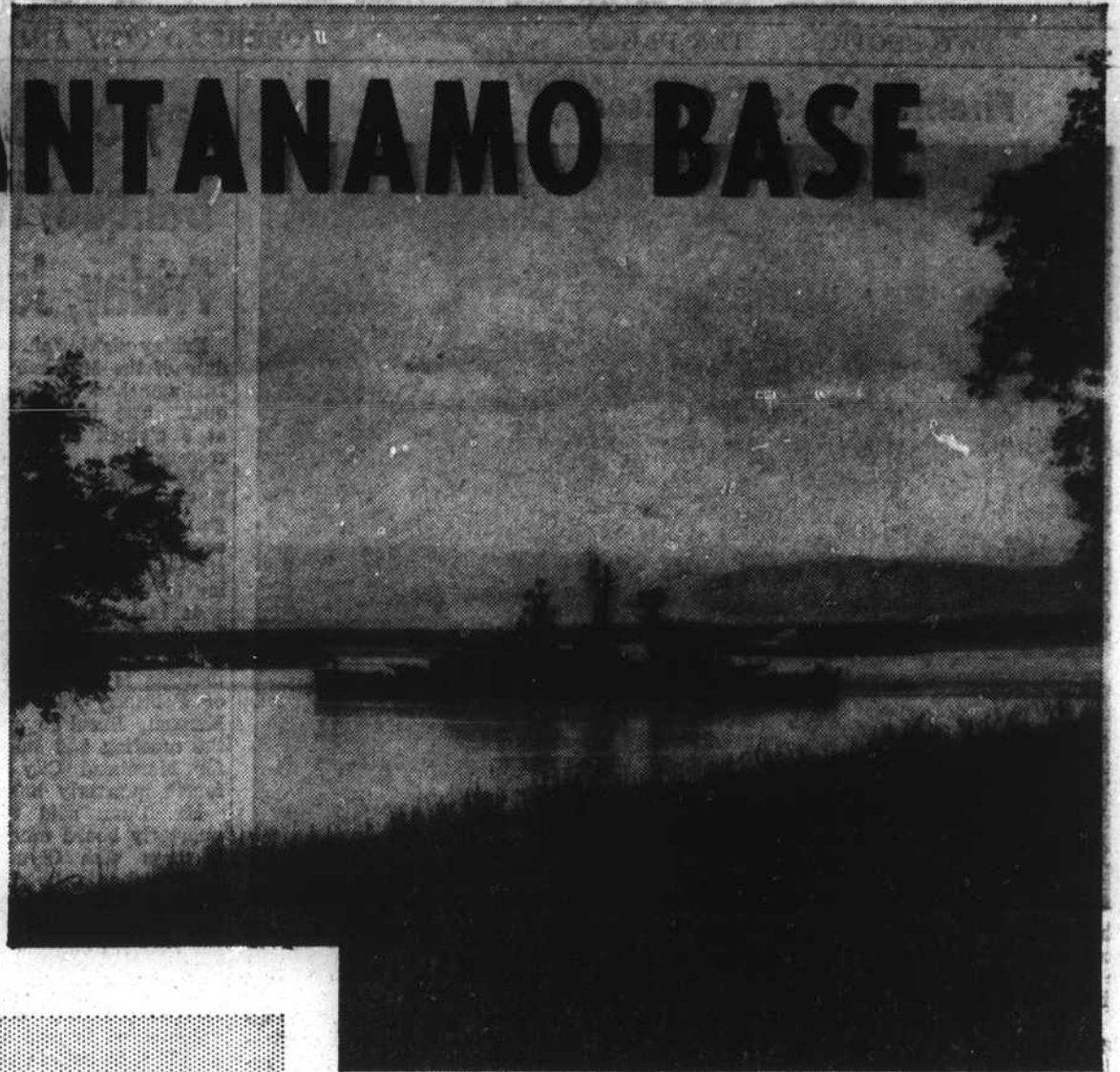


# THE VITAL GUANTANAMO BASE



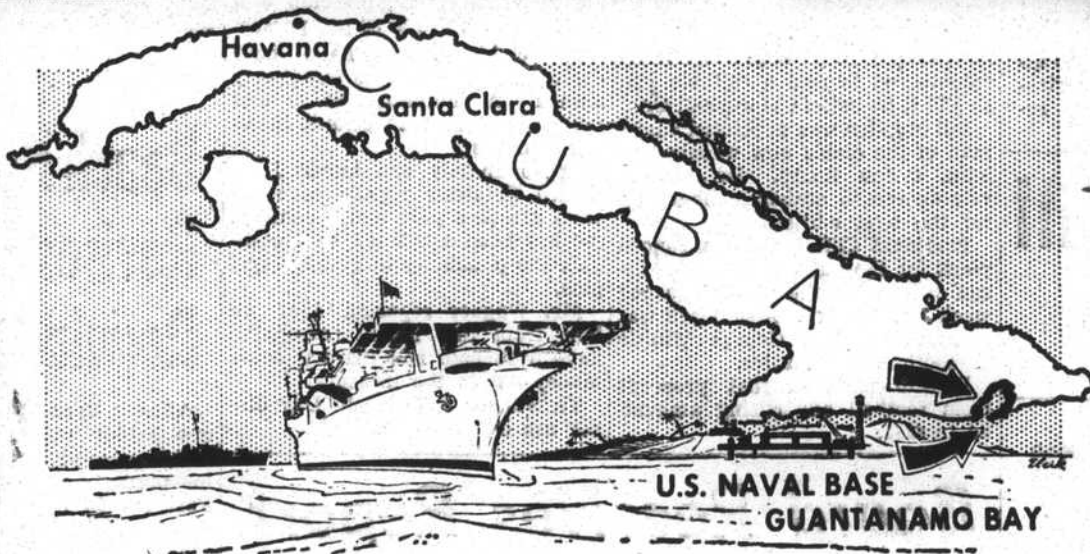
Two U. S. escort destroyers tied up at "Gitmo," as the sailors affectionately call the naval base.



Cruiser USS Little Rock anchored in bay at Guantanamo base.



Rear Adm. Ed. J. O'Donnell, Base Commander.

