

## **Three Detainee Deaths at Guantanamo Bay**

(June 10, 2006)

**MIAMI** – Joint Task Force - Guantanamo announced that three detainees died of apparent suicides early this morning. Two Saudis and one Yemeni, each located in Camp 1, were found unresponsive and not breathing in their cells by guards. Medical teams responded quickly and all three detainees were provided immediate emergency medical treatment in attempts to revive them.

The three detainees were pronounced dead by a physician after all lifesaving measures had been exhausted. The names of the deceased are not being released. The State Department has notified and are in ongoing discussions with the governments of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The remains of the deceased detainees are being treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor is assisting the Joint Task Force to ensure that the remains are handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner.

The U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) has initiated an investigation to determine the cause and manner of death.

For additional information, contact JTF-Guantanamo Public Affairs Office at 011-5399-9928.

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**DRAFT Q & A: Answers are still being worked, but likely questions include:**

**Q. What happens to the remains?**

A: The remains of the deceased detainees are being treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor is assisting the Joint Task Force to ensure that the remains are handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner.

The issue of the final resting place for the remains is being discussed by the State Department with the detainees' countries of origin.

**Q. Will an autopsy be performed? When, Where, By whom?**

A: The Armed Forces Medical Examiner will determine if autopsies are to be performed by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. The autopsies will likely be performed at Naval Hospital Guantanamo.

**Q. Have Next of Kin been informed? Has the detainees home government'(s) been informed?**

A: The State Department has notified the respective governments of the detainees, which include the governments of Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

**Q. What Muslim (cultural) protocols are being observed?**

A: The remains of the deceased detainees are being treated with the utmost respect. A cultural advisor is assisting the Joint Task Force to ensure that the remains are handled in a culturally and religiously appropriate manner.

**Q. How many previous suicide attempts have occurred at GTMO? When last?**

A: There have been forty-one previous suicide attempts at GTMO since early 2002. The last suicide attempt was May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Q. Were these three detainees involved in the May 18th uprising?**

A: No. These detainees were not involved in the events of May 18.

**Q. How did they commit suicide?**

A: The deaths are currently under investigation. Both the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner are in the process of determining the cause and manner of death.