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Cuban Ground Forces Training (U)

An Imagery Research Paper

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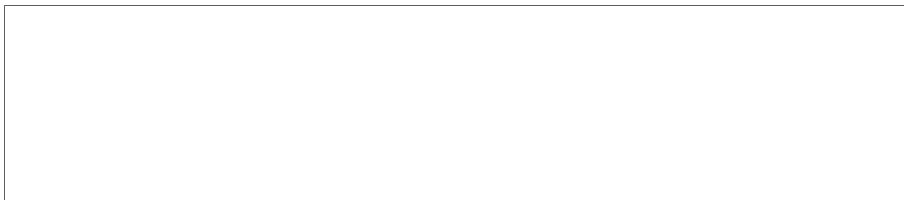
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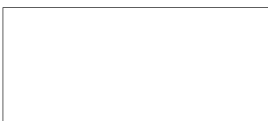
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Cuban Ground Forces Training (U)

Summary

Analysis of photography shows that the Cubans are continuing to upgrade the training of their ground forces, and the Cuban Army is better prepared for combat now than at any time in its history. The Cubans have the best trained Army in Central America and the Caribbean, due in part to substantial improvements made to training facilities and training programs since 1979, and to the thousands of Cuban troops who have served in Ethiopia and Angola, thus giving the Army a trained and experienced reserve manpower base nonexistent prior to the 1975 intervention in Angola.

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Evidence of these improvements was noted in the following areas:

- Cuban units have been using the combined-arms training ranges more often and on a larger scale in recent years, and are training at all levels, from platoon through division.
- The large-scale exercises observed in Cuba since 1979 have been combined-arms exercises, emphasizing the simultaneous use of tank, mechanized infantry, artillery, engineering, airborne and, with the exception of their SA-6 surface-to-air missiles, self-propelled air defense assets.
- Much of the newer equipment in the Cuban Army is seen regularly in combined-arms training exercises. Such usage integrates the new equipment into the maneuver units through realistic exercises.
- Three new live-fire ranges have been built since 1979. Although the size of the Army has not changed since then, the increase from 11 to 14 ranges allows more units to train simultaneously while decreasing the distances some units must travel to reach a live-fire range.

Despite these improvements, the Cuban Army's training program still has the following shortcomings:

- Helicopters have not yet been integrated into the training. Cuba has had an attack helicopter regiment of Hind Ds and Hip Fs for 18 months, and a second regiment is now forming; however, helicopters have not been observed participating in combined-arms exercises.

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- Cuba's SA-6 SAM regiment, a ground force divisional asset that has been in-country for 18 months, has yet to be integrated into a combined-arms exercise.

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Cuban Ground Forces Training (U)

Introduction

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[redacted] This photography provided sufficient coverage for us to determine training activity levels at all of the garrison training areas in Cuba's nine regular army divisions, and at 11 specialized (reserve, army-level, and live-fire) training areas. Less comprehensive coverage of the 15 other specialized training areas considerably lowered our knowledge of training at these locations. (S [redacted])

[redacted]

[redacted]

Training areas were analyzed to determine what types of conventional ground force training they support, on what scale, and at what times of the year. The appendix to this report provides a description of training areas which were examined in this study, and figure 1 shows their locations along with those of the Ground Forces Schools. The training of Cuban troops stationed overseas is not discussed; nor does this paper include the training of foreigners in Cuba.¹ (S [redacted])

¹ For information on Cuban Special Troops, which train foreigners in Cuba, see IA 82-10130, Cuban Airborne Forces, November 1982. (S NF)

Basic Training

[redacted] all Cuban males must register for the draft at 16 years of age. They normally enter service at 17, and either serve on active duty for three years or go directly into reserve units. [References 1-3] Induction occurs twice yearly, in January and July. [4] (S [redacted])

Basic training for all combat troops is standard and includes marksmanship, drill and ceremonies, threat education, political education, and limited chemical/biological warfare defense. The duration of the basic training cycle depends on which arm of the service a draftee serves in. Normally, basic training ranges from 45 days for a nonmechanized infantryman to three months for a tank trainee. [2] (C [redacted])

Basic training for service-support personnel varies from no training at all to 45 days. [5,6] Apparently, civilian experience is considered before placing a draftee in a service-support unit. (C [redacted])

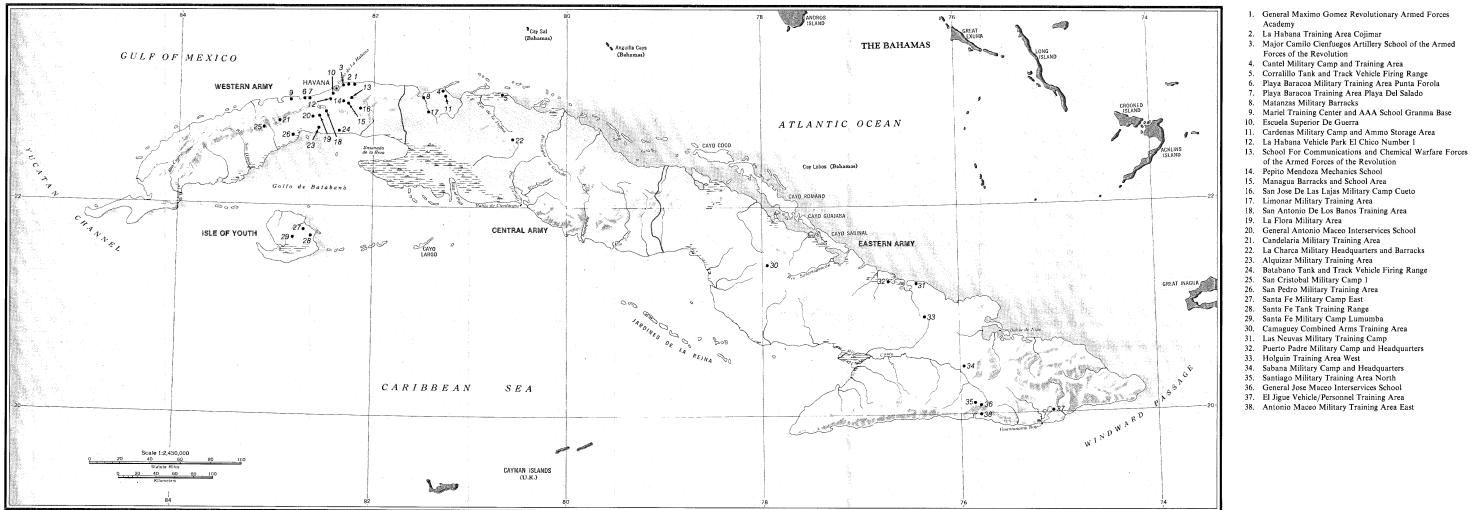
Although there is a large Soviet Military Advisory Group in Cuba, we found no evidence on photography that they are involved in the basic training of Cuban troops, and we are unaware of evidence from any other sources. (S [redacted])

