



S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20330303

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



JTF-GTMO-CDR

3 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 US9MR-000760DP (S)

JTF-GTMO Detainee Assessment

1. (S//NF) Personal Information:

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Mohamedou Ould Salahi
- Current/True Name and Aliases: Mohamedou Ould Salahi, Muhammad Walid Salahi, Abdellah, Abu Marouane, Abu Marwan, Abu Masar, Abu Musab, Abu Rouqyia, Hijra
- Place of Birth: Rosso, Mauritania (MR)
- Date of Birth: 21 December 1970
- Citizenship: Mauritania
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9MR-000760DP



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 September 2007.

b. (S//NF) Executive Summary: Detainee is an admitted member of al-Qaida, who swore *bayat* (oath of allegiance) to Usama Bin Laden (UBL). Detainee received basic militant training at al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan (AF), and was prepared to be a martyr. Detainee is assessed to have recruited three of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack hijackers into al-Qaida and facilitated their training. Detainee is a cousin, brother-in-law, and probable former assistant to Mahfouz Ould al-Walid, aka (Abu Hafs al-Mauritani). Detainee was the leader of the al-Qaida cell in Duisburg, Germany (GM). Detainee later became the leader of the Montreal, Canada (CA), based al-Qaida cell that was responsible for the foiled “Millennium

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REASON: E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, Section 1.4(C)
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bombing” plot targeting Los Angeles International Airport and possibly other US-based targets. Detainee is an electrical engineer whose technical background allowed him to gain extensive knowledge of the communication methods used by al-Qaida. **[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DETAINEE IS AVAILABLE IN AN SCI SUPPLEMENT.]** JTF-GTMO has determined this detainee to be:

- A **HIGH** risk, as he is likely to pose a threat to the US, its interests, and allies
- A **LOW** threat from a detention perspective
- Of **HIGH** 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 information stating detainee was trained by Abu Khabab al-Masri

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 graduated from high school in Nouakchott, MR, in 1988 and traveled to Duisburg, GM on a grant from the Carl Duisburg Gesellschaft Center, where he studied German and participated in internships for a year. In 1989, detainee attended the FH-Krefeld Engineering School for a year of preparatory studies before being admitted to the University of Duisburg in 1990 and graduating in 1995 with a degree in electrical engineering.¹

b. (S//NF) **Recruitment and Travel:** In 1990, while still in school, detainee was introduced to al-Hachimi, who led the Informationsbüro der Mujahideen in Bonn, GM. This organization provided detainee with his introduction and recommendation letter allowing him to join the mujahideen in Afghanistan. Detainee received extremist religious indoctrination under the tutelage of Ould Sidi Yahya. Detainee also joined the Mauritanian Muslim Brotherhood and participated in the missionary activities of Jamaat Tablighi (JT) and the Gamaat al-Dawa Wa Tablighi on numerous occasions in Mauritania and Germany.² He

¹ 000760 KB 09-AUG-2002, IIR 4 201 2724 05, 000760 302 13-MAR-2003

² Analyst Note: JT is an Islamic proselytizing organization. Affiliation with the JT is a common al-Qaida cover story. Al-Qaida used the JT to facilitate and fund the international travel of its members. For more information, see IIR 2 227 0131 03, Jamaat Tabligh Provides Cover 28-DEC-2005, and JITFCT Special Analysis US Jamaat Tabligh. JT is a National Intelligence Priority Framework (NIPF) Priority 3 Terrorist Support Entity (TSE). Priority 3 TSE

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departed for training in Afghanistan in December 1990.³ Detainee traveled to Afghanistan for training and jihad in 1991. Once there, he attended the al-Faruq Training Camp near Kandahar, AF, for six weeks. While in Afghanistan, detainee swore *bayat* to UBL. Detainee again trained in Afghanistan from March to June 1992 when he traveled there with six others. In 1992, detainee participated in the jihad against the Soviet-sponsored Afghan government and was assigned to a mortar battery.⁴

