IMPROVING DETAINEE OPERATIONS
AT GUANTANAMO

October 16, 2002
GTMO's Purposes

- Long-term holding facility for detention of enemy combatants.

- Intelligence facility for interrogations, and to enable other intelligence and law enforcement efforts.

- Criminal investigative operation designed to lead to:
  - prosecution by military tribunal of certain detainees; or
  - cooperation by detainees secured via plea bargains.
Detainees at GTMO: Present and Future

- Holding enemy combatants from 41 countries (Ages 16 - 90).

- They are "enemy combatants":
  - captured because they pose a threat to U.S. security;
  - may have information that could help prevent next attack; and
  - may have committed prosecutable war crimes.

- More than half of population assessed to be of medium or high intelligence value, or to be "hardcore" jihadists.
  - Others are considered "low value," but still hostile to U.S.

- Total number of detainees should stabilize, then decrease over time.
  - Number will increase as new enemy combatants are captured, but decrease as combatants are released or transferred to other countries.

- New Effort: JTF-GTMO and Criminal Investigative Task Force now have a dedicated team to identify "Low Value" detainees.

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Transfer/Release of Detainees

- **New Effort**: DoD has established an Interagency Process for transferring detainees.

- Release/transfer cases approved by Deputy Secretary of Defense:

- Additional Transfers Under Consideration:
  - 33 cases forwarded by SOUTHCOM. Intelligence exploitation finished. Criminal investigation and threat assessment still ongoing.

- Challenge is to release or transfer detainees that pose a low risk to U.S., while ensuring that those detainees posing a continuing threat are kept under appropriate controls.
GTMO Facilities: Present and Future

• Developed to safely/securely hold detainee population. Capacity for

• Currently provides only two levels of segregation – general population and maximum security.

• New Effort: DoD substantially improving facility.
  – New facilities being constructed.
  – Additional space for enemy combatants.
Summary of Intelligence Results To Date

- Details about terrorist infrastructure:
  - Training camps -- Possible WMD sites
  - Safe houses -- Cave complexes

- Al-Qa’ida’s *Modus Operandi*:
  - Recruitment methods;
  - Tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment;
  - Financing & fund-raising;
  - How cells are set up and propagated;
  - Use of Internet.

- Other key details:
  - Positive identification of Richard Reid, Jose Padilla, and Martin Mubanga;
Two objectives:

- US Southern Command proposal under review.
Other Initiatives Already Being Undertaken

- Detainee Policy Group
  - DoD created an office staffed by senior civilians and military officers, devoted to oversight and improvement of GTMO effort.
Initiatives Being Undertaken (cont’d)

• Consolidated GTMO command
  – Previously, 2 JTF’s with conflicting mandates ran GTMO -- one to serve as “warden” and other to serve “intelligence” function.
  – DoD has combined JTF’s into single operation.

• Interagency Experts Group
  – Chaired by DoD at the Assistant Secretary level.
  – Purpose is to:
    • review case files for potential transfers or releases;
    • coordinate intelligence and law enforcement efforts; and
    • coordinate diplomatic efforts.

• Reintegration initiative (New effort, just started)
  – Purpose is to help select detainees “decompress”/prepare for return to society.

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GTMO is an Evolutionary Process

- A "cold start" for DoD. No experience in this type of effort. We are learning as we go.

- Constant process of adjustment and refinement. As shown, when good ideas are proposed by other agencies, DoD is implementing.

- Close relationship with Congressional intelligence committees. Frequent meetings, visits to GTMO.

- Joint Staff-commissioned "External Review" completed in September provided impetus for many important changes.

- In addition to day-to-day oversight, OSD(Policy) will administer a second, "Blue Ribbon" panel review in February to check on progress, and propose additional measures.
GTMO Tomorrow

• We will provide the facilities needed for U.S. Criminal Investigators to mount successful prosecutions against terrorists.

• But we will keep dangerous people “off the battlefield,” and we will prevent captured terrorists from causing further harm to the United States, its allies, and friends.