

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, CARL R. DARNALL ARMY MEDICAL CENTER
36000 DARNALL LOOP
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-4752

MCXI-TBI

25 May 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Psychological Examination of KHADR, Omar

REFERRAL:

Omar Khadr was referred for a psychological examination by the Office of Military Commissions pursuant to Court Order of the Convening Authority. This examination was conducted at Camp Echo, Guantanamo Naval Base, 2 [REDACTED]

SUMMARY:

Research has shown over the years that there are multiple pathways which lead to an individual being quite resilient. Omar Khadr exhibits many of these factors which were well exhibited during the formal psychological examination. Mr. Khadr has a significant degree of learned optimism and perceives himself as his own internal locus of control. In fact, when questioned repeatedly about whether others could dictate to him or have them bend to their will or whether he would do things simply please others, Omar Khadr repeatedly responded that he made up his own mind and his own decisions. Although he likes to please others, he does not behave simply to respond to the wishes of others and will aggressively defend his course of action if he feels that his values or course of action are correct. There is much in Mr. Khadr's history which shows that he demonstrated this resilience while growing up. This comes from evidence of his being able to adapt easily and quickly to be moved to different places, easily fitting in with others, and his above-average cognitive skills which allowed him to perform while at school and learn languages. He also demonstrates many examples of actively coping with stress. He continues to demonstrate positive motion as well as laughter and the ability to present with an optimistic and euthymic mood. He is able to regulate his own motions and has a relatively positive self-concept. He speaks readily about taking stresses in his life and converting stress to positive outcomes. He is able to bond with others and shows a capacity to form interpersonal relationships. And finally, but not least, even though some of his choices may have been poor, he himself perceives that he has a sense of altruism and that his underlying goal is to attempt to help others, a key ingredient in resilience. All of these characteristics are strongly associated with a resulting resilient personality.

As Dr. Porterfield stated in her report dated 12/04/2010, "there are many indications that Mr. Khadr has strengths and resilience that will assist him in his future rehabilitation in whatever contacts that may take place." I concur with Dr. Porterfield's conclusions that this is an intelligent individual who, even with a limited education, has taken steps to further educate himself. He demonstrates curiosity about the world and demonstrates other abilities such as being able to connect with people and have relationships. As I have indicated, these are all positive indicators of Resiliency as has been documented by formal research done by the American Psychological Association, opinions which apparently Dr. Porterfield shares.

When it is suggested that he has mental or personality problems, has a weak will, or is easily influenced by others, Omar Khadr adamantly asserts that he is not mentally ill, that he is not a weak individual, that he does not possess any emotional problems, and that he is not influenced by others either by intimidation or by "bribery."

00766-UNCLASS09-011737

DSM-IV - ICD-9-CM Diagnoses:

6



TESTS ADMINISTERED:

Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for DSM-IV (Life Events Checklist)
Draw a Person
Thematic Apperception Test
Traumatic Event Sequelae Inventory
Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory
Rorschach
Structured Interview of Reported Symptoms
Minnesota Multipersonality Inventory - II
Sentence Completion Test

FAMILY HISTORY:

This individual is a 23-year-old unmarried Arab male who was evaluated at Echo, Guantanamo Bay,²

2



Omar Khadr was born in Canada and is the fourth child of 6 children in his family. When he was the age of 3 or 4 he moved to Pakistan. He attended school in Pakistan and subsequently in Afghanistan to the age of 10. He states that he only went through about the 8th grade, which he took twice. He lived in Kabul until being sent by his father to Khost to join other fighters which resulted in his ultimate capture during hostile action by American forces. He related to me that his education ended at about the time that he finished the eighth grade and he describes the rest of this time between school and his capture as engaging in a variety of activities and also attending martial arts training and a terrorist training camp. He says that he studied martial arts but he is guarded in his description of his military training. He will admit only that he received instructions in how to use weapons and that he was not

subjected to any "boot camp" type of experiences such as live fire training or stressful training. He stated that his instruction was mostly didactic in nature, and lasted about eight weeks.

Omar Khadr is fluent in Arabic, his primary language, and he stated that his family speaks primarily Arabic. He speaks English as a second language and indicates that his English has improved substantially since his incarceration. As a third language he speaks Farsi, and the fourth language he speaks is Pashtu.

Although Mr. Khadr left Canada at the age of 3 or 4, he stated that he attended first grade in Canada and that this was an Islamic school. He indicated that he was in school in Pakistan for the second and third grade, again in an Islamic school. He then tells me that he returned to Canada and spent fourth grade in the public school where learned much English. He then says that he completed his education from the fifth through the 8th grade in Pakistan, supplemented by home schooling. He told me that he had repeated the eighth grade twice as he had a "psychosomatic" (sic) illness. He stated that he got dizzy and feverish when reading and that this illness was never really diagnosed very well. He states that his father was originally from Egypt and that his mother was Palestinian.