(S//NF) In December 1992, detainee traveled to Slovenia to join the jihad in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He returned to Germany after a week when informed that travel into Bosnia was too hazardous. He admitted his primary responsibility was to recruit for al-Qaida in Europe.⁵ Detainee moved to Reutlingen, GM, near Stuttgart, GM in 1995, where he lived for five years. From 1995 through 1997, detainee worked for the Bosch Company as a production engineer, and from 1997 through 1999, he worked for the Ceylan Company as a maintenance engineer. In 1999, detainee had problems getting German authorities to extend his visa, and decided to relocate his family to Canada, following the similar path of his friend and former Duisburg classmate, Hosni Mohsen. Detainee obtained an immigrant landing visa from the Canadian Government and on 26 November 1999, traveled to Montreal, CA, where he stayed with Mohsen, and made plans to study electrical engineering at the Polytechnic du Montreal. In addition, detainee sought employment with various computer companies while pursuing his engineering degree. While in Montreal, detainee became the imam at the al-Sunnah Mosque during the month of Ramadan, replacing the previous imam, who left for *hajj* (pilgrimage) to Saudi Arabia.⁶

c. (S//NF) Training and Activities: On 20 and 21 December 1999, officers with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police questioned detainee at Mohsen's home regarding Ahmed Ressay, who was arrested at the US-Canadian border while attempting to enter the US with explosives, and about other associates of Mohsen. At the end of January 2000, detainee called his sister in Mauritania who informed him their mother was very sick and wished for him to return home. Detainee left Canada to visit his family in Mauritania on 21 January 2000. Upon arrival at the Dakkar, Senegal, airport, detainee was arrested, questioned by

have demonstrated intent and willingness to provide financial support to terrorist organizations willing to attack US persons or interests, or provide witting operational support to Priority 1-2 terrorist groups. JT and Gamaat al-Dawa Wa Tablighi reported by detainee may be variant spellings for the same organization.

³ IIR 6 034 0251 04, IIR 6 034 0437 04, IIR 6 034 0627 04, IIR 6 034 1027 04, IIR 6 034 1032 04, IIR 6 034 1190 04, 000760 MFR 18-OCT-2003, 000760 Personal Jihadi Timeline 00-Oct-1999

⁴ 000760 302 02-APR-2003, 000760 SIR 28-JUL-2005, IIR 6 034 0040 05, 000760 SIR 06-FEB-2004, 000760 SIR 06-DEC-2003, 000760 302 30-MAR-2003, TD-314/08039-00, IIR 6 034 0435 04

⁵ 000760 302 02-APR-2003, 000760 SIR 28-JUL-2005, IIR 6 034 0040 05, 000760 SIR 06-FEB-2004, 000760 SIR 06-DEC-2003, 000760 302 30-MAR-2003, TD-314/08039-00, IIR 6 034 0435 04

⁶ TD-314/08035-00, TD-314/08045-00, 000760 KB 09-AUG-2002, IIR 4 201 2724 05, 000760 302 13-MAR-2003, 000760 302 22-MAR-2003, IIR 6 034 0687 03

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Senegalese authorities for four days, and extradited to Mauritania. He was held by Mauritanian authorities, but was released due to lack of evidence. On 19 April 2000, detainee and his wife attempted to travel to Germany to escape the negative notoriety that resulted from his arrests, but he was arrested upon his arrival. Detainee was held in German custody for three weeks, and was returned to Mauritania, where his passport was confiscated by government officials. Detainee then worked for the National Medica Dahoud in Nouakchott as a maintenance engineer during 2000 and 2001. In 2001, detainee left the maintenance engineering job and started work as an electrical engineer for the Khattary Company.⁷

