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Imagery analysis report

**Cuban Airborne Activity
Havana, Cuba (S)**

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CUBAN AIRBORNE ACTIVITY, HAVANA, CUBA (S)**INTRODUCTION**

1. (TSR) A recent review of military installations in the Havana, Cuba, area has identified four airborne-associated facilities. This report summarizes the airborne-associated installations and units and recent airborne training activity in the Havana area. Installations (Figure 1) and units included in this report are: a special-forces-type unit and a possible unconventional warfare school at Guanabo Military Camp East [redacted]; an airborne unit and training activity at Playa Baracoa Airfield [redacted], a probable airborne jumpmaster school at La Habana Military Camp SE 1 [redacted], and an airborne basic training school at La Habana Airborne Training Facility Biltmore [redacted] (Figure 1).

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25X1**BASIC DESCRIPTION****Guanabo Military Camp East**

2. (TSR) This installation on the northeast edge of Havana is unique in Cuba (Figure 2). Airborne-related photographic signatures observed here include a large airborne insignia, a probable infiltration/assault course, and a special-purpose training range under construction. The airborne insignia is in the western portion of the installation (Figure 3). The infiltration/assault course consists of a series of fence obstacles (Figure 4). The special-purpose training range contains a HOUND helicopter, two helicopter fuselages, a tank mockup, and two artillery mockups (Figure 4). Additional training facilities include a probable demolition training area, a probable ambush training area, a motorized rifle obstacle course, and numerous firing ranges. Demolition training is probably conducted in a large open pit near the explosives storage area. The probable ambush training site contains three truck mockups. The motorized rifle obstacle course contains the standard obstacles and is extremely well kept.

3. (TSR) The western portion of the facility contains an administration area consisting of barracks/administration buildings and a vehicle storage/maintenance area (Figure 2). The presence of these barracks, combined with the various special training facilities and overall neatness of the installation, indicates that an elite special-forces-type unit is probably housed here.

4. (TSR) The eastern portion of the facility contains six widely dispersed, road-served barracks-type buildings; two classroom buildings; and a probable visitor reception center. Each building has a paved parking area, and some have clearly delineated parking spaces (Figure 2). This dispersed housing area, when associated with the special-forces-type unit and the unique training facilities, suggests that small groups are undergoing unconventional warfare training at the installation. The isolation of the housing units suggests that the groups are kept separate from one another. This suggests that the groups may be foreign nationals being trained at this possible unconventional warfare school.

buildings, seven single-story barracks, a vehicle maintenance area, two parachute packing buildings, and two parachute drying lofts (Figure 6).

6. (TSR) Recent observations indicating airborne-related activity in this area has included: 28 parachutes on the ground [redacted], at least 36 parachutes on the ground [redacted] and at least 55 parachutes on the ground [redacted]

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7. (TSR) The presence of parachute packing and drying facilities, the frequent sighting of large numbers of parachutes, and the size of the administration/barracks area indicate that a probable airborne battalion is housed at this airfield.

La Habana Military Camp SE 1

8. (S) This installation is on the southeast edge of Havana and contains three barracks areas/vehicle parks and a training area. The training area includes mockups of three helicopter fuselages, two probable COLT fuselages, and a probable DC-3 fuselage; a probable modified Czechoslovakian combined obstacle course (Figure 7); and a classroom building. The presence of numerous aircraft and helicopter fuselage mockups and an airborne-associated obstacle course and the absence of parachute training facilities suggest that this is a probable jumpmaster school.

La Habana Training Facility Biltmore

9. (S) This installation in northwest Havana contains an administration area and a training area. The training area (Figure 8) contains a probable parachute jump tower, a probable rappelling tower, an unidentified obstacle course, two helicopter mockups, one aircraft fuselage mockup, a harness stock, six parachute landing-fall practice stands, a parachute cable zoom, a small-arms firing range, a parachute packing building, and a parachute drying loft.

