

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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2003

VIA: COURIER
SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH

DISPATCH NO. HGGA-943

PBSUCCESS/RYPAT/SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

APR 27 1954

TO LINCOLN

DATE:

FROM Chief of Station, Guatemala C J

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational - EEI # 27

SPECIFIC - Aurora Airfield

EEI EXTRACTED

MAY 1 1954

REF: HULA-439 dated 7 April 1954
SQUAT-339
SQUAT-380
HGGA-957

1. There is attached for LINCOLN a blueprint of Aurora Airfield (#6156, October 1943). This was obtained by Major Vernon Ingram, Assistant Air Attache. Since much of the map is obsolete, I prepared an overlay pin-pointing the present locations of items requested in HULA-439. This information was obtained from Major Ingram who with Cyrus BURNETTE visited the field on 23 April 1954 to verify the locations.

2. In connection with gas storage, an Air Attache report dated 18 November 1952 contains the following information:

"Approximately 22 underground fuel storage tanks formerly used by USAF are now unserviceable."

The tanks and trucks are:

TEXACO

Two 2,000 gallon F-2 units
One 1,500 gallon truck
One 5,000 gallon tank of 91 Octane fuel
Three 5,000 gallon tanks of 100 Octane fuel (used primarily by PAA)

ESSO

One 3,000 gallon underground tank of 91 Octane fuel is located at the Aero Club
One 2,000 gallon F-2 unit
17,000 gallons 100 Octane fuel kept at El Portillo plant in Guatemala City
10,000 gallons 91 Octane fuel kept at El Portillo plant in Guatemala City

GUATEMALAN AIR FORCE

One 2,000 gallon tank (underground) filled with 91 Octane
One 5,000 gallon F-2 unit

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This report was copied under vexatious lighting conditions on film transmitted with HGGA-957. However, details (including location and quantity of fuel) on those tanks now in use will be forwarded when available. On 23 April BURNETTE was able to locate the tanks indicated on the overlay.

3. The locations of guard posts are indicated on the overlay. All guards are Enlisted Men armed with rifles.

4. The barracks are located on the Southwest corner of the field. These buildings are the living quarters for the Guatemalan Air Force Infantry Security guard composed of 1 Officer and 173 Enlisted Men. It should be noted that not all the buildings shown on the blueprint or overlay are in existence. It was not possible to make an actual count of the buildings. In this same area is the IAGS (Inter American Geological Survey) building. Northeast of this building, workmen are digging pits for what appears to be two 5,000 gallon underground fuel storage tanks. Also in this area is an emergency power unit (believed to be diesel but confirmation not yet available). See overlay for locations of the above. If additional details on this area can be obtained from the Army Attache, they will be forwarded by subsequent dispatch.

5. The airfield is enclosed by a fence composed of 5 strands of barb wire loosely attached to wooden posts. The fence is approximately 4 feet high, can be clipped without notice -- or even better, walked through, under or over.

6. On the Northeast corner of the field there is a mound of dirt ~~approximately~~ approximately 100 yards square and 10 feet high which is believed to be the partially underground storage for ammunition. On the north end of the top of this mound is perched a guard with rifle. Information regarding the quantity and kind of ammunition will be forwarded later if it can be obtained.

7. The parking area for Guatemalan Air Force planes is indicated on the attached overlay. The most recent data on their aircraft is listed in IR-27-54 dated 3 February 1954 and quoted below in the event you have not yet received a copy of this report:

"Guatemala IR-27-54

Summary of Aircraft Strengths

Guatemala Air Attache, Guatemala City
3 February 1954 3 February 1954 A-1
Chief, Guatemalan Air Forces;
Personal Observation.

Lt. Colonel Theodore J. McAdam, Asst AirA.

BAIR 13A1.1; Par 40, Sec VI, ICI; IR-139-52.

In accordance with Paragraph 40, Section VI of the ICI (Reference BAIR 13A1.1), submitted herewith is quarterly summary of above."

"Air Attache, Guatemala City

IR-27-54

3 February 1954

TABLE I
SUMMARY OF AIRCRAFT STRENGTHS
TOTAL

ROLE	TOTAL	NO! and TYPE OF AIRCRAFT	
Fighter			
Jet	0	0	0
Conventional (All have .30 cal MG's; in addition, the T-6's have light bomb racks.)	10	4 6	P-26 T-6
Attack	0	0	0
Light Bomber (Bomb sights inoperative)	4	4	T-11
Medium Bomber	0	0	0
Transport	4	2 1 1	C-47 C-45 UC-78
Reconnaissance	0	0	0
Training	20	3 1 8 3 5	BT-13 PT-17 PT-19 VPF-7 PT-22
Liaison	0	0	0
TOTAL AIRCRAFT	38	38	

Troop Carrier Glider Strength: 0.