5. (U) Capture Information:

a. (S/NF) On 29 September 2001, detainee was arrested by Mauritanian authorities and was held for two weeks for questioning by Mauritanian security services and US FBI agents. Detainee was questioned regarding his connections to Ahmed Ressay and Abu Hafs al-Mauritani and was subsequently released on 12 October 2001. On 20 November 2001, Mauritanian authorities re-arrested detainee at his mother's home. Detainee had been the focus of monitoring by US and Mauritanian government officials since his return to Mauritania in April 2000. Eight days later, he was turned over to Jordanian authorities. The Jordanians held detainee in Amman, Jordan, for eight months. On 19 July 2002, Jordanian officials transferred detainee to the custody of US forces, and he was taken to Bagram, AF.⁸

b. (U) Property Held: None.

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

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

- Al-Faruq Training Camp
- Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin (HIG) recruiting facility in Bonn⁹

⁷ 000760 KB 09-AUG-2002, IIR 4 201 3588 05, IIR 6 034 0687 03, IIR 4 201 2724 05, IIR 6 034 0093 03, TD-314/14578-00, 000760 302 22-MAR-2003

⁸ 000760 KB 09-AUG-2002, IIR 5 398 5415 06, IIR 6 034 0093 03, IIR 6 034 0687 03, TD-314/03354-00, TD-314/08033-00, TD-314/38503-01, TD-314/11671-00, TD-314/19275-00, TD-314/12609-00

⁹ Analyst Note: HIG is a NIPF Priority 2 CT target. Priority 2 targets are defined as issues, opportunities, or threats that rise to, or are expected to rise to, the level of interest of the Combatant Commanders or DNI EXCOM Principals, not already identified as Priority 1. This includes terrorist groups, especially those with state support, countries that sponsor terrorism, or countries that have state organizations involved in terrorism that have demonstrated both intention and capability to attack U.S. persons or interests.

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- Mosques in Duisburg, specifically the mosque led by an imam associated with the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ)¹⁰
- Abu Hafs al-Mauritani

6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account: While detainee has provided valuable intelligence about others and acknowledged associations with al-Qaida, but he has consistently denied his involvement in al-Qaida terrorist operations, such as the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, the "Millennium plot," or the Djerba, Tunisia bombing. Multiple independent sources have corroborated his involvement in these operations and his role as a key al-Qaida member. He is highly intelligent and has been cooperative, as long as it does not link him to terrorist activities beyond what he has already conceded: that he is an admitted member of al-Qaida with family ties to a senior member of the organization, Abu Hafs al-Mauritani. Detainee has denied previous admissions to further distance himself from significant al-Qaida operatives and operations.¹¹

7. (U) Detainee Threat:

a. (S) Assessment: Detainee is assessed to be **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 an admitted member of al-Qaida who swore *bayat* to UBL, trained at al-Qaida camps, served as a key member of al-Qaida's network in Europe, and was prepared to be a martyr. Detainee is an associate with and probable recruiter of several 11 September 2001 terrorist attack hijackers. Detainee is a cousin, brother-in-law, and probably former assistant to Abu Hafs al-Mauritani, a member of al-Qaida's leading Shura Council and personal religious advisor to UBL. Detainee was the leader of the al-Qaida cell in Duisburg, GM, and later became the leader of the Montreal-based al-Qaida cell that was responsible for the foiled Year 2000 "Millennium bombing" plot targeting Los Angeles International Airport and possibly other US-based targets. Detainee is an electrical engineer with extensive knowledge of the communication methods used by al-Qaida.

- (S//NF) Detainee is an admitted member of al-Qaida who swore *bayat* to UBL and was prepared to be a suicide operative.¹²

¹⁰ Analyst Note: EIJ is a NIPF Priority 1 CT target. Priority 1 targets are defined as issues, opportunities, or threats that rise to, or are expected to rise to, the level of interest of the President, Vice President, DNI, and NSC/HSC Principals and Deputies. This includes terrorist groups that pose a clear and immediate danger to U.S. persons or interests. This includes those preparing to employ Weapons of Mass Destruction.