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Figure 1

Major Cuban Military Areas



1. General Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces Academy
2. La Habana Training Area Cojimar
3. Major Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School of the Armed Forces of the Revolution
4. Cautel Military Camp and Training Area
5. Corralillo Tank and Truck Vehicle Firing Range
6. Playa Baracoa Military Training Area Punta Forola
7. Playa Baracoa Training Area Playa Del Salado
8. Matanzas Military Barracks
9. Mariel Training Center and AAA School Gramma Base
10. Escuela Superior De Guerra
11. Cardenas Military Camp and Ammo Storage Area
12. La Habana Vehicle Park El Chino Number 1
13. School For Communications and Chemical Warfare Forces of the Armed Forces of the Revolution
14. Papias Mendota Mechanics School
15. Managua Barracks and School Area
16. San Jose De Las Lajas Military Camp Cauto
17. Limonera Military Training Area
18. San Antonio De Los Baños Training Area
19. La Flora Military Area
20. General Antonio Maceo Interervices School
21. Candelaria Military Training Area
22. La Chacra Military Headquarters and Barracks
23. Alquizar Military Training Area
24. Babazono Tank and Truck Vehicle Firing Range
25. San Cristobal Military Camp 1
26. San Pedro Military Training Area
27. Santa Fe Military Camp East
28. Santa Fe Tank Training Range
29. Santa Fe Military Camp Lumumba
30. Canagney Combined Arms Training Area
31. Las Nevas Military Training Camp
32. Puerto Padre Military Camp and Headquarters
33. Holguin Training Area West
34. Sabana Military Camp and Headquarters
35. Santiago Military Training Area North
36. General Jose Maceo Interervices School
37. El Jigge Vehicle Personnel Training Area
38. Antonio Maceo Military Training Area East

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Tank Personnel Training

Basic and advanced basic training for tank personnel are conducted in two tank training regiments. One is Military Unit Number (MUN) 3075 Training Regiment at La Charca (figure 2). The second is MUN 2058 Tank School at Cantel. Both of these units maintain large tracked-vehicle driver training areas and tank firing ranges, and high levels of training activity have been observed at both locations.

[redacted] [7]

(S [redacted])

Tank unit draftees report directly to one of the training regiments for a three-month individual basic training period. A three-month advanced basic training period, consisting of live-fire and small-unit tactics training, follows immediately.

[redacted]

the culmination of the six months of training is a regimental level field training exercise at one of the major combined-arms training areas. [8] Because of the frequency and duration of training observed at

the tank training regiments, personnel serving in tank units appear to be the most thoroughly trained soldiers in the Cuban Army. (S [redacted])

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Infantry Personnel Training

Although the mechanized infantry battalion is the primary maneuver element in the Cuban Army, no large infantry or mechanized infantry schools have been identified on photography. (MUN 3075 at La Charca does have a mechanized infantry training battalion; however, a single battalion is of insufficient size to support national mechanized infantry training requirements.)

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[redacted] infantry draftees are trained by the NCOs and officers in the units to which they are permanently assigned, and they receive only 45 days of training in individual basic skills and political indoctrination. [3] (S [redacted])

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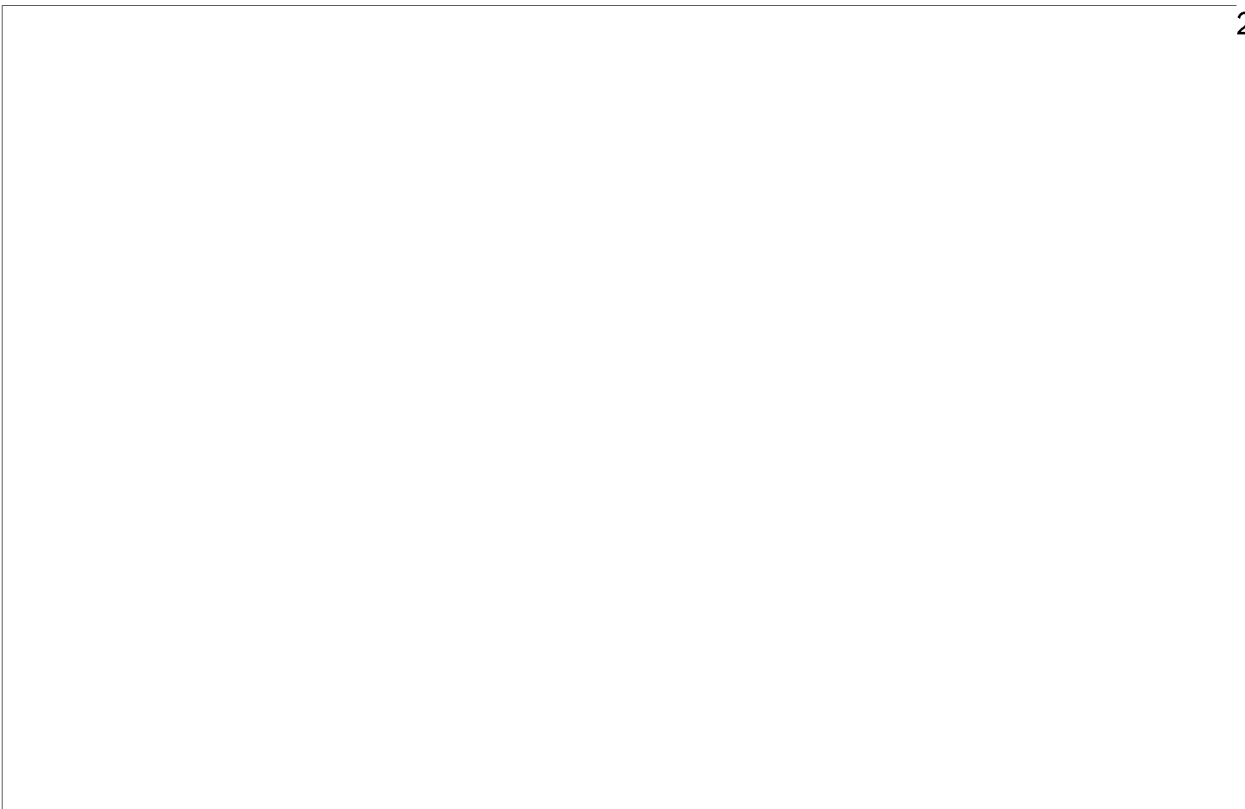
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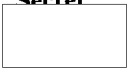
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Two mechanized infantry divisions, MUN 1973 at Sabana and MUN 1410 at Cardenas, have collocated driver training areas and assault and live-fire ranges. These units, which are frequently observed


