



**S E C R E T // N O F O R N // 20330924**

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



JTF-GTMO-CDR

24 September 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-001463DP (S)

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

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

- JDIMS/NDRC Reference Name: Abd al-Heela
- Current/True Name and Aliases: Abd al-Salam al-Hilah, Abd al-Salam Ali Abd al-Rahman, Abu Umar, Abd Salam al-Nuaman
- Place of Birth: Sanaa, Yemen (YM)
- Date of Birth: 30 January 1968
- Citizenship: Yemen
- Internment Serial Number (ISN): US9YM-001463DP



**2. (U//FOUO) Health:** Detainee is in overall fair 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 30 July 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 detainee would immediately seek out prior associates and reengage in extremist support activities. Since 2005 detainee has become increasingly uncooperative, deceptive, and continues to withhold information of intelligence value indicating his possible continuing support for extremism. Additionally, detainee is assessed to still hold a strong anti-US sentiment, as evident by an incident report that indicated detainee wished the destruction of*

**CLASSIFIED BY:** MULTIPLE SOURCES  
**REASON:** E.O. 12958, AS AMENDED, SECTION 1.4(C)  
**DECLASSIFY ON:** 20330924

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*all Americans and JTF-GTMO guards.* Detainee is a member of al-Qaida and is a self-admitted facilitator of people, money, and forged documents in support of al-Qaida and other affiliated Islamic militant groups. Prior to arriving at JTF-GTMO, detainee was a member of the Yemeni Political Security Organization (PSO) where he manipulated and intimidated others, and provided security, protection, and refuge to militants.<sup>1</sup> Detainee had foreknowledge of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 2000 attack on the UK Embassy in Sanaa, YM, the 2000 attack on the USS COLE, a planned attack on the US or British Embassy in Sanaa that was to occur in October 2002, and probably the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack. Detainee has knowledge of an April or May 2002 meeting, where members of the Yemeni parliament met with al-Qaida members to plan retaliatory car bomb attacks on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium (BE), Big Ben in London, UK, and the commercial center or train station in Milan, Italy (IT), if the US attacked Iraq (IZ). Detainee is also associated with the terrorist linked al-Haramayn International Foundation, Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BK) branch.<sup>2</sup> **[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 **HIGH** 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.)

- Updated detainee's account of events section
- Included additional information on a wiretapped conversation of detainee
- Added reporting that exposes detainee's connection to the USS COLE terrorist attack
- Added reporting stating detainee provided travel facilitation to UBL's deputy
- Included additional information on detainee's extremist travel facilitation
- Included reporting that links detainee to the al-Haramayn International Foundation

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<sup>1</sup> Analyst Note: The PSO is Yemen's primary state security apparatus, an independent agency which reports directly to the Yemeni President.

<sup>2</sup> Analyst Note: The Haramayn International Foundation also known as Mu'assasat al-Haramayn al-Khayriya is a National Intelligence Priorities Framework (NIPF) counterterrorism (CT) Priority 2 Terrorism Support Entity (TSE). Priority 2 TSE have demonstrated sustained and active financial support for terrorist organizations willing to attack US persons or interests, or provide witting operational support to Priority 2 terrorist groups. Even though Saudi officials profess the entire organization is "closed", intelligence information indicates the organization remains in operation under aliases with the same office personnel and office locations.

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**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:** In 1977, detainee spent approximately nine months in London, UK where he received treatment for a leg injury.<sup>3</sup> Detainee graduated from high school in 1988 and attended Sanaa University from 1988 to 1989, but did not finish.<sup>4</sup> Detainee explained that he quit studying business in the university to study business in "the school of real life." Detainee became a very successful businessman and rose to great prominence in his family and community. Detainee's business affairs consisted of working as a middleman, buying various types of goods and selling them for a profit.<sup>5</sup> Detainee was selected in the mid-1990s to join the PSO as a result of his prominence in the business community, and he viewed involvement in the PSO as an opportunity to build up his network of friends.<sup>6</sup> Detainee lived with his family in the largest house in the area of Sanaa, YM, and he was in the process of building a second home.<sup>7</sup> Detainee is married with two sons and one daughter, all born in Sanaa. From 1997 to 2002, detainee was the director/manager of the Yemeni Institute of Development and Investment.<sup>8</sup>