¹¹ Analyst Note: Detainee is determined to be highly credible, notwithstanding the AR-15-6 Final Report, also known as the Schmidt-Furlough Report, dated 9 June 2005.

¹² IIR 6 034 0717 04, IIR 6 034 0336 05, detainee is mentioned in paragraph 15.

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- (S//NF) Detainee stated he traveled to Afghanistan in 1991 for training at al-Faruq Training Camp. Detainee and his close associate Noumane Ould Ahmed Ould Boullahy swore *bayat* to al-Qaida to continue jihad and obey the *emir* (leader) under any circumstance.¹³ (Analyst Note: Detainee later clarified that the *emir* was UBL.)
 - (S//NF) Noumane Ould Ahmed Ould Boullahy served as a UBL bodyguard in Sudan in 1993. Boullahy was reported as killed during US and Coalition air strikes in Kandahar in November 2001.¹⁴
 - (U//FOUO) Detainee admitted receiving training from Abu Khabab al-Masri, aka (Midhat Mursi al-Sayid Umar), at al-Faruq from January through March 1991.¹⁵ (Analyst Note: Abu Khabab was the main chemical and explosives trainer for al-Qaida in Afghanistan. A handwritten document recovered in Afghanistan near the Duranta Camp is assessed to be a training manual written by Abu Khabab for the synthesis of various poisons and chemical warfare agents.¹⁶)
- (S//REL TO USA, AUS, GBR) Detainee admitted his readiness for jihad and martyrdom. In December 1990, detainee went to the Informationsbüro der Mujahideen office to join the mujahideen and become a martyr.¹⁷
- (S//NF) Detainee is an acknowledged al-Qaida recruiter and recruited key participants in the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks.¹⁸
 - (S//NF) Detainee admitted his primary responsibility was to recruit for al-Qaida in Europe.¹⁹ Detainee admitted he actively recruited for al-Qaida from 1992 to 1997. Detainee also claimed he was not specifically tasked to be a recruiter, but he felt it was an important function, which he described as spreading propaganda. He would speak of jihad during sermons at the Krefeld and al-Taqa Mosques in Germany.²⁰
 - (S//NF) During custodial debriefings, 11 September 2001 terrorist attack coordinator Ramzi Bin al-Shibh, ISN US9YM-010013DP (YM-10013), stated in Germany, detainee recruited YM-10013 and three of the suicide hijackers: Muhammad Atta, the overall mission commander and pilot of the aircraft that crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center (WTC); Marwan al-Shehhi, the pilot of the aircraft that destroyed the South Tower of the WTC; and Ziad Jarrah, the pilot of the aircraft that crashed in Pennsylvania. YM-10013 stated detainee recruited him

¹³ IIR 6 034 0435 04, Analyst Note: *Emir* is literally prince. In IIR 6 034 0906 04, detainee identified Boullahy as aka (Abu Ubaydah Ali-Mauritani), aka (Abu Abd al-Rahman)

¹⁴ IIR 6 034 0272 04, IIR 6 034 1246 04; Analyst Note: Noumane may be a variant of and identifiable with Numan Ibn Bellah, an associate of US9MR-000757DP as reported in IIR 6 044 0037 03.

¹⁵ >IIR 4 201 5495 07

¹⁶ >IIR 6 034 0458 03, TD-314/32625-99, TD-314/52482-05

¹⁷ IIR 4 201 2705 05, IIR 4 201 2728 05, 000760 Personal Jihadi Timeline 00-Oct-1999

¹⁸ TD-314/40242-02

¹⁹ 000760 302 02-APR-2003, 000760 SIR 28-JUL-2005, IIR 6 034 0040 05, 000760 SIR 06-FEB-2004, 000760 SIR 06-DEC-2003, 000760 302 30-MAR-2003, TD-314/08039-00, IIR 6 034 0435 04

²⁰ IIR 6 034 1635 03

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and the others due to their desire to fight jihad in Chechnya and arranged for their travel and training in Afghanistan.²¹

