

Guarding CONTROVERSY

In 2002, a small U.S. naval base in southern Cuba was thrust into the international spotlight when it began holding al Qaida and Taliban detainees.

A detainee's journey

Detainees were brought to the base by military plane and bused to Camp Delta, where they move through a chain of high-security prison camps according to their behavior and cooperation.

CAMP 3: ARRIVING IN CAMP DELTA

TYPE: Maximum-security prison consists of pre-fabricated structures.

CLOTHING: Orange uniforms with flip-flops.

PERSONAL ITEMS: None.
EXERCISE: Thirty minutes, three times a week. Inmates cannot interact with one another.

CAMP 2: DETAINEE BEGINS COOPERATING

TYPE: Another high-level camp of prefabricated buildings.

CLOTHING: Orange uniforms and flip-flops.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Allowed shampoo and other small

items, but must ask for toilet paper.
EXERCISE: Thirty minutes, three times a week. Inmates cannot interact with one another.

CAMP 1: DETAINEE BECOMES MORE COOPERATIVE

TYPE: A medium-level camp. **CLOTHING:** Tan uniforms, canvas sneakers, flip-flops, shorts, pants and shirts.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Small toothbrush, soap,

shampoo and a paper cup. Inmates must ask for toilet paper.
EXERCISE: Thirty minutes, three times a week. Can play soccer in pairs.

CAMP 4: DETAINEE DEEMED LOW-SECURITY RISK

TYPE: A dormitory-style facility with four units that hold 20 detainees each. Access to television and games. Detainees allowed to eat and pray together.

CLOTHING: White uniforms, flip-flops.

PERSONAL ITEMS: Personal locker, a prayer rug and toilet paper. Access to writing material and books.
EXERCISE: Seven to nine hours a day. Access to board games and team sports.

CAMP 5: DETAINEE DEEMED HIGH-SECURITY RISK

Those considered the most dangerous or who have the most valuable intelligence are housed in the only concrete facility. The two-story, multi-winged structures use a high-tech security system. Another concrete structure is under construction, but details of it are unavailable.

CAMP ECHO: COUNSELING WITH LAWYERS

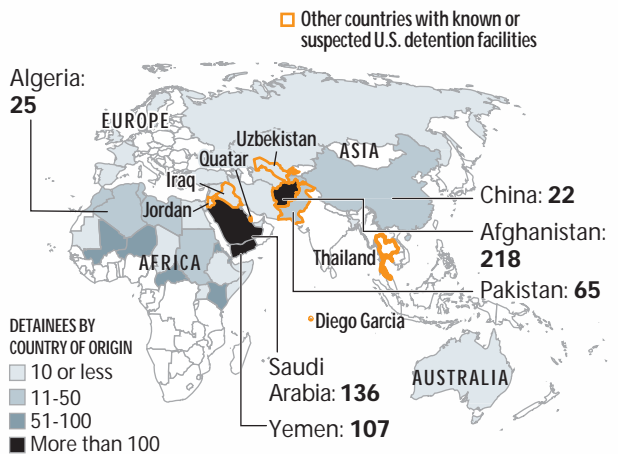
Facility used for detainees to consult with their private attorneys or military lawyers. Also houses detainees selected for tribunals.

CAMP IGUANA: TRANSITION FOR RELEASE

This low-level facility used to house juvenile inmates and now houses detainees who are about to be released.