**b. (S//NF) Recruitment and Travel:** Starting in 1995, detainee participated in a Yemeni Government deportation operation until 1999. This operation was a response to international pressure and resulted in the deportation of an unknown number of Afghan-Arab families to the UK, Sudan, and Pakistan (PK).<sup>9</sup> Detainee stated that the last person sent to the UK was Abu Ibrahim al-Jazairi, who was sent along with about 20 members of his family.<sup>10</sup> In 1998, based on his employment with and the assistance of PSO Deputy Chief Muhammad al-Surmi, detainee obtained a diplomatic passport. Detainee, using his diplomatic passport, traveled to Frankfurt, Germany (GM), and spent approximately two days in the Maritime Hotel. Detainee traveled to Bonn, GM, where he planned to obtain a visa from the Bosnian Consulate to visit his brother Nabil Ali al-Hilah, who had been imprisoned approximately six months prior in Bosnia. While in a hotel in Bonn, detainee met an unidentified Sudanese man in the lobby. The Sudanese man assisted detainee by translating and helping him get to the Bosnian Consulate. Detainee paid the Sudanese approximately \$100 US for his help. Detainee obtained a travel visa and after spending one day in Bonn, then returned to

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<sup>3</sup> 001463 SIR 28-SEP-2004

<sup>4</sup> 001463 KB 16-DEC-2004

<sup>5</sup> 001463 SIR 27-SEP-2004

<sup>6</sup> 001463 SIR 27-SEP-2004, 001463 SIR 28-SEP-2004

<sup>7</sup> 001463 SIR 27-SEP-2004

<sup>8</sup> > 001463 KB 16-DEC-2004

<sup>9</sup> Analyst Note: Arabs who traveled to Afghanistan to fight in the Soviet-Afghan war are known as Afghan-Arabs.

<sup>10</sup> 001463 SIR 12-NOV-2004

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Frankfurt. Detainee spent another one or two days in Frankfurt before traveling to Zenica. In Zenica, Khaled al-Safani met detainee at the airport. During the week he was in Zenica, detainee paid several visits to his brother Nabil. Detainee returned to Frankfurt and then caught a flight to Cairo, Egypt (EG), where he spent a week sightseeing.<sup>11</sup>

**c. (S//NF) Training and Activities:** On 12 August 2000, detainee traveled to Bologna, IT, from Sanaa. Sharif Hafiz al-Ashmawi, one of the directors of the Milan Islamic Cultural Institute (ICI),<sup>12</sup> and Mahmud al-Sayid Abd al-Kadir, aka (Abd al-Qadir Mahud Muhammad Sayid), met detainee at the Bologna airport.<sup>13</sup> Detainee and Ashmawi then traveled to the province of Modena, IT, where they participated in the annual activities of the ICI.<sup>14</sup> Detainee advised that he traveled extensively because of his close personal relationship with members of the Yemeni government and business community, stating that he had traveled to Germany, Italy, UK, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Bosnia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Qatar, UAE, and Saudi Arabia.<sup>15</sup> While engaging in these activities, detainee served as the director/manager of the Yemeni Institute of Development and Investing up until 2002.<sup>16</sup>

## 5. (U) Capture Information:

**a. (S//NF)** According to Egyptian authorities, in mid-September 2002, detainee approached an Egyptian State Security Investigations Sector (SSIS) officer at the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa, YM, to seek assurances for travel to Egypt. The SSIS officer assured detainee that his name was not on a watch list, and more broadly, that he would be safe in Egypt. Based on these assurances, detainee traveled to Cairo, where he was “secretly” apprehended. Following detainee’s alleged “disappearance” from Egypt in late September 2002, the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa received complaints and threats from Yemeni tribal *shaykhs* (leaders). As a result of the threats, the SSIS withdrew its representative and closed its office in Sanaa. In early November 2002, during a meeting with senior Egyptian General Intelligence Service (EGIS) officials and Yemeni officials, EGIS responded to Yemeni queries by informing the Yemeni Ambassador in Egypt, Abd al-Aziz Nasir al-Kamim, that detainee departed Egypt voluntarily on board a private plane destined for Baku, Azerbaijan.

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<sup>11</sup> 001463 SIR 30-NOV-2004

<sup>12</sup> Analyst Note: The Milan ICI was used by al-Qaida sympathizers and members who reportedly contacted Shaykh Abdel Rahman prior to the 1993 World Trade Center attack. The ICI preached radical Islamic ideology and is considered to be a recruiting center for North African immigrants into al-Qaida. The center was also the subject of an investigation in 1995 in which 12 individuals associated with the mosque were arrested for supplying weapons to extremists in Bosnia and Egypt (see Algerian Extremist Recruitment in Europe 31-MAY-2004).

<sup>13</sup> Analyst Note: Al-Sayid is a suspected Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ) member who arrived in Italy from Yemen in 1998. In June 2001, the EIJ merged with al-Qaida.