- (S//NF) YM-10013 explained detainee facilitated his initial introduction to UBL and senior al-Qaida military commander Abu Hafs al-Masri, aka (Muhammad Atif), in Kandahar.²² (Analyst Note: YM-10013 also intended to participate in the attacks but was prevented from obtaining a visa for travel to the US. YM-10013 instead became the coordinator for the hijackers and the contact for Khalid Shaykh Muhammad, aka (KSM), ISN US9KU-010024DP (KU-10024), the mastermind of the 11 September 2001 operation.²³)
- (S//NF) Muhammad Atta was in Madrid, Spain in July 2001, along with 11 September 2001 operative Marwan al-Shehhi.²⁴ A French government service reported, based on an interview with detained extremist Karim Mehdi, detainee was also in Spain during the summer of 2001 and could have met with Muhammad Atta.²⁵ (Analyst Note: Although there is no confirmation detainee met with Atta in Spain, a meeting during this period would indicate detainee had advanced knowledge of the 11 September 2001 attacks. See reporting below regarding Karim Mehdi.)
- (S//NF) Karim Mehdi reported detainee recruited both Mehdi and Christian Ganczarski, and recommended they travel to al-Qaida training camps in Afghanistan.²⁶
- (S//NF) Detainee was probably a lieutenant to al-Qaida Shura Council member and UBL religious advisor, Abu Hafs al-Mauritani.²⁷
 - (S) Detainee's cousin, Abu Hafs al-Mauritani, asked detainee to participate in three projects for al-Qaida.²⁸ Detainee states he declined Abu Hafs' requests, since detainee was trying to obtain citizenship in Canada and felt that his Mauritanian citizenship would not protect him in the event of capture.²⁹ (Analyst Note: Detainee is assessed to have participated in these projects for al-Qaida given his access and relation to Abu Hafs and detainee's technical background.)

²¹ TD-314/40242-02, IIR 6 897 0023 03

²² TD-314/38344-02

²³ 010013 CD 8-Dec-2006

²⁴ FBIS 01-FEB-2002

²⁵ TD-314/48627-03, TD-314/40345-02

²⁶ TD-314/48627-03, TD-314/10792-03, IIR 4 201 2571 05

²⁷ IIR 6 034 1632 03, IIR 6 034 0370 04, IIR 6 034 0393 02, IIR 6 034 0108 03, IIR 6 832 0132 02, Analyst Note: KU-10024 stated Abu Hafs al-Mauritani was the director of al-Qaida's *Fatwa* Committee. As director of the *Fatwa* Committee, al-Mauritani would have been instrumental in the *fatawa* issued by UBL justifying the targeting of US civilians and the 11 September 2001 attacks.

²⁸ IIR 6 034 1635 03, IIR 6 034 1673 03

²⁹ IIR 6 034 0523 04

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- (S) The first project involved building and setting up an international short-wave radio broadcasting station in Sudan.³⁰
- (S) The second project involved assisting in counterfeiting money, especially US currency, in Kandahar and helping establish greater Internet connectivity between Sudan and Kandahar.³¹ Abu Hafis tasked detainee and al-Qaida member Christian Ganczarski to purchase computer equipment for the purpose of counterfeiting. Laundered money arrived at the Mauritania home of Abu Hafis' brother. Detainee stated UBL's deputy and EIJ leader Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri directed Abu Hafis to establish the counterfeiting operation.³²
- (S) Abu Hafis asked detainee to perform a third project for al-Qaida in Sudan, but detainee never received the details of the task.³³
- (S//NF) Detainee was a key individual in the al-Qaida organization, with extensive knowledge of other key operatives throughout UBL's worldwide network and their tactics, techniques, and procedures.
 - (S//NF) Detainee provided an association link chart for al-Qaida members. He discussed communication methods and financing; credit card and phone card fraud; drug smuggling; and al-Qaida investment in unwitting companies in Bosnia, Canada, Chechnya, Denmark, England, Germany, Mauritania, and Spain. The chart included information about the key personnel and leaders in each cell.³⁴
- (S//NF) Detainee was the leader of the al-Qaida cell in Duisburg, GM.
 - (S//NF) Detainee led the Duisburg cell in Germany, which included his friends Christian Ganczarski, Karim Mehdi, and Hosni Mohsen.³⁵ Detainee stated he first met Ganczarski at the Taqwa Mosque in Duisburg sometime in 1995.³⁶ He met Mohsen at the university and mosque at Duisburg, and later followed him to Montreal, where they are assessed to have established another al-Qaida cell.³⁷
 - (S//NF) Detainee and his associates, Christian Ganczarski and Karim Mehdi, are suspected by German federal agencies of involvement in the 11 April 2002 Djerba Synagogue bombing in Tunisia, which killed 23 tourists. The driver of the truck bomb called Ganczarski hours before the attack to ask for Ganczarski's blessing.³⁸

