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GEOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PART IV: ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY



CIA/RR GR L-61-1

February 1961

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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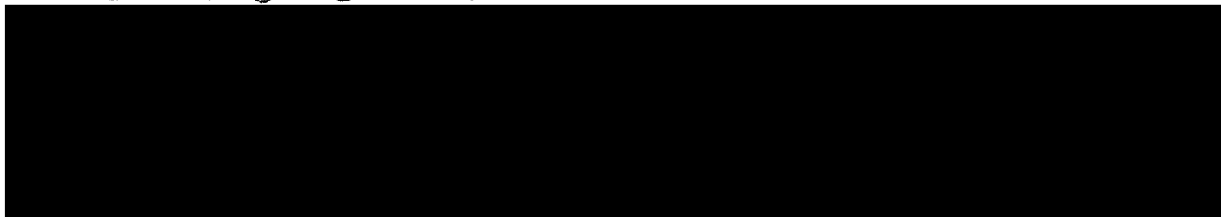
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PART IV: ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY

1. Armed Forces

The Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic include the National Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Foreign (or Dominican) Legion. In addition the National Police has a quasi-military capability. (See Maps 29750, 29751, and 29752, following p. 16).

Generalissimo Trujillo is commander in chief of the Armed Forces and is assisted by the General Staff of Combined Forces of Air, Sea, and Land. Command over the individual services is concentrated in the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The organizational structure is such that part of the ground forces -- including all of the armored vehicles and modern artillery units -- is organizationally within the Air Force.

A. The National Army (Ejercito Nacional)

The National Army has a strength of approximately 15,000 men and is composed of a general staff, a presidential guard, a field-artillery group, a "shock battalion," and seven brigades (see Map 29752, following p. 16). The presidential guard is a ceremonial regiment. The shock battalion consists of four rifle companies reinforced by an armored element from the Air Force. It is intended to serve as the initial element in counterattacking any invasion force. The brigades consist of from 1 to 3 infantry regiments and 1 or more separate artillery batteries. The infantry regiments have from 3 to 5 companies and are generally equivalent

is size to a US battalion of World War II. The companies, unless designated as "tactical" or "mobile reserve," are guard companies varying in strength from 150 to 300 men. (The mobile reserve company has a strength of 140 men). Although companies constitute the basic army unit, they are frequently subdivided into guard destacamentos (detachments) of platoon size. Puestos (posts), still smaller guard units of squad size, may be detached from either the destacamento or a parent company.

The disposition of the National Army is such that units ranging in size from puesto to company are located in every village and town of the country. Roadblocks or checkpoints at every major crossroads and bridge and on the outskirts of the larger towns are manned by the Army or the National Police. Puestos are also located along the Haitian frontier at intervals of from 3 to 5 kilometers and at unknown intervals along the coast. Because of this wide dispersal, units larger than a company are seldom encountered intact.

Companies occupy fortalezas, permanent masonry barracks that resemble 19th century European forts. These forts have some defensive strength, at least against small arms or civil mob action. Destacamentos occupy either fortalezas or cuartels, a smaller version of the fortaleza, and puestos generally occupy small barracks of frame construction. The puestos along the Haitian border generally are located on a commanding site affording excellent observation; some are fancifully designed masonry watchtowers.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] reported a complete absence of either permanent or temporary

land fortifications at the puestos along the border. He also noted that patrolling along the frontier and coasts was merely a routine of two men walking along the beach or road from puesto to puesto.

The compañías, destacamentos, and puestos are dependent primarily upon commercial telephone lines for communication. The more remote puestos utilize radiotelephones that are netted in with the commercial lines. All compañías along the Haitian border and the coast are reportedly equipped with "single side band radios" for use in case telephone communication fails.

In general, weapons are old and of many varieties but are well maintained. Most military items are imported. Uniforms, boots, some small arms, and some ammunition, however, are manufactured in the Dominican Republic. The individual army units subsist, for the most part, on local produce. Nearly every fortaleza and puesto has a garden patch that provides a large share of its food.

According to a recent US Army evaluation,* the Dominican Army appears to be "adequately trained and well deployed for a gendarme role; however, it forms a garrison rather than a field force and exhibits little or no understanding of modern infantry tactics. Against local insurrections or small groups of politically oriented invaders they would probably do well, but they would be no match for a modern ground force."