Mr. Khadr describes his relationship with both his parents as very close but he seems to have been closer to his mother. Although he respected his father and states that he generally followed his wishes, he repeatedly stated throughout the examination that he was able to make up his own mind and that he could resist suggestions or directions from others, to include his father, if he felt that these suggestions were in conflict with his own core values or desires. Although he has been described as wanting to obtain recognition and approval of others, it is readily apparent that he retains a significant degree of individual decision making and that he can readily resist suggestions or pressure from others when this conflicts with his own desires or core values. He gives several examples of this throughout the examination.

He stated that although he likes to "blend in" and be with a group, he would generally engage in activities that would allow him to express his individuality. For example, he stated that he was a very "active person" and that while living in Pakistan he liked to ride horses, swim, and engage in martial arts. He also likes to read and especially enjoys fantasy fiction books that help him to escape from reality. He demonstrated a significant degree of independent individuality early on in life. For example, when he had a horse, he would use whatever was available to train or ride his horse. Therefore, even though he didn't have a saddle, he worked with one of the family friends and was able to ride this horse with blankets and other tack gear which he and the friend constructed until he was able to obtain a saddle.

He related that the last year that he attended school was the year 2000. He also related that all his older brothers dropped out of school at about the eighth grade. He states that he does not know what his father would have wanted him to do for an ultimate profession and he does not know himself except he has vague and unrealistic ideas about going to medical school. Mr. Khadr also states that he had home schooling. He again talked about the martial arts school that he attended. He does state that he was quite resilient and the school teachers would deliberately try to "toughing you up." He stated that his favorite subject in school was science and that he was very practical person. He also stated that subjects which he studied in his Islamic school included Islamic history, a history of Islamic prophets, and how to lead an everyday Islamic life.

ALLERGIES: No known drug allergies.

MEDICAL AND PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEW:

Omar Khadr underwent multiple combat traumata which included being shot twice 6 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED] His medical status is well documented and will not be repeated *in toto* here. He has repeatedly refused any psychiatric intervention, and he is on no psychotropic medication.

MULTICULTURAL FACTORS:

Omar Khadr was born in Canada and at the age of 3 or 4 he moved to Pakistan. He attended school in Pakistan and subsequently in Afghanistan until the age of 10. He states that he only went through about the 8th grade. He was vague about the years between the ages of 10 and 16, and at some time he was home-schooled. However, he speaks English fluently along with other languages, identifies himself as being Canadian, and has had extensive exposure to Western culture.

MENTAL STATUS AND BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS:

Mr. Khadr relates to me and records indicate that he was born on 19/09/1986. He currently appears to be his stated age. He was dressed in an orange prison suit² [REDACTED] However, for the entire time he was quite cooperative and there was no difficulty in the examination. Grooming and hygiene are WNL for a prison population. His mood was consistently euthymic, and mental status otherwise essentially unremarkable. He demonstrated adequate cooperation and motivation for most probes, except when he was reluctant to self-disclose. He eventually tired of questions which mostly probed for possible PTSD as he has been repeatedly asked about this. He was examined in an interrogation room which was sparsely furnished with only 2 or 3 chairs and a folding table. The remainder the room was screened off with one side divided into a shower and the other section divided into a section in which detainees he could conduct prayer, etc.² [REDACTED]

Mr. Khadr has a full beard.⁶ [REDACTED]
⁶ [REDACTED] he responds and interacts fairly normally⁶ [REDACTED]
⁶ [REDACTED] He interacted easily and seemed to appreciate and enjoyed the ability to talk about himself and participate in the assessment, which lasted one complete day and the morning of the second day for a total of 1-1/2 days of psychological assessment.

During the examination documented by Dr. Porterfield, there were several notations of unusual behavior displayed by Mr. Khadr. This included several instances in which he apparently would lose his focus, stare blankly, become upset, become quiet and withdrawn, demonstrate anxiety, and become almost tearful. None of these behaviors were noted during the day and a half that I spent with him, and Mr. Khadr was consistently at ease and behaved normally throughout the examination.

