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## LAMPIRAN

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### **The Washington Times**

#### **Islamic chaplain is charged as spy**

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An Army Islamic chaplain, who counseled al Qaeda prisoners at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, naval base, has been charged with espionage, aiding the enemy and spying, The Washington Times has learned. Capt. James J. Yee, a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., was arrested earlier this month by the FBI in Jacksonville, Fla., as he arrived on a military charter flight from Guantanamo, according to a law-enforcement source.

Agents confiscated several classified documents in his possession and interrogated him. He was held for two days in Jacksonville and transferred to a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C., where two Army lawyers have been assigned to his defense. The Army has charged Capt. Yee with five offenses: sedition, aiding the enemy, spying, espionage and failure to obey a general order. The Army may also charge him later with the more serious charge of treason, which under the Uniform Code of Military Justice could be punished by a maximum sentence of life.

It could not be immediately learned what country or organization is suspected of receiving information from Capt. Yee. He had counseled suspected al Qaeda terrorists at Guantanamo for a lengthy period. Capt. Yee, 35, was a command chaplain for I Corps at Fort Lewis, Wash. The Army dispatched him to Cuba to attend to the spiritual needs of a growing number of captured al Qaeda and members of the Taliban, a hard-line Islamic group ousted from power in Afghanistan.

Capt. Yee, of Chinese-American descent, was raised in New Jersey as a Christian. He studied Islam at West Point and converted to Islam and left the Army in the mid-1990s. He moved to Syria, where he underwent further religious training in traditional Islamic beliefs. He returned to the United States and re-entered the Army as an Islamic chaplain. He is said to be married to a Syrian woman. Capt. Yee had almost unlimited private access to detainees as part of the Defense Department's program to provide the prisoners with religious counseling, as well as clothing and Islamic-approved meals. The law-enforcement source declined to say how much damage Capt. Yee may have inflicted on the U.S. war against Osama bin Laden's global terror network.

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The source said the "highest levels" of government made the decision to arrest Capt. Yee, who had been kept under surveillance for some time. The military's "convening authority" -- the officer who would authorize criminal proceedings -- is the commander of U.S. Southern Command in Miami, which oversees the prison at Guantanamo. After the September 11 attacks, Capt. Yee, one of 17 Muslim chaplains, was the subject of a number of press articles on Islam.

A month after the attack on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon, he was quoted in an account by Scripps Howard News Service as saying that "an act of terrorism, the taking of innocent lives is prohibited by Islam and whoever has done this needs to be brought to justice, whether he is Muslim or not". In another account, the Voice of America News Service paraphrased Capt. Yee as saying Islam is a religion of peace and the concept of "jihad," or holy war, simply means "to struggle".

"The basics, you always begin with the basics when dealing with anything," Capt. Yee was quoted as saying. "I discuss the articles of faith, what Muslims believe. The five pillars of Islam and then of course, I relate it to the events of September 11 to include some of the concepts found in Islam and how it deals with matters of war". At the Charleston brig, he joins three other notable detainees in the war on terrorism: Yaser Esam Hamdi, an American-born Saudi who fought with the Taliban; Jose Padilla, a former Chicago gang member who is charged with plotting to detonate a radioactive bomb; and Ali Saleh Kahlah al-Marri, accused of being an al Qaeda sleeper agent. The United States classifies the detainees at Guantanamo as "enemy combatants," not prisoners of war. The Pentagon will likely hold most of them until the war on terrorism is over.

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WASHINGTON (CNN) -- A Muslim chaplain in the U.S. Army has been arrested and is being investigated on suspicion of espionage and possibly treason, officials familiar with the case told CNN. Army Capt. James Yee was taken into custody by U.S. military authorities September 10 at the naval air station in Jacksonville, Florida, while in possession of classified documents "that a chaplain shouldn't have," an official told CNN, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The official said the documents included "diagrams of the cells and the facilities at Guantanamo [Bay, Cuba]" where about 600 al Qaeda and other "enemy combatants" are being held by the military. Yee also was carrying lists of detainees being held there as well as lists of their interrogators, the source said.