³⁰ IIR 6 034 1635 03

³¹ IIR 6 034 1635 03

³² IIR 6 034 0523 04

³³ IIR 6 034 1635 03

³⁴ IIR 6 034 0906 04

³⁵ 000760 MFR 13-AUG-2002, TD-314/10792-03

³⁶ TD-314/49441-02, TD-314/35332-02

³⁷ 000760 302 22-MAR-2003, IIR 6 034 0093 03

³⁸ 000760 DOSSIER 01-SEP-2003, TD-314/20908-02

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Detainee admitted Ganczarski and Mehdi, whom he considers to be his best friends, were associated with al-Gamaat al-Islamiya and al-Qaida, respectively.³⁹

- (C//REL TO USA, GCTF) The Egyptian terrorist group al-Gamaat al-Islamiya was a signatory of UBL's fatwa dated 23 February 1998 calling for attacks against the US.⁴⁰
- (S//NF) In a debriefing with the French Internal Security Service, Mehdi stated he frequently attended meetings hosted by detainee which were also attended by YM-10013 and 11 September 2001 hijacker Ziyad Jarrah between 1997 and 1999, just prior to Jarrah's travel to the US for pilot training. Investigators found a phone number registered to Jarrah in Mehdi's documents. Mehdi identified Christian Ganczarski as a friend and fellow al-Qaida terrorist who met with UBL. French investigators assessed detainee was the leader of al-Qaida cells in Germany, and Mehdi was possibly his deputy.⁴¹ (Analyst Note: Mehdi admitted he was "an al-Qaida sympathizer and a friend of people who are connected with that terrorist organization.")
 - (S//NF) Mehdi and Ganczarski were taken into French custody in 2003. Mehdi was arrested at an airport in Paris while traveling to Reunion Island, east of Madagascar, to plan future attacks on civilian targets. Mehdi is currently serving a 9-year sentence for his involvement in the planned attacks on Reunion Island and for his connections to the 11 September 2001 attacks. Ganczarski remains in French custody due to his connection with the Djerba bombing and the foiled Strasbourg Cathedral bombing.⁴²
 - (S//NF) Mehdi stated in 1994, he and two others traveled with detainee to Mauritania with the intent to create a training camp modeled after al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan.⁴³
- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to be the leader of the Montreal-based al-Qaida cell responsible for the foiled "Millennium bombing" plot targeting Los Angeles International Airport and possibly other US-based targets in December 1999.
 - (S//NF) Detainee arrived in Montreal, CA, from Duisburg on 26 November 1999. Hosni Mohsen met detainee at the airport and detainee stayed at a safe house operated by Mohsen in Montreal, where other members of the cell frequently gathered.⁴⁴

³⁹ IIR 6 034 0236 05 (see paragraph 4), Analyst Note: Al-Gamaat al-Islamiya, variant (The Islamic Group), is a NIPF Priority 3 CT target. Priority 3 targets are defined as terrorist or extremist groups, countries that sponsor terrorism, or countries that have state organizations involved in terrorism that have demonstrated intention to attack US persons and interests and are taking action to develop or acquire weapons of mass destruction capability.

