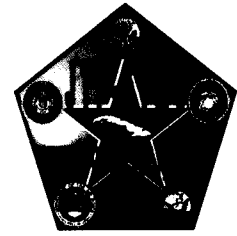




**S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20320101**

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



JTF-GTMO-CDR

1 January 2007

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-000152DP (S)

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

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

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Asim Thahit Abdullah al-Khalaqi
- Aliases and Current/True Name: Asim al-Yafii, Abu Hussayn, al-Dharab al-Yafii, al-Guraab
- Place of Birth: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (SA)
- Date of Birth: 1968
- Citizenship: Yemen (YM)
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9YM-000152DP



**2. (U//FOUO) Health:** Detainee is in good health.

**3. (S//NF) JTF-GTMO Assessment:**

**a. (S) Recommendation:** JTF-GTMO recommends this detainee for Transfer Out of DoD Control (TRO). JTF-GTMO previously assessed detainee as recommended for Continued Detention (CD) with Transfer Language on 15 February 2006.

**CLASSIFIED BY:** MULTIPLE SOURCES  
**REASON:** E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)  
**DECLASSIFY ON:** 20320101

**S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20320101**

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**b. (S//NF) Executive Summary:** Detainee is assessed to be a member of Usama Bin Laden's (UBL's) 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade,<sup>1</sup> and al-Qaida. Detainee is also affiliated with the tiered Jama'at Tablighi (JT).<sup>2</sup> Detainee traveled to Afghanistan (AF), probably received training and fought on the front lines. Detainee was captured with Ali Muhammad Abdul Aziz al-Fakhri aka (Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi), ISN US9LY-000212DP (LY-212), commander of al-Qaida forces in Tora Bora. 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 **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.)

- Minor clarification of detainee's activities and associates is provided along with detainee's identification on an al-Qaida guard schedule.

#### 4. (S//NF) 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:** Although born in Saudi Arabia, detainee was not granted Saudi citizenship because his father was Yemeni. Detainee claimed he graduated high school.<sup>3</sup> Detainee worked in Saudi Arabia at various fabric stores for nine or ten years and a camping equipment store for two years.<sup>4</sup> Detainee's prior travels include a trip to Baghdad, Iraq (IZ), where his father sought medical treatment, and a trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Detainee also made three trips to Yemen. Detainee justified his marriage in Yemen by

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<sup>1</sup> 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. Abdul Hadi al-Iraqi had primary operational command of the Arab Brigade, serving as UBL's military commander in the field.

<sup>2</sup> Analyst Note: JT is an IICT Tier 2 Terrorist Support Entities (TSE). Tier 2 Terrorist Support Entities (TSE) have demonstrated the intent and willingness to provide financial support to terrorist organizations that are willing to attack US persons or interests or provide witting operational support to Tier 2 terrorist groups.

<sup>3</sup> 00152 KB 06-FEB-2002, 000152 SIR 03-MAY-2004, TD-314/00684-02

<sup>4</sup> 000152 302 20-JUN-2003

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stating that a wedding in Yemen was much less expensive than one in Saudi Arabia where he lived.<sup>5</sup>

**b. (S//NF) Recruitment and Travel:** An individual named Abu Ali (NFI) approached detainee at a mosque in Riyadh and proposed that detainee go on a JT facilitated dawa (missionary activity) to Pakistan (PK).<sup>6</sup> In the summer of 2001, detainee traveled to Sanaa, YM, for a month and a half to obtain a Pakistani visa. Detainee bribed a clerk at the passport office in order to obtain his visa. Detainee then returned to Saudi Arabia. In preparation for his trip, detainee traveled to Mecca, SA, to complete Umrah.<sup>7</sup> The following day, detainee flew to Pakistan via Kuwait.<sup>8</sup> Detainee met Abu Ali in Karachi, PK.<sup>9</sup>

