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DH email dated 30 April 2008 said they concur with FOIA office&apos additional redactions.

**HEADER**

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[REDACTED]

TO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC:

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

[REDACTED]

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RUFGNOA/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

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(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUETIAA/NSACSS FT GEORGE G MEADE MD

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(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

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[REDACTED] (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

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**CONTROLS**

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

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SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) TUNISIA (TS); MOROCCO (MO); ALGERIA (AG); MAURITANIA (MR); AFGHANISTAN (AF); NIGER (NG); NIGERIA (NI); CHAD (CD); SAUDI ARABIA (SA); IRAN (IR); EGYPT (EG); GERMANY (GE); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (TC); LEBANON (LE); CANADA (CA); SENEGAL (SG); CUBA (CU).

IPSP: (U) [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

SUBJECT: IIR [REDACTED] AL QAIDA ACTIVITY IN NORTH AFRICA (U)

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET NOFORN~~.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 20030108.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

SOURCE: (S) [REDACTED]

(b)(1),(b)(2),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: (S) SIGNIFICANT INDICATIONS OF AL-QAIDA ACTIVITY IN NORTH AFRICA, NAMES OF KNOWN AL-QAIDA OPERATIVES AND PLANNERS WITH TIES TO THE REGION. [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

TEXT: 1. (S) AFTER AL-QAIDA'S LOSS OF AFGHANISTAN AS A BASE OF OPERATIONS, IT HAS ATTEMPTED TO RE-DEPLOY TO THE SAHEL AND MAGHREB REGIONS OF AFRICA.

2. (S) CLEAR EVIDENCE OF AL-QAIDA PRESENCE IN SAHEL-MAGHREB IS THE 12 SEPTEMBER 2002 KILLING OF THE YEMENI IMED ABDELWAHID AHMED ((ALWAN)) AKA ABU ((MOHAMMAD)), BY ALGERIAN SECURITY FORCES IN MEROUAN (VARIANT MERWAN) IN THE BATNA PROVINCE. ABDELWAHID AHMED ALWAN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED BY AL-QAIDA LEADERSHIP TO ALGERIA TO ASSESS THE ACTUAL POTENTIAL OF THE SALAFIST GROUP FOR PREACHING AND

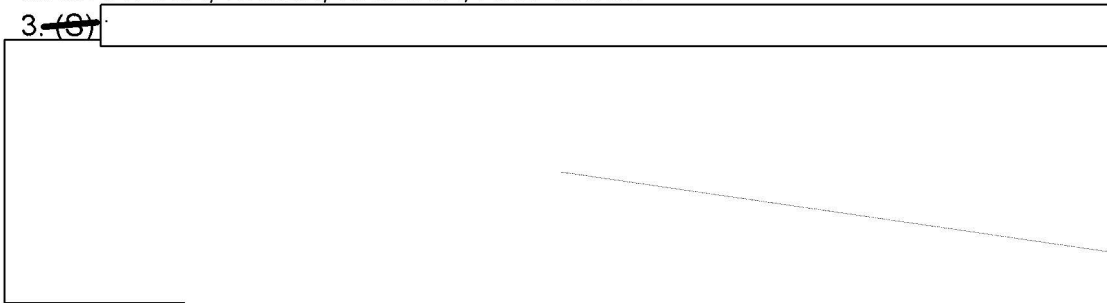
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COMBAT (GSPC) AND ITS LEADERS, AND TO DETERMINE IF THE GSPC HAS ALL THE CAPABILITIES NECESSARY TO PLAY A ROLE NOT ONLY IN ALGERIA BUT ALSO ACROSS ITS BORDERS. AL-QAIDA HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO UTILIZE THE GSPC AND ITS NETWORKS TO RE-DEPLOY IN THE SUB-SAHARAN REGION IN ORDER TO CREATE A BASE THERE. IT WAS NOTED THAT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ABOU MOHAMMED WAS IN THE OPERATING AREA OF THE GSPC IN SOUTHEASTERN ALGERIA. HE SPENT THE WINTER OF 2001-2002 WITH THE GSPC BEFORE COMMENCING TO CRISSCROSS THE REGION, SPENDING TWO TO THREE WEEKS IN EACH OF THE SAHEL COUNTRIES; MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, AND CHAD.

3. ~~(S)~~



(b)(1), 1.4 (c), 1.4 (d)

TWO BIOGRAPHICAL PARAGRAPHS ON SENIOR AL-QAIDA MEMBERS OF NORTH AFRICAN DESCENT:

A. ~~(S)~~ ABU ((HAFS)) THE MAURITANIAN (AKA MAHFOUZ OULD ((AL WALID))) - HIS DEATH WAS ERRONEOUSLY ANNOUNCED IN AFGHANISTAN IN JANUARY 2002, BUT HE SURVIVED AND HAS SINCE PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN AL-QAIDA. HE HAS FOUND REFUGE IN MASSHAD, IRAN WITH DOZENS OF OTHER AL-QAIDA FIGHTERS. TOGETHER WITH THE EGYPTIAN SAYF ((AL ADEL)), THEY CONTROL AL-QAIDA MILITARY OPERATIONS AS DELEGATED BY USAMA ((BIN LADIN)) AND AIMAN ((AL-ZAWAHIRI)).

B. ~~(S)~~ MOHAMMADOU OULD ((SLAHI)) - 32 YEARS OLD. BROTHER-IN-LAW OF ABU HAFS THE MAURITANIAN. RECRUITED AS EARLY AS 1999, SLAHI SENT TWO OF THE 11 SEPTEMBER SUICIDE-HIJACKERS, THE EMIRATE MARWAN ((AL-SHEHHI)) AND THE LEBANESE ZIAD ((JARRAH))), FOR TRAINING IN AFGHANISTAN. HE RECRUITED THEM WHILE THEY WERE STUDYING AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES. ON 26 NOVEMBER 1999, SLAHI ARRIVED IN QUEBEC FROM DUISBURG, GERMANY TO STUDY COMMUNICATIONS. FOUR DAYS LATER, HE MET ALGERIAN AHMED ((RESSAM)) IN MONTREAL. RESSAM LEFT SHORTLY AFTERWARDS FOR VANCOUVER, WHERE HE PREPARED THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE HE WANTED TO DETONATE AT THE LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING THE MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS. RESSAM WAS ARRESTED ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE US FROM CANADA ON

(S) FOIA office redacted  
&quot;The assessment  
also includes&quot;

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14 DECEMBER 1999. AFTER RESSAM'S ARREST, SLAHI LEFT CANADA ON 21 JANUARY 2000, PRETENDING HIS MOTHER WAS SICK IN NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA. HE WAS ARRESTED IN DAKKAR, SENEGAL AND EXTRADITED TO MAURITANIA. HE WAS KEPT IN POLICE CUSTODY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AND THEN RELEASED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. AFTER THE 11 SEPTEMBER ATTACKS, SLAHI WAS RE-ARRESTED AND EXTRADITED TO GTMO IN NOVEMBER 2001.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

(S) FOIA office redacted  
&quot;Field  
Comment....Exist in the  
Sahel-Maghreb  
Region.&quot;

1. COMMENTS ~~(S)~~

(b)(1),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)

3. (U)

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424

COLL (U)  
INSTR: (U)  
PREP: (U)  
ENCL: (U)

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DISSEM: (U)

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WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~ NOT RELEASABLE  
TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.

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**ADMIN**

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