<sup>14</sup> TD-314/30812-00

<sup>15</sup> 001463 SIR 12-NOV-2004, 001463 SIR 01-DEC-2004, 001463 SIR 03-DEC-2004

<sup>16</sup> > 001463 KB 16-DEC-2004

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EGIS officials advised the Yemeni government to put the issue to rest and warned that continued pursuit of the issue would only complicate Yemeni relations with Egypt and possibly the United States.<sup>17</sup> Detainee is adamant in his belief that he was set up for capture in a joint effort between Egyptian intelligence and the CIA.<sup>18</sup>

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

- Casio watch
- Clothes and sandals

**c. (S) Transferred to JTF-GTMO:** 19 September 2004

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

- Procedures and location to purchase surface-to-air missiles on the black market
- Alien smuggling into the US from Canada
- PSO activities aiding extremists in Yemen, to include the distribution of travel documents to extremists traveling through Yemen, as well as the release of imprisoned terrorists in exchange for money
- Terrorist related individuals and locations in Germany, Italy, Egypt, Djibouti, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, France, Belgium, Bosnia, and Switzerland
- Yemeni extremist and Aden-Abyan Islamic Army member, Abu Bakr Jayul, aka (Abu Bakr Jayul al-Kazemi), who planned attacks against the US and UK Embassies in Yemen
- The activities of his brother, Nabil Ali al-Hilah, a close associate of USS COLE bomber Hassan al-Khamiri and failed USS THE SULLIVANS bomber Taha al-Ahdal
- Members of a terrorist cell which planned to attack the US Embassy in Yemen: Qaid Sunayyan al-Harithi, aka (Abu Ali al-Harethi); Fawaz al-Rabeii; Ali al-Salahi; Bashir Ali Shadadi
- The infiltration of the Yemeni Government by al-Qaida and Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ)
- Specific information on other detainees held at JTF-GTMO, to whom he provided travel assistance
- The location of terrorist-related facilities, to include safe houses within Yemen
- Included reporting indicating detainee likely holds anti-US sentiment

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<sup>17</sup> TD-314/48177-02

<sup>18</sup> 001463 SIR 28-SEP-2004

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**6. (S//NF) Evaluation of Detainee's Account:** Most of what detainee initially provided, both prior to and shortly after arriving at JTF-GTMO, appears to be accurate. However, since early 2005, detainee has become increasingly uncooperative and deceptive. Detainee continually refuses interrogation sessions and is non-compliant during those he attends. Based on detainee's former government position and his reputation for being a facilitator within Islamic extremist circles, he probably possesses information yet to be exploited.

**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:** *If released without rehabilitation, close supervision, and means to successfully reintegrate into his society as a law-abiding citizen, it is assessed detainee would immediately seek out prior associates and reengage in extremist support activities. Since 2005 detainee has become increasingly uncooperative, deceptive, and continues to withhold information of intelligence value indicating his possible continuing support for extremism. Additionally, detainee is assessed to still hold a strong anti-US sentiment, as evident by an incident report that indicated detainee wished the destruction of all Americans and JTF-GTMO guards.* Detainee is a member of al-Qaida and is a self-admitted facilitator of people, money, and forged documents in support of al-Qaida and other affiliated Islamic militant groups. As part of the PSO, detainee manipulated and intimidated others, and provided security, protection, and refuge to militants. Detainee had foreknowledge of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 2000 attack on the UK Embassy in Sanaa, the 2000 attack on the USS COLE, a planned attack on the Sanaa US or UK Embassy that was to occur on October 2002, and probably the September 11 terrorist attack. Detainee was aware of an April or May 2002 meeting, where members of the Yemeni parliament met with al-Qaida members to plan retaliatory car bomb attacks on NATO Headquarters Brussels, Big Ben in the UK, and the commercial center or train station in Milan, if the US attacked Iraq. Other associations of detainee included the terrorist linked al-Haramyn International Foundation, Zenica branch office. The DIA assessed detainee to be among the top 52 enemy combatants at JTF-GTMO who pose the most significant threat to reengagement in acts of terrorism if released.

- (S//NF) Detainee is a lead facilitator of al-Qaida with first-hand knowledge of al-Qaida operations to include the attack on the USS Cole, a planned attack on the Sanaa US or UK Embassy, meetings, and personnel.
  - (U) Italian authorities recorded a conversation in which detainee was assessed to reference the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack. In August 2000, detainee traveled to Bologna via Rome, IT, and was met at the airport by Abd al-Qadir al-Sayed, aka (Abu Saleh), aka (Yunis). According to Italian police surveillance, detainee spoke to

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Abd al-Qadir about an unspecified operation organized by someone who “is a madman but a genius,” who “will turn everyone to ice.” The detainee added, “We are focusing on the air alone...It is something terrifying, something that moves from south to north and from east to west...It will leave them stunned...we can fight any force using candles and planes. They will not be able to halt us, not even with their heaviest weapons. We just have to strike them, and hold our heads high. Remember, the danger at the airports. If it comes off, it will be reported in all the world’s papers. The Americans have come into Europe to weaken us, but our target is now the sky.”<sup>19</sup>