**c. (S//NF) Training and Activities:** Abu Ali took detainee to meet other JT members at several mosques in Karachi. In Karachi, detainee stayed at the main JT mosque for two weeks. In August 2001, detainee and Abu Ali crossed into Afghanistan using legitimate passports. They traveled to Kandahar, PK, where they stayed at a house to which Abu Ali had a key.<sup>10</sup> After two weeks they proceeded to Kabul, AF, where they stayed for a very short time before going to Jalalabad, AF. They rented a house in Jalalabad where they stayed a month and a half until hostilities began.<sup>11</sup>

## 5. (S//NF) Capture Information:

**a. (S//NF) John Walker Lindh, an American currently serving 20 years in prison for supplying services to the Taliban and carrying a weapon on the Taliban front lines, stated detainee traveled with his group to the front lines. Lindh also reported detainee split from this group,<sup>12</sup> probably during the retreat of the Taliban and supporting forces following attacks by coalition forces in November 2001. Detainee traveled to Jalalabad and then to the Tora Bora Mountains. After a few days of bombing by US and coalition forces in Tora Bora, detainee claimed he departed on foot with seven other Arabs to Pakistan where he was captured.<sup>13</sup> Detainee stated he was alone and surrendered to Pakistani authorities.<sup>14</sup> In fact,**

<sup>5</sup> 000152 SIR 16-AUG-2004, 000152 302 20-MAY-2003, Analyst Note: The dates for travel to Iraq, Yemen, and the UAE are unknown.

<sup>6</sup> Analyst Note: Performing dawa requires a Muslim to preach his religion to others, thus fulfilling his Islamic responsibility to "invite" others to Islam.

<sup>7</sup> Analyst Note: The Umrah is sometimes called the minor or lesser pilgrimage. Although recommended, it is not compulsory for a Muslim.

<sup>8</sup> 000152 302 20-JUN-2003, 000152 SIR 03-MAY-2004

<sup>9</sup> 000152 SIR 30-MAR-2002, 000152 SIR 03-MAY-2004, Analyst Note: A variant of Abu Ali is Abu Alih.

<sup>10</sup> 000152 SIR 28-NOV-2003, 000152 SIR 03-MAY-2004, TD-314/29323-02

<sup>11</sup> 000152 302 20-JUN-2003

<sup>12</sup> LINDH JOHN WALKER- 302 12-SEP-2002

<sup>13</sup> TD-314/00684-02

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detainee was captured along with a large extremist force led out of Tora Bora by UBL-appointed military commander, LY-212, in mid-December 2001 following hostilities in the region.<sup>15</sup> On 30 December 2001, Pakistani forces transferred detainee from Kohat, PK, to US custody at the Kandahar Detention Facility.<sup>16</sup>

**b. (S) Property Held:**

- Address book containing 130 names and phone numbers<sup>17</sup>
- Arabic writing, with 10 pages cut/torn, one cut into five pieces (indicating prayer times)
- Money
  - 10,000 Afghanis
  - 500 Saudi Riyals
- The following items are reported to be pocket litter of detainee but are not held at JTF-GTMO:<sup>18</sup>
  - \$100 USD<sup>19</sup>
  - 1,000 Pakistani Rupees
  - Folded letter to family, not sent

**c. (S) Transferred to JTF-GTMO:** 17 January 2002

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

- Potential Taliban recruitment campaign

**6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account:** Detainee continues to provide conflicting information. For instance, detainee claimed that he did not complete middle school, but also claimed he completed high school. In May 2006, detainee admitted his alias Asim al-Yafii, but claimed he did not have any other aliases. In a May 2004 interview, detainee acknowledged the

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<sup>14</sup> >ARB 1 document – SET 14.

<sup>15</sup> Withdrawal from Tora Bora Analysis, IIR 7 739 3396 02, Analyst Note: Detainee's alias Asem al-Yafii is on this list of 84 mujahideen captured in Pakistan; IIR 7 739 3245 02, IIR 7 739 3268 02, Analyst Note: Detainee's alias Asem al-Yafii is number 57 on this list of 68 mujahideen captured in Pakistan; TD-314/13174-03, Analyst Note: Detainee is listed as 'Asim al-(Yafa'i) on KSM's hard drive. Al-Libi is discussed in paragraph 7a below.

