

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE

LEGAL • TRANSPARENT



Overview

MISSION AREAS

- JTF GTMO conducts safe, humane, legal and transparent care and custody of detainees, including those convicted by military commission.
- JTF GTMO conducts intelligence collection, analysis and dissemination for the safety and security of detainees and JTF Guantanamo personnel working in facilities as well as in support of ongoing overseas contingency operations.
- JTF GTMO provides support to law enforcement, war crimes investigations and the Office of Military Commissions.
- JTF GTMO will, on order, respond to Caribbean mass migration events.

JTF GUANTANAMO DETENTION OPERATIONS

The United States and its coalition partners are engaged in a war against al-Qaida, the Taliban, their affiliates and supporters. During the course of this war, U.S. and allied forces have captured thousands of individuals fighting as unlawful combatants. International law defines a lawful combatant as one who wears a uniform, carries his weapons openly, responds to the hierarchy of military authority and fights according to the laws of war (e.g., not targeting innocent civilians). The detainees at Guantanamo were captured while fighting for al-Qaida or the Taliban - neither of which abide by the laws of war.

Detention of unprivileged enemy belligerents in wartime is not an act of punishment. It is a matter of security and military necessity, and has long been recognized as legitimate under international law. Detaining enemy combatants prevents them from returning to the battlefield and engaging in further armed attacks against innocent civilians and U.S. and allied forces. Further, detainees provide the United States with important intelligence that helps prevent future attacks.

WHO WE HOLD AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

Detainees at GTMO include:

- Terrorist trainers
- Terrorist financiers
- Bomb makers
- Osama Bin Laden bodyguards
- Recruiters and facilitators

Intelligence gained at GTMO has prevented terrorist attacks and saved lives. Information obtained from questioning detainees includes:

- Organizational structure of al-Qaida and other terrorist groups
- Extent of terrorist presence in Europe, the U.S., and the Middle East
- Methods of recruitment and locations recruitment center locations
- Terrorist skill sets, including general and specialized operative training
- How legitimate financial activities are used to hide terrorist operations

GTMO remains a key intelligence resource. The information provided by detainees will continue to be valuable in the future as we work to defeat violent extremist groups like al-Qaida and its supporters.

LIVING CONDITIONS

Since DoD began detention operations in the War on Terror, detainee living conditions have evolved. DoD is committed to ensuring detainees are kept in a safe, secure, and humane environment. Camp X-Ray, the original, temporary detention facility, was used for less than four months in 2002, and has been completely replaced with modern facilities. Other changes to detention facilities are ongoing.

Detainees at GTMO are provided with:

- Three meals per day that meet cultural dietary requirements, and accommodate special dietary and health requests/requirements
- Shelter, to include beds, mattresses, sheets and running water toilets
- Clothing, including shoes, uniforms and hygiene items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo
- The opportunity to worship, including prayer beads, rugs and copies of the Quran in their native languages
- The means to send and receive mail
- The detainee library offers more than 25,000 items including books and reading materials. Magazines and newspapers are also provided. Books range from picture books to doctorate-level materials printed in more than 15 different languages. Also, there is a large selection of movies. The library is staffed by a full-time librarian. The reading materials are distributed to the detainees on a weekly basis.

Camps 1-3

Detainees in these camps were housed in individual cells, each with a toilet and sink. Camps 1, 2 and 3 had a capacity for 716 detainees. There were two recreation yards at the end of each cellblock. Showers were allowed in outdoor stalls after recreation periods. These camps are vacant, but remain available for the management of the detainee population.

Camp 4

Detainees previously housed in Camp 4 resided in a communal-type living atmosphere. Camp 4 included 10-man bays with access to exercise yards and other recreational privileges. Detainees wore white uniforms indicative of their highly compliant status and shared living spaces with other detainees. Detainees were allowed to use outdoor exercise yards attached to their living bays 20 hours each day. Exercise yards included group recreational and sports equipment, such as ping-pong, volleyball, basketball and soccer equipment. Detainees in Camp 4 were also able to participate in language classes and view movies in an entertainment room with a large-screen television. Camp 4 currently houses the detainee clinic and library.

Camp 5

Camp 5 is a state-of-the-art, \$16-million facility, completed in May 2004. Its construction was based upon a modern maximum-security design used for U.S. state penitentiaries. Composed of four wings with 12 to 14 individual cells each, the two-story maximum-security detention facility can hold approximately 100 individuals. Primarily, this camp houses detainees deemed to be the highest threat to themselves, other detainees, or guards.

Camp 6

Camp 6 is a \$37-million facility completed in October 2006. This two-story detention facility has a capacity for 175 detainees. It can be configured for minimum, medium or maximum security, although presently it is configured for minimum security. Outdoor recreation areas are incorporated into this air-conditioned facility, sheltering detainees from the temperate outside elements. A medical clinic with two medical exam rooms and a dental exam room is located within Camp 6 to provide immediate medical and dental service.

