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THE
CIA
INTERROGATION
OF
ABU ZUBAYDAH

March 2001 - Jan. 2003

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00297

2007-8808-IG010443
000274

CIA Interrogation Techniques: Abu Zubaydah

~~(TS)~~ Abu Zubaydah: Terrorist Activities

- Abu Zubaydah was born a Palestinian and now holds Saudi citizenship. He was a senior lieutenant to Bin Ladin.
- At the time of his capture in Pakistan, he was heavily involved in al-Qa'ida's operational planning, and had previously been an external liaison and logistics coordinator.
- Taking him out of circulation has hurt al-Qa'ida operations in key nodes and helped disrupt a number of ongoing plots.

~~(S//NF)~~ Injuries at Time of Capture

- Abu Zubaydah was hit by two bullets during the arresting operation. [REDACTED]
A second bullet caused a large wound in his leg.
- [REDACTED]
- Abu Zubaydah was provided adequate and appropriate medical care.
- The medical treatment the Agency provided to Abu Zubaydah saved his life. He should now be considered healthy, other than some leg and knee pain.

~~(S//NF)~~ Highlights from Reporting by Abu Zubaydah

- Information from Abu Zubaydah—who was captured in late March—led to the capture of other operatives, and continues to provide some of our most valuable insights into the inner workings of al-Qa'ida. Over time, he has become more willing to cooperate on many issues, and his extensive familiarity with other al-Qa'ida terrorists and their methodologies daily helps us identify ways to exploit other detainees and to assess the credibility of reporting from a variety of sources.

- Abu Zubaydah identified Jose Padilla and Binyam Muhammad as al-Qa'ida operatives who had plans to detonate a uranium-topped "dirty bomb" in either Washington, DC, or New York City. Both have been captured. [REDACTED]
- In addition, Abu Zudbaydah indentified [REDACTED] senior al Oa'iada operator in [REDACTED]

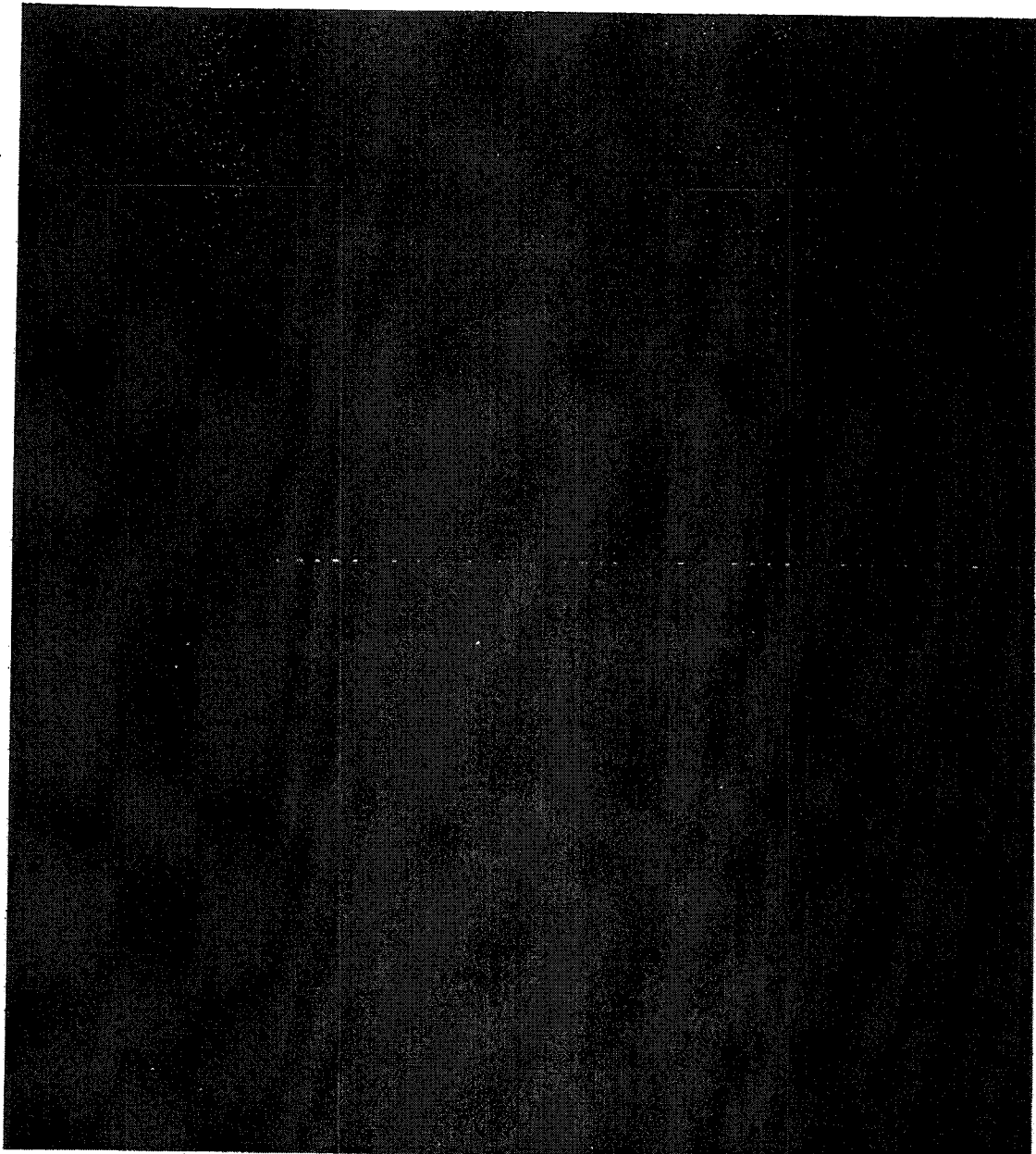
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[REDACTED]

