

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 6,500 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)