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using the training ranges, probably have skills superior to the other five mechanized infantry divisions, which lack ranges. Units of these five other divisions must travel up to 40 kilometers to conduct range training. Some units apparently undergo no combined-arms training. One battalion each from MUN 3234 and MUN 1270 Mechanized Infantry Divisions in the Havana area are equipped with SU-100 assault guns, but these weapons have not been seen at the Western Army's combined-arms training area since August 1980. (S )

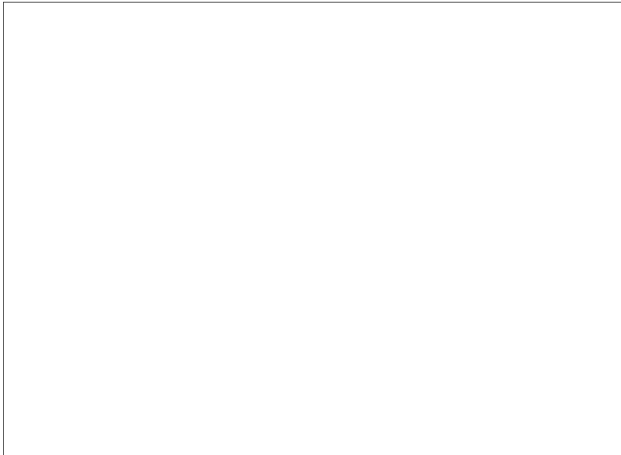
The levels of training activity observed at the Cuban mechanized infantry units indicate an uneven level of combat capability in mechanized units. The capability of mechanized units appears to be lower overall than that of the tank units. (S NF)

Artillery Personnel Training

One artillery training regiment and three artillery training battalions have been identified on photography. These artillery units have been identified as training units because they have a mix of weapons types, whereas each of Cuba's line artillery battalions is equipped with a single type of weapon. (S )

One apparent mission of the artillery training regiment, which is located at Matanzas, is to train draftees assigned to the independent artillery brigades, as the regiment possesses several 130-mm M-46 artillery pieces. The M-46 is unique to Cuban independent artillery brigades. The three artillery training battalions—one in each army—each have a variety of smaller caliber weapons. These units apparently train draftees assigned to regular army divisions. (S )

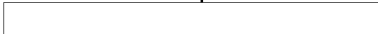
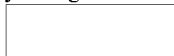

 basic training of artillery personnel lasts 45 days and consists of standard drill and marksmanship training, and political indoctrination. [9] Because very few garrison areas have artillery firing ranges, most artillery units must travel up to 50 kilometers for live-fire weapons training. The logistical problems of moving an entire artillery unit to a live-fire training area limit the number of exercises in which the units can participate. These limitations probably have a negative effect on the overall combat capability of Cuban artillery units. (S )



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Engineer and Transport Personnel Training

No engineer or transport training unit has been identified on photography, or through other sources. It is likely, however, that draftees with related civilian experience are assigned to such units.  the length of basic training varies from none to 45 days. [6] We believe that the length of the training which a draftee undergoes depends on his civilian experience. Transportation and combat engineer equipment are regularly observed on photography of combined-arms ranges during major field training exercises. The presence of this equipment indicates that these units are fully integrated into the advanced training cycle. (S )

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Advanced Training

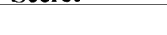
After completing basic and advanced basic training, Cuban Army personnel are integrated into their assigned units. Advanced training continues within the unit and in conjunction with other units, and is conducted at four types of training facilities. Individual training continues in the garrison training area and includes physical and small-arms training. Weapons qualification and platoon-level tactics and firing exercises take place at live-fire ranges. Advanced weapons qualification and unit training from the platoon- through division-level is conducted at army-level combined-arms ranges. Finally, large-scale, multi-battalion exercises take place at Cuba's national-level combined-arms range. (S NF)

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Garrison Training

Most garrisons have obstacle courses, physical training areas, running tracks, and baseball fields. Small-arms and grenade ranges, assault courses, subcaliber ranges, and driver training areas are also common, especially in newer divisional garrisons. The only garrisons that have tank and mechanized infantry live-fire ranges, however, are the two new divisional areas at Cardenas and Sabana and the two tank training regiments at La Charca and Cantel. Two other divisional areas, San Jose de Las Lajas and Holguin, have live-fire ranges available within a few kilometers; however, these ranges may not be associated exclusively with these units. (S [])

Live-Fire Training

Live-fire ranges are used by tank, mechanized infantry, and artillery units for weapons training, weapons qualification, and platoon-level assault and firing tactics training. There are six live-fire ranges in the Western Army, three in the Central Army, four in the Eastern Army, and one on the Isle of Youth. Two of the ranges in the Western Army are used heavily; all the others are used infrequently. All live-fire ranges are well-maintained. (S [])

Army-Level Combined-Arms Training

Each of the three Cuban armies has a combined-arms training area.² All three training areas have tank and APC firing ranges, as well as large maneuver areas. San Pedro in the Western Army and Puerto Padre in the Eastern Army each have from 30 to 35 tanks stored at the range which are used by reservists during their annual 45-day training periods. Corralillo in the Central Army has no tanks. (S [])

Training has been observed from the platoon level up through the regimental level at all three ranges, and through the division level at San Pedro. San Pedro serves the largest of the three armies and is the most active training range; photography shows that it is in use more than 330 days each year.