* ACSI, Order of Battle Summary -- Dominican Republic, 1 October 1960.

S-E-C-R-E-T

As of December 1960 the disposition of the National Army down to company level was as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
Presidential Guard (10th Regt)	Ciudad Trujillo
19th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
35th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
Field Artillery Group	Ciudad Trujillo
Batteries numbered 1 through 11	Ciudad Trujillo
Shock Battalion	Ciudad Trujillo
Central Brigade	Ciudad Trujillo
11th Regiment (Prison Guard)	La Victoria (18°35'N-69°50'W)
34th Company	La Victoria
44th Company	La Victoria
12th Regiment	Ciudad Trujillo
30th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
31st Company	Ciudad Trujillo
1st Brigade	Ciudad Trujillo
1st Regiment	Ciudad Trujillo
7th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
15th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
28th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
2d Regiment	Ciudad Trujillo
39th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
40th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
45th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
46th Company	Ciudad Trujillo
2d Brigade	La Vega (19°13'N-70°31'W)
5th Regiment	San Francisco de Macoris (19°18'N-70°15'W)
6th Company	San Francisco de Macoris
24th Company	Monseñor Nouel (18°56'N-70°25'W)
41st Company	Samana (19°13'N-69°19'W)

S-E-C-R-E-T

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>
15th Regiment	Constanza (18°55'N-70°45'W)
43d Company	Constanza
18th Company*	La Vega
27th Company	Moca (19°24'N-70°31'W)
3d Brigade	San Juan de la Maguana (18°48'N-71°14'W)
1st Artillery Battery	San Juan
8th Regiment	Elías Piña (18°53'N-71°42'W)
3d Company	Elías Piña
9th Company	San Juan
11th Company	Las Matas de Farfan (18°52'N-71°31'W)
17th Company	Pedro Santana (19°06'N-71°41'W)
7th Regiment	Neiba (18°28'N-71°25'W)
Artillery Battery (numerical designation unknown)	Neiba
5th Company	Neiba
16th Company	Pedernales (18°02'N-71°44'W)
25th Company	Jimaní (18°28'N-71°51'W)
50th Company	Enriquillo (17°54'N-71°14'W)
6th Regiment	San Cristóbal (18°25'N-70°06'W)
Artillery Battery* (numerical designation unknown)	San Cristóbal
12th Company	San Cristóbal
20th Company	San Cristóbal
36th Company	Azua (18°27'N-70°44'W)
37th Company*	San Cristóbal
48th Company*	San Cristóbal
49th Company*	San Cristóbal
13th Regiment	Azua
4th Brigade	Dajabón (19°34'N-71°43'W)
9th Regiment	Dajabón
4th Company	Monte Cristi (19°52'N-71°39'W)
26th Company	Dajabón
23d Company	Restauración (19°18'N-71°41'W)

* Tactical or mobile reserve element.

Unit	Location
14th Regiment	Valverde (19°34'N-71°03'W)
Artillery Battery (numerical designation unknown)	Valverde
22d Company	Valverde
27th Company	Santiago Rodriguez (19°30'N-71°21'W)
15th Brigade	Santiago (19°27'N-70°42'W)
16th Regiment	Santiago
15th Company	Santiago
16th Company	Santiago
17th Company	Santiago
18th Regiment	Puerto Plata (19°48'N-70°41'W)
8th Company	Puerto Plata
10th Company	Sabaneta de Yasica (19°40'N-70°21'W)
13th Company	Luperon (19°54'N-70°57'W)
22d Company	Villa Julia Molina (19°23'N-69°50'W)
6th Brigade	El Seibo (18°46'N-69°02'W)
31 Regiment	San Pedro de Macoris (18°27'N-69°18'W)
1st Company	San Pedro de Macoris
2d Company	La Romana (18°25'N-68°58'W)
21st Company	El Seibo
51st Company	Higüey (18°37'N-68°42'W)

B. The Dominican Air Force (Aviación Militar Dominicana)

The Dominican Air Force consists of a small, partly jet-equipped, air force of approximately 2,500 men and a ground defense force of approximately 3,000 men (see Map 29750, following p. 16). Its responsibilities include coastal patrol, aerial reconnaissance, search and rescue, and providing assistance in the maintenance of internal security and the general defense of the country.