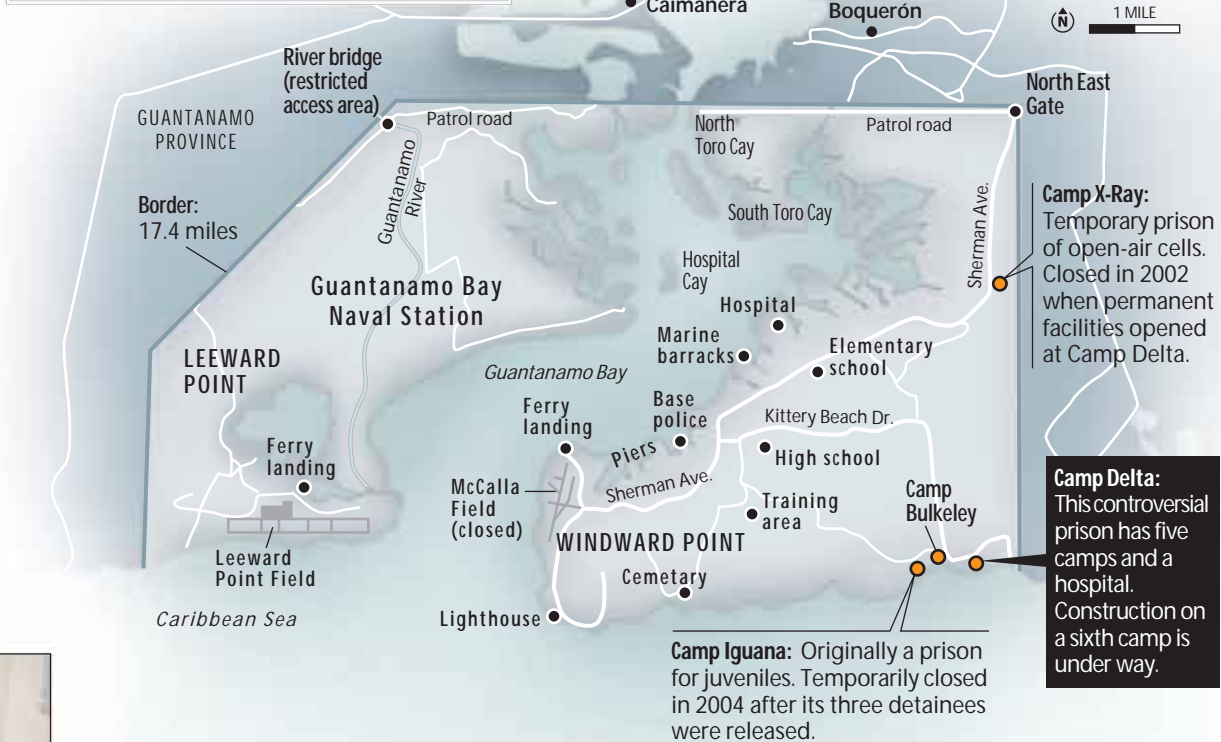
ABOUT THE DETAINEES

More than 750 prisoners have been sent to Guantanamo since 2002, while others were sent to secret facilities in Asia. Of those who went to Guantanamo, many came from the Middle East and, until recently, were not treated as prisoners of war. Today, debate continues about the type of trials the remaining 450 detainees will get.



Why Guantanamo?

Guantanamo Bay is at the heart of President Bush's argument: As long as foreign detainees were kept off U.S. soil, they would be tried in military tribunals without option of appeal. But that has changed since the Supreme Court ruled against him in June.



