

## ASSESSMENT

The Ultimate Enhancement to your Organization



Thursday, April 24  
6:00-7:30pm, MSC 228

Professionals from the Department of Student Life Studies will provide resources and strategies for effectively using assessment in your student organization.

Student Activities  
If you have any questions, please call 458-4371.  
Risk Management Services, Department of Student Activities

# Al-Qaida interview questioned in case of 9/11 terror suspect

By Larry Margasak  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A federal judge gave terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui the right to question a senior al-Qaida captive in a closed-circuit hookup but the government says the judge cannot legally do so, according to a Justice Department pleading released Wednesday.

The order would be a boon to terrorism defendants if allowed to stand and would permit judges "a breathtaking right" to micro-manage the fight against terrorism, the government told the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is based in Richmond, Va.

The written brief was filed under seal March 14. Moussaoui, who is representing himself, has acknowledged that he is an al-Qaida loyalist but denies charges that he was a Sept. 11, 2001, conspirator.

Government sources have identified the captive as Ramzi Binalshibh, a suspected coordinator of the Sept. 11 attacks. Moussaoui argues that Binalshibh — whose name was removed from the public document — can show that Moussaoui was not part of the plot.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema ruled in late January that Moussaoui could question the witness with a brief time delay, allowing the court to prevent transmission of questions the court deems impermissible. Moussaoui is in the Alexandria, Va., detention center, near the

district court.

In addition to that ruling, Brinkema has questioned whether Moussaoui could receive a fair trial in open court because the government has withheld so much information from him.

Direct questioning of an enemy combatant in the midst of the terrorism fight is beyond the court's powers and would interfere with an intelligence interro-

uled closed oral arguments on June 3, but signaled that it wanted a compromise on the access question. The court has Brinkema to invite the government to propose alternatives before the hearing, and she has done so.

A separate government brief opposed a motion by media representatives that the appeals court open the hearing and release some records now filed under secrecy.

The right of public access, substantially outweighed by the need to protect classified information, the prosecutors said, adding there was no practical way to divide oral arguments between classified and unclassified portions.

The government said Brinkema ruled from the bench on access to the al-Qaida captive, announcing she did not think "there's any way that this court can adequately balance the legitimate concerns of the defendant without the video deposition."

Later, the government said Brinkema rejected the possibility of substitutions by stating the government did not propose any.

Moussaoui also seeks to interview Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a captive who is the suspected Sept. 11 mastermind. Only access to Binalshibh is believed to be before the appeals court.

If the government believes it is necessary to abandon the prosecution, it could send the case of Moussaoui — a French citizen — to a military tribunal, which could operate in greater secrecy.

*"Indeed, it would give terrorist defendants a powerful weapon to frustrate the executive's efforts..."*

— U.S. government

gation, the government said.

"Indeed, it would give terrorist defendants a powerful weapon to frustrate the executive's efforts in the struggle with al-Qaida," the government said, while ensuring the abandonment of prosecutions in the United States.

The government contended that Brinkema failed to consider alternatives to providing Moussaoui with direct access to Binalshibh, including a government statement summarizing the captive's now-classified responses to interrogators.

The appeals court has sched-

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Drinking, motorcycle crashes lead to large number of deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — Traffic deaths last year were at the highest level since 1990, with more people dying in drunken-driving and motorcycle crashes.

In all, 42,850 people died — 1.7 percent more than the year before — the government said Wednesday. Alcohol-related deaths rose 3 percent to 17,970, the third straight increase after a decade of decline.

"It is painfully clear that recent public and political complacency is taking its toll on precious lives," said Wendy Hamilton, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The group wants states to pass stiffer penalties

for repeat offenders and approve primary seat belt laws, which allow police officers to stop a driver because they suspect the driver is not buckled up. Less stringent laws allow seat belt charges only if a motorist is pulled over for another infraction.

Only 18 states and the District of Columbia have primary seat belt laws, according to Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

Fifty-nine percent of those killed last year were not wearing seat belts.

"States have to take it on — they hold all the cards," said Jeffrey Runge, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Motorcycle fatalities rose for the fifth consecutive year, to 3,276, the most since 1990. That compares with a low of 2,116 in 1997.

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- 3) What prior experience do you have in publications? Leadership roles?

### Staff Positions:

- 1) Why do you want to be on the staff?
- 2) What prior experience do you have that relates to the position you are applying for?

Applications Are Due By 5 p.m. Thursday, April 24

If you have any questions, please call 845-2681 or drop by our office.

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