indicate that the Dominican Air Force has about 80 trained pilots and

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some 160 aircraft, of which 32 are jets. Tactical units include a fighter-bomber squadron, a fighter squadron, a transport squadron, and a helicopter squadron. The fighter-bomber squadron is equipped with 20 Vampire Mk-1 and 12 Vampire Mk-2 jets, 48 AT-6, and 2 C-45 piston aircraft as well as 16 F-47D piston aircraft that are not flyable. The fighter squadron has 37 combat-ready F-51 piston aircraft as well as an AT-17 and a B-25 that are not combat ready. The transport squadron is equipped with five C-46, one C-47, and two C-54 transport planes; and this squadron can be augmented by five C-46's and two C-47's of the civilian airline, Compañía Dominicana de Aviación. The helicopter squadron has two H-19, two Hiller, and two Alouette II helicopters.

Dominican Air Force headquarters are located at Presidente Trujillo Airfield, San Isidro (18°30'N-69°45'W), which is the only fully developed military air base in the country. Most of the military aircraft operate from this airfield. Recently, because of invasion threats, operations have been decentralized somewhat by the establishment of auxiliary air bases at Barahona (18°13'N-71°06'W) and Santiago. The Air Force has two regional commands: the Southern Region, with headquarters at the Barahona Air Base, and the Northern Region, with headquarters at the Santiago Air Base. Twelve or more fighters or fighter bombers usually operate from these bases. Other airfields -- particularly the auxiliary airfields at Dajabon and Higuay -- are used by the Air Force on a touch-and-go basis, especially for rest and refuelling stops during patrols.

The air facility system is considered adequate for the current needs of the Dominican Air Force (see Table 1, p. 8). However, only 2 of the 10 operational airfields in the country -- Presidente Trujillo Airfield

Republic of the Dominican Republic

Name	Location	Operator	User	Status	Length (in Feet)	Surface
Barahona	18 13 N 71 06 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	5,700	Permanent Asphalt
Cabo Rojo	17 55 N 71 39 W	Private- Alcoa	Civil and Military	Operational a/	4,000 1,700	Temporary Caliche
Constanza	18 53 N 70 45 W	Civil	Civil and Military	Operational a/	4,552	Permanent Asphalt
Dajabon	19 34 N 71 41 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	6,500 3,600	Natural Dirt
General Andrews	18 28 N 69 54 W	None	None	Closed	2,500 2,000	Permanent Asphalt
Higüey	18 37 N 68 43 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	3,700	Temporary Macadam
La Romana	18 25 N 68 58 W	Civil	Civil	Not Operational; runways plowed	3,000	Natural Ungraded Hard
La Vega	19 12 N 70 30 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	3,500	Natural Ungraded Hard
Presidente Trujillo (San Isidro)	18 30 N 69 64 W	Military	Military	Operational	7,000	Permanent Asphalt and concrete
Puerto Plata	19 47 N 70 39 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	4,600	Temporary Compacted Corral
Santiago	19 29 N 70 42 W	Military	Military	Operational a/	5,700 2,500	Permanent Asphalt
Trujillo (International)	18 26 N 69 40 W	Civil	Civil	Operational	8,364	Permanent Concrete

a. Cables are stretched across runways to prevent unauthorized landings, but they can be removed upon proper clearance for landing.

and the Trujillo International Airfield (18°26'N-69°40'W) -- are suitable for jet operations. The General Andrews Airfield, formerly the municipal airport, has been declared a public danger because of its location in the urban center of Ciudad Trujillo and has been closed to all traffic. It could quickly be made operational, however, by removing the steel cables that are stretched across the runways. After the 1959 invasion threats, removable steel cables were stretched across the runways of all but the Presidente Trujillo and Trujillo International Airfields. These cables reportedly are still in place and are removed only when authorized Dominican aircraft are cleared to use the runways. The airstrip at La Romana has been plowed to prevent its use; reportedly, however, it could be made operational in a day or so with equipment available at the Central Romana.

According to a recent AFIC evaluation, the Dominican Air Force is "capable of contributing effectively to the maintenance of internal security within the Dominican Republic ... [and with] its combat division could effectively assist the ground forces in attempting to repel any probable invasion forces. ... [It] could not, however, successfully defend the country against an air attack by a sizable striking force. [The] ... acquisition of a small number of light bombers has given the Air Force the potential ... of reaching the most likely targets in either Cuba or Venezuela."