Playa Baracoa Airfield

5. (TSR) Playa Baracoa Airfield is 10 nautical miles west of Havana and consists of a 680-meter asphalt runway and numerous support facilities (Figure 5). Small numbers of light transport aircraft (COKE, CRATE, and COLT) are usually observed here. An administration/barracks area is at the northwest edge of the airfield and contains six multistory administration

SUMMARY

11. (TSR) Four airborne-associated installations are in the Havana area. These installations house two schools (an airborne basic training school and a probable jumpmaster school), a probable airborne battalion, and a probable special-forces-type unit collocated with a possible unconventional warfare school.

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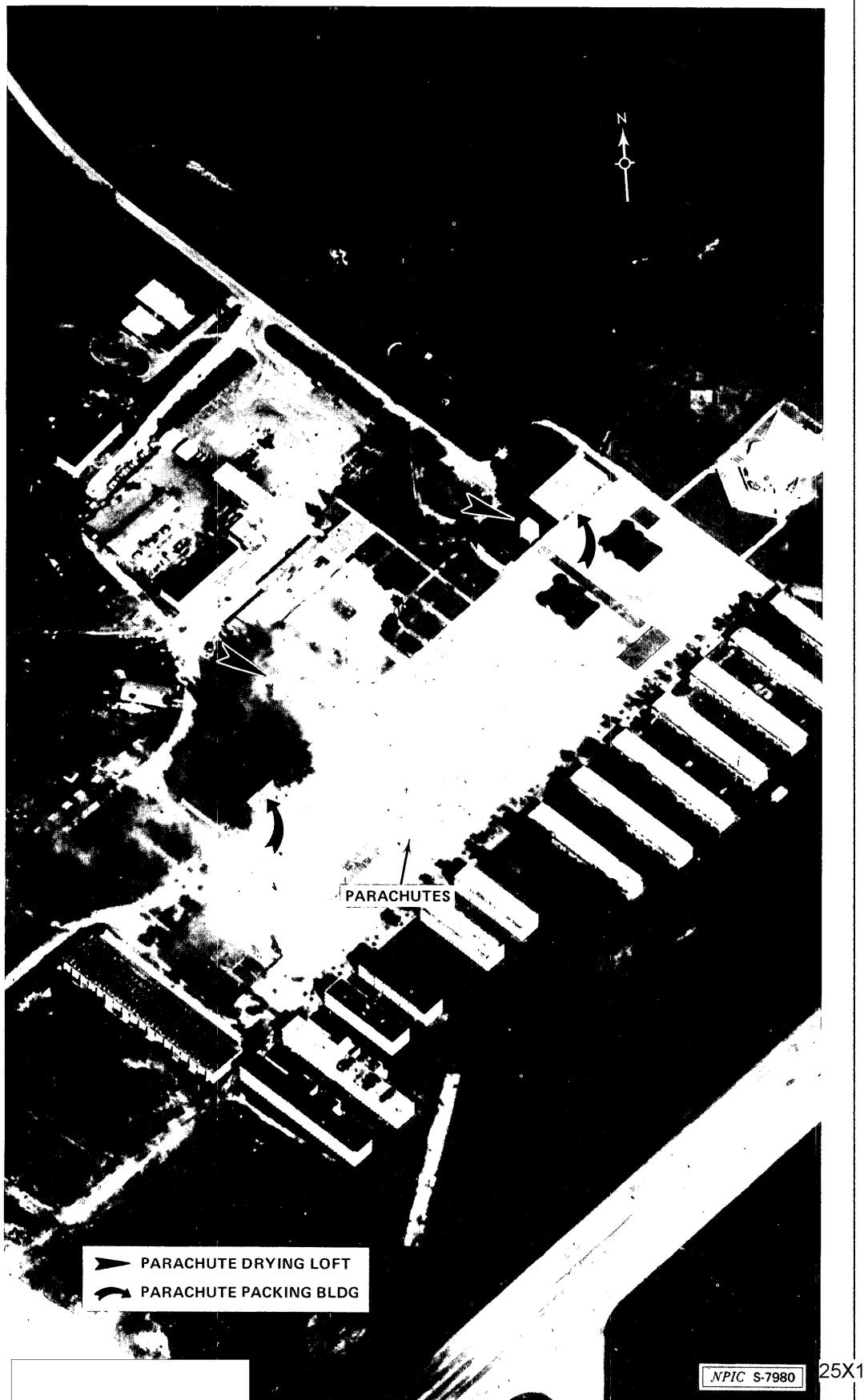