- (S//NF) Abd al-Qadir is referred to as Usama Bin Laden’s (UBL) ambassador to Italy,<sup>20</sup> and was EIJ’s chief document forger who lived in Italy under political asylum during the 1990s.<sup>21</sup> (Analyst Note: In June 2001, al-Qaida merged with the EIJ.)
- (U) In February 2001, Abd al-Qadir phoned detainee’s number in Yemen and spoke with detainee’s younger brother, Abdul Wahab al-Hilah. During their conversation, al-Qadir made reference to Abdul Wahab’s trip to America. Abu Wahab responded to al-Qadir’s comment with “I’m sorry to say we’re not able to get in. It is our most important wish and our big target.”<sup>22</sup>
- (U) Between August 2000 and February 2001, a Milan *imam* (religious leader) was recorded in a wiretapped conversation with detainee making references to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attack. In the wiretapped conversations, while asking for forged documents “for the brothers who have to go to America,” the Milan *imam* added the warning, “Never utter their real names.”<sup>23</sup> (Analyst Note: Italian police assessed both the *imam* and detainee as being associates of UBL’s organization.)
- (S//NF) Detainee has connections to the perpetrators of the 12 October 2000 USS COLE terrorist attack and likely facilitated their travel out of Yemen by providing them with passports. In 1997, detainee’s brother Nabil Ali al-Hilah, aka (Abu Yemeni); the mastermind of the USS COLE attack, Abd al-Rahim Hussayn Muhammad, ISN US9SA-010015DP (SA-10015); and two of the USS COLE suicide bombers, Ibrahim al-Thawar and Abu Hassan, met at detainee’s house for lunch. Additionally, after the USS COLE attack, detainee provided three passports to a UBL representative in Yemen, deceased Abu Ali al-Harethi, who was killed in 2003.<sup>24</sup> Detainee believed the passports were used to smuggle the al-Qaida operatives who

<sup>19</sup> ➤ EUP20020528000173, EUP20020528000169, WALL STREET JOURNAL 20-DEC-02, 001463 ARB3 Transcript Final 18-OCT-2007, Analyst Note: A variant of Abd al-Qadir includes Abdul Kader.

<sup>20</sup> EUP20041202000058

<sup>21</sup> TD-314/28700-01, TD-314/49765-04, TD-314/45082-04, WALL STREET JOURNAL 20-DEC-02, IIR 5 398 5079 00

<sup>22</sup> WALL STREET JOURNAL 20-DEC-02

<sup>23</sup> EUP20020528000169

<sup>24</sup> 001463 302 15-JAN-2003, 001463 302 17-JAN-2003

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were involved in the USS COLE attack out of Yemen. Nonetheless, detainee provided the passports because he believed it would be a good opportunity to make some money and he had a friendship with al-Harethi that dated back to when they would both smuggle wanted extremists out of Yemen.<sup>25</sup>

○ (S//NF) Fawaz al-Rabeii, aka (Furqan), killed in 2006,<sup>26</sup> told detainee on 19 September 2002 about a planned attack on the US or British embassies in Sanaa, YM, scheduled to occur at approximately 0500 between 2 and 4 October 2002.<sup>27</sup>

According to the plan, Fawaz and three other Yemeni al-Qaida members were to plant explosives close to an embassy compound and launch a missile from a Toyota Landcruiser with an open bay cab in the rear.<sup>28</sup> (Analyst Note: Fawaz is the brother of Salman Yahya Hassan Muhammad Rabeii, ISN US9YM-000508DP (YM-508).)

▪ (S//NF) Fawaz was convicted and sentenced to death in 2006 for his lead role in the October 2002 M/V LIMBURG attack off the coast of Yemen. Furqan had also threatened to attack either the US or the British Embassy in Sanaa, and was involved in a plot to assassinate the US Ambassador to Yemen in November 2002.<sup>29</sup> After Fawaz received the death sentence in a Yemeni court for his terrorist activities, he exclaimed in the courtroom that he had given his pledge to UBL to kill Americans.<sup>30</sup> In early 2006, Fawaz escaped Yemeni custody, but was killed by Yemeni security forces in a shootout on 1 October 2006.<sup>31</sup>