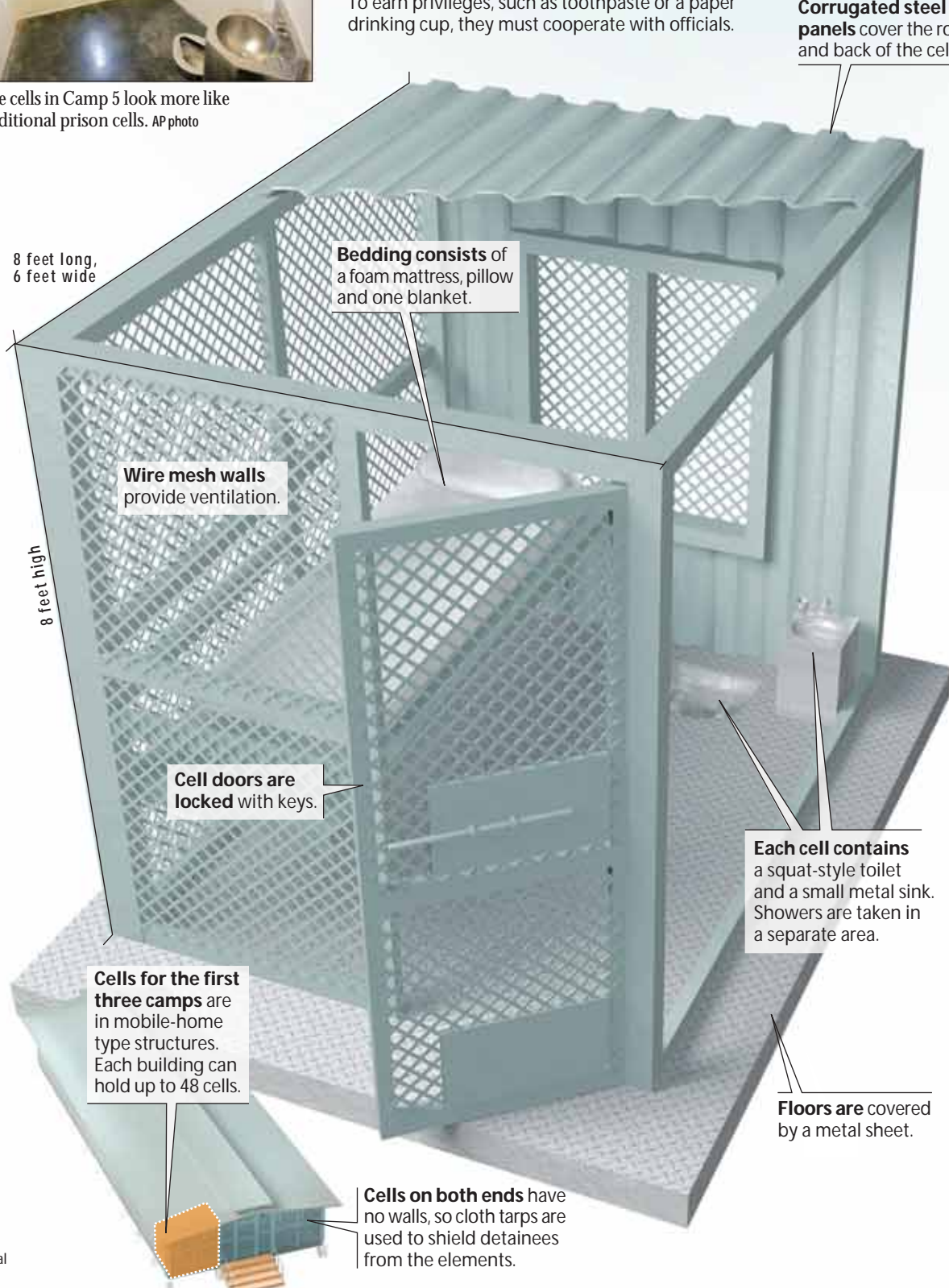
Upon arrival, every detainee is given an orange shirt and pants, flip-flops, prayer beads, prayer cap, a washcloth, two towels and a copy of the Quran.



The cells in Camp 5 look more like traditional prison cells. AP photo

A basic prison cell

All prisoners stay in cells like this when they arrive. To earn privileges, such as toothpaste or a paper drinking cup, they must cooperate with officials.



ABOUT GITMO

STAFF: About 8,500 members of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as civilian employees. Also includes the Joint Task Force, a specialized unit that operates the prisons.

MISSION: Responsible for detention and interrogation of enemy combatants, and to provide assistance for naval and foreign fleets.

BASE SIZE: About 45 square miles and is surrounded by water, a cactus fence and Cuban land mines. Borders constantly monitored by road patrol and guarded watchtowers.

BASE FACILITIES: Include a bowling alley, library, banks, college, pools, golf course and Cuba's only McDonalds.



A view of Cuba from the base's North East Gate. Gitmo, its military nickname, is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a communist country. AP photo.

For more information

Get more photos at sun-sentinel.com/theedge

Amid communism and criticism

The first U.S. soldiers stepped foot in Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Several years later, a small navy base was born and it has endured a communist dictator and international criticism in its 103-year history.

