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## **Pentagon Preparing More Guantánamo Prosecutions**

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GUANTANAMO BAY NAVY BASE, Cuba -- The Pentagon is preparing prosecutions against about 25 more captives at the prison for suspected terrorists here, some with recommendations that they be executed if convicted, the chief prosecutor said Monday.

Air Force Col. Moe Davis would not characterize the new candidates for President Bush's war crimes trials, called Military Commissions, but said some would be accused of actively participating in killing U.S. soldiers or their coalition allies in Afghanistan.

So far, 10 of the 490 or so captives at this offshore detention and interrogation center are charged before the first exclusively U.S. war crimes tribunals since World War II. None face capital punishment if convicted.

Davis made his remarks to reporters on the eve of resumption of the commissions, whose constitutionality are under review by the U.S. Supreme Court. A decision is expected in late June.

Three captives are scheduled to have separate pretrial appearances this week on allegations that they conspired to build remote-control triggers in Pakistan to be used against U.S. troops in Afghanistan before their capture in March 2002.

Two are Saudis who have never before appeared before the war court; the third is Algerian Sufiyan Barhoumi, 32, who inexplicably appeared at a March 2 appearance with only one finger on his left hand.

Documents since released by the Defense Department quote the captive as saying he blew his hand off in 1999 while doing "small mine training" in Afghanistan as he prepared to fight the Russians in Chechnya, the predominantly Muslim rebellious southern republic.

"It was a small bomb buried, a mine, and the top was lifted up," Barhoumi says in transcripts released by the Pentagon under a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the Associated Press. "While digging, I pressed it accidentally. . . . After I pressed, it exploded."

Pentagon charge sheets allege that Barhoumi was assigned to instruct fellow would-be insurgents on how to assemble remote-control explosive devices.

He claims no animosity toward the Americans -- his plan was to fight the Russians, he says in the transcript -- and maintains through his Pentagon-appointed attorney that he is innocent of war crimes.

Davis revealed that he is preparing recommendations of war-crimes charges against "about two dozen additional cases" just days after the Pentagon announced that about 30 percent of the 490 captives at the base were cleared to leave the island prison camps for their homelands.

"I anticipate that some of these will certainly present the possibility of death penalty cases," the chief prosecutor for the Office of Military Commission said.

Separate parole-style boards have been interviewing the captives and sifting through their cases to determine which of the men no longer could contribute military intelligence to the war against terrorism through interrogation.

As of Friday, the Pentagon said 22 were to be set free in their home country and 119 would be transferred to the control of their home governments, presumably for continued incarceration.

Their nationalities were not revealed. In some instances U.S. foreign policy, separate from the review panels, has forbidden repatriation of certain captives who might face torture if returned to their homeland.