FIGURE 6. PROBABLE AIRBORNE BATTALION AT PLAYA BARACOA AIRFIELD

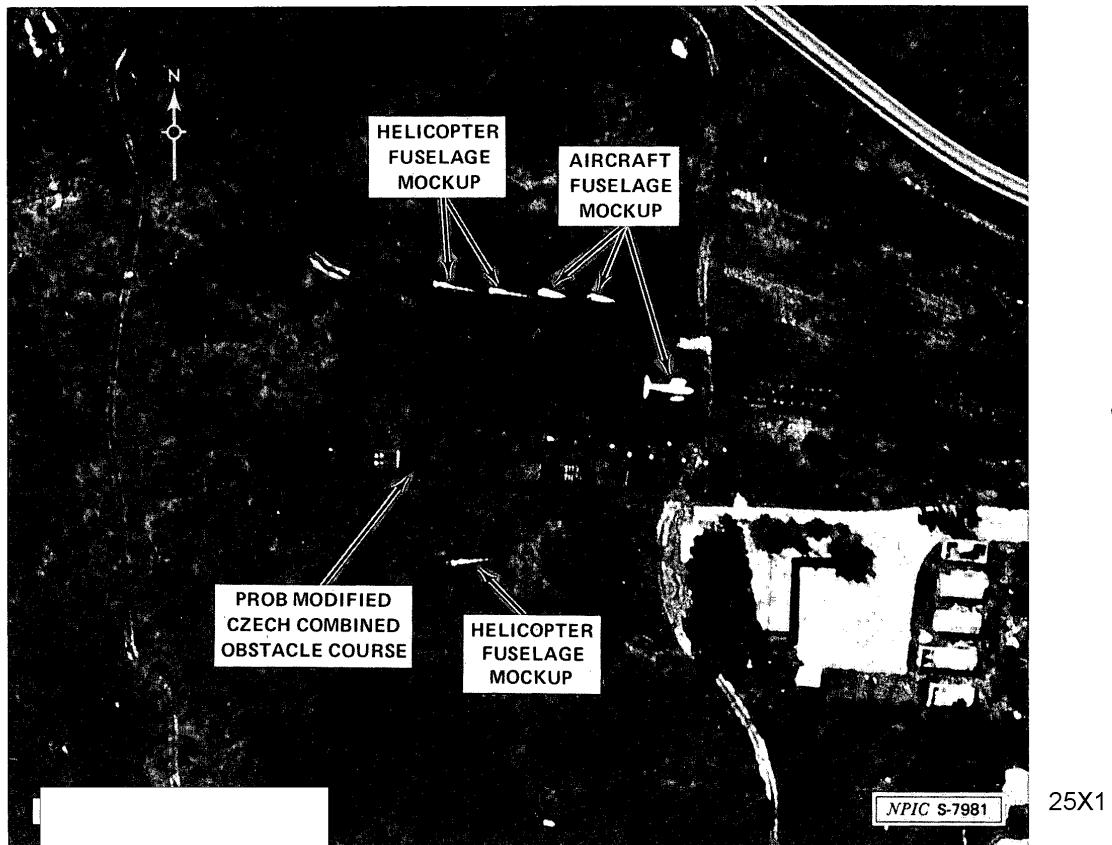


FIGURE 7. PROBABLE JUMPMASTER SCHOOL AT LA HABANA MILITARY CAMP SE 1

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All relevant KEYHOLE and aircraft imagery [redacted] 25X1
was used in the preparation of this report.

MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet U0586-6HL, 3rd ed, Sep 66, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET) [redacted] 25X1

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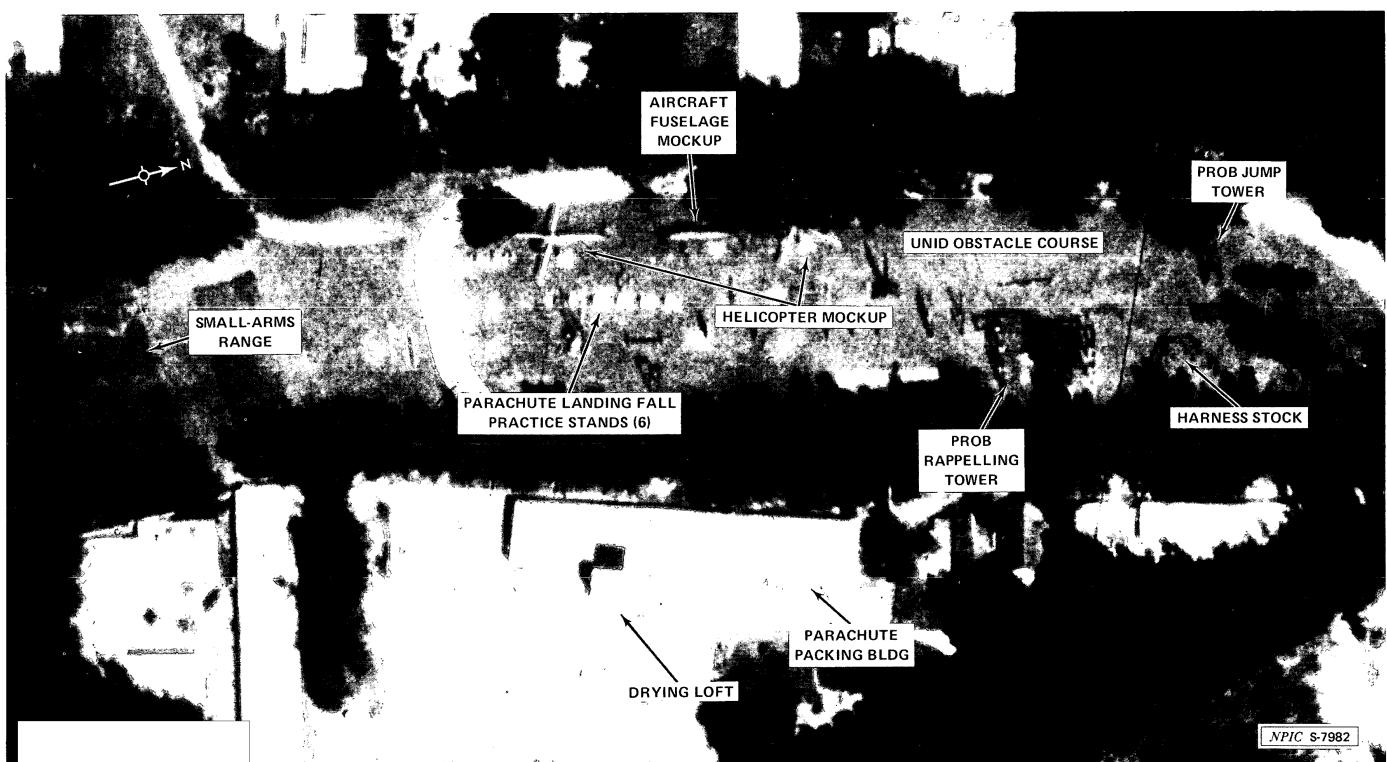


FIGURE 8. AIRBORNE BASIC TRAINING SCHOOL AT LA HABANA AIRBORNE TRAINING FACILITY BILTMORE

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