

Chapter 1 : 6 Famous Pirate Strongholds - HISTORY

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The first three U-boats launched simultaneous attacks on 16 February. The four torpedoes from the bow tubes were duds, but the stern tube torpedoes sank *Rafaela*. U then attempted to shell the Aruba refinery with its A Venezuelan gunboat, *General Urdaneta*, assisted in rescuing the crews of several torpedoed vessels; and A Havoc light bombers attacked all three U-boats unsuccessfully. As result an increased American occupation of the island began for its protection. As the U-boats settled into routine patrolling, U torpedoed oil tankers *J. The U crew used hacksaws to cut off the damaged portion of the gun barrel; and, when U ran out of torpedoes, used their sawn-off deck gun to sink Macgregor and the oil tanker Oregon. Morosini torpedoed Stangarth and oil tankers Oscilla and Peder Bogen. Enrico Tazzoli torpedoed Cygnet and the oil tanker Athelqueen. No damage or casualties resulted. The small engagement ended in a German failure. Kals ordered the bombing of several petroleum storage tanks but after only five shots, a Dutch shore battery responded which forced him to abort. Ulrich Graf "fired two torpedoes from a surfaced position. U began shelling *Norlantic* as she attempted to flee the scene. After several hits the American ship signaled the Germans to cease fire so they could escape the inferno in their life-rafts. The Germans failed to hold their fire while two lifeboats were lowered, then at She sank, taking six men down with her, two men were killed by the torpedo and four men killed from the shelling. Sixteen men died in the two attacks. This prompted Mexico to declare war on Germany on 1 June. The attack occurred on 20 May just southwest of Grenada in the Caribbean Sea. The American ship holding thousands of barrels of molasses was hit in the engine room. The torpedo destroyed the engines and caused a boiler to explode and a moment later another torpedo hit the ship. Six men were killed and 38 survivors made it to shore. *SS Sylvan Arrow* in The Mexicans evaded three attacks of two torpedoes each before being hit by one in a final spread. *Amatlan* sank with 10 men and another 24 sailors survived. On 11 September, U "under Kptlt. The ship sank in shallow waters after a short exchange, but was raised and towed to Trinidad in December and later towed to Mobile, Alabama, arriving on 24 January. The ship was repaired and returned to service in August, but was torpedoed a second time, this time by U on 3 December in the Gulf of Maine, and sank. U fired torpedoes and at least one hit the vessel. *Maltran* sank within 15 minutes of being hit, though all of her crew survived and escaped the danger in lifeboats. The ship sank just east of Jamaica, taking down two men. Sixty-eight others were rescued. After sinking *Poelau Roebiah* U was chased down and attacked by the U. Navy the following day. A PBM *Mariner* flying boat first dropped a load of explosives over the sub, and then for seven hours American surface vessels depth charged the area, but U escaped without damage or loss of life. Axis vessels[edit] Canadian propaganda poster depicting the boarding of U on 28 August. U was sunk on 13 June by the U. The German submarine submerged and attempted to flee but *Thetis* gained sonar contact and began a depth charge attack. After several minutes, the action ended when debris and oil were spotted by the Coast Guard crew. Seven days after escaping attacking Allied ships off Haiti on 8 July, U was reported sunk; post war research discovered it was not until an attack on 23 July that she was actually destroyed. Commanded by Richard Schreder when it took a direct hit on the deck of the submarine with a depth charge. The depth charge did not explode on impact, it merely lodged itself into the teak planking of the deck. However, as the U-boat submerged, the charge detonated after the sub carried it down to its pre-set trigger depth. Suddenly, a torpedo hit *Lee*, and PC discovered the attacking U. PC launched depth charges at the submarine and sank her though it was not until after the war sinking was confirmed. The corvette then rammed U twice before it slowed to a stop. Hal Lawrence led a boarding party of eleven sailors from *Oakville* to capture the boat. They boarded the vessel and entered through the conning tower. Only two Canadians actually went through the hatch, they were surprised by two Germans who came running towards them. After ordering halt, the Canadians fired and killed the attacking Germans when they failed to stop. The rest of the crew surrendered without incident. After just barely capturing the vessel, the Canadian sailors realized the Germans had already scuttled the boat and it was taking on water. The Canadians left U and she*

sank with nineteen of her crew; Oakville rescued 26, including the commander, Oberleutnant zur See Otto Ites. Forty-nine additional sailors survived and became prisoners of war in the U. The crew was interrogated and provided valuable information to the U. Army [citation needed] Intelligence about U-boats and their submarine base at Lorient. CS attacked with depth charges and quickly sank the U-boat which killed all of her crew. French submarine cruiser Surcouf , the largest submarine in the world at the time, was rammed and sunk by the freighter Thomas Lykes near the Atlantic side of the Panama Canal on 18 February There were no survivors. Ten men were killed when three torpedoes slammed into George Calvert and she was underwater within minutes. The surviving crew were captured by the Germans and interrogated before being freed in lifeboats. Three armed guards were killed and the survivors made it to the Cuban shore. Two torpedoes hit the coffee laden Henry Gibbins on her port side over the course of 20 minutes and she sank soon after. All of her 47 crew and 21 U. Army guards survived the encounter and were rescued a day later. Stephen Hopkins was ordered to stop by the Germans, the Americans refused, so they opened fire with their main battery. Both vessels suffered casualties and by Stier was badly damaged as well and could no longer make steam so her commander scuttled her less than two hours after defeating the American vessel. U â€”under Kurt-Eduard Engelmann â€”surfaced and fired three torpedoes at Erie. The Americans spotted the submarine and the torpedoes, then took evasive maneuvers. Erie escaped two of them but was hit by the third and badly damaged. Her crew grounded her on the nearby shore and she burned for several hours before the flames were brought under control. American forces suffered seven killed and eleven wounded in the attack.