²A fourth military area in Cuba is the Isle of Youth. It is much smaller than the three Armies, and it has only minor units and small training ranges. Details on the Isle of Youth training areas are contained in the appendix. (S [])

Puerto Padre and Corralillo are in use much less, probably because the armies in which they are located are much smaller than the Western Army. (S [])

National-Level Training

Cuba's only national-level training area is at Camaguey in eastern Cuba. Used as a ground force maneuver area, it consists of a combined-arms training range and a bombing range. Cuban aircraft deploy annually to nearby Ignacio Agramonte Airfield to use the bombing range at Camaguey, possibly in conjunction with army maneuvers. There are no tank or APC firing ranges, and no training units are permanently stationed at this training area. Units from as far away as Havana, including the BMP-equipped regiment from Santiago de Las Vegas Military Camp Number 1 and an airborne unit from Playa Baracoa Airfield, have been observed on imagery at Camaguey. Such observations confirm the Camaguey area's national-level training role. (S [])

Reserve Personnel Training

Reserve units are reportedly manned by draft-eligible personnel not called to active duty, and those who have fulfilled their three-year active duty requirement. [4] [] reservists train 45 days a year at a combined-arms range, and use equipment permanently stationed at the ranges. [3] T-34 and T-54 tanks are permanently stationed at the San Pedro and Puerto Padre training areas—there are no APCs or field artillery pieces—and personnel observed using these tanks probably were from reserve units, because regular army units bring all of their own equipment. Reserve and regular army units also train separately on these ranges. (S [])

Frequency of Training

For a large maneuver unit such as a regiment or a division to be effective, it is essential that all the subunits be well trained, and evidence indicates that the Cuban Army emphasizes training at all unit levels. Considerable training is conducted in the garrison training areas. The activity normally observed at this level includes driver training, subcaliber

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weapons training, and maintenance. Extensive physical training is not regularly observed, because the photographic coverage occurs several hours after the early morning physical training period. However, the condition of the physical training areas at most regular army garrisons indicates that they are in regular use. (S [Redacted])

Live-fire training is an important element of training, and is conducted throughout the year. The ranges are often vacant for several months at a time, however, with the heaviest periods of live-fire training apparently in May and June, and October through December, just before new draftees are called up. (S [Redacted])

An essential phase of training is the multi-battalion combined-arms exercises, conducted at the national-level training area or at the three army-level ranges (figure 3). Training at this level is more protracted but less frequent. Units spend anywhere from two weeks to two months at a combined-arms range during these exercises. (S [Redacted])

Cuban units are apparently participating in more combined-arms training this year than previously, judging from the increased level of training observed at the San Pedro army-level combined-arms range in the Western Army. San Pedro was not used during parts of January, April and July 1982, but during the first seven months of 1983 this range was used continuously, excepting a one-week period at the beginning of February. There is no evidence to indicate that the Western Army has undergone any expansion during the last two years; therefore, we believe the additional range use reflects an increased amount of training. Similar increases may have occurred in the Central and Eastern Armies, but there was insufficient photographic coverage of their army-level ranges to confirm this. (S [Redacted])

Complexity of Training

In order for a combat unit to be effective on the battlefield, all available combat and combat support assets must be integrated into an efficient unit. Most large-scale exercises observed in Cuba since

1979 have been combined-arms exercises (figure 4). This training emphasizes the simultaneous and coordinated use of tank, mechanized infantry, artillery, air defense, and engineering assets. Other examples of the increasing complexity and sophistication of Cuban combined-arms training include:

- The use of airborne units in field training exercises, observed on at least three occasions.
- The integration of self-propelled air defense artillery assets into combat exercises, first seen in October 1979.
- The use of mock battles between Cuban units in a maneuver area, which was first observed in January 1980 (figure 5). (S [Redacted])

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Training For Overseas Deployment

There is some photographic evidence that reserve units called to active duty for assignment overseas undergo a period of training at one of the three army-level combined-arms ranges prior to their departure. Identification of these units is possible because their organization, and some types of equipment they possess, differ from other units in Cuba. For example:

- Tank battalions in Cuba have 22 tanks, but tank battalions serving with the Cuban brigades in Ethiopia have 31 tanks. Battalions of 31 tanks each have been observed at least twice at San Pedro, in January and December 1980, and once each at Corralillo, in December 1982, and Puerto Padre, in January 1981. This evidence suggests that these units were training in preparation for deployment to Ethiopia.
- The standard artillery weapon for Cuban units in Africa is the D-30 howitzer, but no D-30s have been identified at any Cuban garrisons in Cuba. They have, however, been identified once at San Pedro, suggesting that artillery reservists were being trained for overseas duty. (S [Redacted])

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The experience gained from overseas duty in a combat zone, especially in Angola, is also a form of training that probably has upgraded the overall capability of the Cuban Army. As more reservists rotate through the overseas duty cycle, the combat-experienced manpower pool available to the regular army in a national emergency will continue to increase. (S [redacted])

- San Pedro Military Training Area, where the Soviet brigade trains twice yearly. Cuban units are often present at the same time, but they stay in separate camps and do not train on the sections of the combined-arms range where the Soviets are training. (S [redacted])

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Soviet Role in Cuban Training

Soviet influence on Cuban training practices is evident in the types of training facilities used, from the style of obstacle courses to the type of live-fire ranges. Furthermore, photography of training exercises shows that the Cuban Army closely adheres to Soviet tactical doctrine emphasizing frontal attacks, breakthrough, and pursuit operations. (S [redacted])

The presence of a 2,500-man Soviet Military Advisory Group (MAG) in Cuba suggests that the MAG is involved in some phases of Cuban training.³ There is, however, no photo-derived evidence that Soviet brigade elements train Cuban soldiers. Although analysis of photography confirms that Soviet and Cuban units sometimes occupy training areas at the same time, a deliberate effort apparently is made to keep the units separated. Some of these training areas include:

- Alquizar Military Training Area, where a Cuban BMP platoon has been observed training at the firing range while a Soviet platoon is also present (figure 6). The training appears to be competitive firing exercises, and equipment from the two platoons is never mixed on the range.
- Mariel Training Center and AAA School Granma Base, where Soviet and Cuban mobile air defense assets have occupied the range simultaneously. All Cuban and Soviet equipment and tents are kept separated from each other; no mixing of the units has been observed on imagery.

