JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

HONOR BOUND TO • DEFEND FREEDOM

MISSION AND HISTORY

JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

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MISSION OVERVIEW

JTF-GTMO conducts safe, humane, and legal detention operations; collects, analyzes and reports intelligence; and supports legal and administrative proceedings in order to protect the United States and its interests.

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JOINT TASK FORCE COMPONENTS:

Headquarters Element
Joint Detention Group
Joint Medical Group
Maritime Security Group
Base Engineer Emergency Force

The JTF is comprised of:

Military members
Government employees
Civilian contractors

The JTF military service members are composed of:

U.S. Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve
U.S. Air Force and Air Force National Guard
U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserve
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve
U.S. Marine Corps

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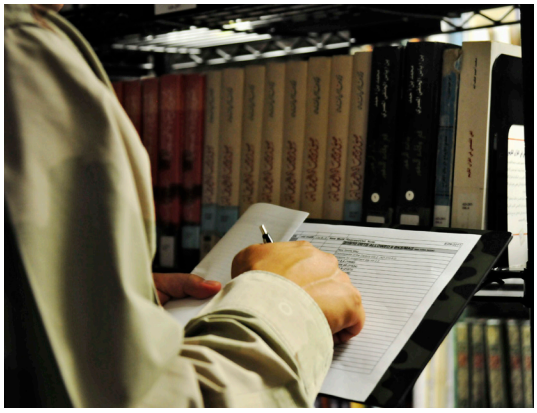
DETENTION OPERATIONS

Detainees are provided clothes and personal care items



Librarians catalogue available books for detainees

Food available in the communal area

The United States and its coalition partners are engaged in an armed conflict with international terrorist organizations and their affiliates. During the course of this conflict, U.S. and allied forces have captured individuals fighting as enemy combatants. Detention of enemy combatants in active hostilities is not an act of punishment, it is a matter of security, 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 the U.S., allied forces, and civilians.

JTF ensures detainees' religious needs are met

Detainee communal recreational area

Multiple copies of books are available for detainees

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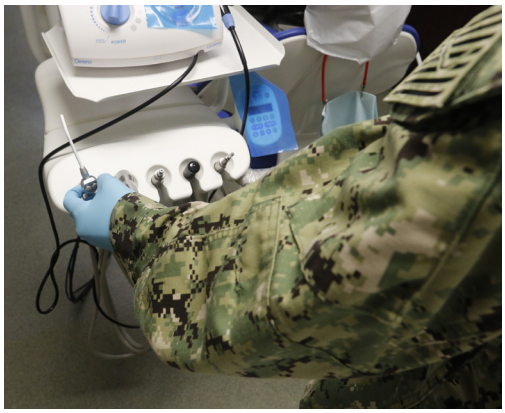
DETENTION OPERATIONS



Medical professionals provide dental care for detainees

Meals are prepared to a detainee's individual requests

Detainees are allowed time to practice their religion

DoD is committed to the safe, humane and legal care and custody of detainees in accordance with U.S. law and international obligations. Camp X-Ray, a 2002 temporary detention facility for migrants, was used for law of armed conflict detention operations from January to April 2002 while new facilities were being built. These facilities, Camps I through IV, were replaced by the modern structures incorporating outdoor recreation areas in 2004 (Camp V) and 2006 (Camp VI).

JTF Guantanamo complies with U.S. law and international agreements as specificed in 42 USC § 21D, Detainee Treatment Act, as well as the provisions of Common Article III of the Geneva Convention.

Conditions and treatment of detainees are regularly reviewed by U.S. authorities and the International Committee of the Red Cross. A comprehensive assessment conducted by the Obama Administration concluded that Guantanamo met all requirements of U.S. law and continually works to exceed standards and make conditions as humane as possible subject to security requirements (Walsh Report).

CAMP V

Camp V is a maximum security facility that was opened in 2004. One wing was renovated into medical spaces that include an outpatient clinic, a multi-service ward and a behavioral health unit, all of which opened in March of 2018. During the same time frame, the Joint Medical Group relocated the Detainee Medical Center (DMC) from Camp Delta to a location within the perimeter of Camps V and VI. The DMC includes an acute care unit, operating room, x-ray room and administrative spaces.

CAMP VI

Camp VI was completed in October 2006. The detention facility can be configured for medium or maximum security. It is a climate controlled facility that offers communal-living conditions for detainees as well as outdoor recreation areas. A medical facility with two medical exam rooms and a dental exam room is located within Camp VI to provide immediate medical and dental care.