Chapter 2 : Islands of the Atlantic Ocean Map - Mapcarta

Caribbean Bases-R-US Up until the transfer of the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government and the withdrawal of the U.S. Air Force equipment from Howard Air Base in , American defense strategy favored large military facilities abroad.

Marine artillery units 75mm were posted at Camp Tientsin. They were also equipped with several searchlights and three SCR radar sets, charged with protecting the harbor and airfield. The Marines were replaced by Army troops between January and March Army Coast Artillery troops initially took over the Marine gun positions. Various anti-aircraft AA guns were also emplaced near the ports and airfields. British airfields were at Reykjavik and at Kaldadharnes. British radar sites were located at Olfus, Grotta, and Vik. The last British combat troops left in January American combat troops left by the end of , as Germany no longer posed a threat in this area. Iceland became independent from Denmark in de facto The American Army arrived to take over the defense of the island in July , to consolidate hemispheric defense and to protect the only known commercial source of natural cryolite used in the production of aluminum. Another German weather station was found and destroyed by American forces in September The Germans continued throughout the war to establish weather stations, and the Americans continued to eradicate them when found. American ground troops were withdrawn by the end of , but the air and naval bases continued to operate post-war. American military posts were established at the following sites in This was primarily a radio and weather station. An auxiliary airfield was also built. AA defenses may have been emplaced here. This was previously a Danish science station built in Bluie East Five at Eskimonaes 74 deg. This was a radio station, seized by the Germans in March The post was re-established and relocated at Myggbukta. Bluie West One at Narsarsuaq on the southwest coast. This was the headquarters post of the Army and Navy, with a major airfield. An SCR radar was also here. The defenses were inactivated in late The airbase was renamed Narsarsuaq Field in It was transferred to the Danes in and became a civilian airport, still in use today. Bluie West Two at Kipisako. Bluie West Three at Simiutak at the mouth of Skovfjord. Bluie West Four at Faeringerhavnen 63 deg. AA defenses were probably emplaced here. It was withdrawn in late The Navy also had a base here at "Green Valley". The naval base was transferred to the Danish Navy in , and continues today as the main Danish naval base within the Greenland Command. The cryolite mine was in operation from - The airbase was renamed Sondrestrom Field in The base was transferred to the Danish military in , but was transferred back to the U. Air Force in as Sondrestrom Air Base. It was closed in and became the major Greenland civilian airport renamed Kangerlussuaq Airport for flights from Canada and Europe. The Danish Navy took it over in Greenland was granted internal self-rule from Denmark beginning in Michaels Island, protected by a submarine torpedo net and three 4-inch guns manned by the local Portuguese militia. A repair ship and five destroyers arrived in August Marines were landed in January and erected two one-gun 7-inch gun batteries around the main harbor, one gun located on a point just westward of town to cover the harbor, and the second gun located about eight miles west of town on a high bluff to cover the newly built British wireless radio station completed in May A Marine seaplane base was also established to scout for German submarines. Located at Horta on Faial Island were previously established American and European marine cable and telegraph stations since , and a meteorological station In the Marines were ready to go again, for the same reason, but were diverted to Iceland instead, on the request of Great Britain to relieve her troops there. Great Britain did establish a naval and air base here in October British troops also garrisoned barracks near Forte de Sao Sebastiao in the village of Pipas. American forces arrived in December to share the British bases. The Americans built a separate airbase on Santa Maria Island in September , now used as the international airport for the Azores. Remains of Nissen huts and concrete slabs still remain in one area. Fort Bell was the U. Army headquarters, and Kindley Field was the U. An American radar station SCR? An American submarine base was built on Ordnance Island. The coast defenses were deactivated in American and Canadian forces left the island for good in For an overview of some of the over British forts built in the colony since , see the following websites:

Chapter 3 : North Atlantic & Caribbean Forts

Links to outside sites and more satellite data: NOAA National Hurricane Center - for official forecasts and outlooks.; University of Wisconsin SSEC GOES Images and Loops.

Roll over names of designated regions on the map above for descriptions of the role of each in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

North America The North American mainland played a relatively minor role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Its ports sent out less than five percent of all known voyages, and its slave markets absorbed less than four percent of all slaves carried off from Africa. An intra-American trade in slaves – originating in the Caribbean - supplied additional slaves, however. This region was exceptional in the Americas in that a positive rate of natural population growth began relatively early, thus reducing the dependence of the region on coerced migrants.

Caribbean The Caribbean was one of the two major broad regional markets for slaves from Africa. Over the two centuries when the trade was at its height, the major locations for sugar production, and therefore the major slave markets, shifted from the eastern Caribbean to the west. Here, first Jamaica, then St. Domingue, and finally in the nineteenth century, Cuba, absorbed most of the slaves brought into the region. As this implies, few islands developed self-sustaining populations at any point in the slave trade era. Caribbean ports also sent out more slaving expeditions to Africa than did the North American mainland ports.

Brazil Brazil was the center of the slave trade carried on under the Portuguese flag, both before and after Brazilian independence in 1822, and Portugal was by far the largest of the national carriers. Brazil dominated the slave trade in the sense that Rio de Janeiro and Bahia sent out more slaving voyages than any port in Europe, and certainly many times more than did Lisbon. Over nearly three centuries between 1500 and 1800, Brazil was consistently the largest destination for slaves in the Americas. Almost all the slaves coming into the region came from just two coastal areas in Africa: Europe

Europe was the starting point for about half of all trans-Atlantic slaving voyages. This traffic dominated the West African to Caribbean section of the slave trade. The major ports were at first located in the Iberian peninsula, but by the eighteenth century northern European ports had become dominant. After 1700, France and the Iberian ports sent out the great majority of European-based slaving voyages.