⁴⁰ IIR 6 034 1391 04

⁴¹ TD-314/48627-03, TD-314/10792-03, IIR 4 201 2571 05

⁴² TD-314/10792-03, TD-314/55666-03, TD-314/48627-03, IIR 4 201 2723 05, IIR 7 714 0029 03

⁴³ IIR 4 201 2599 05

⁴⁴ IIR 7 714 0031 03, IIR 6 897 0023 03, 000760 302 22-MAR-2003

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- (S//NF) Four days after his arrival in Montreal, detainee met with “Millennium bomber” Ahmed Ressam. Ressam left shortly thereafter for Vancouver, CA, where he prepared the explosive device he planned to detonate at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) during the Millennium celebrations. Ressam was arrested attempting to enter the US from Canada on 14 December 1999. Detainee fled Canada on 21 January 2000, after being questioned about Ressam by RCMP officers on 20 and 21 December at the Montreal safe house.⁴⁵
- (S//NF) Ahmed Laabidi identified himself as detainee’s former roommate at the al-Sunnah Mosque. Laabidi reported detainee was the leader of the cell and served as the key intermediary between senior al-Qaida through detainee’s cousin, Abu Hafs al-Mauritani. Following the disruption of the Montreal cell, Laabidi entered the US illegally, was arrested by INS agents, and deported to Tunisia in September 2003.⁴⁶
- (S//NF) Hosni Mohsen was arrested in Israel with pocket litter connecting him to members of both the Montreal and the Duisburg al-Qaida cells. At the time of Mohsen’s arrest, he had detainee’s name and Ressam’s telephone number in his possession. Detainee acknowledged he and Mohsen were friends and that he followed Mohsen to Montreal, staying with him after detainee arrived.⁴⁷
- (S//NF) According to Laabidi, other members of the Montreal cell included Raouf Hannachi, who was probably detainee’s deputy and a possible suicide operative; Abd al-Majid Dahoumane, Ressam’s accomplice; Raouf Jdey, a probable suicide operative whose martyrdom video were found at al-Qaida senior military commander Muhammad Atef’s house and whose will was recovered from Taliban Supreme Leader Mullah Muhammad Omar’s house; Abd al-Ghani Meskini, also a Ressam accomplice; Mustafa Labsi, Ressam’s former roommate and an associate of senior al-Qaida facilitator Zayn al-Abudin Muhammad Husayn, aka (Abu Zubaydah), ISN US9GZ-10016; and Imad Abid, a roommate of detainee and an associate of Jdey.⁴⁸
- (S//NF) Detainee admitted he has extensive knowledge of the communication methods used by al-Qaida, including radio relay, couriers, encryption, phone boutiques, and satellite communication links to laptops.⁴⁹
 - (S//NF) Detainee is a trained computer programmer with knowledge of various programming languages. He also received training on server administration, computer repair, network installation, and maintenance of internet links.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ IIR 6 897 0023 03, Analyst Note: Ressam was convicted on 6 April 2001 on terrorism-related charges in US District Court in Los Angeles and sentenced on 27 July 2005 to 22 years in prison and five years of supervision after his release. He was also convicted in absentia in France on charges of conspiracy to commit terrorist acts there (see IIR 1 663 2212 06, Ahmed Ressams Millennium Plot 12-JAN-2007, Seattle Times 28 JUL 2005).

