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## Operation Just Cause

Center of Military History

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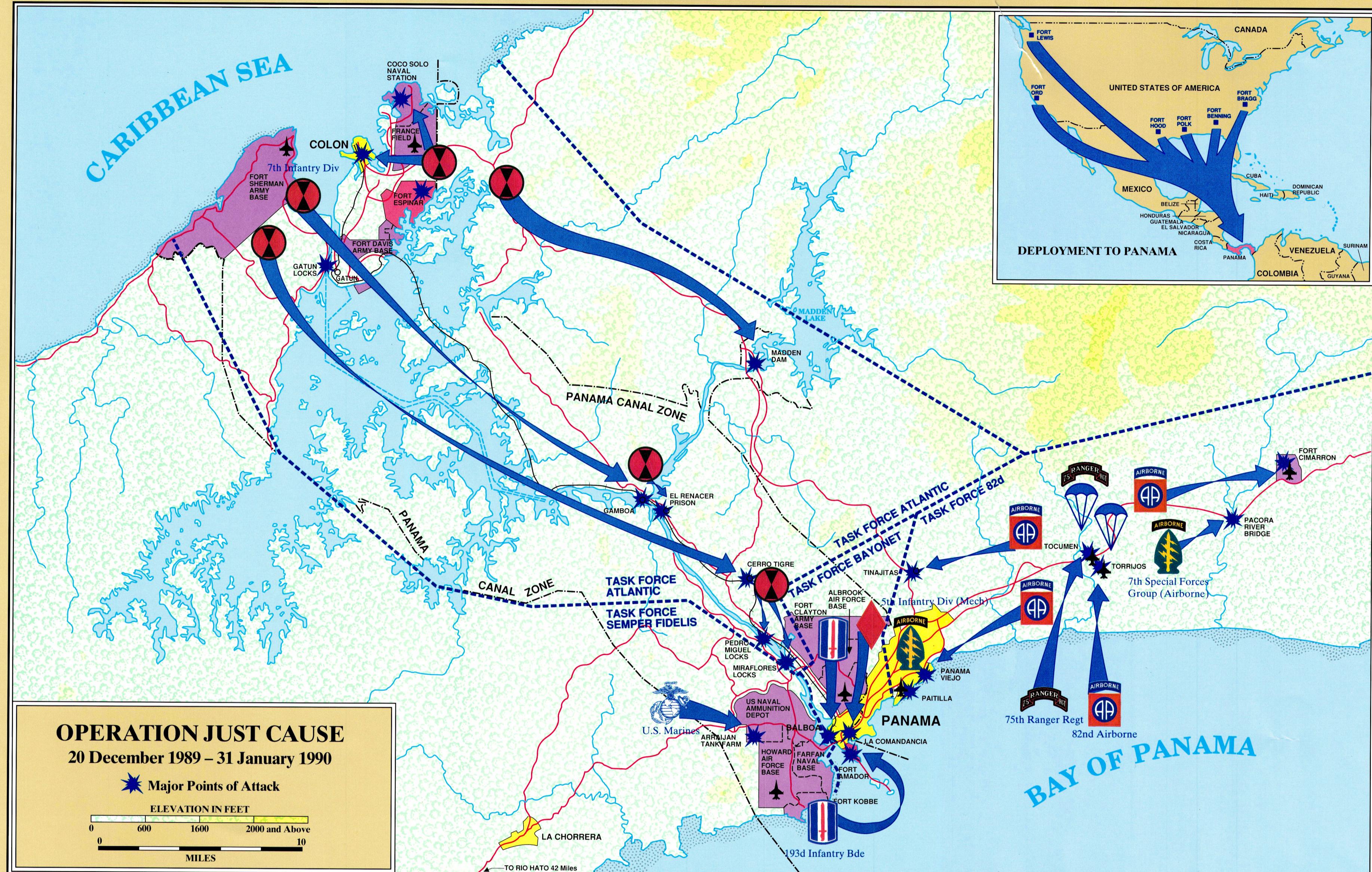
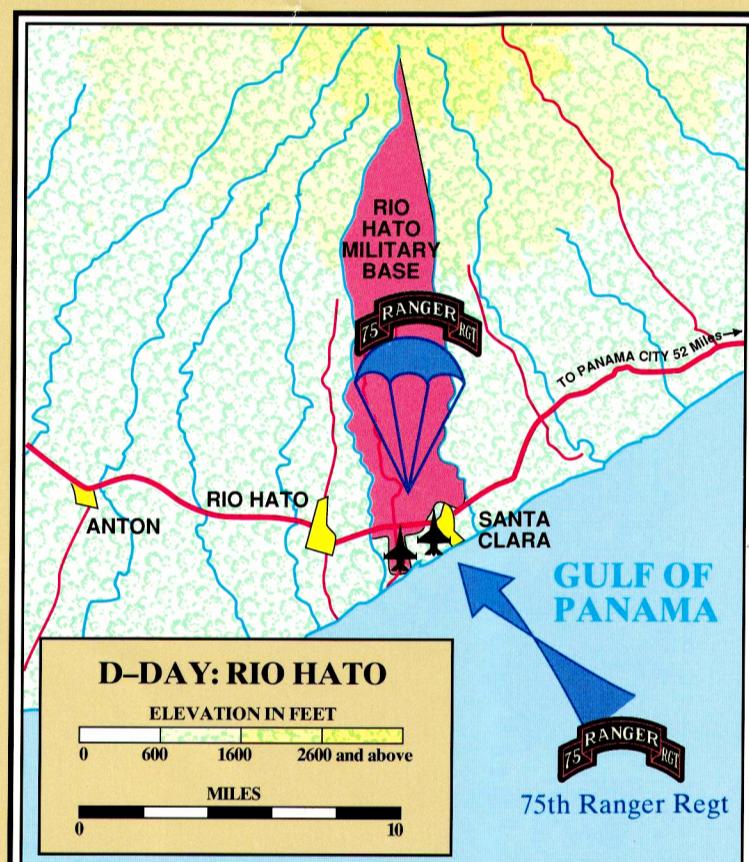
