Installations in Guam During the Cold War

Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

This document includes a brief summary of the U.S. Military and the major installations on Guam during the Cold War followed by a description of property types and considerations when evaluating historic resources for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The full report, DoD Legacy Resource Management Program Project 09-454, *Regional Cold War History for Department of Defense Installations in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands*, 2011, can be found on DENIX: http://www.denix.osd.mil/cr/upload/DoD-Legacy-FINAL-Guam-Cold-War-Report-09-454.pdf.

In the final months of World War II, the U.S. Navy had built its largest advanced base on Guam, which supplied material support for more than one-third of U.S. Navy power. Five years of peace following World War II ended on 25 June 1950 when North Korean troops attacked South Korea. Approximately a decade later, the U.S. military was again deployed in Southeast Asia—this time in Vietnam. During the post-Vietnam period and throughout the 1980s, military installations on Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands remained vital overseas platforms for carrying out the U.S. mission of global nuclear deterrence. These events kept Guam on the front lines throughout the Cold War.

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.PUBLIC.NAVY.MIL/FCC-C10F/NCTSGUAM/PAGES/WELCOMEABOARD.ASPX

Map of Military Installations on Guam

U.S. NAVY

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.NAVY.MIL/VIEW_SINGLE.SAP?ID=90222—2003

Apra Harbor and
Orote Navy Base and Air Strip

During WWII and throughout the Cold War, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas was responsible for all U.S. Navy missions and activities on Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the western Pacific Ocean. In Guam, Cold War naval functions included the: (1) former Naval Station, which included the Navy Supply Depot (later Fuel Industrial and Supply Center), Naval Supply Depot, waterfront facilities and harbor, Public Works Center, and housing; (2) former Naval Magazine; (3) former Naval Communications Station Finegayan; (4) Naval Hospital; (5) former Camp Covington; (6) Naval Facility; and (6) former Naval Air Station (NAS) Agana.

Naval Operating Base / Naval Station / Navy Main Base

Naval Operating Base, Guam, was established as a logistical support location where "all major battle damage to hull and equipment could be repaired" and as a storage depot with "the necessary stock to furnish every type of vessel with replenishment of fuel, ammunition, consumable supplies, and food." The maintenance and repair mission at Naval Operating Base, Guam, was supported by the Ship Repair Facility (SRF). The Naval Supply Depot and the

U.S. NAVY (continued)

Ammunition Depot (today's Ordnance Annex, separately located from Main Base) supported the depot mission. The supply units on Naval Operating Base, Guam, handled all types of fuel, equipment, ammunition, and perishables. By the summer of 1945, the base was the largest U.S. military installation west of Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i, and was the second-largest overseas port administered by the U.S. Navy worldwide (superseded only by the port at Antwerp, Belgium). Naval Operating Base, Guam, was capable of supporting 1,000 vessels of submarine size or larger. Polaris Point supported Submarine Squadron 15, which patrolled the area as a deterrent to Soviet military activity in the region (Global Security "Aprra Harbor" December 2008).

Source: HABS No. HI-522-B, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oakland, CA

Example of Circularly Disposed Antenna Array

Naval Magazine (Ordnance Annex)

The U.S. Navy began construction of a facility for ordnance storage in 1944. The need for quantities of ammunition and the ability to store it safely and efficiently was important during the Korean War. The U.S. Naval Magazine, Guam, provided the munitions for the Seventh Fleet, and was the westernmost ammunition supply depot on U.S. soil. During the latter part of the Korean War, new ammunition magazines were constructed. As of 8 February 1954, a total of 18,513 tons of ammunition were stored at Naval Magazine, Guam. There was a major increase of stored ordnance at Naval Magazine during the height of the Vietnam War (1960s and early 1970s) making it a major ammunition supply point (Mason Architects, Inc., and Weitzer Research 2010).

Naval Communications Station Finegayan (Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station)

Naval Radio Station (R) Finegayan was established in April 1945 as the primary receiving station for Guam. In the early 1960s, the U.S. Navy designed and built a worldwide network of Circularly Disposed Antenna Array (CDAA) popularly known as "elephant cages." The CDAA in Naval Communications Station Finegayan was one CDAA in the U.S. Navy network established worldwide to enhance strategic intelligence gathering in the 1960s and succeeding decades until they were gradually decommissioned in the 1990s. The CDAA in Guam had a unique and vital role in U.S. military communication and intelligence gathering during the Cold War, including the Vietnam War. The S-band system played an important role for NASA communications during the Apollo Program.