In addition to the classified documents, Yee is "believed to have ties to [radical Muslims in the U.S.] that are now under investigation," the source said. He said he could not elaborate on the basis for that belief. Although no charges have been filed, the U.S. military is "investigating whether [Yee] may have [been involved in] espionage or treason," the official said.

"There are a series of things that would lead a reasonable person to believe that something" was out of line, the official said. Army officials with the U.S. Southern Command, which controls the Guantanamo facility, told CNN that they could not comment on the status of the investigation but acknowledged that Yee had been taken into custody and said he is a 1990 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. They said he became an air-defense artillery officer and left the Army some time later.

The Southern Command official said Yee then converted to Islam and returned to the Army as a Muslim chaplain and had been assigned to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in November 2002. Yee is one of about a dozen Muslim chaplains in the U.S. military, according to officials. U.S. government sources contacted by CNN said that after leaving the Army, Yee moved to Syria, where he lived for four years studying Islam and was married, apparently to a Syrian woman.

A State Department document available on the Internet confirms Yee's time in Syria, saying he "spent four years studying Arabic and Islam in Damascus, Syria." In the same document, Yee is quoted as saying, "An act of terrorism, the taking of innocent civilian lives, is prohibited by Islam, and whoever has done this needs to be brought to justice, whether he is Muslim or not."

According to the AP, Yee is being held at a military brig in Charleston, South Carolina -- the same place officials are holding Yaser Esam Hamdi, an American-born Saudi accused of fighting with the Taliban, and Jose Padilla, a former

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Chicago, Illinois, gang member charged with plotting to detonate a radioactive "dirty bomb." Yee has been interrogated by Army and Navy law enforcement officials, and by the FBI.

Justice Department officials contacted by CNN confirmed that they had participated in some of the interrogations but said the lead agencies in the investigation are military. There are between 4,000 and 10,000 practicing Muslims serving in the U.S. armed forces.



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**Guantanamo chaplain arrested**

**A Muslim US Army chaplain who worked with al-Qaeda suspects in Guantanamo Bay has been detained by military investigators, US officials say.**

He has not been charged, but it is believed that he is suspected of espionage. Captain Yousef Yee, formerly known as James Lee, has been held since 10 September as part of a military investigation, said Captain Tom Crosson, spokesman for Southern Command, which oversees the US base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The chaplain was arrested on his arrival at Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida after customs officials became suspicious of documents found in his baggage and called in military authorities, law enforcement officials said. Reports say these documents included maps detailing the location of various prisoners within the Camp Delta detention centre in Guantanamo Bay and the names of their interrogators.

**'Daily access'**

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation are said to have assisted in the arrest itself and sat in on interviews conducted by military investigators in Jacksonville, the New York Times reported. An apartment in Miami, Florida apparently used by Mr Yee was also searched by FBI officials, the paper said. Mr Yee is currently being held at a US naval detention centre in Charleston, South Carolina.

A Chinese-American born in New Jersey, Mr Yee who graduated from West Point military academy and converted to Islam more than 10 years ago while serving in Saudi Arabia following the first Gulf war, the Washington Post newspaper reported. He then left the US Army and lived for four years in Syria, where he learned Arabic and Islamic practice, before rejoining the army and being appointed last November to work with the Guantanamo prisoners. "He had daily access to the detainees," Captain Crosson told the Associated Press news agency.

He also advised the base commanders on Muslim affairs, Captain Crosson said. In an interview with the BBC earlier this year, Mr Yee said that he was sent to Guantanamo Bay to help those being held at the base. "I like to think that whatever I can do, whether in their personal situation or help with them being here in any way, that I have a positive effect on their life," he said.

**'Enemy combatants'**

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Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, told the New York Times he was concerned Mr Yee's arrest would provoke ill-feeling. "There are those in our society who love to question the patriotism of American Islamics and this unfortunately will give them ammunition to do that, no matter what the facts of the case are," he said.

Around 660 al-Qaeda suspects and alleged members of Afghanistan's former Taleban regime are currently being detained at Camp Delta. Designated "enemy combatants" by the US Government, none have so far been charged with any crime.