Africa Sub-Saharan Africa lost over twelve and a half million people to the trans-Atlantic slave trade alone between 1500 and 1800. Perhaps as many again were carried off to slave markets across the Sahara and the Indian Ocean. Over forty percent of captives left from West-central Africa alone with most of the remainder leaving from the Bight of Benin, the Bight of Biafra, and the Gold Coast. About one in eight died on board the slave vessel and many others died prior to departure and after arrival. Departures were channeled through a dozen or so major embarkation points such as Whydah, Bonny, Loango, Luanda, and Benguela, though many smaller ports also supplied slaves. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database has information on almost 36,000 slaving voyages that forcibly embarked over 10 million Africans for transport to the Americas between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. The actual number is estimated to have been as high as 12 million. The database and the separate estimates interface offer researchers, students and the general public a chance to rediscover the reality of one of the largest forced movements of peoples in world history.

Chapter 4 : Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

The Battle of the Caribbean refers to a naval campaign waged during World War II that was part of the Battle of the Atlantic, from to German U-boats and Italian submarines attempted to disrupt the Allied supply of oil and other material.

Beginning in the late 17th century, well-armed bands of freebooters used the African island of Madagascar as a base of operations for raids on European and Asian shipping. According to pirate legend, some of these pioneering thieves even set up a utopian colony called Libertalia, where they mingled with native women and organized a democratic government. Libertalia is most likely a seafaring myth, but Madagascar was home to several other pirate strongholds, most famously St. In the s, St. As part of an underground shipping arrangement, many St. Some of these raids were among the most lucrative crimes in history. For example, in , Henry Every used a six-ship fleet to attack a treasure ship owned by the Great Mogul of India. Tortuga In the early s, the rocky island of Tortuga served as the chief stronghold of a motley group of adventurers, thieves and escaped slaves who preyed on Spanish treasure ships in the Caribbean. The buccaneers fled Hispaniola for Tortuga around after the arrival of Spanish settlers, and they soon turned to the lucrative business of piracy. To support their operations, they made Tortuga into a fortified stronghold. Tortuga became a prime destination for pirates, attracting men of rough character from as far as England, Holland and Portugal. Many of the Brethren received privateer commissions from England and France, and they proved a thorn in the side of the Spanish, who responded with repeated attacks on Tortuga. The buccaneers later served under Sir Henry Morgan during his famous raids along the Spanish Main, but their influence waned with the end of privateering. She also ran afoul of government officials, who made repeated attempts to curb her activity. Her hands-on style of leadership earned her a reputation as a ruthless fighterâ€”a popular legend states that she once gunned down a Turkish buccaneer only a day after giving birthâ€”but she also showed a keen understanding of politics. The island sat in the center of the well-traveled trade lanes between Europe and the West Indies, and its capital of Nassau offered a safe harbor for marauders to repair and resupply before setting sail in search of plunder. Among others, raiders like Blackbeard, Stede Bonnet and Charles Vane were known to haunt its seaside taverns and bars. Pirate activity in the Bahamas eventually became so rampant that the British government feared for the long-term survival of its colony. In , the Crown dispatched three warships to New Providence along with a new governorâ€”the privateer-turned politician Woodes Rogers. Governor Rogers offered a pardon to any pirates who surrenderedâ€”some, like Benjamin Hornigold, even became pirate huntersâ€”but he showed little mercy to those who resisted. In December , he sent a chilling message to unrepentant buccaneers when he executed a band of convicted pirates in Nassau. From then on, New Providence was slowly transformed from a playground for thieves into one of the main headquarters for anti-piracy operations in the Caribbean. Baratavia Bay The swampy islands surrounding Baratavia Bay, Louisiana, once served as a sanctuary and safe harbor for the famed pirate-turned-patriot Jean Laffite. In the early 19th century, Laffite and his brother Pierre led a syndicate of thieves who terrorized shipping in the Gulf of Mexico. By the s, their illegal colony at Baratavia Bay had grown into one of the busiest black market ports in all of North America. Between and 1, marauders frequented the area, and more than a dozen pirate ships regularly occupied its harbor. In , Laffite famously interrupted his pirate activity to play an unlikely role in the War of After receiving an offer from the Britishâ€”who hoped to use Baratavia as a point of access to New Orleansâ€”Laffite instead offered his services to the United States in exchange for clemency for his past misdeeds. Laffite and his followers went on to serve with distinction in the Battle of New Orleans under future President Andrew Jackson, and he was rewarded with a full pardon. But despite winning a clean slate, Laffite would not stay away from a life of crime for long. He later led his men to Texas and formed yet another pirate haven on Galveston Island. We strive for accuracy and fairness. Twice a week we compile our most fascinating features and deliver them straight to you.

Chapter 5 : Weather Forecast & Reports - Long Range & Local | Weather Underground

Based as it was on the RAINBOW 5 war plan, the Caribbean operations plan faced toward the Atlantic and anticipated a war in which Germany and Italy would be the major opponents, the Atlantic and Europe the principal battleground, and the Caribbean relatively immune to attack.

