

News from the Office of Military Commissions - Notice of Referral Decision

Dear 9/11 Family Member,

I write to inform you that today, April 4, 2012, Bruce MacDonald, the Convening Authority for Military Commissions, referred to a military commission charges against five detainees for their alleged involvement in the 9/11 attacks: Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, Walid Muhammad Salih Mubarak Bin 'Attash, Ramzi Binalshibh, Ali Abdul Aziz Ali, and Mustafa Ahmed Adam al Hawsawi.

The case was referred as a capital case (meaning the accused could be sentenced to death if convicted) for all five individuals. Mr. MacDonald has made the decision to "refer," which means to send the case to a panel of at least twelve members, whose function is analogous to jurors in a federal or state court. The case was also referred as a joint trial, meaning that all five of the accused will be tried together, unless the military judge later determines that any or all of the accused should be tried separately.

We will seek to arraign the accused individuals in front of a military judge at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within 30 days of service of the referred charges as required by law. At this hearing, the charges will be read, and the accused will be asked to enter pleas to the charges. The military judge may also set a timeline for the parties to provide required discovery, establish due dates for filing legal motions, and schedule additional pre-trial hearings.

Our public webpage at www.mc.mil does not require a user name or password. However, we also have a secure site at <http://www.mc.mil/VICTIMWITNESSASSISTANCE.aspx> that requires you to obtain a user name and password to sign on. This site is password protected for security purposes.

If you would like a user name and password to access the private VWAP site, please email me at victim.travel@osd.mil. I will submit your name to the Office of Military Commissions webmaster and he will email your user name and password to you directly.

Please do not share your user name and password with non-family members. The site was specifically created to provide information to the injured and family members of those killed in the attacks on September 11, 2001, and information transmitted via the password protected site is not intended for the general public.

In the next few days, you will receive an email explaining the opportunity for travel to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (GTMO), to attend the hearings, and a separate email regarding the closed circuit television sites where you will be able to watch the proceedings if you are interested.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 703-973-5050. You may also reach me by email at karen.loftus@osd.mil.

Sincerely,

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