⁴⁶ IIR 7 714 0029 03, IIR 7 714 0030 03, IIR 6 105 0004 04

⁴⁷ IIR 7 714 0029 03, 000760 302 22-MAR-2003

⁴⁸ IIR 7 714 0029 03

⁴⁹ IIR 6 034 0259 05

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c. (S//NF) Detainee's Conduct: Detainee is assessed to be a **LOW** threat from a detention perspective. His overall behavior has been compliant and non-hostile to the guard force and staff. He currently has one Report of Disciplinary Infractions listed in DIMS with an infraction occurring on 11 May 2003, when he possessed an excessive amount of MRE food. He has no Report of Disciplinary Infractions for assault.

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 17 January 2008.

b. (S//NF) Placement and Access: Detainee's close association with Abu Hafs al-Mauritani and his role in major al-Qaida operational plans gave him an extraordinary degree of knowledge and access to key al-Qaida operatives around the world. Detainee traveled to Afghanistan, participated in training, and had access to multiple senior al-Qaida personnel. He is assessed to have recruited for al-Qaida and facilitated the travel and training of 11 September 2001 terrorist attack participants. Detainee is assessed to have had prior knowledge of the "Millennium plot" and contact with extremist cells in Canada planning for that attack. Detainee had access to al-Qaida guesthouses and safe houses in Senegal and Mauritania. He was also an associate of key suspects in the 2002 Djerba Synagogue bombing. Detainee's travel and education experiences allowed him contact with ideological leaders and extremists that may be still active.

c. (S//NF) Intelligence Assessment: Given the extensive reporting provided by detainee, he remains one of the most valuable sources in detention at JTF-GTMO. He has been highly cooperative, and continues to provide valuable intelligence. Detainee still has useful information regarding extremist activity in North Africa, Europe, and Canada, as well as information concerning the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. Detainee probably still holds useful information concerning al-Qaida's ability to transfer funds internationally, contact information for facilitators, forgers, and financiers, as well as information on the extent of the cooperation between al-Qaida and Islamic charities. Detainee's knowledge and experience with computers and his admitted understanding of al-Qaida communication methods illustrate his ability to provide additional information about the communication practices of the al-Qaida network, including the potential for cyber attacks by extremist groups. Detainee has begun discussing al-Qaida guesthouses and safe houses in Senegal and Mauritania.

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

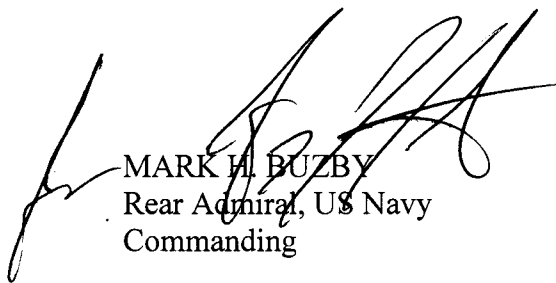
⁵⁰ IIR 6 034 1026 04, IIR 6 034 1025 04

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- Terrorist attacks against the US
 - o Recruitment and operational planning
 - o Operational details and key individuals involved in the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks
- Senior al-Qaida leader Abu Hafs al-Mauritani
- German extremist cells
 - o Locations and members of cells
 - o 11 April 2002 terrorist attack at the Djerba Synagogue in Tunisia
 - o Facilitators and funding within Europe
- Mosque support for terrorist/extremist activities in EUCOM Area of Operations
- Montreal al-Qaida cell
 - o Members, facilitators, and financiers within al-Qaida's Canadian cells
 - o Millennium bombing plot
- Al-Qaida terrorist training camps, programs, and personnel within Afghanistan
- Biographical data of early al-Qaida leaders
- Communication methods and computers as used by al-Qaida
- Al-Qaida guesthouses and safe houses in Senegal and Mauritania
- Kidnap for ransom actions in Sahel, MR
- Questions regarding Yousef and religious training
- Mauritanian Intelligence Service and collection capabilities
- Taliban leadership and use of satellite phones
- Extremist capabilities in Mauritania
- Al-Qaida computer network attack/computer network exploitation capabilities

9. (S) **EC Status:** Detainee's enemy combatant status was reassessed on 4 December 2004 and he remains an enemy combatant.



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*.