NAME        'Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi
PHONETICS   AHB-dahl HAH-dee ahl-eerAHkee
KEY ALIAS   Nashwan 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Baqi (true name)
AFFILIATION Al-Qa'ida
NATIONALITY Iraqi

'Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi was one of al-Qa'ida's highest-ranking and experienced senior operatives at the time of his detention. He had been one of the organization's key paramilitary commanders in Afghanistan from the late 1990s and, during 2002-04, was in charge of cross-border attacks in Afghanistan against Coalition forces. In recent years, he also directed plots to assassinate perceived opponents of al-Qa'ida, including Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and a United Nations official.

- 'Abd al-Hadi was trying to return to his native country, Iraq, to manage al-Qa'ida's affairs and possibly focus on operations outside Iraq against Western targets. 'Abd al-Hadi also met with al-Qa'ida members in Iran and believed that they should be doing more with the fight, including supporting efforts in Iraq and causing problems within Iran.

- 'Abd al-Hadi provided leadership and reconnaissance support during a rocket attack in the fall of 2003 against US military forces in Afghanistan.

'Abd al-Hadi was born in Mosul, Iraq, in 1961. He is a former member of the Iraqi military who spent more than 15 years in Afghanistan. Before September 11, 2001, he was a member of al-Qa'ida's ruling Shura Council—a now-defunct 10-person advisory body to Usama Bin Ladin—as well as the group's Military Committee, which oversaw terrorist and guerrilla operations and paramilitary training. 'Abd al-Hadi has been a member of al-Qa'ida since the late 1990s, working for a long time as an instructor in one of al-Qa'ida's training camps in Afghanistan.

- 'Abd al-Hadi was known and trusted by Bin Ladin and Ayman al-Zawahiri. 'Abd al-Hadi was in direct communication with both leaders and, at one point, was Zawahiri's caretaker. 'Abd al-Hadi also interacted with other senior al-Qa'ida planners and decisionmakers, such as Khalid Shaykh Muhammad and Abu Faraj al-Libi, and deceased al-Qa'ida members Hamza Rabila and 'Abd al-Rahman al-Muhajir.

- 'Abd al-Hadi associated with leaders of other extremist groups allied with al-Qa'ida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the Taliban. Abd al-Hadi worked directly with the Taliban to determine responsibility and lines of communication between Taliban and al-Qa'ida leaders in Afghanistan, specifically with regard to the targeting of U.S. Forces.
Defense Department Takes Custody of a High-Value Detainee

Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, a high-level member of al-Qaida captured in the War on Terror and placed him under control of the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Prior to his arrival at Guantanamo Bay, he was held in CIA custody.

Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi was one of al-Qaida’s highest-ranking and experienced senior operatives at the time of his detention. Abd al-Hadi associated with leaders of extremist groups allied with al-Qaida in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the Taliban. Abd al-Hadi worked directly with the Taliban to determine responsibility and lines of communication between Taliban and al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan, specifically with regard to the targeting of U.S. Forces. More details of his background and activities are available at http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Apr2007/d20070427hvd.pdf.

Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi is now under DoD custody and control and will be treated appropriately and in accordance with policy and procedures for other DoD detainees at Guantanamo. He will be treated in accordance with U.S. law and international obligations under treaties to include the Convention Against Torture, Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, the Detainee Treatment Act, the Military Commissions Act, and applicable Department of Defense directives and instructions governing detainee operations.

Just like previous detainees who have arrived at Guantanamo, he will undergo a period of in-processing to help him adjust to detention rules and procedures. He will be given an interim serial number and will undergo a combatant status review tribunal. The International Committee of the Red Cross will be granted access to this detainee.

As a result of this latest transfer, there are now approximately 385 detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.