COGNITIVE FUNCTIONING:

No formal cognitive testing was performed as this was done extensively previously by Dr. Porterfield. Dr. Porterfield's conclusions were that she had assessed memory functioning, reasoning skills, visual-spatial abilities, attention, and concentration. Her test results failed to find any evidence of difficulty with these types of tests and she concluded that his cognitive functioning was either entirely within normal limits or within the "very superior" range. My examination concurred with hers and there is no evidence that Mr. Khadr demonstrates any cognitive dysfunction. Cognitive functions, as can be seen with all tests, are entirely intact. He himself describes his intellectual functioning as entirely normal, and he strongly denies that he might have any cognitive limitations. He also strongly denies and refutes any indication that he might have mental or emotional problems, as asserted by Dr. Porterfield.

The responses of Mr. Khadr to the Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory failed to indicate any significant post concussive symptoms and are essentially within normal limits with the exception of his complaints⁶ [REDACTED]
⁶ [REDACTED] These problems are readily explained⁶ [REDACTED] and do not reflect any persistent post concussive syndrome. When compared with the scores of several thousand combat veterans who have experienced concussion, the scores are negligible.

PERSONALITY FUNCTIONING:

Mr. Khadr produced a valid personality protocol which indicates no evidence of unusual thinking, thought disorder, or psychotic process. At the same time, he is guarded as well as defensive, and he provides a large number of general responses which are obvious or which are superficial in nature. Some anxiety is noted, especially considering physical integrity or physical injury, and this is consistent with the somatic preoccupation which is noted in his behavioral patterns on other tests. However, in general, a level of manipulation, superficial responding, and personal resilience is noted. Overall he provides a rather Pollyannaish presentation, with many superficial, overly socially acceptable responses which indicate guarding and manipulation. 6

Mr. Khadr endorses twice as many "Lie" items as do normals, this being consistent with and suggestive of his facile ability to manipulate when he wishes. Indexes of accuracy, some based on the subtle-obvious scales and comparisons, indicate that there is a significant over reporting of the extent and severity of the psychopathology that is being experienced. This again is consistent with manipulation.

The overall personality profile indicates that while on the surface Mr. Khadr appears to be charming and congenial, under this exterior he tends to be significantly suspicious, hostile, and feels that he is being mistreated. He consistently blames others for his difficulties and sees himself as the victim since "I am the only one who survived" [the combat firefight.] He also frequently sees himself as physically ill and feels that others are not sympathetic toward his problems. He tends to view himself as "put upon" or mistreated by others and often feels that his somatic problems are misunderstood or minimized by health professionals. He is known to use such somatic complaints to manipulate others.

He subjectively reports significant levels of distress, but some of this is the over reporting of psychopathology, and some PTSD scores are actually within normal limits. In contrast to a diagnosis of dysthymia suggested by Dr. Porterfield, he does not present a history really suggestive of dysthymia, which has a phenotype basis, but his depression is more likely related to the obvious situational/ environmental factors which are obvious and which are related to his own behavior.

He says he has only vague recollection of the combat firefight and that what he recalls now are "mixed up with what I [personally] remember and with what other people tell me." However, he does recall the time immediately prior to his capture and then being in the Bagram CSH. Although Mr. Khadr endorses a number of events which are stressful and which subjectively suggest a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder, he indicates no evidence of long-term functional impairment, a requirement mandated for this diagnosis. In fact, there is almost no discernible functional impairment which can be detected. He does endorse some scattered symptoms such as difficulty sleeping as well as concentrating. 6

6 Many of these complaints can also be related to other factors such as incarceration, and his other complaints are inconsistent and essentially completely subjective.

Most personality scores are indicative of good ego strength, sufficient personal resources to deal with problems, a positive self-image, adaptability, and a wide range of interests. This, along with his history, indicates good resilience, not an abused child who was forced to perform distasteful tasks by an overbearing aggressive father, or who did not know what he was doing or saying when questioned by American 6 authorities.

Defensive mechanisms are coping styles which are automatic psychological processes that serve to protect an individual from anxiety. They help all of us cope with emotional conflicts which are related to both internal as well as external stressors. Mr. Khadr continuously uses defense mechanisms which are most typically described as "disavowal" in that unpleasant or unacceptable stressors are either kept out of awareness or are attributed to other causes. This includes the use of denial, projection, and rationalization. Mr. Khadr continuously engages in denial, and this is quite evident in his numerous manipulations and distortions of actions and statements. He also engages in projection in which he projects blame to others and he continuously rationalizes his own behavior. In this light, he continues to see himself as the victim, especially since "I was only one who was left alive."

C. Alan Hopewell 69

C. ALAN HOPEWELL, PH.D., MP, ABPP
MAJ, MS, USA
Fellow, American Psychological Association
Diplomate, ABCN
OIC, Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic
CRDAMC, Ft. Hood

2