Evaluation of Information in Table 1: Information in this table was obtained directly from the Chief of the Guatemalan Air Force, and it is believed should be evaluated as A-1."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COPY/RBR/rbr 23 Apr 54/

With regard to the .30 cal. machine guns on the fighter planes, The Air Attache advised BURNETTE that they did not know whether these planes were armed with one or two of these guns each.

8. Guillermo LUNAS is the chief mechanic for AVIATECA. Carlos RODRIGUEZ is the Assistant chief mechanic.

9. The most recent data on the complement of the Guatemalan Air Force is given in IR-29-54 from which the pertinent part has been extracted and included below. The Air Attache has supplied the following names of officers of the GAF and their positions:

Major Arturo GUIROLA B.	Maintenance Chief
Colonel Luis A. GIRON Cartagena	Chief of Air Force
Lt. Colonel Carlos A. SARTI	Deputy Chief of Air Force (Executive)
Lieutenant Adolfo CASTILLO	Secretary
Lieutenant Manuel de J. GIRON	A-1
Major David E. ROULET	A-2
Major Jose Luis LEMUS Ramis	A-3
Major Enrique VALLADARES	A-4
Lieutenant Carlos SAMAYOA PAZ	Chief, Photography Department
Major Horacio PELAEZ VEIA	Director of Flying School

The table taken from IR-29-54 showing personnel strength of the GAF is copied on the following page.

Air Attache, Guatemala City

IR-29-54

TABLE III

PERSONNEL STRENGTH

COUNTRY AIR FORCE (Regular Establishment)* DATE: 3 February 1954
GUA TEMALA

Type of Personnel	Officers		Total	Enlisted Men		Total	Grand Total
	Trained	In Training		Trained	In Training		
Pilots	46		46			0	46
Navigators			0			0	0
Bombadiers			0	0	0	0	0
Radio Operators	1		1	2		2	3
Gunners			0			0	0
Radar Operators			0			0	0
Observers			0			0	0
Others			0			0	0
Sub-Total	47		47	2	0	2	49
Admin & Clerical			0	8		8	8
Armament & Ordnance			0	4		4	4
Communications			0	3		3	3
Supply			0	4		4	4
Medical	1		1	1		1	2
Engineering & Maintenance	2		2	100		100	102
Operations & Transportation	1		1	10		10	11
Others			0			0	0
Sub-Total	4		4	130		130	134
Grand Total	51		51	132		132	183

Civilians employed as part of the Military Air Establishment: 0

REMARKS: Infantry Guard consists of 1 Officer and 173 Enlisted Men.
*The Guatemalan Air Force has no organized Reserve Establishment.
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10. The subject of radio communications may be covered more completely in answer to EEI #46, however, the following information was obtained from the Asst. Air Attache on transmitters and frequencies. Location of the transmitters is shown on the overlay.

Guatemalan Government (GAF and AVIATECA)

Primary transmitter, medium frequency, Bendix TG-16
 Primary transmitter, VHF frequency, U.S. BC 640
 Backup transmitter, medium frequency, RCA ETM-50R

Frequencies (all handmade):

T&R	126.18
	3023.5
	6567.
R	122.5
	3105.
	4495.
	6595.

TACA Aviation

Primary transmitter, medium frequency, Wilcox 99A 400 watts
 Backup transmitter, medium frequency, Collins 30 R.A. 100 Watts

Frequencies:

T & R	4615	Voice
	6612	"
	3001	"
	1690	"
	3400	"
	8585	CW
	6515	"

11. Power sources.

- 1) The main power source is a diesel electric generator located on the Southeast part of the airfield (see overlay). It is in a building approximately 10 feet x 20 feet constructed of cement and situated inside the 5-strand barb wire fence about 10 feet from the road. A sketch of this building is attached showing entry of the vent. The nearest guard post is about 100 yards away (cement block structure capable of holding 10 persons but on 23 April only one rifle was showing.)
- 2) A substation for this generator is located in the Northeast corner of the airfield (see overlay) near the structure believed to be the ammunition storage area.

12. Attachment #4 is a map of Guatemala City dated 1951. If this and Attachment # 1 are of value to LINCOLN, please copy and return since they are on loan from the Air Attache's office.

