

EXHIBIT A



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

JAN 20 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CONVENING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY
COMMISSIONS
CHIEF PROSECUTOR, OFFICE OF MILITARY
COMMISSIONS

SUBJECT: Military Commissions

Pursuant to the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and the authority vested in me as the Secretary of Defense, I hereby direct the Convening Authority for Military Commissions to cease referring cases to military commissions immediately. I direct the Chief Prosecutor of the Office of Military Commissions (OMC) to cease swearing charges, to seek continuances for 120 days in any cases that have already been referred to military commissions, and to petition the Court of Military Commission Review to hold in abeyance any pending appeals for 120 days.

This is to provide the Administration sufficient time to conduct a review of detainees currently held at Guantanamo, to evaluate the cases of detainees not approved for release or transfer to determine whether prosecution may be warranted for any offenses these detainees may have committed, and to determine which forum best suits any future prosecution.

This order does not preclude continued investigation or evaluation of cases by the OMC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Gates".

cc:

General Counsel of the Department of Defense
Chief Judge, Military Commissions Trial Judiciary
Chief Defense Counsel, Office of Military Commissions