³For more information on the Soviets in Cuba, see IA 83-10118J, The Soviet Military Presence in Cuba, November 1983. (S NF)

Shortcomings In Training

Although the Cuban Army's training program is a good one, a few shortcomings are evident. The Cubans formed their first attack helicopter regiment in early 1982 and are currently forming a second, but no helicopters have been observed participating in combined-arms exercises. Only gunnery exercises have been noted. The Cuban Army emphasizes mobility—seven of eight infantry divisions are mechanized—and the failure to integrate helicopter assets into training exercises is an unexplained shortcoming. It is anticipated, however, that the helicopter regiments will become more active in combined-arms training as the pilots gain experience. (S [redacted])

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The Cubans also place great importance on surface-to-air missile defense, as evidenced by the number of surface-to-air missile sites throughout Cuba. However, no elements of the 18-month-old SA-6 regiment—a system designed to operate as a division-level air defense asset—have been observed in combined-arms exercises.⁴ SA-9s have been observed in field exercises, but they are a heat-seeking, fire-and-forget missile. The SA-6, on the other hand, is a radar-guided missile, and SA-6 crews need extensive training, including field exercises, to become proficient. As with the helicopter assets, it is likely that once the SA-6 personnel achieve a sufficient level of equipment familiarization, they will begin to participate in sophisticated field training exercises. (S [redacted])

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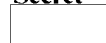
⁴The SA-6 in Cuba probably is a divisional asset, because during its first year in Cuba it was housed at the divisional garrison at Cardenas. During the past six months it has been stored in a SAM support depot. Although this system has not been deployed around a strategic target, such as an airfield, it is possible that some SA-6s eventually may be used for point target defense in Cuba. (S [redacted])

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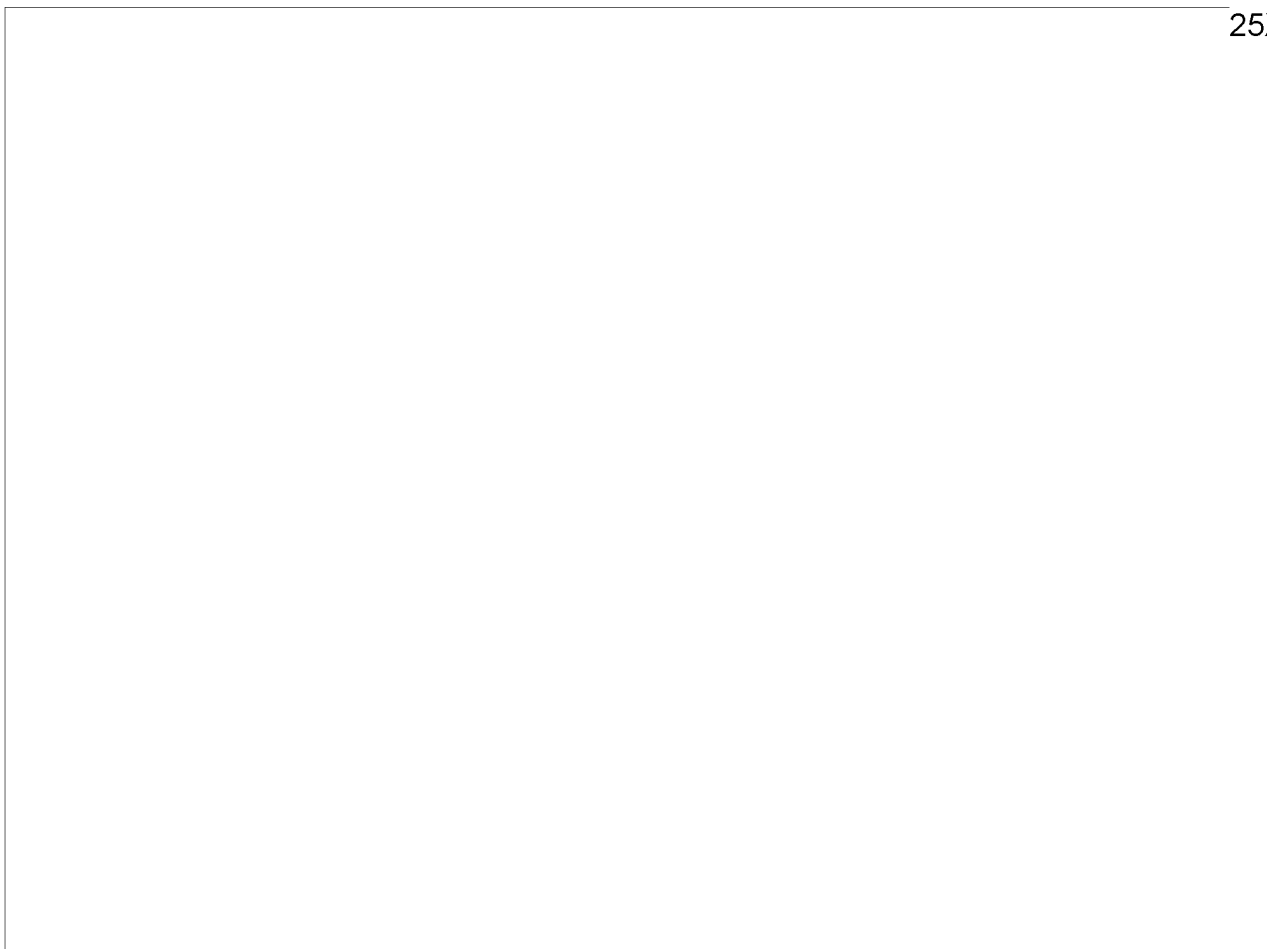
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Training Developments and Trends

In addition to increasing the use of combined-arms ranges, the Cuban Army is enhancing its training program by constructing additional training facilities and officers schools. Since 1979, three firing ranges and two schools have been built, and a third school is currently in the mid-stages of construction. Systematic introduction of several new types of equipment into combined-arms exercises has further aided the Army's training program. (S )

Range Construction

Three live-fire ranges have been constructed since 1980. A major live-fire range and driver training area, the Antonio Maceo Military Training Area East, were completed by late 1982 outside Santiago de Cuba (figure 7). A possible divisional garrison training area was built near San Jose de Las Lajas

in mid-1980. A new artillery firing range at Las Nuevas, near Puerto Padre, was first observed in 1982. The addition of these training areas brings the number of live-fire ranges in Cuba—excluding the four combined-arms ranges—to 14. This increase enables more units to train more often, and decreases the distance some units must travel to reach a range. (S )

In addition to the new ranges, Cuba's other ranges—including the four combined-arms ranges—are well-maintained. The army-level facilities have permanent maintenance and support units which perform regular upkeep on the various firing and maneuver ranges. Combat equipment stationed at San Pedro and Puerto Padre undergoes regular maintenance to ensure its availability for use in training (figure 8). (S )

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Military School Construction