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HUMANE TREATMENT

DETAINEES AT GTMO ARE PROVIDED WITH:

- Three meals per day that meet cultural and dietary requirements and accommodate special requests
- Air-conditioned shelter, to include beds, mattresses, sheets, running water, and toilets
- Clothing, including shoes, 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
- Video calls with family
- Access to satellite TV, indoor and outdoor communal recreation, art and language classes
- The detainee library offers more than 33,000 items including books and movies. Magazines and newspapers are provided. Items range from picture books to doctorate-level materials printed in more than 19 different languages. The library is staffed by a full-time librarian and provides reading materials to detainees on a weekly basis.
- Full-time onsite medical staff and access to medical care.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

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 as well as in communal areas so the detainees know the direction to Mecca. Once prayer call sounds, detainees are given 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. Detainee medical appointments and other activities are scheduled mindful of the prayer call schedule.

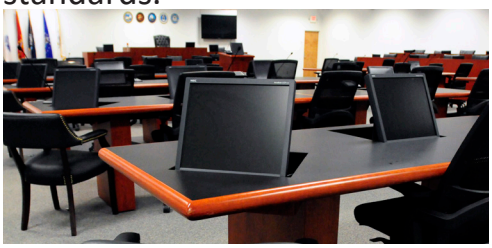
Extended prayer times are recognized and supported during religious holidays. Every detainee at JTF-GTMO is given a personal copy of the Quran. Measures are in place throughout the facility to ensure the Quran is handled appropriately in accordance with religious customs and practices.

JTF-GTMO recognizes Islamic holy periods, like Ramadan, by modifying meal schedules in observance of religious requirements. DoD personnel deployed to JTF-GTMO receive cultural training to ensure they understand Islamic traditions and have access to a dedicated JTF cultural advisor.

Prayer is observed five times a day

LEGAL SUPPORT

JTF-GTMO provides support to legal and administrative proceedings including Military Commissions, Federal habeas cases, and the Periodic Review Board process. Support includes coordinating priviledged phone calls and meetings between detainees and their legal representatives. JTF-GTMO also supports a comprehensive legal mail pick-up and delivery system to facilitate correspondence related to litigation. Each of these processes respect attorney-client confidentiality in accordance with applicable U.S. law, military regulation, court orders, and ethical standards.



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MEDICAL CARE

Medical professionals provide routine care for detainees

Medical facility reserved exclusively for detainee needs

Detainees are treated at a dedicated medical facility by an expert medical staff. Joint Medical Group providers administer care to all detainees regardless of disciplinary status, level of cooperation, or legal status.

Medical facilities are equipped with several 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. Specialists are brought to Guantanamo on a regular basis, and whenever required for emergency cases, to provide routine care that is not part of the normal capabilities of the Joint Medical Group.

Most routine medical care is administered by U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsmen who visit each cell-block daily and/or whenever a detainee requests care. Primary Care Providers and Psychiatrists are present and available daily and are always on call.

Detainees at JTF-GTMO are provided with immunizations which would have been unavilable to most in their home countries. Detainees have been provided life-changing care such as prosthetic limbs. In addition to the detainee medical center, Camp V has a facility for dedicated behavioral health care. The Behavioral Health Unit provides personnel on staff who are available to provide psychiatric support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) visits detainees quarterly, and has access to all facilities and detainees.

ICRC representatives process mail to and from detainees and coordinates humanitarian phone calls between detainees and their family members.

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

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DETAINEE PROGRAMS

Detainees may participate in the recreational art program at their discretion

INTELLECTUAL STIMULATION:

The detainee library provides materials that encompass 19 different languages such as Arabic, Pashto, English, French, Spanish, and Russian. The library consists of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, video games, and more. The Detainee Seminar Program is taught by contract employees. All seminars are taught year round in Arabic. The program includes the following classes: Arabic/English, art, nutrition/fitness, general education, reading music, horticulture, and business/finance.

Detainee Seminar Program class

Library offers more than 33,000 items

SOCIAL PROGRAMS:

These include recreation, communal prayers, family phone calls, video calls, and mail. Mail and Red Cross messages are delivered regulary.

DETAINEE LIBRARY:

More than 33,000 items
19,953+ books
1,112 magazines
3,857+ DVDs
337+ video games
7,987 CDs
19 different languages
Detainees can have up to 10 items at a time.
Newspapers are distributed weekly.