<sup>16</sup> TD-314/00845-02, Analyst Note: Detainee is in paragraph C10 of list.

<sup>17</sup> Analyst Note: See TD-314/01645-02 and 000152 ADDRESS BOOK 31-DEC-2001 for translation of the address book. <sup>18</sup> TD-314/00684-02

<sup>19</sup> During his ARB 1 tribunal, detainee admitted having \$100 USD.

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aliases Asim al-Yafii, al-Darrab, and Abu Hussayn. Detainee stated Abu Ali approached him about performing dawa, but has conversely claimed that he approached Abu Ali and expressed his desire to perform dawa, though he has provided little validated information for this activity. A joint US-Yemen delegation debriefing noted detainee was pointedly evasive and clearly obscuring facts about al-Qaida activities known to him. Detainee's cover story is assessed to be false. Detainee is assessed to have traveled for the purpose of receiving training and participating in militant Islamic activity. Due to detainee's withholding of information, gaps in his timeline, and numerous inconsistencies, detainee continues to demonstrate support for extremism.

#### 7. (S//NF) Detainee Threat:

a. (S) **Assessment:** It is assessed the detainee poses a **MEDIUM** risk, as he may 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 who served in UBL's former 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade in northern Afghanistan and also with LY-212 in Tora Bora, AF. Detainee received training in Afghanistan prior to participating in hostilities and occupied al-Qaida facilities. Detainee has acknowledged associations with the JT, while additional intelligence places him in al-Qaida controlled facilities within Afghanistan.

- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to be a member of al-Qaida who served with al-Qaida forces during periods of hostility against US and coalition forces.
  - (S//NF) John Walker Lindh identified detainee as Abu Asim. Detainee was with Lindh's group that traveled from Kandahar to the front lines at Bagram. Detainee later left the group.<sup>20</sup> (Analyst Note: Lindh places detainee in Bagram but does not provide a timeframe for his departure. Lindh occupied combat positions manned by members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade, and detainee is assessed to have occupied these positions as a member of the 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade before detainee's departure.)
  - (S//NF) Analyst Note: Detainee's travel with Lindh's group is assessed to have been permitted contingent upon detainee's acceptance by the group as a trained fighter. This training probably occurred with Lindh's group at al-Faruq, but may have occurred at an earlier date. Detainee would have been required to verify this training with the leadership of this group. Al-Qaida operational procedures normally required the recruits to first obtain training before traveling to the front lines for combat. The only known exception was during the period of preparation for the US campaign in Afghanistan when all training at established camps was halted and

<sup>20</sup> John Walker Lindh- 302 12-SEP-2002, IIR 4 201 3149 05, IIR 4 201 3149 05

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partially trained recruits were taken to Tora Bora to fight. As detainee traveled to the front lines prior to Tora Bora, he is assessed to have successfully completed the basic trainee course.<sup>21</sup>

- (S//NF) Analyst Note: While a training period of June to August 2001 is supportive of detainee's claimed summer 2001 departure from Yemen, it conflicts with his claim of crossing the Afghanistan border in August 2001. There is no documentation verifying detainee's departure from Saudi Arabia, and it is assessed that detainee traveled to Afghanistan earlier than admitted. Detainee's claimed participation with the JT, discussed below, in Pakistan is assessed to be a cover story for his training activities in Afghanistan.
- (S//NF) Despite detainee's denial of attending training or knowing other named al-Qaida members,<sup>22</sup> detainee's name is identified as an al-Qaida member listed on a guard schedule along with 15 others in documents identifying al-Qaida applicants and trainees.<sup>23</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to have served with LY-212 in Tora Bora during hostilities with US and coalition forces. UBL appointed LY-212 as commander of the al-Qaida forces in Tora Bora in November and December 2001. Contrary to detainee's account, detainee was captured with LY-212. Detainee's account of his capture is assessed to be deliberately misleading to hide his associations with LY-212 and al-Qaida forces in Tora Bora.<sup>24</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee stated he fled Jalalabad, entered Pakistan, and surrendered to Pakistani authorities. Detainee's name is included on numerous documents that identify detainee along with other suspected al-Qaida members. The documents further indicate that detainee was captured with LY-212 after fleeing Tora Bora in mid December 2001.<sup>25</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee admitted to having an affiliation with the JT, a tier 2 TSE. (Analyst Note: Claims of affiliation with the JT has been identified as an al-Qaida cover story. The JT has been used by al-Qaida to facilitate and fund the international travel of al-Qaida members.)