The ground element of the Air Force consists of a "combat division" composed of an infantry regiment, an artillery group, an armored battalion and 4 rifle companies. The artillery group consists of 10 batteries and includes the only modern artillery in the Dominican

Armed Forces. The armored battalion consists of a command group, an armored-infantry company, an armored-car company, and 2 tank companies. These units have the only armored vehicles in the armed forces.

In general, operational airfields are protected by an Air Force rifle company reinforced with a platoon of armored cars or halftracks. Headquarters of the combat division and its principal components are located at Presidente Trujillo Airfield, San Isidro. As of September 1960 the known disposition of other components of the division was as follows:

5th Rifle Company (Reinforced) and Armored Battalion Detachment	Santiago
7th Rifle Company (Reinforced) and Armored Battalion Detachment	Andres (18°26'N-69°40'W)
9th Rifle Company (Reinforced) and Armored Battalion Detachment	Barahona
10th Rifle Company (Reinforced) and Armored Battalion Detachment	Dajabón

C. The Navy (Marina de Guerra)

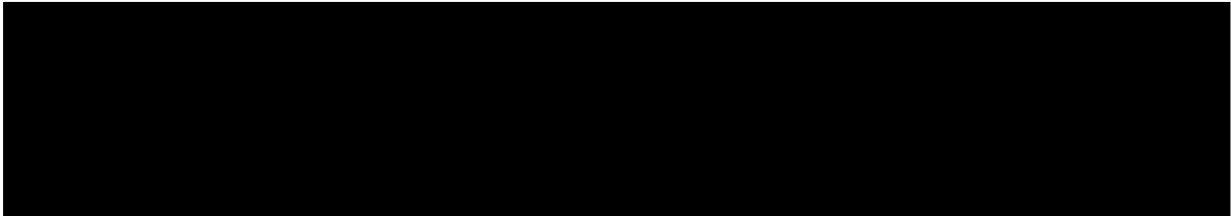
The Dominican Navy has a strength of 3,112 men. Its primary responsibility is that of patrolling the nation's coastline (see Map 29750, following p. 16).

Navy Headquarters are located at the Ciudad Trujillo fairgrounds. The Navy has three regional naval commands -- the Northern Naval Command with headquarters at Puerto Plata; the Southern Naval Command with headquarters at Barahona; and the Eastern Naval Command, which is controlled directly from Navy Headquarters in Ciudad Trujillo. The regional headquarters at Puerto Plata and Barahona are very small, and most ships and craft are based at Ciudad Trujillo and at the main naval operating base, Jose Trujillo Valdez, at Las Calderas (18°12'N-70°31'W).

An executive decree published on 29 February 1960 established 11 comandancias, or port districts. The port captain of each of 11 ports -- Cabo Rojo (17°56'N-71°40'W), Barahona, Azua (Puerto Tortuguero; 18°26'N-70°41'W), Río Haina (18°25'N-70°00'W), Ciudad Trujillo, San Pedro de Macorís, La Romana, Samaná, Sánchez (19°14'N-69°36'W), Puerto Plata, and Puerto Libertador (19°43'N-71°45'W) -- has jurisdiction over the segment of coast within his respective comandancia. In addition, the commander of the naval base at Las Calderas has jurisdiction over the short segment of coast bordering the Bay of Las Calderas. On paper at least, the 11 comandancias are subdivided into 73 coast inspectorías (inspectorates); but it is believed that the inspectorates have not been set up. At only one of the inspectorates, Sosúa (19°47'N-70°30'W), is a naval ship reported to be permanently based. A gunboat has been anchored off Sosúa since the abortive invasion attempt of 1959.

The Dominican Republic does not maintain a coast guard as a separate organization, although certain Navy craft are assigned to "coast guard" duty.

As of November 1960, naval-vessel strength consisted of 2 destroyers, 7 patrol-escort vessels, 5 submarine chasers, 5 amphibious craft, a Presidential yacht, and 30 service craft. The Navy has taken over the Astilleros Shipyard at Río Haina and uses it as a repair base. The Navy also has a seaplane station at the Las Calderas base although it does not have an air arm as such.



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reported that "the Dominican Navy is considered to be reasonably well prepared and disposed to carry out their primary mission which is to patrol the coastline of the Dominican Republic. They have the capability of concentrating a significant number of units at any threatened landing site and could deal effectively with an unprotected invasion force. They would be at a distinct disadvantage in the event of a direct encounter against their most probable opponent, Venezuela, because of the modernity of Venezuelan units as opposed to the obsolescence of Dominican units."

