. Detainee can provide information on al-Qaida training and operations in Afghanistan, and could possibly provide insight into planned operations abroad. Detainee is familiar with false travel documents and al-Qaida procedures for obtaining them. While detainee claimed to have traveled to Karachi for a few months for eye surgery, this could be a cover story to hide additional travel abroad.

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

- Al-Qaida members
 - Shaykh Abd al-Salam al-Hadrami, recruitment and associates
 - Shaykh Abu Hassan
 - GZ-10016, YM-1457, and other facilitators
 - Guesthouse, training camp, and front line leadership
- Al-Qaida operations
- One and a half year gap in detainee's timeline
 - Activities as a trainer at al-Faruq
 - Activities on the front lines
- Associates, including members of al-Qaida and Taliban, and other detainees
- Terrorist travel facilitators
- Terrorist and foreign fighters leadership, network, training, and motivation
- Terrorist biographical and psychological information

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

v/r,


MARK H. BUZBY
 Rear Admiral, US Navy
 Commanding

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