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Robert B. Riggs

Attachments: 4

- 1-Blueprint #6156
- 2-Overlay for blueprint
- 3-Sketch of diesel electric plant
- 4-Map of Guatemala City

RBR/rbr

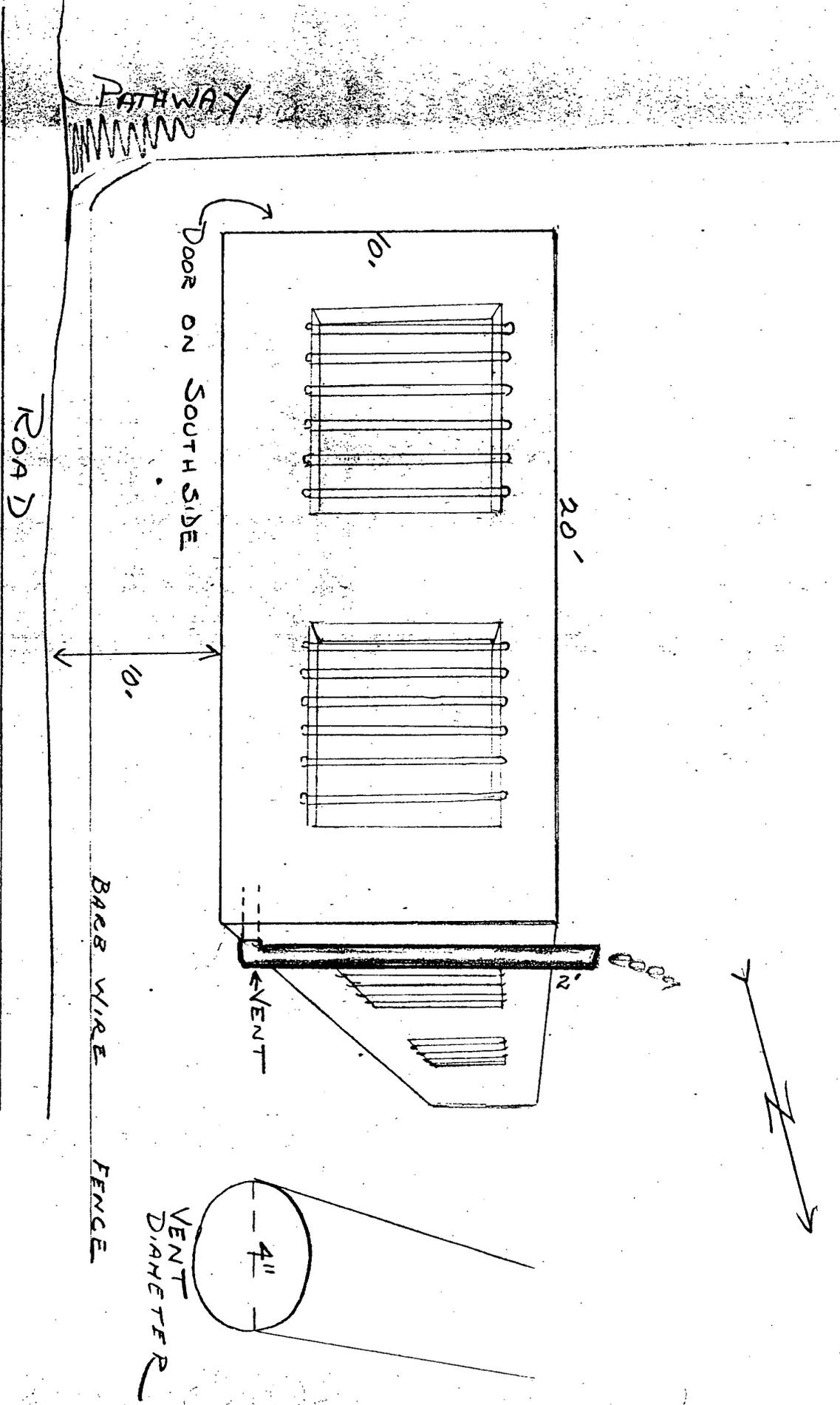
26 April 54

Distribution

- 2-LINCOLN w/single copy attachments
- 2-Wash w/o attachments
- 2-Files w/o attachments
- 1-[] w/o attachment

*Revised note on enclosure states not
more necessary to copy*
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Diesel electric plant building (not to scale)
Attachment # 3 to HCCA-943



PATHWAY

DOOR ON SOUTH SIDE

ROAD

BARB WIRE

FENCE

20'

10'

10'

2'

VENT

VENT
DIAMETER

4"

