



National Security Working Group

Special Report: Obama GITMO Plan Threatens National Security Congressman Trent Franks (R-AZ), Chairman

On May 21st, 2009, President Obama said he intends to transfer detainees from the detention facility in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States homeland. The president concluded by [saying](#) there would be no danger in transferring detainees to “highly secure prisons” in this country, and pledged to seek trials for many in civilian or military courts.

President Obama declared in his speech on May 21st, that “we are not going to release anyone if it would endanger our national security.” *The “[enemy combatants](#)” at GITMO are a danger to national security.*

- F.B.I. director, Robert S. Mueller III, [said](#) on May 20th that moving detainees to American prisons would bring with it risks including “the potential for individuals undertaking attacks in the United States.”

If the President had his way, unlawful enemy combatants would be housed inside the United States where they will receive the full gambit of legal protections and rights granted in regular criminal courts, surrounded by American society, whether in our prisons system or on military installations. They will be next door to our patriotic servicemen, next to our hospitals, houses of worship, and schools.

Roughly 250 detainees remain at Guantanamo Bay. They fall into three categories. This [CRS Report](#) provides a full break down.

- Persons designated as enemy combatants who have been placed in preventative detention to stop them from returning to the battlefield.
- Persons designated as enemy combatants who have been brought or are expected to be brought before a military tribunal to face criminal charges for alleged violations of the law of war. If convicted, such persons may be subject to criminal penalty, which in the case of the most severe offenses may include life imprisonment or death.
- Persons who have been cleared for transfer or release to a foreign country, either because (1) they are not believed to have been enemy combatants or (2) although they were designated as enemy combatants, they are no longer considered a threat to U.S. security. Such persons remain detained at Guantanamo until their transfer may be effectuated.

Even though critics of GITMO have said otherwise, American servicemen treat GITMO inmates incredibly well.¹ **Aggressive interrogations were only applied to high value terrorists.** Waterboarding, specifically, was applied to three terrorists. One of the terrorists subjected to waterboarding was Khalid Sheikh Muhammed - also known as the Mastermind of 9/11. **He has also [boasted](#) about beheading Daniel Pearl.**

¹ Four sub-bullets taken from Inside GITMO: The True Story Behind the Myths of Guantanamo Bay (HarperCollins 2009), by Lt. Col. Gordon Cucullu.

- Detainees are provided a range of items when they arrive at GITMO, including prayer mats, prayer beads, and skull caps. **Arrows pointing to the direction of Mecca have been seen on the floors at the facility.** More compliant detainees are given even more freedom to take art classes and watch TV (cartoons and game shows).
- **Detainees get foot rubs from American nurses.** According to an Army Major, detainees on hunger strikes “got to go to the air-conditioned hospital for a few hours ... get a feeding, and have their feet rubbed ... Hunger strikes lead to poor circulation in the extremities. **So the nurses and female corpsmen rub their feet.**
- **Detainees have used the system to their benefit when dealing with lawyers who are defending them...by making their physical condition appear worse by starving or injuring themselves.** For example: “Not only will [the detainees] try to look bad, but sometimes a detainee will actually harm himself right before a lawyer visit and claim the guards beat him,” a Navy guard said. “One of these guys is notorious for it. He’ll run into the wall of his cell to bruise and skin up his face. Scratch himself with his fingernails, punch himself. The attorneys love it.”
- There are numerous cases of detainee violence toward guards... **"[Detainees] throw spit, urine, feces, vomit, and semen at guards at every opportunity. They tell guards that they will have their al Qaeda friends rape and murder their families... They claw under the guards' protective masks, trying to gouge eyes and to rip and tear lips and ears."**

An unreleased Pentagon report concludes that about one in seven of the 534 prisoners already transferred abroad from the detention center in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, has returned to terrorism or militant activity, according to administration officials.

- The Pentagon confirmed that two former Guantánamo prisoners whose terrorist activities had been previously reported had indeed returned to the fight. They are Said Ali al-Shihri, a leader of Al Qaeda’s Yemeni branch suspected in a deadly bombing of the United States Embassy in Sana, Yemen’s capital, last year, and Abdullah Ghulam Rasoul, an Afghan Taliban commander, who also goes by the name Mullah Abdullah Zakir.
- Several detainees came from the battlefield with missing or injured limbs ... At Guantanamo they received the best, most modern prosthetics, as good as our wounded soldiers get returning from combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. There is a documented instance of a released detainee – one who was judged by the Annual Review Board process to be “no longer a danger to the U.S.” – who had been fitted with a prosthetic leg during his GITMO stay and was [later found] back on the battlefield fighting against American and coalition forces.² stay and was [later found] back on the battlefield fighting against American and coalition forces.³

The House war supplemental did not contain funding to close GITMO and the Senate voted 92-3 to strip funding to close the facility, demonstrating wide bipartisan opposition to the Obama plan.

For more information on Guantanamo, visit these WebPages:

<http://militaryfamiliesunited.org/?q=issues/guantanamo-bay-detention-facility>

<http://blog.heritage.org/2009/04/02/inside-guantanamo/>

<http://www.actforamerica.org/index.php/learn/email-archives/850-obama-decisions-putting-america-at-risk>

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² Inside GITMO: The True Story Behind the Myths of Guantánamo Bay (HarperCollins 2009), by Lt. Col. Gordon Cucullu.

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