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GUARD FORCE

Troopers stand ready to respond to detainee needs

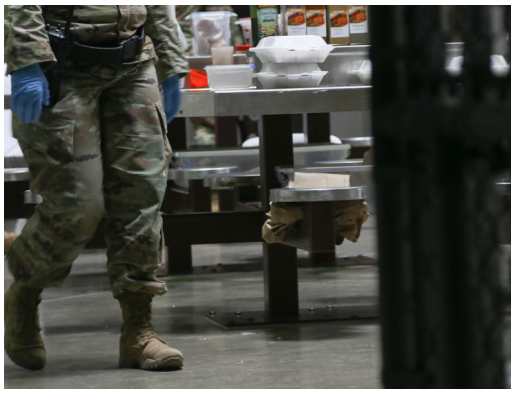
U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Security Detachment on patrol

Joint Detention Group (JDG) guards receive pre-deployment training before arriving at Guantanamo to ensure they are professionally prepared for the detention mission. In addition, on-the-job training is conducted upon arrival to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. Continual refresher and standard operating procedure training is also conducted throughout their deployment.

JDG also provides external and perimeter security access control and response forces at all JTF locations including the Expeditionary Legal Complex when commissions are in session.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Troopers adhere to standard operating procedures. In addition, standardization teams conduct internal audits to ensure procedures are followed. JDG leadership provides daily, on-site supervision. Detainees frequently challenge the guard force to illicit a negative response. However, U.S. personnel are trained to act professionally and in accordance with published standard operating procedures, and not to respond to detainee assaults, provocations, or verbal abuse.



Meals are delivered three times daily

Standards and teamwork ensure safe and secure conditions

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PRE-JTF- GTMO HISTORY

1992: Operation Sea Signal established to prepare for mass migration of refugees from Haiti and Cuba
1994: Operation Sea Signal leads to creation of Joint Task Force 160. Responsible for housing and processing more than 40,000 migrants awaiting repatriation or parole to U.S. Camp X-Ray established to segregate migrants who committed serious crimes.
1996: Operation Sea Signal ends; Camp X-Ray no longer in use.
1998 August: Attacks on U.S. Embassies in Kenya.
2000 October: Attack on USS Cole.
2001 September: Attacks on World Trade Center, Pentagon and United Flight 93. Authorization for Use of Military Force.
2001 December: Joint Task Force 160 reactivated; Camp X-Ray prepared as a temporary location for detention operations.
2002 January: First detainees are brought to Guantanamo Bay and housed in Camp X-Ray. International Committee of the Red Cross makes its first visit; ICRC continues quarterly visits.
2002 February: Joint Task Force 170 created as intelligence task force to work side-by-side with Joint Task Force 160.
2002 April: Construction completed on new 410-bed Camp Delta (Camps I, II, III).
2002 April: Detainees moved from the temporary Camp X-Ray facility to Camp Delta, a more permanent detention center; Camp X-Ray closed.
2002 November: Joint Task Force 160 and 170 merge to create Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

JTF-GTMO HISTORY

2003 February: Camp IV opens; provides communal living to allow compliant detainees broader freedom.
2004 May: Camp V opens, providing a modern state-of-the-art maximum security facility.
2004 August: Camp Echo completed, used as a legal visitation/detainee transitional center.
2006 October: Camp Iguana occupied, used as a minimum security communal camp.
2006 December: Camp VI opens.
2006 (over a period of months): Camps I-IV closed.
2008 March: Expeditionary Legal Complex completed.
2009 January: President Obama signs Executive Order directing determination of appropriate disposition of detainees in order to facilitate closure of detention facility.
2009 February: Walsh Report Issued.
2010 January: Holder Report Issued.
2011 November: Abd al Rahim al-Nashiri arraigned under U.S. military commissions.
2012 May: 9/11 Five arraigned under U.S. military commissions.
2013 January: Camp Iguana closed.
2016 August: Detainees from Camp V consolidated into Camp VI. Camp V renovations begin.
2017 August: Camp Iguana deconstruction.
2018 March: Detainee Medical Center and Camp V medical wing open.

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HISTORY OF NAVAL STATION GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

Established in 1903, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (NSGB) is the oldest overseas military installation and the only one in a communist country. Located on the southeast corner of Cuba, in the Oriente Province, the installation is approximately 400 air miles from Miami, Florida. The primary mission of the naval station is to serve as a strategic logistics base for the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, allied, and partner navies; support counternarcotic operations in the Caribbean; provide contingency logistics; and support migrant operations.