○ (S//NF) Approximately one month before the USS COLE attack detainee was approached by Abu Bakr Jayul, who claimed that he was planning an upcoming attack on the British Embassy in Yemen; while others would conduct an attack against the Americans. Jayul further added that the US support for Israel and the British hand in creating the state of Israel were the motivators for the attacks. Jayul claimed he had a group ready to perform the attacks, and that most of the material for the attack was already in his car. The attack on the British Embassy occurred as planned and Jayul was arrested by Yemeni officials after investigations revealed he masterminded a series of attacks in Aden, YM that included a bomb attack against a church and a rocket attack at the Inter-Continental hotel. After his arrest, Jayul admitted that he was behind the attack on the British Embassy in Yemen.<sup>32</sup> (Analyst Note: Jayul is currently imprisoned in Yemen serving a 12-year sentence for his

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<sup>25</sup> > 001463 302 15-JAN-2003, 001463 302 17-JAN-2003

<sup>26</sup> TD-314/69924-06

<sup>27</sup> TD-314/39331-02, TD-314/39564-02

<sup>28</sup> TD-314/39564-02, TD-314/40313-02

<sup>29</sup> TD-314/40313-02, IIR 7 739 3065 02

<sup>30</sup> 000508 Al-Qaeda's Great Escape in Yemen 07-Feb-2006

<sup>31</sup> TD-314/69924-06

<sup>32</sup> > 001463 302 15-JAN-2003, 001463 302 17-JAN-2003, TD-314/27327-03



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- involvement in terrorist activity including his role in the attack of the British Embassy in Yemen.<sup>33</sup>)
- (S//NF) Detainee reported on a meeting which took place circa April or May 2002, where members of the Yemeni parliament met with al-Qaida members to plan car bomb attacks on the NATO Headquarters in Brussels, BE; Big Ben in London; and the commercial center or train station in Milan, if the US attacked Iraq.<sup>34</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee was among high-ranking members of the Yemeni government and the PSO who facilitated the travel of al-Qaida members and other extremists by providing false passports and purchasing airline tickets. (Analyst Note: The Yemeni government sought to rid itself of individuals who posed a terrorist threat by simply deporting them. The government exploited detainee's ties to terrorist networks to facilitate this effort. Detainee in return exploited his access to government information and processes to move terrorists around the world.)
    - (S//NF) Detainee stated that since 1996, numerous high-ranking employees in the Yemeni government and PSO were involved in aiding al-Qaida and other extremists through the provision of false passports and by giving them safe haven out of the country under the guise of deportation. These PSO officials included detainee; Muhammad al-Surmi, Deputy Chief of the PSO; Ghalib al-Qamish, Director of the PSO; Colonel Ahmad Dirham, Commander of the Deportation Department in the PSO; and Abdallah al-Zirka, an officer in the Yemeni Passport Authority. According to detainee, the second highest ranking person in the Yemeni government, Ali Muhsin, was aware of the involvement of al-Surmi and al-Qamish in these activities since at least 1999.<sup>35</sup> (Analyst Note: Ali Muhsin is the brother of Yemeni President Salih. President Salih, possibly in an attempt to distance his government from these activities, stated in November 2002 that he was not concerned by detainee's disappearance.<sup>36</sup>)
      - (S//NF) Ghalib al-Qamish reportedly also sold Yemeni passports, to include diplomatic passports, for about \$2,000 to \$3,000 US each.<sup>37</sup> (Analyst Note: Detainee was directly involved in al-Qamish's activities.)
    - (S) Sharqawi Abdu Ali al-Hajj, ISN PK9YM-001457DP (YM-1457), stated detainee was given an honorary rank by the PSO. Detainee was chosen by the PSO to facilitate the exit of extremist from Yemen due to his position as a tribal *shaykh* and his favorable relations with other tribal leaders.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>33</sup> IIR 6 034 0139 05, 001463 SIR 15-NOV-2004

<sup>34</sup> TD-314/40051-02

<sup>35</sup> TD-314/40985-02

<sup>36</sup> TD-314/48388-02

<sup>37</sup> TD-314/18537-99, TD-314/40985-02, Yemen Military Information Warfare

