

~~SECRET~~ { *UNCLASSIFIED* }

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

Jan 19, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Status of the Taliban and Al Qaida

(U) Transmit the following to the Combatant Commanders:

{ *U* }

(~~S~~) The United States has determined that Al Qaida and Taliban under the control of the United States are not entitled to prisoner of war status for purposes of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

(U) The Combatant Commanders shall, in detaining Al Qaida and Taliban individuals under the control of the United States, treat them humanely and, to the extent necessary and appropriate with military necessity, consistent with the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

(U) The Combatant Commanders shall transmit this order to subordinate commanders, including commander, Joint Task Force 160, for implementation.

(U) Keep me appropriately informed of the implementation of this order.

{ *Donald A. Rumsfeld* }

{ DECLASSIFIED ON 4 FEB 2002 }
{ PER DOD GENERAL COUNCIL }