For the Allied powers, the battle had three objectives: The Axis, in turn, hoped to frustrate Allied use of the Atlantic to wage war. In convoys bound for Britain from the United States face a perilous crossing, with many ships sunk by German submarines and surface raiders. The first phase of the battle for the Atlantic lasted from the autumn of 1939 until the fall of France in June 1940. During that period the Anglo-French coalition drove German merchant shipping from the sea and established a fairly effective long-range blockade, while the German navy attempted to inflict some measure of damage on Allied forces at sea. Britain lost French naval support just when its own sea power had been hurt by losses incurred in the retreat from Norway and the evacuation from Dunkirk and stretched by Italian belligerency. Axis air power imperiled and eventually barred the direct route through the Mediterranean Sea to the Suez Canal, forcing British shipping to use the long alternative route around the Cape of Good Hope. That cut the total cargo-carrying capacity of the British merchant marine almost in half at the very moment when German acquisition of naval and air bases on the Atlantic coast foreshadowed more destructive attacks on shipping in northern waters. From the German perspective, with the conquest of western Europe complete, knocking Britain out of the war by attacking its trade seemed a manageable objective. Beginning in the autumn of 1940, German U-boat submarine attacks were dramatically successful, and over the winter Germany also sent out its major surface warships and air power. However, the combined assault by air, surface, and submarine forces failed to force Britain to surrender. With help from burgeoning Canadian naval and air forces, a fully escorted transatlantic convoy system was in place by May 1941, the same month that the German surface attacks on Allied trade routes collapsed with the loss of the battleship Bismarck. At that critical juncture, the United States, though still technically a nonbelligerent, assumed a more active role in the Atlantic war. In 1941, through the Destroyers for Bases deal, the United States turned over 50 World War I destroyers to Great Britain, which helped to make good previous naval losses. In return, the United States received year leases for bases in Newfoundland, in Bermuda, and at numerous points in the Caribbean. American units were also deployed in Iceland and Greenland. In addition, Canada built naval and air bases in Newfoundland. By the fall of 1941, the Americans were fully engaged in escorting shipping in the northwest Atlantic alongside the Canadians and British, and the U. Navy fought several battles with U-boats west of Iceland, where it had established advanced bases. By late 1941 the North Atlantic was comparatively quiet. The German offensive off the U. East Coast in early 1942 found shipping entirely unguarded, and American efforts to protect it—anything short of adopting convoys—were utterly unsuccessful. As a result, Allied merchant shipping losses spiked between January and June 1942, when more tonnage was lost off the U. The Allied campaign in 1943 in the Mediterranean depended almost entirely upon seaborne supply shipped through submarine-infested waters. In addition, Allied convoys bound for the Russian ports of Murmansk and Archangelsk had to battle their way through savage air and undersea attacks. Canadians established the first convoys in the American zone, and American convoys soon followed. When transatlantic convoys shifted their western terminus from Halifax to New York City in September 1942, they were escorted by the Royal Canadian Navy. With more and better equipment, the convoy system was strengthened and extended throughout 1942. Meanwhile, unprecedented merchant shipbuilding, especially in the United States, had caught up and begun to forge ahead of losses by autumn of that year. But the battle was not yet over. The progressive expansion of the convoy system in the Western Hemisphere had forced the U-boats back into the mid-Atlantic by late 1942, where the battle climaxed over the next six months. During that gap the Germans enjoyed their final major successes of the war: By then decisions reached by Allied leaders at the Casablanca Conference of January 1943 had begun to push major naval and air reinforcements into the North Atlantic. Attempts by the Germans to renew the assault on Allied shipping by using acoustic homing torpedoes failed in the autumn of 1943, and so the U-boats retreated inshore, where they waged a guerrilla campaign against shipping. Allied victory

in the Atlantic in , coupled with the opening of the Mediterranean to through traffic later that year, translated into significant reductions in shipping losses. For the balance of the war, the Allies exercised unchallenged control of Atlantic sea-lanes.

Chapter 6 : Search The Voyages Database

In return, the United States received year leases for bases in Newfoundland, in Bermuda, and at numerous points in the Caribbean. American units were also deployed in Iceland and Greenland. In addition, Canada built naval and air bases in Newfoundland.

Two of the facilities soon to be available to the U. The new Caribbean coast facilities will join an array of existing U. Air Force equipment from Howard Air Base in , American defense strategy favored large military facilities abroad. The strategy seems to have changed in recent years, with the Pentagon opting for smaller facilities and a more modest posting of personnel. The decision by the Correa administration in Ecuador not to renew the lease on the U. Peru was interested in hosting one such base, as this was seen as aiding the country in its fight against the remnants of Sendero Luminoso and serve as a deterrent against its traditional strategic foe, Chile, which in recent years has been undergoing a military build-up. In the end, Washington policymakers chose Colombia to be the U. Access to the Colombian bases will likely mean new deployments of U. The base is used for counter narcotic operations in the Eastern Pacific. Forces in the region are under the command of the U. The mixed bag of American military troops includes the th Air Squadron. If that were to transpire, the American military probably would be forced to move to an undisclosed area in the Honduran rainforest. It is unclear, with the ongoing events regarding the ousted president Manuel Zelaya, if the future of Palmerola will be discussed anytime soon. The detachment stationed there includes U. AWAC aircraft are utilized for monitoring suspicious air and sea traffic involving Caribbean waters. According to a November article in the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad, in that year, tons of cocaine, tons of heroin and five tons of marijuana were intercepted by U. However, the base has been operated by the U. The base is intended to serve as a repair and refueling center for Coast Guard and Navy vessels. The release explains that the U. The center is utilized for testing of new types of weaponry. Military exercises Apart from leasing military facilities abroad, the U. The Tradewinds military exercises are organized by the U. The exercises this time were dubbed *Unitas Gold* in order to commemorate the anniversary. The at-sea phase of the exercise took place this past April. As part of the live-fire exercises, the warships sunk, as planned, the ex-USS *Connolly*. According to an official release, in total, *Unitas Gold* brought together 25 ships, four submarines, more than 50 aircraft, Marines and 6, sailors from 11 different countries. Huber, commander of U. Operation, Preparation and Mobilization sub-director from the Southern Command. Finally, this past July, military personnel visited Guyana for humanitarian and civic assistance exercises dubbed *New Horizons*. This may be the first time in its history as an independent state that Guyana has received such sustained attention from Washington. These agreements brought together a number of regional states, such as Barbados in and Jamaica in. In certain cases, *Shiprider* allows the U. Coast Guard and Navy to board and detain vessels when going through the territorial waters of Caribbean states if there is evidence or well-founded suspicion that said vessels are committing a crime, such as drug trafficking. Depending on the nature of the bilateral agreement, U. The Fourth Fleet and Overlapping Commands As the deployment of American troops to Latin America continues to expand, important questions arise concerning the future of the Fourth Fleet. The reactivation of the Fleet in has been regarded as one of the most incoherent and unproductive decisions by the former Bush administration regarding the Western Hemisphere. Rear Admiral Victor Guillory, who is also the commander of the U. In fact, the Fourth Fleet, at the present time, only exists on paper. No permanent ships have been assigned to it, nor will any be. Fourth Fleet as part of the re-establishment. Fourth Fleet is an organizational fleet staffed to fulfill a planning and coordination mission. If anything, the first impression when looking at the Fourth Fleet is that it will bring more bureaucracy to a region that, as it stands, already suffers from too many different oversight organizations and procedures, joint task forces and bilateral agreements with regional states. So far it seems that both names are interchangeable, and it is unclear what kind of operations the Fourth Fleet could carry out that SOUTHCOM, or one of its already established components, could not. This question further highlights the perception of the Fleet as an example of redundant bureaucracy. However, it remains to be seen whether the reconstitution of the Fourth Fleet is improving the control of these operations when compared to

