

9 MARCH 2016

## GUANTANAMO DETAINEE PROFILE

Detainee ISN: SA-063

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Detainee Name	Mohammad Mani Ahmad al-Qahtani
Detainee Aliases	
Nationality	Saudi
Date of Birth	19 November 1975
Arrival at Guantanamo	February 2002

Mohammad Mani Ahmad al-Qahtani (SA-063) attempted to enter the United States on 4 August 2001, after almost certainly having been selected by senior al-Qa'ida members to be the 20<sup>th</sup> hijacker for the 9/11 attacks. SA-063 probably understood that he was intended to be used as part of a suicide operation, but he was probably unaware of the specifics of the attack. He was denied entry to the United States by Immigration and Naturalization Service officers who found the circumstances of his travel and his conduct to be suspicious.

Around September 2000, SA-063 traveled to Afghanistan and received basic and advanced training from al-Qa'ida. He swore allegiance to Usama Bin Ladin, who told SA-063 he would be assigned a special mission. Bin Ladin directed SA-063 to meet with al-Qa'ida's operations chief Khalid Shaykh Mohammad (KU-10024) in mid-2001. Mohammad trained SA-063 on operational communications and told him to return to Saudi Arabia to obtain a new passport and visas for the US and UK.

After obtaining his passport and visas, SA-063 traveled to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and met with al-Qa'ida financial and travel facilitator Mustafa al-Hawsawi, who also facilitated the travel of four 9/11 hijackers into the US. Hawsawi provided SA-063 with money and a one-way ticket to Orlando, Florida. Mohamed Atta, the tactical leader and hijacker-pilot of 9/11, was almost certainly waiting at the Orlando International Airport for SA-063's arrival. However, SA-063 failed to clear immigration and was deported back to the UAE.

SA-063 returned to Pakistan and Afghanistan in August 2001, separately informing Mohammad and Bin Ladin about his failure to enter the US. SA-063 then traveled to Kabul to fight on the frontlines against the Northern Alliance. Following the onset of Coalition bombing in Afghanistan, SA-063 fled to the mountains of Tora Bora and briefly rejoined Bin Ladin and his bodyguards before SA-063's capture.

SA-063 has been mostly compliant with the guard staff during his detention at Guantanamo Bay. However, he has not cooperated with his interrogators, repeatedly trying to disassociate himself from al-Qa'ida and using cover stories to account for his travels. His repeated denials of terrorism involvement limit our insight into his motivation for joining al-Qa'ida or his current mindset. He is not known to have made any statements in the past 10 years renouncing the group or its ideology.

SA-063 has consistently said he wishes to be repatriated to Saudi Arabia to be reunited with his parents and siblings. His family has been supportive throughout SA-063's detention, judging from their frequent correspondence and efforts to secure his release. None of his family members are known to have been involved in terrorism, although they probably are in contact with other former Guantanamo Bay detainees.