In February 1903, the United States leased 45 square miles of land and water at Guantanamo Bay for use as a coaling (fueling) station. The treaty was finalized and the document ratified by both governments and signed in Havana in December 1903. A 1934 treaty reaffirmed the lease granting Cuba and her trading partners free access through the bay, payment of $2,000 in gold per year, equating to $4,085 today, and a requirement that both the U.S. and Cuba must mutually consent to terminate the lease.

U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba were cut on January 3, 1961 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower shortly prior to John F. Kennedy's inauguration on January 20, 1961. At that time, many Cubans sought refuge on the base. U.S. Marines and Cuban militiamen began patrolling opposite sides of the base's 17.4-mile perimeter fence line. Today, U.S. Marines and Cuba's "Frontier Brigade" still man fence line posts 24 hours a day.

In October 1962, family members of service personnel stationed here and various base employees were evacuated to the United States as President John F. Kennedy announced the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The announcement began the Cuban Missile Crisis and resulted in a naval quarantine of the island until the Soviet Union removed the missiles 13 days later. Evacuees were allowed to return to the base by Christmas that same year. Another crisis arose just 14 months later on February 6, 1964 when Castro cut off water and supplies to the base in retaliation for several incidents in which Cuban fishermen were fined by the U.S. Government for fishing in Florida waters. Since then, NSGB has been self-sufficient with the Naval Station desalination plant producing on average one million gallons of water and between 15 and 19 Megawatts hours of electricity daily.

In 1991, the Naval Station's original mission expanded as some 56,000 Haitian refugees and 8,000 Cuban migrants passed through the installation. The refugees fled Haiti after a violent coup brought on by political and social upheaval in their country. The Naval Station received the Navy Unit Commendation and Joint Meritorious Unit Award for its efforts.

In May 1994, Operation Sea Signal began and the Naval Station was tasked to support Joint Task Force 160 in providing humanitarian assistance to thousands of Haitian and Cuban migrants. In late August and early September 1994, 2,200 family members and civilian employees were evacuated from the base as the migrant population climbed to more than 45,000 and the Pentagon began preparing to house up to 60,000 migrants on the base. In October 1995, family members were authorized to return, marking an end to family separations. The last Haitian migrants departed November 1, 1995. The last of the Cuban migrants left the base on January 31, 1996. An immediate effort began to restore base facilities for family use, including a child development center, a youth center, two schools, and Sunday school. Additionally, the revitalization of Boy and Girl Scout Camps and the Guantanamo Bay Youth Activities, a free sports program for children, was enacted.

During "Operation Sea Signal," a number of migrant camps were set up at "Radio Range," the site of the Naval Station's radio antennas on the south side of the base. These would be the future site of a more permanent detainee facility. To identify the camps, a name was designated to each to correspond with the phonetic alphabet used for official military "radio" communication (Camp Alpha, Camp Bravo, up to Camp Golf). When additional sites were established on the north side of the base, names were designated using the opposite end of the alphabet, including Camp X-Ray. Camp X-Ray is the only camp site on the northern side of the base and is no longer used.

Following Sea Signal, NSGB retained the migrant operations mission. The base has also conducted two contingency migrant operations: Operation Marathon in October 1996 and Present Haven in February 1997. These short-fused events involved the interception of Chinese migrants being smuggled into the United States.

After 52 years of service, NSGB's Fleet Training Group relocated to Mayport, Florida, in July 1995. One month later, the Naval Station's Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity disestablished after 92 years of service.

The most recent addition to the base is Southern Command's Joint Task Force-Guantanamo. Following the attacks on New York and the Pentagon on September 11th, 2001, JTF-GTMO was formed to support the War on Terrorism detainee mission.

Mission and Vision

U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay serves as a strategic logistics base for the Navy's Atlantic Fleet, allied, and partner navies; supports counternarcotic operations in the Caribbean; provides contingency logistics; and supports migrant operations. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is essential to national maritime strategy and is the cornerstone of joint U.S. military and governmental operations in the U.S. Southern Command area of operations. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay continually strengthens our nation's ability to maneuver from the sea and provides regional humanitarian relief through quality logistical support of fleet, federal agencies, and the joint service community operating in the Caribbean. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay's unique location optimizes U.S. response to catastrophic regional events. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay stands on the front lines of Caribbean regional security initiatives through direct support of counternarcotic operations, counter-terrorism, and contingency migrant efforts.