their pre-Fourth Fleet level of performance. Where are the enemies? The multitude of initiatives of the U. For example, does the U. However, it is important to keep in mind that the cost of overseas troops can be justified to a critical public only by the expression of a clear, practical goal, e. The Coast Guard has actively targeted this trend through a series of 27 maritime bilateral counterdrug agreements and arrangements with partner nations that include all or some of the following provisions: Both of them identify the prevention of illicit trafficking as one of their top priorities. When it comes to the U. Due to the nature of their regimes, Cuba and Venezuela stood out as security threats for conservative American policymakers. However, despite these contentious views regarding both states, it is generally accepted that Venezuela, notwithstanding its surge of military purchases, could not possibly stand up to U. Cuba poses even less of a threat; its armed forces do not have access to modern and well-functioning equipment and a high degree of training, and it primarily acts as an internal police force. Under no circumstances is Cuba an international threat, least of all to the United States. The cooperative defense deal between the U. Cuba poses even less of a threat; its armed forces and their aged equipment do not have access to modern and well-functioning equipment and a high degree of training, and its armed forces primarily act as an internal police force. It may be a stretch to argue that the U. While it arguably will aid local authorities with their fight against drug trafficking, it will at the same time also facilitate the monitoring of Venezuela and other South and Central American left-leaning countries. Military exercises, although they carry with them a small sacrifice of sovereignty, will most likely continue to be necessary for small Caribbean states in order to improve mainly their own internal security so that they can tackle issues like drug trafficking, which an obsessed Washington will just not let go away. The Fourth Fleet, on the other hand, is not likely to pose a security threat to regional governments, and will probably result in bureaucratic redundancy as it will likely be serving little more than a symbolic image. American military presence in the Caribbean Basin has been steadily expanding, justified domestically as a necessary measure to combat ballooning drug production and terrorist movements. However, there is little indication that these military forces significantly have impacted the overall volume of illicit drugs entering the U. By focusing on military efforts, American anti-drug policy has failed to address, for example, the key role that social problems play in the perpetuation of an illicit economy. Development projects that tackle poverty in producer countries, such as Colombia and Peru, and in transit countries, such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and those in Central America, are badly needed. Unfortunately, the grand plan that the Pentagon and the DEA have proposed does not focus on improving social conditions, but merely on increasing U. Despite these military advances, the current anti-drug policy cannot be expected to succeed, as it is unlikely that a satisfactory justification can be found for such an elevated military presence in the region when the target is so small-scale.

Chapter 7 : US Military Bases in Latin America and the Caribbean

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The United States maintains a complex web of military facilities and functions in Latin America and the Caribbean, what the U. Southern Command known as SouthCom calls its "theater architecture. Much of this web is being woven through Plan Colombia, a massive, primarily military program to eradicate coca plants and to combat armed groups mostly leftist guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. In the last five years, new U. On May 1, , the Navy vacated the Vieques range though it remains in federal hands and followed in March by closing the massive Roosevelt Roads Naval Station. The Navy continues to operate an "outer range" of nearly , square miles to practice high-tech naval maneuvers, an underwater tracking range for submarines, and an electronic warfare range in waters near Vieques. The ranges are used by the Navy and by military contractors to test sophisticated ships and weapon systems. In addition, the Pentagon is investing in expanded infrastructure in the region, with four military bases in Manta, Ecuador; Aruba; Curacao; and Comalapa, El Salvador, known as "cooperative security locations," or CSLs. These CSLs are leased facilities established to conduct counternarcotics monitoring and interdiction operations. Washington has signed ten-year agreements with Ecuador, the Netherlands for Aruba and Curacao , and El Salvador and has funded the renovation of air facilities in Ecuador, Aruba, and Curacao. SouthCom also operates some 17 radar sites, mostly in Peru and Colombia, each typically staffed by about 35 personnel. All of the above is in addition to existing bases, including a missile tracking station on Ascension Island in the Caribbean, housing up to U. The Pentagon is moving to shift much of the operation and maintenance of its military bases to private, for-profit contractors. For example, the Air Force contracted the operation of its Manta base to Dyncorp, and even "host-nation riders" who accompany military flights over Colombia are "outsourced" to a private U. In Panama, all U. But the Pentagon continues to enjoy access for military flights into and out of Panama on a contract to transport cargo and passengers daily between Honduras, Panama, and dirt strips in Colombia. Bases belonging to Latin American militaries but built or used by U. The up to U. The Bush administration in March announced its intention to increase the cap for such personnel to 1, Problems with Current U. The United States is using its base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to circumvent international law regarding prisoners of war. The soldiers and contract employees that the U. The presence of more than 10, U. In addition to their role in facilitating military operations, U. Besides evoking the past, the bases are contracted into a future beyond any articulated military mission. Plan Colombia was originally envisioned as a two-year push into guerrilla-occupied southern territories, with vague plans for subsequent years. This permanent infrastructure generates inequitable relations and invites intervention instead of negotiation in a crisis situation, as it did in Panama and Puerto Rico historically, the sites for other long-term U. The cooperative security locations, purportedly created to monitor drug traffic, have no mechanism for transparency or monitoring by civil society in the host countries and are thus subject to other missions. This is especially disturbing in light of the expansion of U. Similarly, the mission for troops at Guantanamo Bay has morphed from orchestrating counterdrug operations to providing an off-shore jail for migrants and, since late , prisoners of war. These operations have no accountability under U. The dramatically increased U. Other opponents of the U. Many also object to provisions exempting U. The cooperative security location in Comalapa, El Salvador, operated by the Navy since , has no limit on the number of U. In , the opposition FMLN party argued that the agreement affects Salvadoran sovereignty and thus requires more than a simple majority vote by the legislature for ratification, but this claim was rejected by Salvadoran courts. In Puerto Rico, the remaining military bases have additional political functions. On an island where the FBI has compiled 1. Costa Rica would have to give diplomatic immunity to academy staff at a time when the United States is aggressively opting out of the International Criminal Court. The outsourcing to private companies of air transport, base construction and maintenance, the host-nation rider program, and other military activities overseas diminishes the information available to those who would monitor such activities and decreases the accountability for U. Only after an enterprising reporter discovered an Internet-posted request for proposals did Panamanian civil

