

United States Naval Base Guantanamo Bay



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History

United States Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is the oldest U.S. Base outside the continental United States and it is located in a country that does NOT have political relationship with the United States

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United States Naval Base Guantanamo Bay is located on the southeast corner of Cuba. The base is about 400 air miles from Miami, Florida.

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In February 1903, the United States leased 45 square miles of land and water at Guantanamo Bay for use as a coaling (fueling) station.

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A 1934 treaty reaffirming the lease granted Cuba and her trading partners free access through the bay, modified the lease payment from \$2000 in gold coins per year, to the 1934 equivalent value of \$4,085 per year.

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Termination of the lease requires the consent of both the United States and Cuba, or the abandonment of the base property by the United States

In other words:

Guantanamo Bay will be used by the United States forever.



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Following the events of:

- September 11, 2001
- The military operation in Afghanistan
- The capture of numerous Al Qaida and Taliban individuals.

A decision was made to transfer a number of the detainees to Guantanamo Bay.

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The Executive Branch of the United States Government has classified the detainees in Guantanamo Bay as "enemy combatants," rather than prisoners of war (POWs).

According to Article 4 of the Geneva Convention, POW is defined as someone who is a regular soldier or a guerrilla and a part of a regular army or militia.

Taliban members and Al-Qaeda terrorist do not meet this definition.

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Controversy

To what extent does the terrorist threat justify holding
prisoners in conditions such as Guantanamo Bay?

or

Do you feel that the right to a fair trial should be protected
at all costs?