Facilities

At NSGB, the Outer Harbor is used by the U.S. Navy and the Inner Harbor serves as a Cuban commercial port. The Outer Harbor includes that portion of Guantanamo Bay from the entrance north to Palma Point (approximately 19° 58' 24"N). The major naval facilities are contained within Corinaso Cove from Corinaso Point to Radio Point. There are two piers available, varying in length from 400-900 ft. with depths alongside from 20 to 35 ft. One wharf provides accommodations up to 1,050 ft. with depths to 38 ft. Piers and wharves range from 6 to 10 ft. in height above mean sea level. It should be noted that dredge depths decrease along some piers, therefore dredge width may be minimal and maneuvering is consequently difficult. Berths and anchorages at NSGB are assigned by the Port Services Officer. The Outer Harbor also has naval anchorage areas for deep-draft vessels. Pilots are available and required for ships engaged in commercial trade, but are not compulsory for ships of the U.S. Navy. Tugs (normally two available) and other harbor services may be arranged through Port Control. Emergency harbor services are available 24 hours a day.

Two airfields are located within the naval complex. Leeward Point Field on the west side is an active naval airfield. McCalla Airfield, on the east side of the harbor entrance, is inactive.

In early 2005, four white wind turbines began operating on John Paul Jones Hill, the base's highest point, named after the Revolutionary War naval hero. The turbines stand 80 meters (262 ft.) high and feature three blades. Each turbine is anchored in a giant block of concrete, through which 22 soil anchors are drilled into the mountain to a depth of 30 to 40 feet deep. The automated turbines are rated to withstand winds of up to 140 miles per hour.

GEOGRAPHY

- Located in the Orient Province on the southeast corner of Cuba, the base is about 400 air miles from Miami, Florida.
- Land area: Approximately 45 square miles (28,817 acres).
- Fence Line: 17.4 miles of security fence is guarded by U.S. Marines.
- Guantanamo Bay is a 46 ft. deep natural harbor, enabling ships to move close to shore. The base is divided into two areas by the 2 1/2 mile-wide bay.
- Guantanamo Bay is the largest bay on the extreme south coast of Cuba and affords anchorage for deep-draft ships. The bay is a pouch-shaped indentation about 12 miles long in a northeast-southwest direction and about 6 miles across at its greatest width. Guantanamo Valley, a low, hilly district, extends westward from the bay along the Sierra Maestra. The deep bay is sheltered by the nearby Cuzco Hills (elevations to 495 ft.) to the south and east and by mountains to the north.

UTILITIES:

- No utilities are received from the government of Cuba. The base is self-sufficient.
- Desalination plant produces on average of 1 million gallons of water per day.
- Power plant produces 15 to 19 MW of electricity based on daily demand.
- Wind Turbines and Solar Farm contribute to electricity production.
- On average 2-3 percent of the base's electric energy per day comes from the Naval Station's four 262 ft. tall, three-blade turbines. Each of the turbines produces 950 kilowatts of electricity.

MAJOR UNITS AND TENANT COMMANDS:

- Marine Corps Security Force Company Guantanamo Bay
- United States Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast, Public Works Department
- Defense Media Activity Operations Guantanamo Bay
- Department of Defense Education Activity – W.T. Sampson Schools
- Naval Atlantic Meteorology and Oceanography Command Detachment Naval Media Center Detachment
- Fleet & Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Jacksonville Detachment, Guantanmo Bay
- Naval Supply Systems Fleet Logistics Center Jacksonville, Guantanamo Bay site
- Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS)
- Personnel Support Detachment Guantanamo
- Joint Task Force Guantanamo
- Office of Military Commissions
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Aviation Detachment Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (USCG AVDT)

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DOD OFFICIAL WEBSITES

DoD Official Web Site DefenseGov – www.defense.gov
Official DoD portal that features top stories and links to U.S. military information online

DoD News Releases – www.defense.gov/news/news-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.defense.gov/News/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

DoD Military Commissions – www.mc.mil/cases/militarycommissions.aspx
DoD coverage of detainee cases with background information of the case

Military Commissions – www.mc.mil/cases/courtcalendar.aspx
Information on military commissions court calendar

Joint Task Force – Guantanamo – www.jtfgtmo.southcom.mil/News/Articles
Joint Task Force – Guantanamo home page that includes news reports

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

CNIC Naval Station Guantanamo Bay - https://cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/ns_guantanamo_bay.html

Joint Task Force - Guantanamo

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