

Timeline of the War on Terror
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2001

20 January: George W. Bush sworn in as president

11 September: Terrorist attacks by agents of al Qaeda

25 September: Memorandum by John Yoo, “The President’s Constitutional Authority to Conduct Military Operations Against Terrorists and Nations Supporting Them”

6 November: Memorandum by Patrick Philbin, “Legality of the Use of Military Commissions to Try Terrorists”

13 November: President Bush issues comprehensive military order intended to govern the “Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism”

__ **November:** Salim Ahmed Hamdan captured

28 December: Memorandum by Patrick Philbin and John Yoo, “Possible Habeas Jurisdiction over Aliens Held in Guantanamo Bay”

2002

9 January: Draft Memorandum by John Yoo and Robert J. Delahunty, “Application of Treaties and Laws to al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees”

22 January: Memorandum by Jay S. Bybee, “Application of Treaties and Laws to al Qaeda and Taliban Detainees”

7 February: White House Memorandum (signed by President Bush), “Humane Treatment of Taliban and al Qaeda Detainees”

21 March: President Bush issued Military Commission Order No. 1

__ **June:** Hamdan transported to Guantanamo Bay

1 August: Memorandum by Jay S. Bybee, “Standards of Conduct for Interrogation Under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2340-2340A”

2003

20 March: Invasion of Iraq by Coalition Forces

3 July: President Bush announced that Hamdan and five other Guantanamo Bay detainees were subject to the 13 November order and thus triable by military commission

__ **December:** Military counsel was appointed to represent Hamdan

2004

__ **February:** Hamdan's counsel filed demands for charges and for a speedy trial pursuant to UCMJ

23 February: Appointing Authority denied applications, ruling that Hamdan was not entitled to any of the protections of the UCMJ

7 July: Combatant Status Review Tribunal decided that Hamdan's continued detention was warranted because he was an "enemy combatant"

13 July: Hamdan charged with offense before military commission

8 November: District Court for the District of Columbia granted Hamdan's petition for habeas corpus and stayed the military commission's proceedings

30 December: Memorandum by Daniel Levin, "Legal Standards Applicable Under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2340-2340A" (this memorandum supersedes "in its entirety" the 1 August 2002 memorandum)

2005

7 November: Supreme Court granted certiorari

30 December: Detainee Treatment Act signed into law

2006

13 February: Government filed motion to dismiss writ of certiorari

29 June: *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, 548 U.S. __ (2006)

17 October: President Bush signs Military Commissions Act of 2006, which authorizes military commissions

19 October: John Yoo publishes a column in the *Wall Street Journal* entitled "Sending a Message"