

NOTE TO PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

RE: Picture Story No. 760, "Guantanamo -- Bastion of Hemisphere Defense"

The attached pictures show the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, one of the key links in the chain of Western Hemisphere defenses. It is suggested that you file the photographs for use only in the event that Guantanamo returns to the news spotlight.

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TO EDITORS.

MASTER CAPTION

GUANTANAMO -- BASTION OF HEMISPHERE DEFENSE

The Naval Base at Guantanamo, near the eastern tip of Cuba, forms a key link in the chain of defenses the United States has built to protect the Western Hemisphere from external aggression.

The U.S. maintains ship service facilities and two air strips at Guantanamo under the terms of a 1903 treaty with Cuba, reaffirmed in 1934. The area -- some 31 square miles of land and 14 square miles of water -- is leased for an annual fee. Normally, about 6,300 U.S. servicemen and civilians man the Guantanamo Base, but extra troops were dispatched there in October, 1962, after Soviet offensive weapons were discovered in Cuba. Although these weapons have been removed, Guantanamo remains alert and ready for any emergency.

These photographs -- made in April and November, 1962 -- should be held for use only in case an emergency arises.

1-5 AIRCRAFT CARRIER AND PATROL PLANE symbolize the role of Guantanamo in hemisphere defense. The carrier has come into the bay for service and to give the crew shore leave; the plane keeps watch on strategic waters. (62-7761)

(Photograph made in March, 1962)

2-5 COMBAT PRACTICE familiarizes Marines with Guantanamo terrain so they will be ready to fight in case of attack upon the U.S. base. (62-7779)

(Photograph made in March, 1962)

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3-5 UNDERGROUND FIELD HOSPITAL at Guantanamo is stocked with medical supplies, fresh water and equipment for emergency surgery. (62-7764) (Photograph made in November, 1962)

4-5 FROM AN OUTPOST near the Guantanamo boundary, a Marine phones in a report of Cuban activity beyond the fence; his companion keeps watch through binoculars. (62-7763)
(Photograph made in November, 1962)

5-5 PART OF THE U.S. BASE at Guantanamo Bay is shown in this aerial photograph. In the foreground is the seaplane landing area; beyond it are officers' homes and across the inlet are slips where small naval vessels dock for servicing. (62-7767)
(Photograph made in November, 1962)