Of Cuba's seven military schools, three were opened or were nearing completion between 1979 and 1983. Cuba's fourth officer candidate school, the General Jose Maceo Interservices School, is reported by the Cuban military magazine *Verde Olivo* to train officer cadets in weapons systems use and maintenance, and in tactical command of platoon- and battery-size units; it was completed in 1980 in Santiago De Cuba (figure 9). [11] This is the first officer's school to be built outside the Havana area. Based on a comparison of its size to the older officer candidate school, it could increase the number of tank, mechanized infantry, and engineer officers that enter the Army by about 25 percent. The Cuban Army's war college, a tactical command school for mid- and upper-level officers known as the General Maximo Gomez Academy, probably moved into a new complex in Cojimar in early 1979. [12] The Escuela Superior de Guerra, [Redacted]

[Redacted] to be a West Point-type

academy, is currently in the late stages of construction outside Havana. [13] The previous locations of the academy and of the war college have not been positively identified. Therefore, we have been unable to determine if the new schools are larger. (S [Redacted])

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Equipment Integration

Much of the newer equipment in the Cuban Army, such as the BMPs, the BM-21 multiple rocket launchers, and the ZSU-23/4 self-propelled anti-aircraft artillery, is regularly observed at training ranges taking part in combined-arms exercises. The SA-9 SAM system was first confirmed in the Cuban inventory when it was observed participating in an extended combined-arms exercise at San Pedro in April 1983. The Army thus ensures that the new equipment is integrated into maneuver units through realistic exercises. Two exceptions, however, have been the integration of the SA-6 SAM system and the Hind helicopter. (S [Redacted])

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Prospects

The emphasis in line units over the last four years has been on increasing firepower and mobility through the introduction of the T-62, BMP, ZSU-23/4, SA-9, SA-6, M-1974 self-propelled howitzer (in small numbers), and attack helicopters. As larger numbers of these systems enter service, and the need to coordinate ever more mobile units becomes crucial, combined-arms training will become more important. To date, the Cuban Army has followed a trend of improving and expanding the training of its forces; there is no evidence to suggest that this trend will change. As training requirements increase, the primary range at San Pedro will reach its maximum capacity and the large and currently underused ranges in eastern and central Cuba, such as Corralillo and Camaguey, should become more active. (S)

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Appendix

Cuban Training Facilities

Western Army

San Cristobal Military Camp 2 (22-40-05N 83-17-39W)

Infantry or the Special Troops were observed training at San Cristobal during February and March 1983. [14] This facility was originally a Soviet-manned SS-4 missile site, and may now be a Cuban reserve infantry division headquarters. (S)

Candelaria Military Area (22-48-28N 82-56-16W)

This area, surrounding the Special Troops garrison at Candelaria Military Camp San Antonio but apparently not associated with it, has been used for artillery, communications, infantry and airborne training. Infantry units, possibly reserve, were observed being transported to the area by bus in May 1980. (S)

San Pedro Military Training Area (22-38-40N 82-30-05W)

San Pedro Military Training Area is the Western Army's training center. It is the second largest, and the most active training area in Cuba. Facilities include a large combined-arms range, four tank firing ranges and an APC firing range. A training regiment, equipped with T-54 and T-34 tanks, and a range support company, are garrisoned at the tank ranges. (S)

Activity levels are high at San Pedro except in June and early July, and field training exercises up to divisional size have been observed. Weapons qualification is carried out for tank and APC crews on the firing ranges. San Pedro is also used by the Soviet brigade for its semiannual exercises. (S)

New equipment in the Cuban Army is often seen first at San Pedro. On two occasions Cuban tank battalions with 31 tanks—rather than the standard 22 tanks—have been observed, possibly indicating training of troops prior to their deployment to Cuban brigades in Ethiopia. (S)

Mariel Training Center and AAA School Granma Base (23-01-00N 82-49-54W)

Granma Base is the primary air defense training area in Cuba, with a secondary function as an artillery training area. The firing ranges extend into the Gulf of Mexico west of Mariel Port. (S)

Both Cuban and Soviet air defense units train at Mariel Granma; the most active periods for Cuban units are December through February, May, and July through August. (S)

A caretaker unit of company size is housed at Granma Base. Construction in the last two years has included vehicle sheds, vehicle revetments, and concrete bunkers. (S)

Playa Baracoa Military Training Area Punta Forola (23-01-54N 82-39-10W)

This training area is on the north coast of Cuba. It consists of a small-arms range, and a possible village mockup built in 1981. Platoon-size infantry training is conducted at Punta Forola year round, with the heaviest period in June. (S)

Playa Baracoa Training Area Playa Del Salado (23-01-53N 82-37-10W)

Playa Del Salado, located next to Punta Forola, has an APC firing range, a tank firing range, a small-arms range, and an automatic weapons range. All face the sea. This training area is used for individual weapons qualification and tank gun firing. Most training occurs in April, June, October and November. (S)

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**Alquizar Military Training Area
(22-44-05N 82-34-22W)**

Alquizar is the most sophisticated firing range in Cuba. It consists of a tank firing range, a BMP firing range, a tank subcaliber range, an artillery subcaliber range, and three APC firing ranges. It is used by the Soviet brigade as well as by Cuban units. Most of Alquizar's ranges are equipped with concrete hardstands, and with both pop-up and moving targets. Seven tanks (a three-tank Cuban platoon and a four-tank Soviet platoon), seven BMPs (a three-BMP Cuban platoon and a four-BMP Soviet platoon) and an engineering platoon are garrisoned behind the tank range. (S)

Most training exercises involve the seven tanks and seven BMPs only, although larger deployments are also seen. Cuban activity levels at Alquizar are highest from May to July and from November to January, with emphasis on platoon-level firing exercises. (S)

**San Antonio De Los Banos Training Area
(22-53-00N 82-31-45W)**

This area is adjacent to San Antonio De Los Banos Airfield and is used by Soviet and Cuban air defense units for battery- and battalion-level training. Personnel using the radar acquisition and tracking systems on the ZSU-23/4 self-propelled anti-aircraft equipment probably practice against Cuban aircraft from the airfield. There are no training aids other than lined parking areas for the equipment. The period of heaviest use is in December and January. (S)

**Batabano Tank and Tracked Vehicle Firing Range
(22-43-00N 82-22-50W)**

Batabano consists of two tank firing ranges, one tank subcaliber range, and one APC firing range. This training area is well maintained and capable of supporting company- to battalion-size weapons qualification exercises. (S)

