

US – Invasion in Panama

“Operation Just Cause“: 20th of December 1989 - 3th of January 1990

Background

- Panama Canal is an important strategical field of interest of the USA
- In the canal agreement of 1977 it was definite that it would belong to the USA till 1999
- Ronald Reagan and George Bush already tried to extend this agreement
- Panama didn't want a new agreement

George Bush's four reasons for the invasion were:

- to save the life of US-citizens
- to recover the democratic process
- to assure the intactness of the Panama Canal agreement
- to arrest Noriega

Manuel Noriega

* 11.02.1940 (or 1934, or 1938 not really known)

- 1983: „Chief of the national guard“
→ official ruler of the country
- involved in drug business and in money laundering
- Noriega has been a national enemy like Saddam Hussein
- 03.01.1990: Noriega surrendered
- 10.02.1992: sentenced to 40 years imprisonment
→ reduced to 30 years



Manuel Noriega

Origin of the name “Operation just cause“

- *Just Cause* = fair reason
- *Just Cause* was the first mission name since the Korea War
- acception of the right thing
→ activities of Noriega moved into the foreground
- name can be considered as an ideal of following mission names

Involved US Unities

- Naval Forces
- Air Forces
- Marine Forces
- Army Forces

The Mission

- Joint Special Operations Task Forces
 - 20.12.1989 (0:46 o'clock): invasion started
 - missile hit the headquarter of Noriega
 - US-officer requested him to surrender
 - Noriega refused
 - - Artillery fired at the building and it was bombed from the air
 - street of houses were in flames (Carrillo)
 - streetfights

 - 24000 US-soldiers marched into Panama
 - within a few days the country was under controll of the invaders
- 03.01.1990: Noriega surrendered

Result

- at least 300 civilians and round about 250 soldiers died
- 15000 people were homeless
- 2,2 billion US-\$ damage of property
- Noriega was caught