(Source: http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/usnhguam/pages/default.aspx)

Naval Hospital, Guam, Hospital Building, Agana Heights

Naval Hospital, Guam

Naval Hospital, Guam, served a logistical (medical support) role in the Vietnam War. The Naval Hospital, Guam's role in Operation NEW LIFE supported the mission that rescued 100,000 people from South Vietnam as the government collapsed, and the hospital is the only extant structure representing that operation. The other facilities were temporary and were removed immediately after the operation ended (Mason Architects, Inc., and Weitzer Research 2010).

U.S. NAVY (continued)

Naval Facility, Guam

Naval Facility, Guam, was on Ritidian Point at the base of a 500-foot cliff at the northwestern tip of Guam. The facility was commissioned on 3 December 1968, and de-commissioned on 30 September 1992. In the 1950s, the U.S. Navy developed a Sound Surveillance System (SOSUS) on Guam. SOSUS was a long-range, early warning listening system for protecting the United States against the threat of Soviet Union ballistic missile submarines. The U.S. Navy (SOSUS) was one of the most secretive engineering feats of the early Cold War. The official cover identity for SOSUS stations such as Naval Facility, Guam, was that of oceanographic research. SOSUS was considered so successful that a long cable network (technology later developed by American Telephone & Telegraph Company) was laid out on the Atlantic Ocean floor. Expansion into the Pacific Ocean resulted in the establishment of the U.S. Naval Facility at Ritidian Point, Guam. This facility played a role in the implementation of a low frequency passive detection system, which was an important development in the detection of enemy vessels during the Cold War.

Operation LINEBACKER II

During the Operation LINEBACKER II mission, the population of Andersen AFB increased rapidly to at least 12,000 military personnel. Air Force personnel were housed in all available space at Andersen AFB, including a tent city and a temporary barracks facility without air-conditioning.

Source: http://www.andersen.af.mil/photos/mediagallery.asp?galleryID=6586

18–29 December 1972, Linebacker II

U.S. AIR FORCE

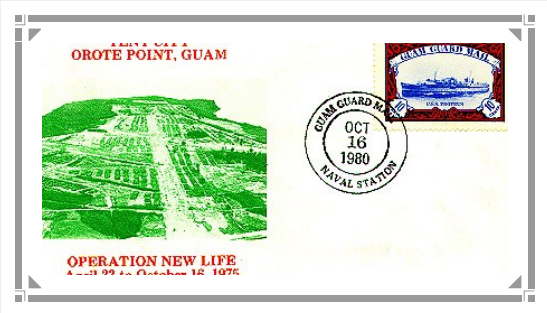
Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) contributed to important U.S. deterrence policy missions during the Cold War period as the Pacific Ocean base of operations for SAC. With a B-52 long-range bomber force, SAC symbolized the U.S. strategic policy of deterrence to the nuclear arsenal of the Soviet Union. Guam's strategic location was an ideal potential launching site for atomic weapons under military operations in the Far East. Important communication centers, transportation, and industrial areas in the Soviet Union were within a few thousand miles from Guam. The island's relative isolation provided security from air attacks.

Source: http://www.andersen.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123282723

B-52 Stratofortress

The present Andersen AFB resulted from construction of two airfields—North Field and Northwest Field, built in 1944 following the liberation of Guam from Japan. These airfields were designed to support B-29 Liberator bombing missions against Japan. Northwest Field was abandoned in 1949, while North Field continued to be operational and supported major B-52 bomber operations and SAC missions during the Vietnam War including Operations ARC LIGHT, BULLET SHOT, and LINEBACKER I and II.

Operation NEW LIFE



(Source: National Archives & Records Administration, Military Records)

On 23 April, 1975 in preparation for the arrival of Vietnamese refugees, the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Four was tasked with construction of a tent city on Orote Point over a World War II Japanese airfield. The goal was 2,000 16 foot by 32 foot squad tents to be erected in seven days. All personnel worked around the clock and by 15 May 1975, they had cleared 450 acres of jungle; installed thousands of feet of water mains, 400 restrooms and over 17,000 feet of fencing; and erected 3,546 tents, accommodations for an additional 3,381 berths, nine galleys, and two hospital facilities.