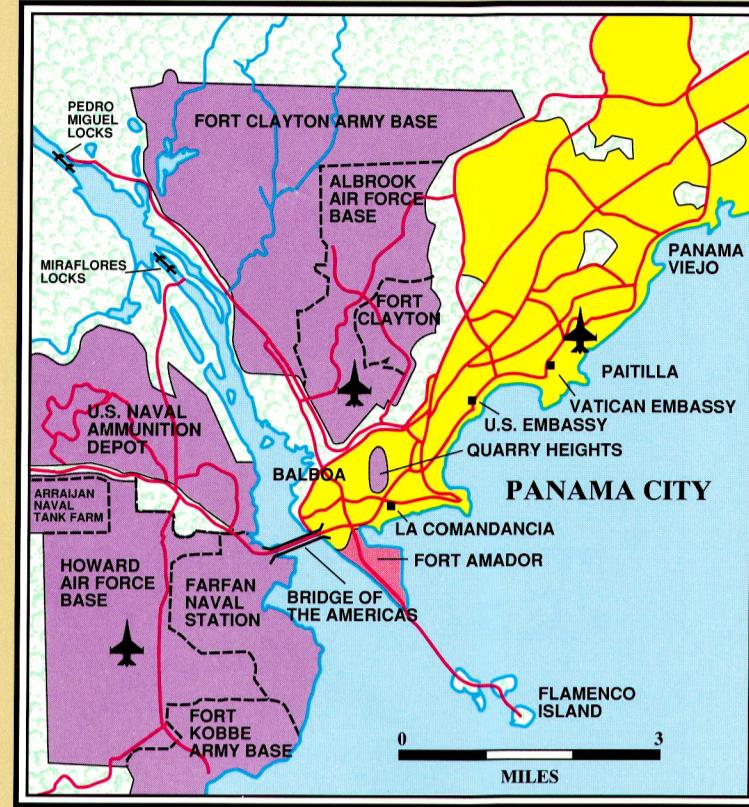
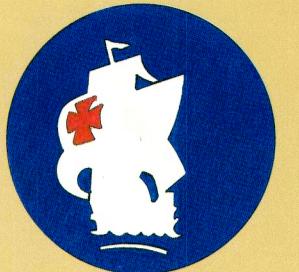
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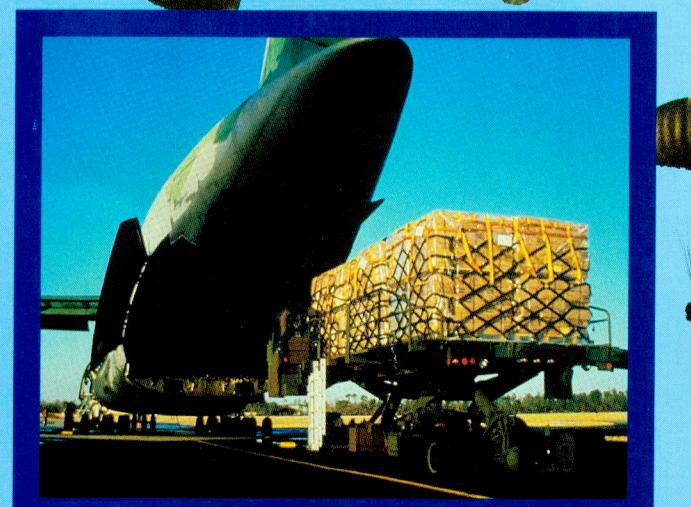
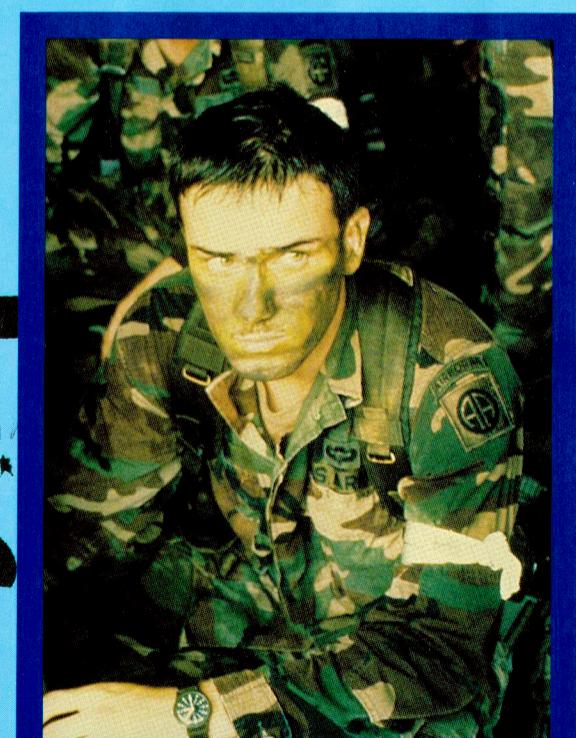
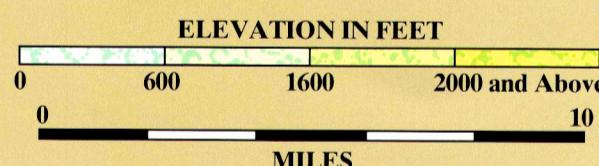
# OPERATION JUST CAUSE

