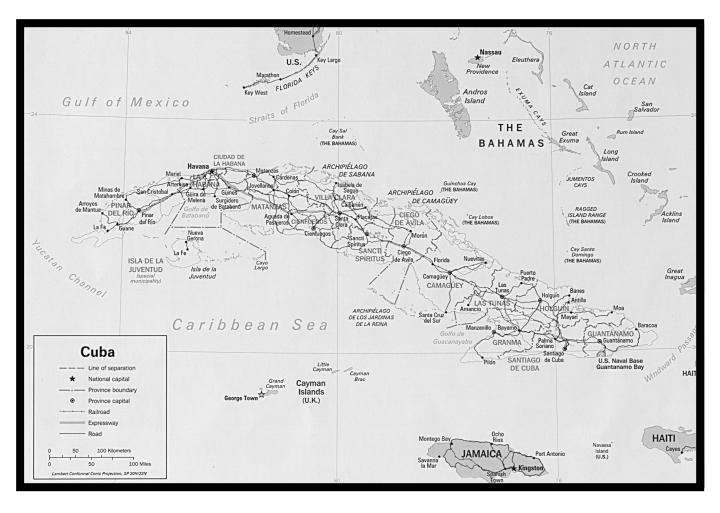


History

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

History

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



History

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

History

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.

History

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.



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.

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.









U.S. Naval Base

Guantanamo Bay



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?