<sup>38</sup> > IIR 4 201 1823 06

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- (S//NF) Detainee became the leader of his tribe after his father's death. As leader of his tribe detainee served as a mediator in inter-tribal conflict.<sup>39</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee exploited his connections in the Ministry of Interior Passports Office to obtain real passports using false identification papers.<sup>40</sup> Detainee regularly purchased passports from Yemeni citizens and sold them to Islamic extremists.<sup>41</sup>
- (S//NF) According to detainee, beginning in 1997, Muhammad al-Surmi gave detainee money for facilitation of extremists' travel. Detainee was directed to use the cover story that he was "deporting" the extremists to either Pakistan or Afghanistan.<sup>42</sup>
  - (S//NF) Al-Surmi coordinated the issuance of passports to Yemeni nationals and ensured that biographical information on the passports was changed to ensure the extremists safe passage. Al-Surmi also gave orders to airport security to facilitate the travel of al-Qaida members and other extremists.<sup>43</sup> Al-Surmi received between \$2,000 US and \$5,000 US for each traveler. Detainee received similar payments to prepare passports, visas, and airline tickets to expedite travelers out of Yemen.<sup>44</sup> According to sensitive reporting, the deportees were to deploy within the al-Qaida network to receive training and to prepare for onward assignments.<sup>45</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee reported that now deceased Fawaz al-Rabiei threatened to attack the US or UK Embassies in Sanaa, YM, if al-Qaida prisoners in Yemen were not released. Al-Rabiei paid al-Surmi \$30,000 US for their release, and al-Surmi subsequently paid detainee to keep the release quiet.<sup>46</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee admitted providing travel facilitation to multiple extremists and known al-Qaida members.<sup>47</sup>
  - (S//NF) Detainee assisted senior al-Qaida member and deputy to UBL, Aiman al-Zawahiri in leaving Yemen. In 1997, detainee met Zawahiri in Sanaa, Yemen, at the house of Ahmad Maqalih. Also accompanying Zawahiri was Mohammed Showki Islambouli along with two unknown Egyptians. The group arrived from Sadah and was hosted by al-Qaida sympathizer and Sadah region tribal leader Qaed Shaweet. Detainee advised that he was tasked to facilitate the group's travel from Yemen to Sudan. Detainee and a PSO convoy escorted

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<sup>39</sup> > IIR 4 201 2275 06

<sup>40</sup> TD-314/24442-00

<sup>41</sup> TD-314/18537-99

<sup>42</sup> TD-314/40313-02

<sup>43</sup> TD-314/40985-02

<sup>44</sup> TD-314/40985-02, TD-314/40998-02

<sup>45</sup> TD-314/40985-02

<sup>46</sup> TD-314/40313-02

<sup>47</sup> TD-314/40998-02

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Zawahiri and Islambouli to the airport.<sup>48</sup> (Analyst Note: Islambouli was the Political leader of al-Gamaat al-Islamiyya [IG] and is the brother of Khalid Islambouli, who assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.)

- (S//NF) Abd al-Qadir al-Sayed traveled to Italy with detainee's assistance in obtaining a passport to leave Yemen.<sup>49</sup>
- (S//NF) Abd al-Qadir al-Sayed reportedly introduced detainee to al-Qaida and EIJ operative Muhammad Ahmad Ali Muhammad al-Sharqawi, aka (Abu Ata). Abu Ata stated that detainee provided airline tickets and travel money for Abu Ata to travel from Yemen to Sudan for a meeting where Abu Ata's future role in al-Qaida operations in Sudan was to be discussed. Detainee later facilitated the release of Abu Ata's wife, who had been arrested in Yemen while in possession of counterfeiting seals used by Abu Ata.<sup>50</sup>
  - ◆ (S//NF) Abu Ata referred to detainee as an extremist facilitator with connections to the government of Yemen. Abu Ata described detainee as "the person in charge of security for the brothers...[with whom] the brothers cooperated."<sup>51</sup> (Analyst Note: This is likely a reference to detainee's cooperation with al-Qaida.)
- (S//NF) Faiq Jamil al-Hamdani, a terrorist facilitator active in counterfeiting documents and passports, was arrested by Yemeni authorities in 1998 and ordered to be deported to Iraq. Detainee arranged for the cancellation of al-Hamdani's deportation and proceeded to provide al-Hamdani with a forged Iraqi passport, which al-Hamdani used to travel to Jordan.<sup>52</sup> (Analyst Note: Al-Hamdani was an active member of Ansar al-Islam [AI] as of 2003, and was known as an explosives specialist.<sup>53</sup>)
- (S//NF) Detainee was responsible for obtaining multiple passports, including from Libyan and Algerian students, to send people to Europe. Detainee obtained

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<sup>48</sup> > 001463 302 19-Jan-2003, 001463 302 15-Jan-2003, Analyst Note: The IG is a NIPF CT Priority 3 target. Priority 3 targets are defined as issues, opportunities, or threats that other senior policy makers and IC managers believe must receive attention from the IC that are not already identified as Priorities 1 or 2. These include terrorist/extremist groups involved in terrorism that have demonstrated both intention and the capability to attack US persons and interests, but are believed to pose somewhat less threat than Priority 2 groups, or terrorist/extremist groups that have demonstrated intention to attack US persons and interest and are taking action to develop or acquire WMD capability.

<sup>49</sup> TD-314/16935-04

<sup>50</sup> TD-314/45082-04

<sup>51</sup> TD-314/49765-04

<sup>52</sup> TD-314/01237-04

<sup>53</sup> TD-314/01237-04, Analyst Note: AI is a NIPF CT Priority 1 target, which is 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, countries that sponsor terrorism or countries that have state organizations involved in terrorism that pose a clear and immediate danger to US persons or interests. This includes those preparing to employ Weapons of Mass Destruction.

