

U.S. Defense Officials Consider Colorado Prisons for Guantanamo Detainees



Washington, October 16 (RHC)-- Pentagon officials are considering relocating Guantanamo detainees to a U.S. federal prison and the Colorado State Penitentiary and have started assessing eligibility of the facilities. A team from the U.S. Defense Department has begun reviewing sites in Colorado as potential alternatives for holding prisoners as part of the long-stalled initiative by U.S. President Barack Obama to close the controversial detention center.

According to Navy Commander Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman, the team planned to assess facilities at the Federal Correctional Complex in Florence and the state penitentiary in Canon City as alternatives for a "limited" number of detainees from Guantanamo.

They are looking at what changes would be needed to the facilities in Colorado to keep the prisoners and to hold proceedings for those facing trial by military commission, Ross said. The spokesman also added: "These site visits are informational only. No sites have been selected for holding detainees."

Officials did not say how many Guantanamo detainees would be under consideration for the transfer, but dozens still remain in the Cuba-based prison. Among the sites that are being assessed by the Pentagon

team is the Supermax in Florence, Colorado, which has been dubbed "Alcatraz of the Rockies," and already holds convicted terrorists.

Despite Obama's promise at the beginning of his term in office, the U.S. still holds 114 prisoners at Guantanamo, including 54 already cleared for release.

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