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<sup>21</sup> IIR 4 201 3149 05, John Walker Lindh- 302 12-SEP-2002, IN 170-17-0606

<sup>22</sup> >000152 SIR 05-May-2006, 000152 SIR 17-May-2006

<sup>23</sup> >IIR 7 901 9998 04, AFGP-2002-901191

<sup>24</sup> >Withdrawal from Tora Bora Analysis

<sup>25</sup> IIR 7 739 3396 02, Analyst Note: Detainee's alias Asem al-Yafii is on this list of 84 mujahideen captured in Pakistan; IIR 7 739 3245 02, IIR 7 739 3268 02, Analyst Note: Detainee's alias Asem al-Yafii is number 57 on this list of 68 mujahideen captured in Pakistan; TD-314/13174-03, Analyst Note: Detainee is listed as 'Asim al-Yafa'i on KSM's hard drive. One of these documents was found on a hard drive recovered from Khalid Shaykh Muhammad aka (KSM), ISN US9KU-010024DP (KU 10024), upon his arrest.

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- (S//NF) Detainee claimed Abu Ali, a JT member, recruited detainee and traveled with him to Afghanistan.<sup>26</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee attended JT meetings several times and stayed at the main JT mosque while in Karachi.<sup>27</sup> (Analyst Note: The main JT mosque in Karachi is the Makki Mosque. Numerous detainees are known to have used the Makki Mosque as a JT cover when entering Pakistan. While detainee could have used this mosque for temporary quartering when entering Pakistan, detainee has failed to validate his claims that he traveled for JT dawa. The JT requires a period of training and experience to be certified by a local council in the individual's home country before allowing the individual to participate in dawa abroad. This council must also recommend the individual for dawa. Because detainee has not provided information for dawa within Saudi Arabia and has not provided details corroborating knowledge of the JT counsel recommendations, his stated purpose for travel is assessed to be false and his affiliation with the JT limited to facilitation and cover for his travels.)<sup>28</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee denies terrorist or Taliban connections. Detainee claims he was providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghans while working with the JT.<sup>29</sup> (Analyst Note: Like dawa for the JT, travel to Afghanistan to provide humanitarian assistance is a common al-Qaida cover story.)<sup>30</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee utilized al-Qaida associated guesthouses in Afghanistan.<sup>31</sup>
  - (S//NF) Abu Zubaydah,<sup>32</sup> ISN US9GZ-010016DP (GZ-10016) photo identified detainee as someone who may have been at an al-Qaida guesthouse in either Kabul or Kandahar.<sup>33</sup> (Analyst Note: Detainee admitted staying two weeks in Kandahar at a house to which Abu Ali had a key. He claimed no one else was at the house. Detainee's associations with Abu Ali in Afghanistan are assessed to be a falsified cover for detainee's presence in al-Qaida guesthouses, training camps, and fighting positions during the same period. Other comments by Abu Zubaydah provide an explanation for detainee's inclusion on various al-Qaida documents. Abu Zubaydah reported that upon arrival at a guesthouse, a "brother" (the term "brother" is reference to al-Qaida's affiliated operatives and fighters) left his passport, important papers, wallet, and other miscellaneous items with an official of the guesthouse who would record the individual's name, his nickname, and the articles he deposited.)<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> 000152 302 20-JUN-2003

<sup>27</sup> 000152 302 20-JUN-2003, 000152 SIR 03-MAY-2004

<sup>28</sup> Jamaat Tabligh Provides Cover as of 28-DEC-2005, IIR 6 034 0278 04, IIR 6 034 0286 04

<sup>29</sup> 000152 MFR 30-MAY-2003

<sup>30</sup> DAB Cover Story Assessment

<sup>31</sup> Analyst Note: Presence in an al-Qaida guesthouse is an indication of membership in al-Qaida.