society learn that the Pentagon had been using airstrips in Panama for "transportation services" into and out of Colombia, even after U. The contract tapped Evergreen Helicopters, a company with clandestine experience in the U. These toxins have lead to elevated rates of disease among Vieques residents, who have a Despite Superfund designation, Vieques remains a very contaminated island. In Panama, the military left behind more than , rounds of unexploded ordnance on firing ranges in the canal area, despite a Canal Treaty provision for removing such dangers. Nearby construction of a new bridge and road will bring an influx of workers and occupants, who will be exposed to these hazards. Once the Pentagon is gone, the United States abandons jurisdiction, thereby shirking responsibility for the contamination its military has caused. To live up to its democratic ideals, the United States should adopt a new security doctrine for relations with Latin America and the Caribbean. Such a doctrine would value ties with civilians more than ties with the military and would promote civil society as the sphere where democratic decisionmaking must occur. This approach would dedicate more resources to addressing the economic causes of conflict rather than building installations designed for the use of force. It would also commit the United States to transparency about the purposes, activities, and effects of existing U. Such a focus shift would imply changes in U. Short of such a re-examination of the policy foundations for military bases in the region, the United States should review existing agreements for foreign bases using democratic criteria. Bases should not be maintained or established without broad consultation with and agreement of the civil societies and legislatures of the countries in which the bases are located. Without such consultation and agreement, these bases represent a usurpation of democratic control within the host society. Objectionable contract provisions, such as broad U. Bases should only be established for fixed periods of time, should have clearly defined missions, and should require renewal by both U. The United States should also not attempt either to establish military access or to conduct controversial military missions through private contract outsourcing. To ensure transparency and accountability to host countries, base agreements should be amended to give both the public health and environmental officials of host nations and representatives of communities affected by U. To address environmental problems generated at U. The account should provide for cleanup of both existing and former U. Regarding Vieques, Congress should appropriate enough funds for a complete cleanup. The Navy and the Environmental Protection Agency should implement a thorough cleanup of Vieques and of the former bombing range in neighboring Culebra, since both sites have been approved for inclusion on the Superfund National Priorities List. The Navy should also settle claims by island residents seeking compensation for damages to their health and environment. Similarly, policy-makers ought to heed the repeated appeals by Panama to remove the thousands of explosives left in firing ranges in the canal area. Such measures of environmental responsibility would demonstrate leadership that is sorely needed.

Chapter 8 : United States Military Bases in the Caribbean, Central and South America - World Beyond War

Description: The Hurricane Atlantic Satellite image shows clouds by their temperature over the Atlantic Ocean. Red and blue areas indicate cold (high) cloud tops.

I am honored to speak at this conference specifically about the need to abolish United States military bases in the Caribbean, Central and South America. Women for Peace, we apologize for the continuing presence of the U. Naval Base here in Guantanamo and for the U. We call for the closing of the prison and the return of the U. Any contract for use of land in perpetuity signed by a puppet government of the beneficiary of the contract cannot stand. Naval Base at Guantanamo is not necessary for U. Instead, it harms U. All have been challenging policies of the U. I served 29 years in the U. I was also a U. However, in March , I was one of three U. Since then, I, as well as most everyone on our delegation, have been publicly challenging policies of the Bush and Obama administrations on a variety of international and domestic issues including extraordinary rendition, unlawful imprisonment, torture, assassin drones, police brutality, mass incarceration, and U. Accompanying us was one of the first prisoners to be released, a British citizen, Asif Iqbal. After nearly 14 years of imprisonment in Guantanamo prison, prisoners remain. Let me assure you, many, many of us continue our struggle in the United States demanding a trial for all prisoners and the closing of the prison in Guantanamo. The sordid history of the past fourteen years of the United States imprisoning persons from 48 countries on a U. Now, to speaking about other U. They usually have a small number of military personnel and no families. They sometimes rely on private military contractors whose actions the U. To maintain a low profile, the bases are hidden within host country bases or on the edge of civilian airports. In the past two years I made several trips to Central and South America. As most of you know, School of the Americas Watch is an organization that has documented by name many graduates of the U. Some of the most notorious of these murderers that sought asylum in the United States in the s are now being extradited back to their home countries, particularly to El Salvador, interestingly, not because of their known criminal acts, but for violations of U. Additionally, SOA Watch has sent delegations to countries in Central and South America asking that the governments stop sending their military to this school. Five countries, Venezuela, Argentina, Ecuador, Bolivia and Nicaragua have withdrawn their military from the school and due to extensive lobbying of the U. Congress closing the school. But, sadly, it is still open. I want to recognize 78 year old JoAnn Lingle who was arrested for challenging the School of the Americas and sentenced to 2 months in U. And I would also like to recognize everyone in our U. We have at least 20 from our delegations who have been arrested and gone to jail for justice. Their responses highlight the web of U. Most do not know that a second U. However, the overall relationship to the U. Critics say that the Chilean military already had facilities for peacekeeping training and that the new base is to give the U. Chileans hold regular protests at this facility and our delegation joined in one of those vigils. Security cannot be reduced to protection of the interests of the trans-nationalsâ€ The armed forces are supposed to protect national sovereignty. Its bending to the dictates of the North American army constitutes treason to the homeland. In the U. When our delegation was in Chile in October, the U. Long term individual contacts between military leaders, active duty and retired, is another aspect of military relationships we must consider along with the bases. While our delegation was in Chile, David Petraeus, retired U. Another aspect of U. State National Guard units have long-term military-to-military partnerships with defense and security forces in 22 nations in the Caribbean, Central America and South America. National Guard State Partnership Program focuses in great measure on civic action projects that happen so frequently that U. Naval Station which has been occupied by the U. For the past 14 years, it has housed the infamous Guantanamo military prison in which the U. Only 8 prisoners of the have been convicted â€and those by a secret military court. It is now used as a base for U. But it has the airfield used by the Honduran military in coup from which to fly the democratically elected President Zelaya out of the country. In two years between and , the base population grew by 20 percent. In , the U. There are more than U. Comalapa â€ El Salvador. The naval base was opened in after the U. Cooperative Security Location CSL Comalapa has a staff of 25 permanently assigned military personnel and 40 civilian contractors. The Venezuelan government has argued

