

Beat: Local

A MAN WAS HELD THIRTEEN YEARS AT GUANTANAMO BAY OVER A MISTAKEN IDENTITY

AS ENEMY COMBATTANT WITHOUT CHARGE

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USPA NEWS - Mustafa al-Aziz al-Shamiri, 37, was a low-level Islamist foot soldier and not an al-Qaeda courier and trainer, whose name had been confused with someone else's. A militant who fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan and has been held without charge at Guantanamo Bay for 13 years...

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A profile published by the Department of Defense maintains he fought in Afghanistan and mixed with members of al-Qaida. But officials concede that they wrongly believed he had a more significant role because he was confused with others who had a similar name. (The Guardian)

Mustafa Abd-al-Qawi Abd-al-Aziz al-Shamiri was captured in 2002 and believed to be an al Qaeda facilitator or courier, and trainer, the Department of Defense said in a document submitted Tuesday as part of a periodic review of his detention.... A document submitted by al-Shamiri's 'personal representatives' for a hearing held on Tuesday said that he was 'not a continuing significant threat to the United States of America.'...The detainee felt 'remorse for choosing the wrong path early in life,' according to that statement. 'During his time in detention, he has attended English and art classes, in addition to acquiring carpentry and cooking skills.' (NBC News)

The 17-minute opening of the hearing was broadcast via video link to journalists in Arlington, Virginia. They were then required to leave before classified details were discussed....Al-Shamiri has been held as an enemy combatant without charge at Guantánamo since 2002. He is one of 107 prisoners at the controversial base, 48 of whom have been cleared for release. It is not certain when he will learn if he is to become number 49. (The Guardian)

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