<sup>32</sup> JTF-GTMO detainee

<sup>33</sup> TD-314/24346-02, 000152 302 20-JUN-2003

<sup>34</sup> 000152 SIR 28-NOV-2003, TD-314-40693-02, TD-314/14620-03

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o (S//NF) Supporting Abu Zubaydah's identification above, detainee is identified on documents listing the names and aliases of suspected al-Qaida members and the contents of their trust accounts. One such list was recovered during raids conducted on September 2002 against suspected al-Qaida safe house in Karachi, PK.<sup>35</sup> (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. Trust accounts, also referred to as safety boxes or safety deposit boxes, were simply storage compartments such as envelopes or folders that guesthouse administrators used to secure the individual's personal valuables, such as passports and plane tickets. These items were entrusted to the guesthouse until completion of training or other activity.)

c. (U//FOUO) **Detainee's Conduct:** Detainee is assessed as a **MEDIUM** threat from a detention perspective. Detainee's overall behavior has been compliant and rarely hostile toward the guard force and staff. Detainee currently has 17 Reports of Disciplinary Infraction listed in DIMS, with the most recent occurring on 3 November 2006, when detainee was found in possession of a DA Form 508-1 and other legal papers. Other incidents for which detainee has been disciplined include failure to follow instructions and camp rules, attempted assault, damage to government property, unauthorized communications, assault, inciting and participating in mass disturbances, and possession of food and non-weapon type contraband. Detainee has no Reports of Disciplinary Infraction for assault in 2006. On 19 May 2006, detainee attempted to assault a guard while participating in a mass disturbance.

8. (S//NF) **Detainee Intelligence Value Assessment:**

a. (S) **Assessment:** Detainee is assessed to be of **MEDIUM** intelligence value. Detainee's most recent interrogation session occurred on 25 October 2006.

b. (S//NF) **Placement and Access:** Detainee probably stayed at extremist guesthouses in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The length of his Afghanistan and Pakistan travels along with other reporting indicates detainee attended and completed basic training. While John Walker Lindh has identified detainee as having been on the Bagram front lines, detainee's movement from Bagram to Jalalabad and into Tora Bora remains unexplained. His access to extremist leadership and information is uncertain because of his propensity to adhere to his JT cover

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<sup>35</sup> TD-314-40693-02, Analyst Note: Detainee is listed as number 152, identified as Assem Thabet al-Khalaqi aka Assem al-Yaf'l. Yaf'l is not a known Arab name, and is assessed to be a typographic error of Yaf'i (numerous variants), which is the name of detainee's main tribe.



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story; however, there is nothing to indicate such access was anything but limited. Reporting does not indicate detainee served in an operational planning or leadership capacity.

c. **(S//NF) Intelligence Assessment:** Beyond the knowledge of guesthouses and training detainee probably received, his potential to provide additional intelligence is difficult to assess due to the gaps in his story. The best intelligence detainee can provide will be on his own activities, which he has chosen thus far to withhold from US intelligence collectors. If his affiliation with JT is true, detainee can also provide information on support JT provided to al-Qaida and other extremist organizations in Pakistan and the Saudi Peninsula. Detainee is withholding information relating to his involvement in and knowledge of combat operations against US and coalition forces.

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

- 55<sup>th</sup> Arab Brigade
  - Personnel: leadership, logistics, and support
  - Fighting positions: activities at the positions and activities of other detainees
- Al-Qaida forces in Tora Bora
- Al-Qaida training (facilities, personnel, and security measures)
- Extremist guesthouses Pakistan (personnel, operations, and use)
- Extremist guesthouses in Afghanistan (personnel, operations, and use)
- JT support to al-Qaida
  - Recruitment
  - Facilitation
  - Travel Documentation assistance
  - Lodging

9. **(S) EC Status:** Detainee's enemy combatant status was reassessed on 16 November 2004, and he remains an enemy combatant.

  
HARRY B. HARRIS, JR.  
Rear Admiral, US Navy  
Commanding