Although photographic coverage is infrequent, training has been observed at Batabano on several occasions. Batabano is probably one of the major training installations for tank and APC units in the Western Army. (S)

La Flora Military Area (22-52-28N 82-33-23W)

The training area at La Flora supports MUN 1270 Mechanized Infantry Division, which occupies the adjacent garrison. The extensive training aids here include an infantry assault course, a tracked vehicle driver training course, a wheeled-vehicle driver training course, and an artillery subcaliber range. An artillery training battalion is garrisoned at La Flora. (S)

Training activity levels at La Flora have remained low. Equipment sightings are most common between January and April and in August and September. (S)

**La Habana Vehicle Park El Chico Number 1
(23-00-25N 82-26-16W)**

El Chico Number 1 has a small training area which supports MUN 3234 Mechanized Infantry Division, which is garrisoned in the El Chico area. Training aids are an infantry assault course, two wheeled-vehicle driver training courses, an artillery subcaliber range, and various physical training areas. (S)

Training at El Chico is limited primarily to small-arms qualification and individual tank and APC familiarization training. Communications and chemical defense training have also been observed here. The heaviest levels of training activity have been in April, June, August and September. (S)

**Managua Barracks and School Area
(22-57-53N 82-16-29W)**

The Barracks and School Area has training facilities belonging to MUN 1011 Armored Division. Facilities include one tank subcaliber range, one APC range, one infantry assault course, and a large tracked-vehicle driver training course. (S)

All the training observed on photography has been at the platoon level (three tanks) or lower. Most activity occurs from September to March, and in May and July. Low training levels here indicate that most training, including basic tank training for the division, is done elsewhere. (S)

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**La Habana Training Area Cojimar
(23-09-39N 82-15-10W)**

Cojimar housed the Cuban Army's tank training regiment through October 1979, when the unit relocated to La Charca in the Central Army. This training area is no longer active. (S)

ing area, the high level of activity at the ranges, and the similarity to La Charca, substantiates the special intelligence. (S)

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**San Jose de Las Lajas Military Camp Cueto
(22-56-17N 82-09-08W)**

This facility is probably subordinate to MUN 2721 Infantry Division, garrisoned in nearby San Jose de Las Lajas and its environs. Constructed since 1980, Cueto consists of one tank firing range and two APC firing ranges, and it is used by tank and APC crews for weapons qualification. (S)

Most range training occurs between January and February, and May and July. Trainees utilize the tanks housed at Cantel Military Camp. (S)

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**Cardenas Military Camp and Ammo Storage Area
(23-00-27N 81-14-30W)**

The training area at Cardenas is subordinate to MUN 1410 Mechanized Infantry Division, located outside Cardenas. It is equipped with a tank firing range—where a tank training platoon is permanently housed—and an APC firing range. An artillery training battalion is housed at Cardenas. Because it is within 5 kilometers of the Cantel Training Area, MUN 1410 has better and more immediate access to training facilities than any other Central or Western Army division. Most training is carried out from April to June, and from October to December. (S)

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Central Army**Matanzas Military Barracks (23-01-36N 81-30-57W)**

Matanzas Military Barracks houses an artillery training regiment and a signals training unit. Based on the small numbers and different types of artillery pieces seen here, the sole function of the regiment at this facility appears to be training. The most commonly seen artillery piece is the M-46, an artillery brigade weapon, indicating that Matanzas is used to train draftees for the Army's independent artillery brigades. Artillery training (except in 1982) is seen year round. Training aids include an artillery subcaliber range, artillery training positions, mortar training positions, and an infantry assault course. The nearby Matanzas Tank Training Area, no longer used by tanks, may be used for live-fire exercises into Matanzas Bay. (S)

**Limonar Military Training Area
(22-54-33N 81-21-50W)**

At one time Limonar was used for both tank and infantry training, but since 1979 there has been very little training activity. Signals training was observed in 1980, and an air defense deployment occurred in 1982. Although an artillery brigade is housed nearby, no artillery training has been observed. (S)

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**La Charca Military Headquarters and Barracks
(22-46-10N 80-36-20W)**

La Charca is the home of MUN 3075 Training Regiment, which moved here from Cojimar, in the Havana area, in 1979. This regiment, along with MUN 2058 at Cantel, is responsible for training all Cuban Army tank personnel. A six-month course in all aspects of tank familiarization, maintenance, operation, and small-unit tactics is conducted at La Charca. The training areas consist of a tracked-vehicle driving range, a wheeled-vehicle driving range, two tank firing ranges, one APC firing range, an assault course, and various vehicle mock-ups. (S)

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**Cantel Military Camp and Training Area
(23-02-42N 81-19-14W)**

According to special intelligence, Cantel Military Camp houses the MUN 2058 Tank School. [7] The training area consists of a tank firing range, an APC firing range, a tracked-vehicle driving range, and a tank subcaliber range. The size of the train-

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Training occurs on a year-round basis. The entire regiment appears to be dedicated to the training role, and contains a variety of equipment, such as T-62s, T-55s, SU-100s, PT-76s, BTR-60s, and some combat engineer vehicles. (S)

range, and a tracked-vehicle driving course. The area is supported by a regiment currently equipped with at least a T-55 tank battalion. At one time small numbers of T-34s, JS-2s, and SU-100s were also stationed at the range. (S)

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Corralillo Tank and Tracked Vehicle Firing Range (23-01-59N 80-39-08W)

Corralillo is the combined-arms training center for the Central Army. It has a combined-arms maneuver area, three tank firing ranges, and an infantry automatic-weapons firing range. There are no permanent combat units stationed at Corralillo, although there is a maintenance company for range upkeep. (S)

Training exercises up to regimental level occur here, and weapons qualification for tanks is regularly observed at the firing ranges. Most training occurs in December and January, and between May and August. (S)

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Field training exercises of regimental size occurred in the training area in December 1982. The normal periods of high usage, based on limited imagery, are December and January, and March and April. (S)

Las Nuevas, located on the north coast of Cuba, is a training area for artillery. There are 12 field artillery firing positions facing the ocean. Insufficient photographic coverage makes it difficult to tell when training is heaviest or if there are permanent units at Las Nuevas. (S)

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Holguin Training Area West (20-54-45N 76-20-15W)