## 20 December 1989 – 31 January 1990



**OPERATION JUST CAUSE**  
20 December 1989 – 31 January 1990

Major Points of Attack



The success of the Army's effort in Operation JUST CAUSE was the result of careful planning, effective leadership, and rapid deployment. But it was also the result of the Army's sustained emphasis on training and readiness. The men and women who helped achieve victory in Panama were members of highly capable, versatile force whose equipment and technology represented state-of-the-art military applications. As these photographs suggest, the Army's forces in Operation JUST CAUSE combined a high level of combat readiness with sufficient lethal power to accomplish their mission. If surprise was on their side, so was their own earned sense of professional self-confidence. The result was a speedy victory with minimal American casualties.

After the successes of D-day, events moved rapidly. On D+1 the Panama Canal reopened for daylight operations, and TASK FORCE BAYONET began civil-military operations in Panama City as the refugee situation became critical. At the same time, the Marriott Hotel, where hostages were being held, was secured. On D+2 the Panamanian Police Force was established, and all Army units now turned to civil-military operations in support of the democratic goals of PROMOTE LIBERTY. TASK FORCE RED negotiated the peaceful surrender of Penonomé Prison, and operations began in western Panama to effect the surrender of remaining PDF units. By D+4, as combined U.S./Panamanian patrols began, Noriega took sanctuary in the Vatican embassy. On D+14 he surrendered to U.S. forces.