U.S. MARINE CORPS

Marine Barracks, Guam, was established on 1 August 1899. Marine Barracks personnel worked to rebuild destroyed or damaged military facilities following the recapture of Guam, including rebuilding facilities in Apra Harbor. Following World War II, the primary mission of the Marines was to provide interior guard security at the Naval Station; NAS; Naval Communications Station, Finegayan; and the Naval Magazine. Collateral duties assigned to Marine Barracks personnel included operation of the Naval Brig, maintenance of a 14-crew Overland Sea Rescue Team, and maintenance of a Drum and Bugle Corps. Headquarters of the Marine Barracks was at Naval Station, Guam. During the Vietnam War, additional personnel arrived and were assigned collateral duty of administering and assisting Marine casualties who were evacuated to the U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam. The Marine Barracks also provided temporary accommodation to Marines who completed treatment and were awaiting reassignment.

U.S. ARMY

The U.S. Army on Guam was represented by the 515th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company (Ammunition) (General Support). The 515th was deployed to Guam in August 1962 from Herlong Ordnance Depot, California, providing support to all Army activities in the western Pacific Ocean area including direct support to Southeast Asia and the Vietnam War. The headquarters of the 515th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company was on the Naval Station; it also used joint working and storage facilities at the Naval Magazine. The unit's mission in Guam was to receive, inspect, assemble, maintain, and issue selected items of ammunition. The 515th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company also performed ancillary duties such as assisting Army casualties from the Vietnam War who were sent to Guam Naval Hospital for treatment. In June 1978, the 515th Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company was relocated from Guam to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

U.S. COAST GUARD

The construction of the Mariana Islands Long Range Navigation (LORAN) chain began in the summer of 1944 to provide navigation assistance from the Philippine Islands to Japan. The LORAN chain consisted of stations on Saipan, Guam, and the Ulithi Islands, approximately 1,200 miles east of the Philippine Islands. The selected points extended in a northeast-southeast line approximately 500 miles in length. The U.S. Coast Guard LORAN chain provided the most direct support of any Coast Guard operation to the combat and logistic efforts against the Communist invasion of South Korea. Coast Guard LORAN stations provided around-the-clock precise navigation assistance to all UN vessels and aircraft throughout the far Pacific Ocean Theater.

The U.S. Coast Guard also established a number of Pacific Ocean air search and rescue detachments in support of the Korean War operation; commissioning air detachments on Wake and Midway islands, and increasing the strength of existing detachments on Guam, Hawai'i, and the Philippine Islands. These detachments were on call, 24 hours a day to respond to any distress signals or assistance requests.

COLD WAR HISTORIC PROPERTY TYPES IN GUAM AND CNMI

The property types include a wide range of resources such as buildings, structures, landscapes, sites, districts, and objects. Based on National Register of Historic Places evaluation guidance and eligibility criteria, properties are directly related to the Cold War if they:

- were specifically constructed and used prior to 1991 to meet the perceived Communist threat or project a force designed to influence Communist policy.
- clearly reflect one of the Cold War themes through their architecture or engineering design.
- are directly related to the U.S./USSR and Southeast Asian relationships through association with a milestone event or period.
- are directly related to a U.S./USSR and Southeast Asian relationship through association with the life of an
- important person during the Cold War period.

All U.S. military property constructed during the Cold War era does not fit into the definition of a Cold War property. Some facilities would have occurred whether or not the Cold War had taken place. For example, the replacement of facilities destroyed due to a typhoon or the construction of administrative offices and housing; although increased housing may have been necessitated by specific Cold War events. The U.S. military property types evolved with the changing missions of the installations and their tenant activities. For example, the Vietnam War led to bombing missions staged from Andersen AFB. At some installations, while the missions may not have changed, the technology for implementing them did, such as changes in communication technologies.

The property types that may be found on Guam and the CNMI U.S. military installations from the period between 1946 and 1991 are listed here by functional area associated with military activities and missions. The existence of property types of properties at a particular installation will depend on the Cold War missions of that installation.