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new and used Portuguese passports on his trips to Hanover, GM, and French visas for foreigners wanting to transit France on their way to Ireland.<sup>54</sup> Detainee knew an individual named Muhammad Salim in the French Embassy in Yemen who sold French visas for \$500 US each.<sup>55</sup> Detainee facilitated the travel of Sudan-based Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) member Ali Sulayman Masud Abd al-Sayyid, aka (Adam), aka (Muhammad Uthman), aka (Ibn al-Qayim), and other LIFG members' travel to Europe.<sup>56</sup>

- (S//NF) Senior LIFG operative Ali Imhammad Ali Qaziri, aka (Abd al-Qadir al-Jarrah), tried to contact detainee to receive false travel documents for travel to Algeria and Australia from Yemen. According to Qaziri, detainee had assisted LIFG member Salah al-Sabhawi in traveling to Switzerland.<sup>57</sup>
- (S//NF) Adel Zamel Abd al-Mahsen al-Zamel, ISN US9KU-000568DP (KU-568, transferred), stated detainee gave forged passports to foreign fighters that were hiding in Yemen after the Soviet-Afghan War. KU-568 thinks that he heard detainee and Saad Madhi Saad al-Azmi, ISN US9KU-000571DP (KU-571, transferred) speak about helping extremist go from Yemen to Afghanistan. KU-568 further added he believes detainee is "famous in al-Qaida."<sup>58</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee used his PSO position to uncover at least one source reporting to the PSO on al-Qaida activities in Yemen.
  - (U//FOUO) In 1998, Ahmed Nasarallah, aka (Abu Ibrahim al-Masri),<sup>59</sup> attempted to act as informant for the PSO to pass information regarding extremists' cells and personnel in Yemen. Detainee was Nasarallah's case officer, and he took the information and then contacted the extremists regarding Nasarallah's information and intent. The extremists took Nasarallah, whom they described as a "traitor," to a house for weeks and extracted a confession.<sup>60</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee has connections with the terrorist linked al-Haramayn International Foundation, Zenica branch. In July 1999, Muhammad Krimi, Director of al-Haramayn's Zenica office, and a Tunisian, contacted detainee directly for unspecified reasons. Former employees of the al-Haramayn's Zenica branch include al-Qaida affiliated Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA) members Bensayah Belkacem, ISN US4AG-

<sup>54</sup> TD-314/40985-02, TD-314/20010-03, TD-314/24442-00

<sup>55</sup> TD-314/40985-02

<sup>56</sup> TD-314/25326-05, Analyst Note: LIFG is a NIPF CT Priority 1 target, which is 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, countries that sponsor terrorism or countries that have state organizations involved in terrorism that pose a clear and immediate danger to US persons or interests. This includes those preparing to employ Weapons of Mass Destruction.

<sup>57</sup> TD-314/25326-05

<sup>58</sup> > 000568 SIR 29-JUL-2005

<sup>59</sup> Analyst Note: A variant of al-Masri is al Masry.

<sup>60</sup> WALL STREET JOURNAL 20-DEC-02, WAX20021222000005

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010001DP (AG-10001) and Sabir Mahfouz Lahmar, ISN US4AG-010002DP (AG-10002).<sup>61</sup>

- (S//NF) A property held list of 11 Arab extremists who entered Croatia from Bosnia listed detainee's phone number under the Sanaa heading for Hamdan Muhammad al-Mabadi al-Harbi.<sup>62</sup>
- (S//NF) Detainee admitted traveling to Bosnia on numerous occasions to visit his brother, Nabil Ali al-Hilah, aka (Abu Yemeni).<sup>63</sup>
- (S//NF) Two of detainee's brothers have been involved in terrorist operational and support activities.
  - (S//NF) Detainee's brother Nabil Ali al-Hilah, is an al-Qaida member who plotted attacks in Bosnia, and had direct access to members involved in the attacks against the USS COLE and USS THE SULLIVANS.
    - (S//NF) A confidant of detainee remarked that during his time in Bosnia, detainee's brother had become extremely close to USS COLE bomber Hassan al-Khamiri, and to Taha al-Ahdal, who was involved in the failed USS THE SULLIVANS attack plot.<sup>64</sup>
    - (S//NF) In 1997, Nabil had lunch at detainee's house with the mastermind of the USS COLE attack, SA-10015, and two of the USS COLE suicide bombers, Ibrahim al-Thawar and Abu Hassan.<sup>65</sup>
    - (S//NF) In approximately 1996, Nabil traveled to Bosnia for jihad.<sup>66</sup> Nabil was imprisoned in Bosnia in 1998 for suspected terrorist activity and for his role in a 1997 car bombing in Mostar, BK.<sup>67</sup> He was later charged with affiliation to al-Qaida.<sup>68</sup>
  - (U) In February 2001, detainee's younger brother, Abdul Wahab al-Hilah, is assessed to have discussed plans to travel to America for a terrorist operation.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> > FBIS EUP20020625000179, DCS-G2 Special Assessment- Algerian Six 18-FEB-2004, AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO 29-DEC-2006, TD-314/39634-01, TD-314/42368-01, Analyst Note: The GIA is a NIPF CT Priority 3 target. Priority 3 targets are defined as issues, opportunities, or threats that other senior policymakers and IC managers believe must receive attention from the IC that are not already identified as Priorities 1 or 2. These include terrorist/extremist groups involved in terrorism that have demonstrated both intention and the capability to attack U.S. persons and interests, but are believed to pose somewhat less threat than Priority 2 groups, or terrorist/extremist groups that have demonstrated intention to attack U.S. persons and interests and are taking action to develop or acquire WMD capability.

