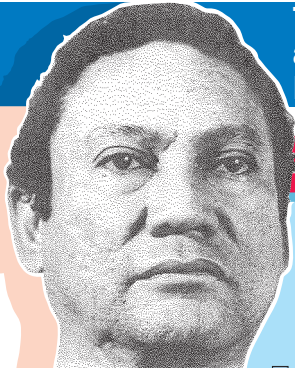


# The rise and fall of Manuel Noriega

Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega has been convicted on eight counts of allowing Colombian drug lords to use Panama as a safe haven for shipping cocaine to the United States



Mar  
1976

Joins payroll of CIA for \$110,000 per year. George Bush meets Noriega in Washington in December

1982

Makes first deal with Medellin drug cartel. Begins to fly drugs from Colombia to U.S. via Panama

Jun  
1983

Becomes Panama's military commander. Builds cocaine processing plant at Darien

Feb  
1988

Indicted by U.S. grand jury on 10 charges. April 1988: Panama's assets frozen in U.S.

Oct  
1989

Military coup against Noriega fails. Dec 1989 U.S. forces invade Panama

Dec  
1989

Applies for asylum in papal embassy – surrenders to U.S. troops after 10 days

Sep  
1991

Trial begins in Miami.

Apr  
1992

Convicted on eight counts

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