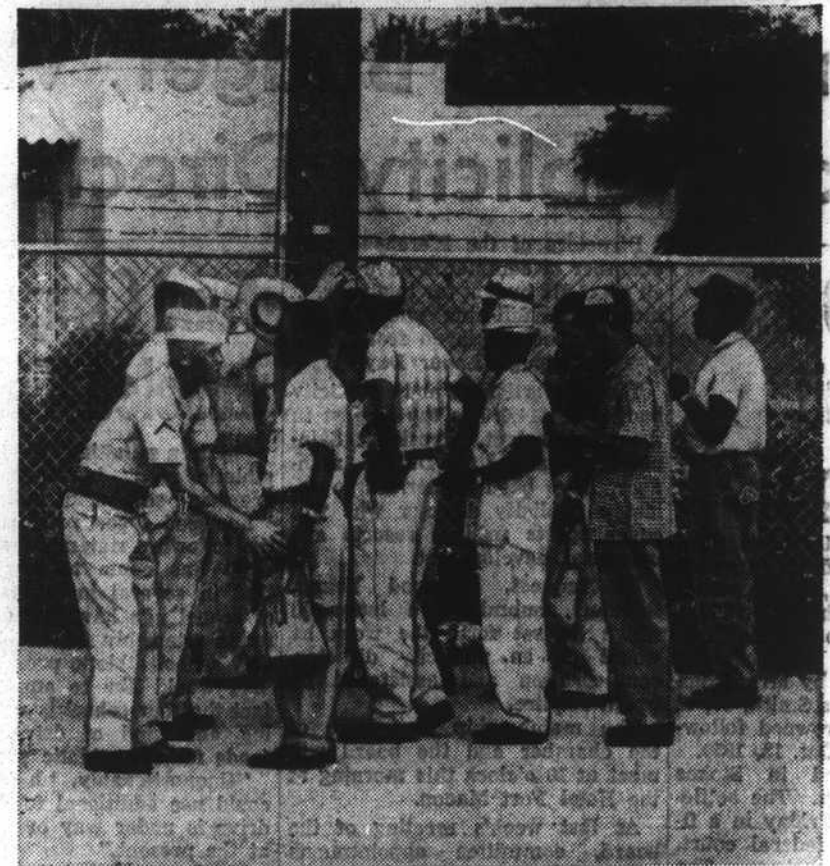


Far removed from the clamor raised by Fidel Castro's Cuban government in Havana, work and life go on as usual at the Guantanamo Naval Base, the 45-square-mile area of land and water occupied under perpetual treaty by the United States since 1903.

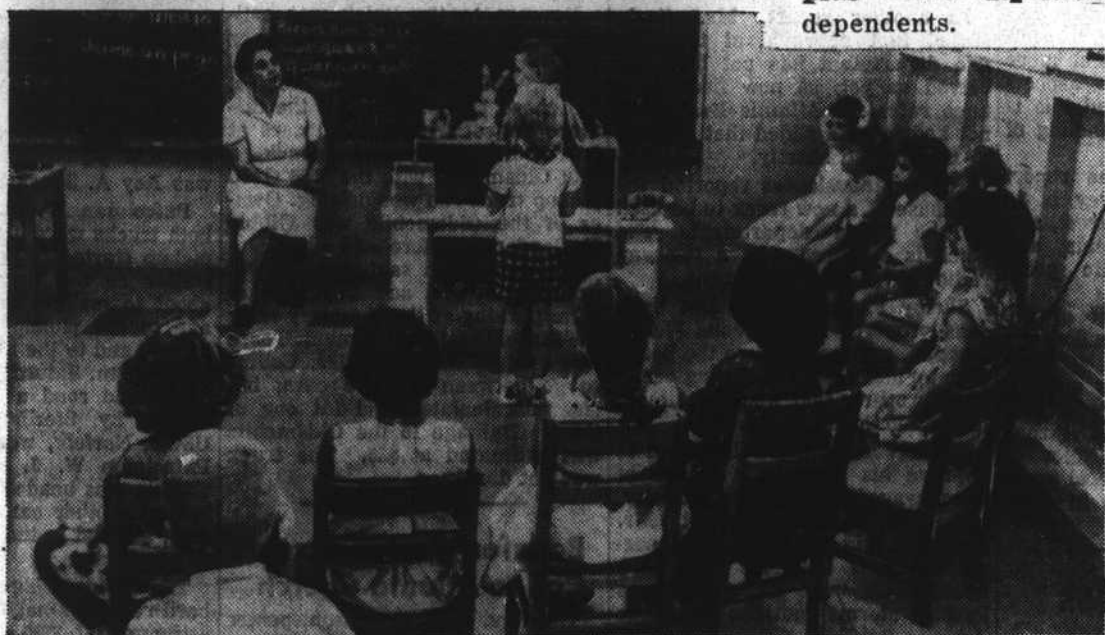
Cuban employees of the base—nearly 4,000 of them—are increasingly concerned lest they lose profitable jobs which many of them have held within the naval base for a quarter of a century.

Guantanamo is capable of handling the largest of American surface ships and the fastest naval jets. Its subordinate commands include a naval training group, a Marine barracks security detachment, a public works center, a 100-bed naval hospital, a naval dental clinic and a naval aviation utility squadron.

At Guantanamo now are about 3,000 sailors and marines, including officers, plus 3,000 dependents and about 650 civilian civil service employees and dependents.



Cuban workers returning to their homes in evening are searched at gate to prevent contraband leaving the base.



Cuban instructor teaches Spanish to first grade pupils. There are 1,200 children of school age on the base, and government employs 65 teachers to educate them.



Grapes and pineapples are plentiful at market.



Skilled Cuban laborers work on Navy ships at repair base.



After work Cubans leave Guantanamo base by ferry for their homes.



Main Street... Sherman Avenue... is just like the streets in the Americans' home towns.

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