Camp 6 was also designed to withstand erratic and harsh Caribbean weather better than the original Camp Delta. It is a climate-controlled facility which offers improved communal-living conditions for detainees. The design improves working conditions and reduces the number of guards required to run the facility.

Cultural sensitivity

Detainees have the opportunity to pray five times each day. Prayer times are posted for the detainees and arrows are painted on the ground in each cell and in communal areas so the detainees know the direction to Mecca.

Once prayer call sounds, detainees receive 20 minutes of uninterrupted time to practice their faith. The guard force strives to ensure detainees are not interrupted during the 20 minutes following the prayer call, even if detainees are not involved in religious activity. JTF Guantanamo schedules detainee medical appointments, interrogations and other activities mindful of the prayer call schedule.

Every detainee at GTMO is issued a personal copy of the Quran. Strict measures are also in place throughout the facility to ensure that the Quran is handled appropriately by detention personnel.

JTF Guantanamo recognizes Islamic holy periods, like Ramadan, by modifying meal schedules in observance of religious requirements.

DoD personnel deployed to GTMO receive cultural training to ensure they understand Islamic practices.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visits detainees approximately four to six times a year.

ICRC representatives process mail to and from detainees. On a yearly average, more than 20,000 pieces of mail have been sent to or by detainees at GTMO.

ICRC communications with governments worldwide are based on the principle of confidentiality. For this reason, DoD does not publicly discuss confidential ICRC reports.

MEDICAL CARE

The medical care provided to detainees at GTMO is consistent with U.S. service members. The lives of several detainees have been saved by the excellent medical treatment provided by U.S. military personnel.

Detainees are treated at a dedicated medical facility with state-of-the-art equipment and an expert medical staff of more than 100 personnel. The medical facility is equipped with 15 inpatient beds, a physical therapy area, pharmacy, radiology department, dental treatment suites, central sterilization area, and a single-bed operating room. More serious medical conditions can be treated at Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay with an operating room. Specialists are available to provide care at GTMO for any medical needs that exceed the capabilities of the Naval Hospital.

In addition to the detainee hospital, there is a separate facility for dedicated mental health care. Most routine medical care is administered by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsmen who visit each cellblock daily and/or whenever a detainee requests care. In addition to providing routine medical care, the hospital staff has treated detainees for wounds occurring prior to detention and other pre-existing medical conditions (often unknown to the detainees before their medical treatment at GTMO).

Detainees at GTMO have received immunizations, which most would not have had available to them in their home countries. Some detainees were also provided life-changing care, such as receiving prosthetic limbs or having a cancerous tumor removed. Psychological care is also available for detainees who need or request it.

DOD OFFICIAL WEB SITES

DoD Official Web Site DefenseLink – www.defenselink.mil

- Official DoD portal that features top stories and links to detainee-specific information

DoD News Releases – www.defenselink.mil/releases

- Comprehensive list of DoD news releases from the previous 30 days, with a link to an archive that dates back to 1994

DoD News Transcripts – www.defenselink.mil/transcripts

- Comprehensive list of transcripts from briefings and significant interviews from the previous 30 days, with a link to an archive that dates back to 1994

Detainees at Guantanamo Bay – www.defenselink.mil/news/detainees.html

- List of articles, news releases, transcripts, photos, and fact sheets concerning detainees at Guantanamo Bay

Detainee Investigations – www.defenselink.mil/news/detainee_investigations.html

- DoD coverage of detainee investigations, including released reports, news releases, articles, briefing transcripts, and background information

Guantanamo Detainee Process –

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Sep2005/d20050908process.pdf>

Fact sheet for the Guantanamo Detainee process that includes a brief description of each process, the responsible organization, a point of contact, and a website

Military Commissions – www.defenselink.mil/news/commissions.html

- Information on military commissions, including official DoD documents, background information, and news releases

Combatant Status Review Tribunals/Administrative Review Board –

www.defenselink.mil/news/Combatant_Tribunals.html

- List of news releases, briefing transcripts, and official updates pertaining to the Combatant Status Review Tribunals and Administrative Review Boards

Information from Guantanamo Detainees -

www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2005/d20050304info.pdf

- Summary of information gleaned from interrogations of detainees at Guantanamo

Joint Task Force – Guantanamo – www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/index.html

- Joint Task Force – Guantanamo home page that includes news reports and the Task Force newsletter ‘The Wire’

U.S. Southern Command – www.southcom.mil

U.S. Southern Command home page that includes news releases, testimony transcripts, and other information concerning detainees at Guantanamo Bay