

Report sheds new light on Guantanamo

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- A study commissioned by the Pentagon contends 73 percent of the detainees held in Guantanamo Bay were a "demonstrated threat" to coalition forces. Conducted by the Combating Terrorism Center at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and based on information from detainees' hearings in 2004 and 2005, the research claims many of those held at the U.S. naval base in Cuba were members of al-Qaida, graduates of terrorism training camps and men who had extensive experience with weapons, The New York Times reported Thursday. The study, which also said 95 percent of the detainees were at least a "potential threat" to U.S. or coalition forces, contradicts accounts from advocates and some media who maintain that many of the suspects being held in Guantanamo are actually harmless. The authors of the study said they want the information they gathered to "enhance our collective understanding of the threats facing the United States, its allies and its interests and how we respond to them," the Times said. About 360 detainees are being held in Guantanamo Bay.

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