

Picture Story No. 760

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.

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)