- As of mid-December 2002, Abu Zubaydah had been the source of over [REDACTED] disseminated counter-terrorism intelligence reports.

(TS)

[REDACTED]



~~(S)~~ Interrogation Techniques Used on Abu Zubaydah

- The Agency used both routine and enhanced interrogation techniques against Abu Zubaydah.
- After consulting with the NSC and DOJ, CTC, [REDACTED] originally approved 24-48 hours of sleep deprivation.

In April 2002, CTC [REDACTED] learned that due to a misunderstanding that time frame had been exceeded.

- However, CTC [REDACTED] advised that since the process did not have adverse medical effects or result in hallucination (thereby disrupting profoundly Abu Zubaydah's senses or personality) it was within legal parameters.
- After first using routine interrogation techniques, the interrogation team concluded that Abu Zubaydah continued to withhold critical threat information, including the identities of al Qaida operatives in the US, that in order to elicit those identities the use of more aggressive techniques was required and that the use of those techniques would not engender lasting and severe mental or physical harm.
- Abu Zubaydah has employed a host of resistance techniques. He is the author of a seminal al Qaida manual on resistance to interrogation methods.
- The Agency sought and received Department of Justice approval for the following [REDACTED] enhanced techniques, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the waterboard.
- Specific interrogation team members may request prior approval from Headquarters to employ any or all of the enhanced techniques.
- Where a specific time period was allowed for a particular technique, a timekeeper was used to ensure that the techniques was only employed within the timeframes authorized.
- Agency employees engaged in the interrogation are complemented by expert personnel who possess extensive experience, gained within the Department of Defense, on the psychological and physical methods of interrogation (SERE) and the resistance techniques employed as countermeasures to such interrogation. These expert medical personnel were present throughout the interrogations.
- It is not and has never been the Agency's intent to permit Abu Zubaydah to die in the course of interrogation and appropriately trained medical

personnel have been on-site in the event an emergency medical situation arises.

- DOJ approval for use of the enhanced techniques in specific instances relies on our representation that those techniques, when applied by appropriately trained personnel, should not produce severe mental or physical pain or suffering.
- Indeed, DOJ concluded that the use of enhanced techniques carefully applied by appropriate personnel pursuant to prior Headquarters approval would not have the "specific intent" to inflict severe mental or physical pain or suffering, and therefore would not violate the law.
- For these reasons, we fully document in advance any decision to employ any enhanced techniques, along with the criteria that have been employed in making those decisions.
- The use of enhanced interrogation techniques proved productive; Abu Zubaydah provided additional useful information.
- Medical evaluations were conducted on Abu Zubaydah before and during the interrogations. In addition, a psychological profile was conducted on him before the interrogations began.

