Abdul Shalabi (SA-042) was a bodyguard to Usama Bin Ladin, probably received both basic and advanced military training, was associated with al-Qa’ida external operations chief Khalid Shaykh Mohammed (KU-10024) in Karachi, and may have been considered for participation in a suicide attack or deployment to the West. He traveled to Afghanistan in the late 1990s, probably trained at al-Qa’ida-affiliated camps, and joined Bin Ladin’s entourage around one year after he arrived in Afghanistan. SA-042 has denied any involvement with al-Qa’ida, but several other detainees—including senior al-Qa’ida figures and other former bodyguards—have separately identified him as a Bin Ladin bodyguard.

SA-042 generally has been noncompliant with the guard staff at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, particularly between 2006 and 2011, when he committed numerous serious offenses. He has provided no information of value during interviews, has refused to respond to substantive questions and as of August 2014 continued to be a long-term hunger striker. SA-042 probably continues to sympathize with extremists, but he has not expressed intent to reengage in terrorism and does not appear to be in contact with any extremists outside of Guantanamo. He is the uncle of a former Guantanamo detainee (SA-059) who was repatriated to Saudi Arabia in 2006 and who does not appear to have reengaged in extremist activities.

Throughout his detention, SA-042 has expressed a desire for repatriation to Saudi Arabia. He is aware of and probably would be open to participating in the Kingdom’s rehabilitation program, particularly as it would entail the participation of his family members, with whom he is close. His family has no known ties to extremism and he has expressed interest in business opportunities. However, his family members’ failure to prevent SA-042 from becoming radicalized in the late 1990s indicates that they would hold little influence should he decide to reengage.