Property Types	Examples
Naval Defense and Operations.	The base was to provide general support for all types of vessels including logistics for the Pacific theater, repairs, and supplying. Property types included terminals; vessels; piers; docks; drydocks; wharfs; floating docks; cranes; staging areas; office buildings for headquarters, logistics, and administration; maintenance bays and shops; emergency response facilities; and fueling facilities.
Aviation and Air Defense.	Primary mission of deterring or fighting war. The properties include aircraft, airfields, runways, aprons, taxiways, control tower, terminal, fueling and refueling facilities, maintenance hangars and shops, aircraft storage structures, offices for logistics and operations, emergency response facilities, parachute facilities, and communication facilities.
Public Works Program.	Primary mission of administering, within the Marianas-Bonin area, and elsewhere as directed, the technical programs of BuDocks pertaining to planning, design, construction, maintenance and operations of facilities and utilities. Property types include offices, shops, supply and storage, motor pool, material and testing laboratories, and equipment maintenance.
Communications – for Promoting Communication and Intelligence-gathering Opera-	Include antennae arrays, communication stations.

Source: http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/npswapa/gallery/albums/album80/39_Glassbrkwtr.htm

Aerial depiction of Glass Breakwater, Apra Bay, Guam ca. 1945 (Naval defense and operations)

Source: National Archives Records Administration, Military Records

Naval Communication Station Barracks, 1955–1956 (troop and employee support facilities)

Source: National Archives Records Administration, Military Records

Junior officer housing NAS, August 1959 (troop and employee support facilities)

COLD WAR HISTORIC PROPERTY TYPES IN GUAM AND CNMI (CONTINUED)...

Property Types	Examples
Warehousing and Depots.	Include storage, maintenance, and assembly of materials required for the U.S. military to perform Cold War missions. It is an essential component of military readiness. Property types include: • General Purpose Warehouse – most commonly found on supply depots and consist of warehouse space with rail and truck connections • Cold Storage • Staging and Distribution Facilities – packing and shipping supplies • Sheds
Ammunition Storage Facilities.	• Include many facilities constructed during World War II including magazines, igloos, and bunkers dispersed over large land areas to prevent the spread of explosion. • Also include assemble and repair facilities. Nuclear weapons storage facilities – specially designed igloos and bunkers and site configurations for nuclear weapons storage.
Troop and Employee Support Facilities.	• Housing – property types include barracks, dormitories, hotels, visitor quarters, officers quarters, duplexes, and single family dwellings, personal vehicle garages. • Morale, Welfare, and Recreation – property types include golf courses, swimming pools, bowling alleys, craft shops, shopping facilities, commissaries and exchanges, field houses, gyms, outdoor recreational facilities and playing fields, churches and chapels, clubs, restaurants, basketball courts, tennis courts, theaters and auditoriums, and gazebos. • Other support facilities including schools, libraries, museums, monuments, post office, banking facilities, mess/dining halls, laundry, lavatories, gas stations, fire stations.
Medical Facilities.	Include hospitals, clinics, and other patient treatment facilities, and support structures such as laboratories and storage. The military provided medical care for troops, personnel, and their dependents. The Guam Navy Hospital provided medical care for troops injured in battle.
Installation Security.	Include fencing, gate houses, watch towers, security force offices, and detention and jail/brig facilities.
Infrastructure and Utilities.	Include petroleum storage and pipeline systems; potable water treatment plant, distribution systems, storage and wells; sewer transport and treatment facilities; incinerators and landfills; power production, transmission, substations; roads and sidewalks; telephone exchange.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN EVALUATING COLD WAR PROPERTIES ON GUAM AND CNMI

U.S. military property constructed from 1946 through 1991 can be properties, (1) that were developed solely as a result of the Cold War and are therefore developed as a result of the Cold War contextual history of the U.S. military, or (2) that would have been constructed even if the Cold War had not occurred, but that, nonetheless, relate to the Cold War time period. Properties constructed prior to 1946 could have also served a vital role during the Cold War era.

Properties that meet one or more of the National Register of Historic Place eligibility criteria, as well as retain of integrity, must then be further analyzed under the following relevant organizational categories: one of a kind properties, individual properties, multiple properties (redundant resource or building type), or as part of a historic district. Properties less than 50 years of year may be eligible individually or as part of a historic; however "exceptional importance" must be demonstrated. Properties may possess significance within multiple areas of history. Many of the properties on Guam and the CNMI will likely fall under more than one of the historic themes and care should be taken to explore all the associations with each property.

Source: National Archives Records Administration, Military Records

Example of quonset hut living quarters, Guam (troop and employee support facilities)

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