

Guard Force

Joint Task Force Guantanamo

Safe, Humane, Legal, Transparent



There are approximately 1,100 personnel assigned to the Joint Detention Group (JDG). The guard force within the JDG consists of both Army and Navy personnel. Guards range in age between 19 and 25 with an average age of 23 years old.

to at all times. In addition, standardization teams conduct internal audits to ensure procedures are followed. There is daily, active, on-site supervision by the chain of command.



Detainee assaults on the guard force occur on a daily basis. Guards that are assaulted, both verbally and physically, are given time to clean up and then are evaluated and given the opportunity to go home or continue their watch. The guards are given the opportunity to leave their shift or talk to someone from the Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team (JSMART). Most choose to clean up, change and resume their shift at work.

There are many support elements that contribute to the JDG mission, including:

- Behavioral Science Consultant Team
- JSMART
- Linguist
- Staff Judge Advocate
- Cultural Advisor

The guard force, which is distributed throughout all nine camps, conducts detainee checks a minimum of every three minutes. Every detainee meal is hand served by the guard force. For each intra-camp detainee movement two guards are required, while four guards are required for inter-camp movements. Detainees are under observation at all times, including humanities programs, recreation and all appointments.

Behavioral Science Consultants (BSCs) are psychologists not assigned to clinical practice functions but to provide consultative services to support authorized law detention and intelligence activities. They are analogous to behavioral science unit personnel of a law enforcement organization or forensic psychiatry or psychology personnel supporting the criminal justice, parole or corrections systems. BSCs employ their professional training, not in a provider-patient relationship, but in relation to a person who is the subject of a lawful governmental inquiry, assessment, investigation, adjudication or other proper action.

Guards receive pre-deployment training before arriving to ensure they are professionally trained to all standards and requirements. A mock facility was created at Fort Lewis, Wash., to train all Navy guards. In addition to pre-deployment training, right seat/left seat training is conducted upon arrival to Joint Task Force Guantanamo. JDG guards work 12-hour shifts with a four on - two off schedule. They are deployed here for one year. Clear standard operating procedures are strictly adhered

JSMART, under the Joint Medical Group, conducts outreach and preventive services for all Joint Task Force personnel.