that these bases are utilized by Washington to spy on Caracas. In January a U. The radar is to be moved to Australia, but the U. Navy on 6 locations in the islands and develops new naval military technology, such as electronic warfare threat simulators. However, the Colombian Constitutional Court ruled that it was not possible for non-Colombian military personnel to be permanently stationed in the country, but the U. Lima, Peru " A U. Naval Medical Research Center 6 is located in Lima, Peru at the Peruvian Naval hospital and conducts research on and surveillance of a wide range of infectious diseases that threaten military operations in the region, including malaria and dengue fever, yellow fever, and typhoid fever. To close my presentation, I want to mention one other part of the world where the U. Our delegation thanks the conference organizers for the opportunity to be with you and others from around the world who are deeply concerned about foreign military bases and we pledge our continued efforts to see the closing of the U. Naval Base and prison in Guantanamo and U.

Chapter 9 : NHC Data Archive

** Note: for the Atlantic, Caribbean, and the Gulf of Mexico and for the Eastern Pacific are scanned images of the printed reports. An XML index file is also available for all the Tropical Cyclone Reports.*

Medical Service in the Mediterranean and Minor Theaters The war against Germany, which began for United States ground forces with the invasion of North Africa on 8 November , could never have been won if the Atlantic approaches had not first been secured. Although less spectacular than combat operations, the establishment and defense of sea and air routes to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East were no less essential to the final victory. The few permanent installations in the Panama Canal Zone and Puerto Rico were supplemented in the early years of the war by new bases stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Equator and from central Canada to the Azores. Each base where Army troops served had its own special problems, but there was a common pattern. Together, the bases formed a screen of defensive outposts. They were also land links in three major transatlantic air routes, and some had additional strategic value as jumping-off points for future operations. Palmer, and Bell I. Cline, Washington Command Post: Also valuable for background are: I, Plans and Early Preparations: January to August , vol. The swiftly moving events of the summer culminated on 2 September in a U. Lucia, Trinidad, and British Guiana on year lease. At the same time the right to establish U. Early in the British Government also authorized establishment of an American air base on Ascension Island, between Brazil and Africa. Studies of possible sites began in the fall of and early the next year American troops began moving into some of the new bases. In mid American forces began relief of the British garrison in Iceland, after diplomatic arrangements with the Icelandic Government. A similar movement of U. The establishment of air routes across both the North and the South Atlantic led to stationing considerable numbers of Army Air Corps and other service personnel in central and eastern Canada, and in Brazil. During the period before American entry into the war, U. Army strength was built up in Panama and Puerto Rico, and the number of troops in the newly acquired bases also increased rapidly. An Axis attack across the South Atlantic against Brazil was regarded by both the Army and the Navy as a distinct possibility, whereas a Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was thought to be less likely because of the presence of the Pacific Fleet. When the less likely attack came on 7 December , attention shifted abruptly to the Pacific, and estimates of Army strength necessary to maintain the security of the Atlantic were revised in the light of the new conditions. Expansion continued, but at a relatively slower pace. Nevertheless, by December there were , U. This figure exceeded the American strength in the United Kingdom at that time, and was half of the U. Army strength in the Pacific, where actual combat had been in progress for a year. Troop strength in some areas began to decline while others were still building, so that the over-all figure never was much above that at the end of The peak month was May , when , U. These bases were set up as semitactical organizations, with enough ground combat troops in most instances to hold off a hostile landing force until help could be sent. Engineer troops were usually present in considerable numbers in the early stages of occupation, giving way to Air Forces units, mostly Air Transport Command ATC personnel, when the construction work was finished. Naval forces were also stationed at many of the bases. Administratively, the new 9 bases in the Caribbean were brought under the pre-existing military departments having jurisdiction over Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone. In Brazil a theater-type organization was set up to supersede control by the Air Transport Command. In the North Atlantic, however, the various major bases were established as independent commands and were only brought together under the Eastern Defense Command in the middle of Wartime needs were met primarily by expansion of units, just as they were in the zone of interior. In the new bases, however, all medical facilities had to be sent in. For the most part, buildings were constructed by the Corps of Engineers, whose troops generally preceded both ground and air personnel. Indeed, the engineers often supplied medical service as well as buildings for a time after the combat troops arrived. To care for thousands of civilian workers on its various airfield and other projects at the new bases, the engineers had been forced to establish a medical service of their own. Directing it for the eastern division was Col. Usually by the time ground troops arrived at a base, the engineers had in operation an infirmary or small hospital, which served