A Dominican Navy Frogman Unit was activated in mid-1959. It is reported as being a "small, probably effective and possibly elite unit trained by Italian instructors." It has potential capabilities for clandestine operations in the Caribbean area.

D. Foreign Legion (Legion Extranjero)

The Dominican Foreign Legion includes only some 185 European mercenaries and approximately 2,000 Dominican volunteers (see Map 29751, following p. 16). The Dominican volunteers serve on a full-time basis and receive some monetary remuneration, but less than men in the National Army receive. Until recently the foreign mercenaries had a reputation of being very unreliable and ineffective. In May 1960, however, about 115 disgruntled mercenaries were repatriated. Reportedly,

the 185 who remain in the Foreign Legion are now in the process of becoming naturalized Dominican citizens.

The Foreign Legion is organized into 6 light-infantry battalions with approximately 375 men each. The battalions are not known to be equipped with any weapons heavier than 81-millimeter mortars. Legion headquarters are in Ciudad Trujillo, and battalions are located at Constanza, Elías Piña, Loma de Cabrera (19°26'N-71°36'W), Pedernales, and Restauración. A training battalion is located at the naval base at Las Calderas. The combat effectiveness of the Foreign Legion reportedly approximates that of the National Army.

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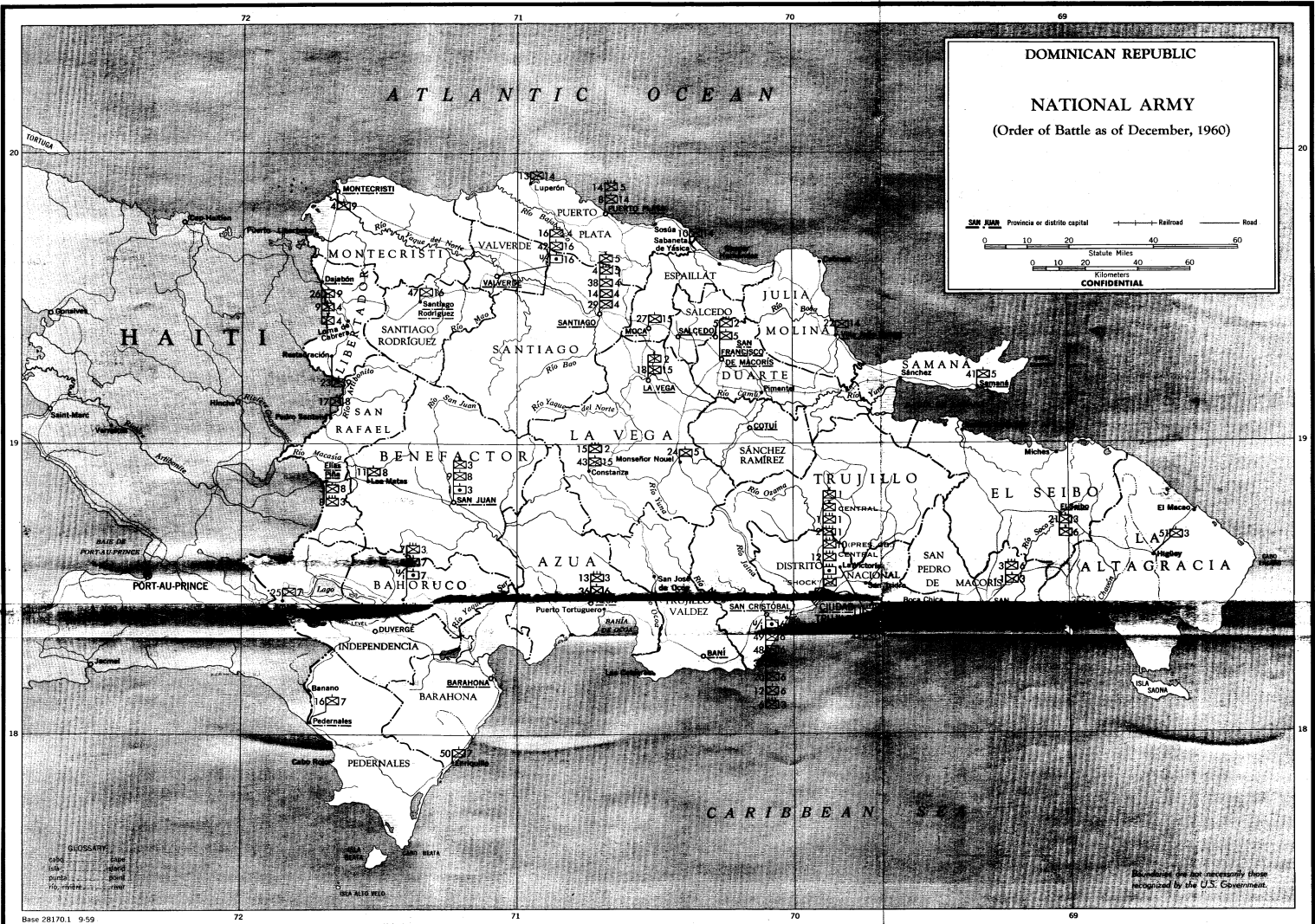
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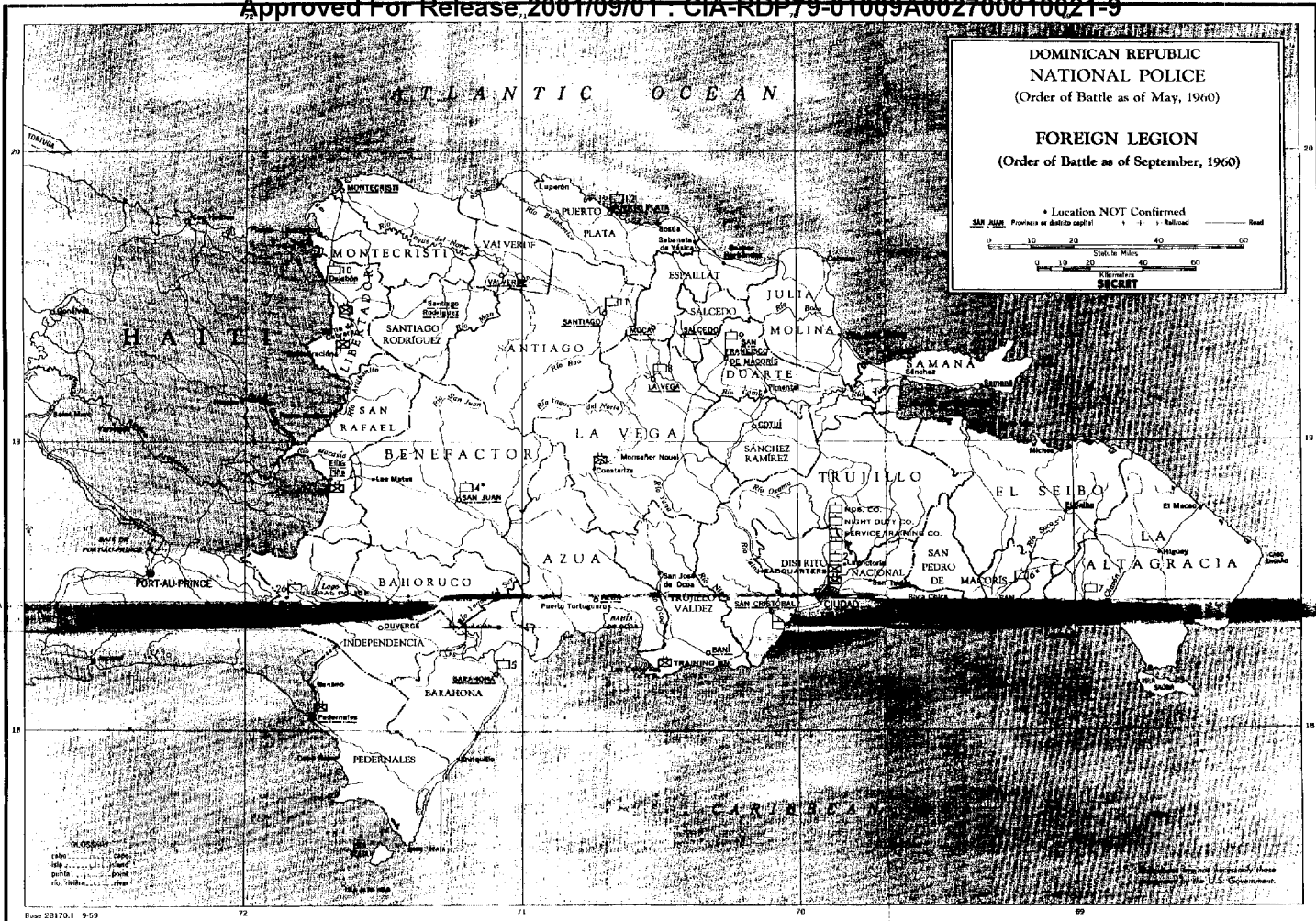
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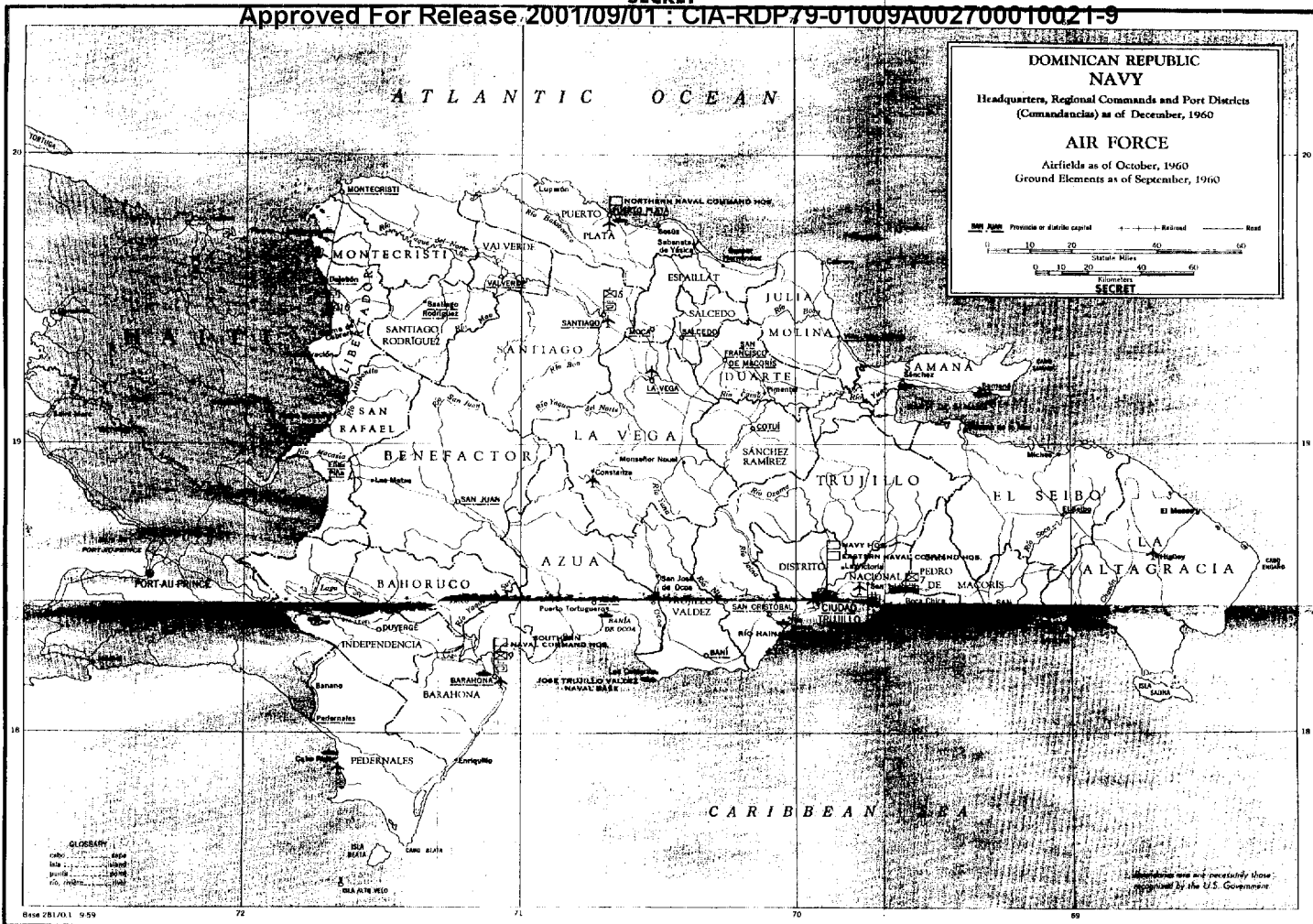
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