(S)

[REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

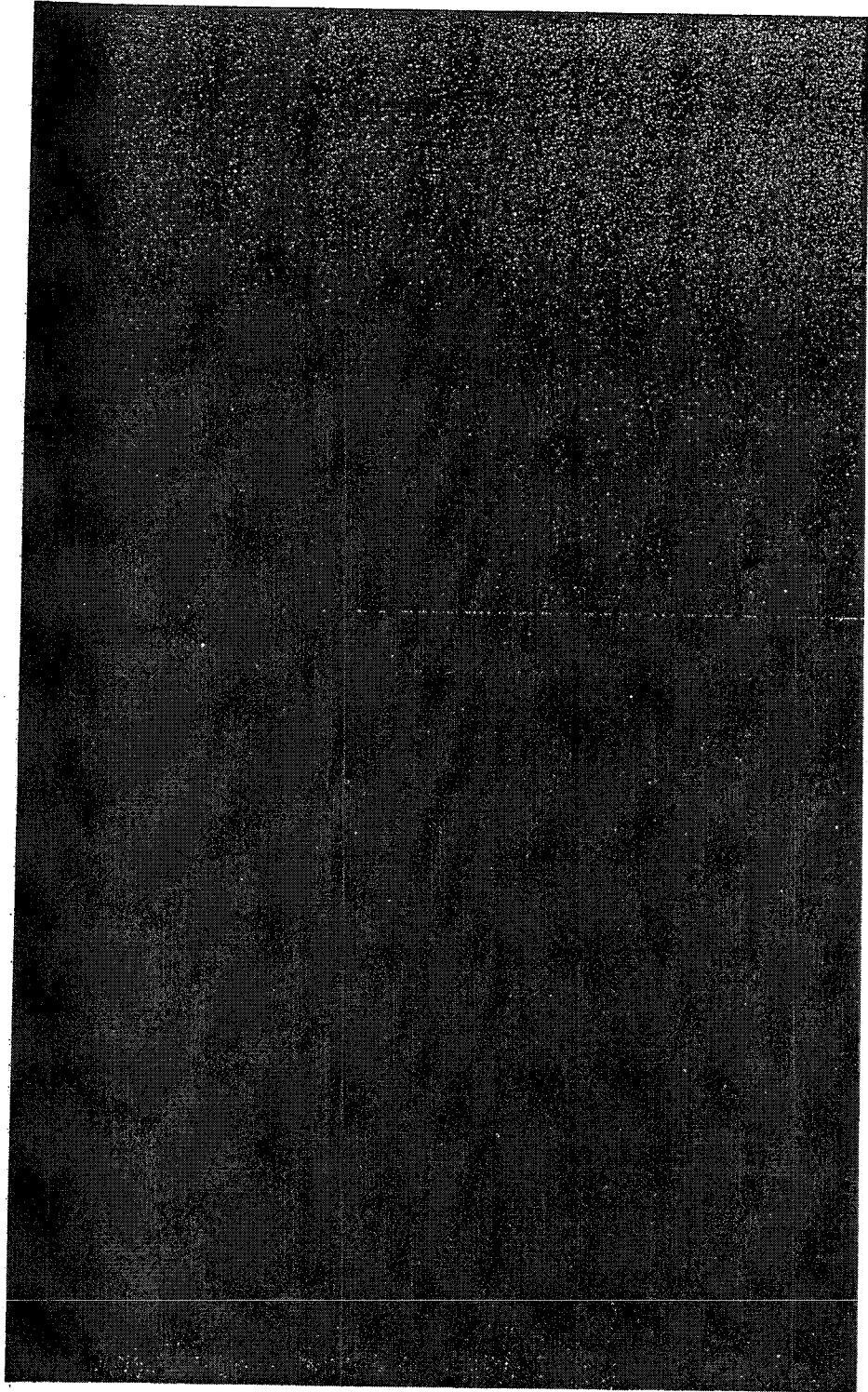
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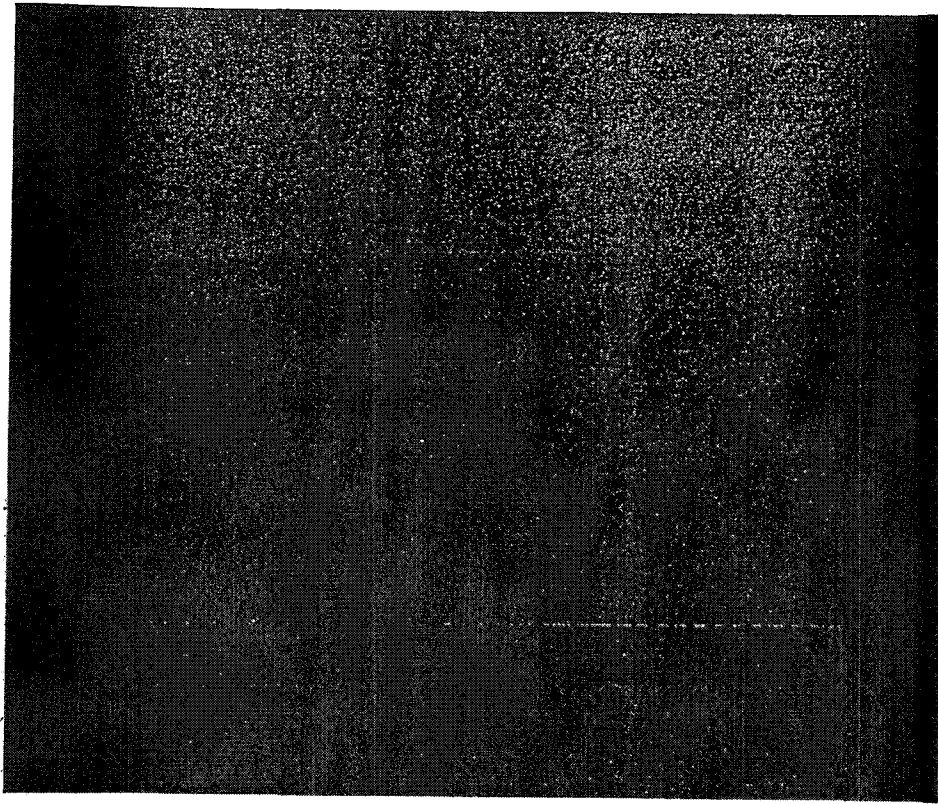
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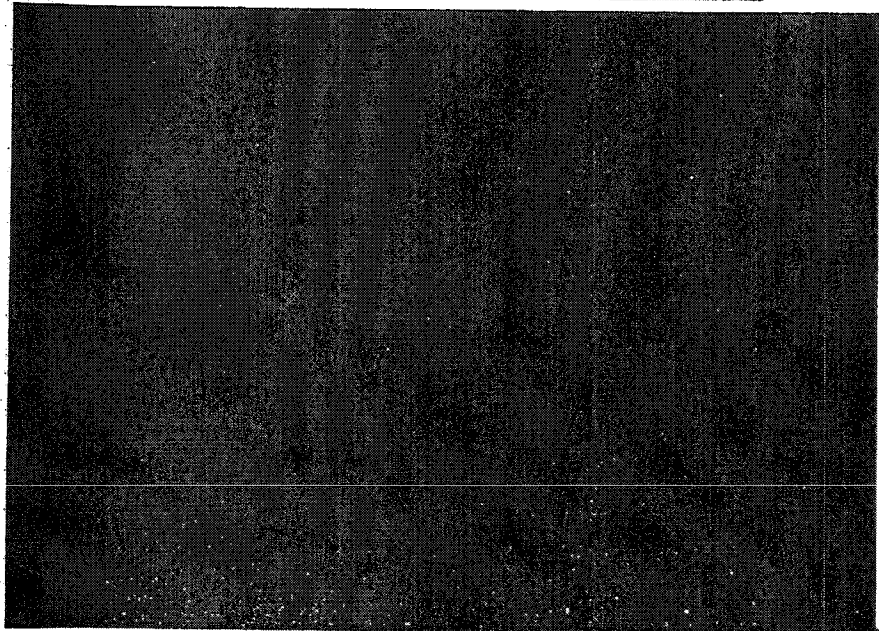
- o [REDACTED]
- Videotapes. In [REDACTED] 2002 an experienced OGC attorney [REDACTED] review interrogation videotapes of Abu Zubaydah and another detainee to confirm that the cable traffic accurately described the interrogation methods employed and that the methods conformed to the applicable legal and policy guidance.
 - o [REDACTED] the OGC attorney, who had not previously been involved in this matter, reviewed the applicable legal and policy guidance governing the permissible interrogation methods and the cable traffic, and interviewed CTC and [REDACTED] personnel knowledgeable about the matter.
 - o The attorney [REDACTED] inventoried the interrogation materials—videotapes, logbook, notebook, and psychologist's notes— [REDACTED] and reviewed the videotapes.
 - o The attorney concluded that the cable traffic did in fact accurately describe the interrogation methods employed and that the methods conformed to the applicable legal and policy guidance.
 - o After this review, the General Counsel advised the DCI that OGC had no objection to the destruction of the videotapes, but strongly recommended that the new leadership of the committees first be notified about the existence of the tapes and the reasons why the Agency has decided to destroy them.
- Guidelines. CTC [REDACTED] drafted "Guidelines on Interrogation Standards" and "Guidelines on Confinement Conditions for CIA Detainees". The guidelines are being coordinated. Once approved, all Agency personnel involved in interrogations or detentions will review these guidelines and acknowledge in writing that they have read and understand them.
- Training. CIA has established an interrogation program to train interrogators on techniques generally, enhanced techniques specifically, facilities, security, and the approval process.