until Medical Department units could be unpacked and housed. Where command of the base itself passed to the ATC after the war, Army medical facilities and installations were transferred to the new jurisdiction. Bed requirements for the new bases were computed on the same 5-percent ratio used for hospitals in the United States, but in practice the ratio was never more than a rough rule of thumb, more nearly true in the aggregate than in detail. Initially, hospital care at the bases was provided by medical detachments, the provisional hospitals established being activated in place later on as numbered station hospitals. It was not until the fall of that the first numbered hospital units activated in the United States were shipped out to Iceland. Before the war was over, the number of such units in the Atlantic defense areas increased to a peak of 5 general hospitals, 45 numbered station hospitals, a handful of unnumbered hospitals of varying sizes, and 10 or more dispensaries equipped to function as small hospitals. For various other comparisons, including Medical Department strength, see John H.. By the spring of , however, the British were too hard pressed in Africa to waste manpower on a purely defensive situation, After some hesitation, but with the approval of the Icelandic Government Icelanders felt there would be less risk in being occupied by a nonbelligerent President Franklin D. Roosevelt decided early in June to relieve the British garrison with American troops. An initial force of 4, marines landed in Iceland on 7 July. The marines were followed on 6 August by the 33d Pursuit Squadron, whose Ps were flown in from an aircraft carrier. The first increment of ground troops--some 6, officers and men of the 5th Division--arrived on 15 September. Several other camps lay north of headquarters, within a mile strip close to the coast and centering around Alafoss. Eighty percent of the U. The remainder was scattered at isolated airfields and radar stations around the rim of the island. The IBC reached peak strength in May when, with 40, ground, air, and service troops, it was exceeded in size only by the Panama Canal Zone among Atlantic defense areas. Ground forces included engineer and service troops and the entire 5th Division. Air combat strength was augmented, as soon as suitable fields could be made available, by the 9th Bomber Squadron H and the 1st Observation Squadron. The bulk of the Air Forces units in Iceland, however, were elements of the Air Transport Command, whose home base, shared with the bombers, was Meeks Field near Keflavik on the southwest tip of the island. By the time peak strength was reached, the threat of German invasion of Iceland was negligible. In August the garrison was cut by more than 25 percent; the entire 5th Division was withdrawn. Thereafter, a steady decline in troop strength brought the total to less than 1, men by the end of , more 5 Principal sources for this section include: Beasley Ret to Col O. Goriup, 10 Aug 59, commenting on preliminary draft of this volume. The Air Transport Command, which retained an interest in Iceland after the war was over, assumed control of all remaining U. Army activities there on 1 January Medical Organization- The strength of the Medical Department in Iceland rose from at the end of to 2, a year later. By the end of the total number of officers, nurses, and enlisted men of the Medical Department had declined to 1, and was down to by the end of The base command surgeon during the most active period was Lt. Beasley, who had accompanied the initial Marine contingent in July in order to make a medical evaluation of the island. Colonel Beasley returned to Iceland with the Army ground troops, remaining until August , when he was relieved by Col. McSween became IBC surgeon in early In addition to its regular function as guardian of the health of the U. Army hospitals treated large numbers of Icelandic citizens who had been injured in the vicinity of American camps, and also cared for civilians who were struck by military vehicles. Members of the Medical Department co-operated freely with the local public health authorities, and Army veterinarians helped their Icelandic colleagues examine, test, and treat livestock, and aided them in other agricultural matters. Many of the most prominent doctors of Iceland inspected U. Army hospitals and attended Army medical meetings. In turn American medical officers visited Icelandic patients in consultation. On several occasions the Army supplied local hospitals with urgently needed drugs and biologicals, while the American Red Cross contributed hospital and medical supplies to its Icelandic counterpart. The work of the surgeons office revolved around the system of hospitalization and evacuation and the related medical supply function, each of which will be discussed under a separate heading. Supplementing these activities at the base command level was the divisional medical service, which operated 12 camp dispensaries and treated 5th Division personnel wherever they were stationed. The organic 5th Medical Battalion furnished routine evacuation service from unit dispensaries to nearby station hospitals and from the hospitals back to the

dispensaries. The medical battalion also operated a dispensary for the port of Reykjavik and ran a provisional hospital in the Keflavik area until a permanent station hospital was established there. Air Forces units maintained their own dispensaries and operated crash aid stations for emergency treatment at the various airfields. Engineer troops, which preceded the Army combat elements by about a month, had their own medical detachments, but anything of a serious or complicated nature went to Marine and later to Army installations. Hospitalization -The disposition of U. Army hospitals in Iceland was dictated by the combination of mountains, lava beds, and glaciers that circumscribed roads and airfields, and by the rugged coast line, turbulent seas, and icebergs that made water evacuation hazardous much of the year. Although the bulk of the beds were in the Reykjavik-Alafoss area to serve the largest concentration of troops, it was still necessary to supply hospital facilities wherever American soldiers were stationed. Three numbered station hospitals arrived with the main body of troops in mid-September , and two of these were in operation before the close of the year. The th Station Hospital was established in Reykjavik in a permanent building formerly used by a British hospital. The first patient was admitted on 24 September. The following week the 11th and th Station Hospitals, both bed units, which had arrived in Iceland at the same time as the th, were attached to the latter until suitable sites could be prepared. The 11th Station Hospital opened on 22 December in a section of a British hospital at Camp Helgafell, some ten miles north of Reykjavik. The th remained attached to the th until April , when it moved into newly erected Nissen huts at nearby Alafoss. During six more station hospitals and one general hospital arrived on the island to serve an increasing number of Army troops coming in from the United States. The 1,bed th General Hospital came in March and began operating before the end of the month at Camp Helgafell, where it shared quarters with a British general hospital and the U. The 11th moved in June to Kaldadharnes, some twenty-five miles southeast of Reykjavik, where it served personnel of an airfield. The British hospital was withdrawn to the United Kingdom in August, leaving the th General in sole possession of the hospital plant.