<sup>62</sup> > TD-314/14483-02, 001463 302 15-JAN-2003

<sup>63</sup> TD-314/30812-00, IIR 7 131 0030 02, TD-314/00393-01

<sup>64</sup> TD-314/03657-02

<sup>65</sup> > 001463 302 15-JAN-2003, 001463 17-JAN-2003

<sup>66</sup> TD-314/03657-02

<sup>67</sup> TD-314/21041-99, TD-314/19570-02, TD-314/03657-02, IIR 7 131 0030 02

<sup>68</sup> FBIS GMP20031107000218

<sup>69</sup> WALL STREET JOURNAL 20-DEC-02

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- (S//NF) Detainee is assessed to still hold a strong anti-US sentiment, as evident by an incident report that indicates detainee wished the destruction of all Americans and JTF-GTMO guards.<sup>70</sup>
- (S//NF) DIA assesses detainee to be among the top 52 enemy combatants at JTF-GTMO who pose the most significant threat of reengagement in acts of terrorism if released.<sup>71</sup>

**c. (S//NF) Detainee's Conduct:** Detainee is assessed as a **HIGH** threat from a detention perspective. His overall behavior has been non-compliant and hostile to the guard force and staff. Detainee currently has 64 reports of disciplinary infraction listed in DIMS with the most recent occurring on 8 June 2008, when he refused to come out of shower. He has four reports of disciplinary infraction for assault with the most recent occurring on 27 July 2007, when he kicked a guard on the leg. Other incidents for which he has been disciplined include inciting and participating in mass disturbances, inappropriate use of bodily fluids, unauthorized communications, damage to government property, attempted assaults, provoking words and gestures, and possession of food and non-weapon type contraband. In 2007, detainee had a total of 24 reports of disciplinary infraction and nine so far in 2008.

#### 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 21 August 2008.

**b. (S//NF) Placement and Access:** Detainee has traveled extensively to facilitate al-Qaida linked operations. Detainee's position in the PSO gave him insight into the Yemeni government's cooperation with extremist elements and sensitive knowledge of inter-government operations. Detainee is assessed to have had foreknowledge of terrorist acts well before they occurred including the USS COLE and the British Embassy attack in Sanaa, and probably the September 11 terrorist attack. Detainee's activities with the PSO make him knowledgeable of extremist document forgery networks and extremist travel facilitation.

**c. (S//NF) Intelligence Assessment:** Detainee has information on Islamic militant groups such as al-Qaida, the EIJ, and LIFG. Detainee also has numerous contacts throughout Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia, with whom he has met personally. Detainee's position within the Yemeni government gave him access to knowledge of extremist operations and personnel linked to those operations, and a means by which to further terrorist causes.

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<sup>70</sup> > JDIG Incident 18 May 2007 10:35:00

<sup>71</sup> > Defense Analysis Report 11-Jul-2008

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

- Information in connection with 11 September 2001 terrorist attack, the USS COLE attack, and the October 2000 attack on the British Embassy in Sanaa
- Information on members of the Yemeni government, including the PSO and Yemeni parliament, who are tied to extremist groups
- Detainee's connections with the EIJ
- Detainee's participation in obtaining and using forged passports and documents
- Detainee's connections with al-Qaida
- Detainee's international travel
- Foreign intelligence and security service support to terrorism
- Mosque support for terrorist and extremist related activity in the EUCOM AOR
- Means of communications between Islamic extremists, terrorists and their associated organizations

**9. (S) EC Status:** Detainee's enemy combatant status was reassessed on 20 November 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*.