

Most Servicemen at Guantanamo Naval Base Have Never Set Foot on Soil of Cuba

U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, —(UPI)— "I've been here 18 months and I've never been past this gate," said the Marine guard at the northeast gate of this U. S. installation.

He wasn't alone. Most of the 3,000 Navy and Marine personnel stationed here

never have stepped on soil beneath the Cuban flag which flies at a soft drink stand just 25 feet outside the fence. Only those on important official business or persons in transit to the Guantanamo municipal airport 12 miles down the road leave this 40-square-mile area where U.S.

sailors and marines have been exiled since they ousted the Spaniards on June 6, 1898. The "stay on base" order went into effect more than two years ago, primarily because base officials didn't want to send liberty parties into the nearby towns of

Guantanamo and Caimanera where the bearded and heavily armed young soldiers of Fidel Castro's successful revolution were the only law. Different Reason

Now, there is a different reason — the bitter anti-American attacks launched by the Castro government and threats by Cuban leaders that they may attempt to squeeze the United States out of this strategic base.

Castro himself charged recently that base officials have been conspiring with Counter-Revolutionary elements in Oriente province, a charge that was denied immediately by Rear Adm. F. W. Fenno, base commander.

National labor laws to Cubans employed on the base. Labor Minister Augusto Martinez Sanchez already has declared that base employees are subject to the Cuban labor code, which, among other things, prohibits firing for any reason. But Fenno contends the treaty gives base authorities autonomy over employment policy.

Cuba has not pressed the issue hard — so far. But the Chancery in an official note to the U. S. State department, demanded that one base employee, labor leader Federico Figueras Larrazabal, who was fired, be rehired. The United States refused.



STAY PUT—A "stay on base" order is in effect at the United States Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. One reason is the current state of U.S.-Cuban relations. Many of the personnel never have set foot on soil that is under the Cuban flag. The naval installation is shown with ships at anchor. —(UPI Telephoto)

Legally there appears to be no way Cuba can take the base without U. S. consent. In 1903, both nations signed an irrevocable treaty leasing the area to the United States in perpetuity for a naval base. In return, the United States promised to protect Cuban independence and agreed to pay \$3,300 yearly on the lease.

Fenno admits there are a number of harassment courses open to Cuba to make occupying the base disagreeable. For one thing, the water can be turned off.

Water Processed
A Cuban commercial company pumps raw water from the Itaniz river five miles to the base where it is processed for use. The base unsuccessfully has drilled for water on its own land. In the event of a cutoff, water would have to be shipped in by tankers. The storage capacity of the base would furnish water for only three days under strictest rationing conditions.

How ever, developments lead observers to believe organized resistance will come on the labor front, possibly over Cuban efforts to extend

the union of base employees, which Figueras headed, is affiliated with the Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC), of which Communist Jesus Soto recently took provisional leadership.

Only 650 of the 3,700 Cubans employed on the base belonged to the union as of Jan. 31, 1960. Of the 3,700, 2,200 are U. S. Civil service employees. They hold every type of job from laborer to ship repairer. The non-Civil Serv-

ice employees work as servants. U. S. Military personnel at Guantanamo totals about 3,000 with 3,000 dependents and 200 U. S. Civilian employees.

The 3,000 dependents of the 1,200 married men live in cream-colored, frame houses with air-conditioning and red tile roofs, or in four-family, two-story units built by seabees as part of their training.

The base is better equipped than most in recreation facilities. This is because it must frequently accommodate as many as 18,000 men off ships in the harbor. Facilities include six swimming pools, tennis courts, golf course, riding stables, roller skating rink, a fleet of sailboats, sports field, and the usual officers' and enlisted men's clubs.

Despite Cuban pressure, the United States is not likely to surrender this base by default. It represents an investment of \$88-million. It's located near Cuba's southeastern tip, 670 miles by highway from Havana, makes it strategic to

Caribbean defense, the Panama Canal, and as an Anti-submarine base to guard the South Atlantic approaches for U. S. shipping. The base also gives logistics support — supplies and repairs — to the Atlantic fleet.

West Trailing in Space Achievements As Summit Nears

BY JOSEPH L. MYLER
Washington —(UPI)— The West goes to the summit with no expectation of being able to match Soviet "space spectacles" before some time in 1964.

U. S. space officials concede that Russian superiority in rocket power has enhanced the East's prestige at the expense of the West's. They are prepared to endure the embar-

assment of many more splashy firsts by Russia before this country catches up in rocket muscle.

Beginning to Emerge
The first man in orbit, the first man on the moon, the first spacecraft to reconnoiter or land instruments on another planet may all be Russian.

But the men in charge of the U. S. space program are beginning to emerge from the depths of chagrin into which they were plunged by Russia's early space successes and America's early failures.

U. S. space officials now say that America is running behind Russia only in ability to launch heavy loads, that U. S. achievements in space science have been in many respects greater than Russia's and that this country is well started toward superiority in all phases of space exploration.

Tough New Problems
They do not, therefore, give Russia any edge in space bargaining power at the summit.

In any event, man's venture into space has added tough new problems to the burden of strictly mundane troubles the summit leaders have to deal with.

At the summit meeting five years ago in Geneva the leaders manifested no concern about space. Although they knew scientists of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) program would try to launch man-made moons into orbit around the earth, the statesmen of 1955 could hardly have realized that a few years hence they would be seeking answers to such questions as:

—Who owns space? Will the first nation to land men on the moon have a legal right to claim possession of it?

—Orbital H-Bombs? —Will man use space primarily for military or peaceful purposes? Will he ever launch "orbital H-bombs" or build missile bases on the moon?

—Will the countries of earth eventually unite in peaceful, scientific conquest of space, or will they continue to use it as just another arena for national rivalry?

This country has called for international cooperation to exploit space for peaceful purposes. It has proposed that military use of space be outlawed. It already is undertaking joint space projects with other nations. It has even offered the services of its satellite-tracking networks to help Russia put a man in orbit and get him safely down.

Machine Simulates Space Conditions
Duarte, Calif. —(UPI)— A machine is being devised here that will create on earth all at one time the searing heat, bitter cold, rarefied atmosphere and vibrations encountered by missiles and rockets on their flights through space.

The machine, being built by the Air Force and Minneapolis-Honeywell, will be used to take the guesswork out of designing space equipment and to reduce the testing time in preparing for space exploration.

When completed, the machine will occupy an entire hangar at Wright-Patterson Air Force base, Dayton, Ohio.



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