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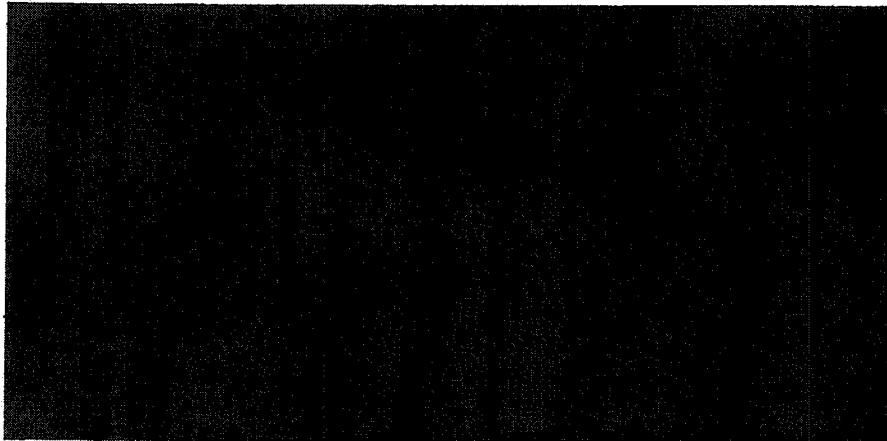
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- ~~(S//NF)~~ Abu Zubaydah (AZ) was born a Palestinian and now holds Saudi citizenship.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ AZ was a senior lieutenant to UBL. At the time of his capture in Pakistan he was heavily involved in Al Qa'ida's operational planning, and had previously been an external liaison and logistics coordinator.
- ~~(S//NF)~~ AZ has corroborated intelligence on key Al Qa'ida planners and facilitators, and has provided information on Al Qa'ida's CBRN program and on individuals associated with that program. Information from AZ was instrumental in the capture near Chicago of Jose Padilla, a "dirty bomb" plotter, explosives expert, and terrorist trainer at Qandahar. AZ also identified [REDACTED] a senior Al Qa'ida operator in [REDACTED]
- ~~(S//NF)~~ AZ was hit by two bullets during the arresting operation. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AZ should be considered healthy, other than some leg and knee pain.

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