This training area may support MUN 1640 Mechanized Infantry Division, garrisoned in and around the town of Holguin. MUN 1640 has an artillery training battalion. Training facilities include a tank firing range, an infantry assault course, a tank and tracked-vehicle driver training range, and a field artillery firing position. The heaviest training period is in March, although significant levels of small-arms training occur here at other times of the year. (S)

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Eastern Army

Camaguey Combined-Arms Training Area (21-34-00N 77-53-30W)

Camaguey, the largest combined-arms range in the country, is the only national-level training area in Cuba; it consists solely of a combined-arms maneuver area and an extensive bombing range. SR-71 outlines and a full-scale airfield mockup make Camaguey's bombing range unique. (S)

Sabana Military Camp and Headquarters (20-26-36N 75-57-37W)

The Sabana training area surrounds the MUN 1973 Mechanized Infantry Division garrison and is one of the most modern military facilities in Cuba. Portions are still under construction. The ranges include a tank firing range, an APC firing range, two artillery subcaliber ranges, and a small maneuver area/tracked-vehicle driver training range. The training areas are heavily used, although most training takes place between August and December, and March and May. (S)

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Training exercises at regimental level have been observed at Camaguey, involving a Western Army mechanized infantry regiment—the only unit equipped with BMPs—and an airborne unit from the Havana area. The training area is located near Ignacio Agramonte Airfield, where elements of a new attack helicopter regiment have been stationed. Most training occurs between September and December. (S)

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Puerto Padre Military Camp and Headquarters (21-11-26N 76-38-00W)

Puerto Padre is the combined-arms training center for the Eastern Army. It consists of a combined-arms range, two tank firing ranges, one APC firing

Training at Sabana appears to be primarily weapons qualification and driver training. The division at Sabana is probably the best trained in the Cuban Army, because of its easy access to the training area and relatively high activity levels. (S)

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**Santiago Military Training Area North
(20-04-11N 75-50-43W)**

This is a small training area with an assault range and equipment mockups. Activity levels have been low at Santiago during the last four years, with some activity being observed in March, May and November. (S)

The Antonio Maceo Training Area supports the Jose Maceo Interservices School in Santiago, and probably units of the Santiago Army Corps. This new training area, constructed since mid-1980, consists of one tank firing range, two APC firing ranges, two tracked-vehicle driving ranges, a small-arms range and three artillery training positions. A tank platoon may be permanently assigned to this facility. (S)

Company-level APC and tank training has been observed at Antonio Maceo, suggesting that the training was unrelated to the interservices school, since the school's function is to teach basic tactics. Training is heaviest between October and April. (S)

**El Jigue Vehicle/Personnel Training Area
(20-00-18N 75-02-17W)**

This facility, in the vicinity of the US Navy Base at Guantanamo, is used to train Frontier Brigade personnel. Included in the training area are a border fence line mockup and an infiltration course. No training has been observed at the facility. (S)

Isle of Youth

The Isle of Youth Military Region is under the direct control of the central government in Havana. [15] All the Cuban Army units identified on the island are reserve units. The Isle of Youth is primarily an educational and training area for foreign students. Analysis of photography indicates that as many as 20 schools for foreign students are on the island. It is possible that foreign students are being trained at the Cuban Army facilities by Cuban troops. (S)

**Santa Fe Military Camp Lumumba
(21-42-25N 82-49-15W)**

This garrison houses a tank battalion and has a tank subcaliber range, an assault course, and an anti-aircraft artillery training site. (S)

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**Santa Fe Military Camp East
(21-44-30N 82-44-02W)**

This facility probably supports artillery training for Cubans. Very little activity, aside from construction in 1981 of the artillery training area and a wheeled-vehicle driver training area, has been observed here. (S)

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**Santa Fe Tank Training Range
(21-44-20N 82-38-15W)**

Santa Fe Tank Training Range is the largest training area on the Isle of Youth. It includes a tank firing range and a combined-arms maneuver area. Tank training has been observed in January and October on very limited photographic coverage. (S)

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Military Ground Force Schools**General Antonio Maceo Interservices School
(22-51-27N 82-38-21W)**

This is the largest officer candidate school in Cuba. The school has a regiment comprised of a tank battalion, a mechanized infantry battalion, an engineer battalion, and a support unit, all of which are used by cadets at the school. A Cuban military magazine, *Verde Olivo*, reports that the school's curriculum includes courses in the tactical command of mechanized infantry, tank, and engineering units; in military intelligence; in support services; in mechanical engineering; and in weapons systems maintenance. [11] This school is about three times larger than the officer candidate school in Santiago de Cuba. (S)

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The training area at the school includes one tracked- and one wheeled-vehicle driver training course, one tank and one APC subcaliber range, (S)

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and an infantry assault course. There are no live-fire ranges. Training is conducted on a year-round basis, and the ranges are well maintained. (S [Redacted])

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General Jose Maceo Interservices School (20-02-00N 71-45-40W)

This officer candidate school teaches many of the same courses as the Antonio Maceo School, but has about one-third as many students. Jose Maceo houses a battalion-sized unit equipped with tanks, APCs, engineering equipment, and support vehicles. According to *Verde Olivo* the school offers courses in the tactical command of tank, mechanized infantry, artillery, and engineering units, and in military intelligence. [11] (S [Redacted])

The Jose Maceo School, which opened in late 1980, uses a training area located 7.5 kilometers to the south. Training facilities at the school and in the training area include one tank firing range, two tracked-vehicle driving ranges, two APC ranges, a small-arms range, and three artillery training positions. Training is probably conducted year round. (S [Redacted])

Major Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School of The Ground Forces of the Revolution (23-08-49N 82-20-56W)

This officer candidate school trains cadets in ground and air defense artillery. The school also teaches courses in systems maintenance for artillery. [11] (S [Redacted])

The Camilo Cienfuegos Artillery School is collocated with an independent artillery brigade, and probably draws some equipment from the brigade's inventory to use for training. Training facilities include a live-fire range extending into the ocean, two artillery subcaliber ranges, and four artillery training positions. Training is conducted year round. (S [Redacted])

[Redacted]

General Maximo Gomez Revolutionary Armed Forces Academy (23-09-45N 82-15-08W)

An emigre source reports that this school is the equivalent of the US National War College, and open sources have since confirmed its location and function. [12] Cuban and Angolan officers of the rank of major or above attend this school. The facility consists of classrooms and billets, and the only military feature is a combination parade ground and landing strip in front of the complex. (S [Redacted])

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Escuela Superior de Guerra (23-00-45N 82-28-18W)

This facility has been identified as a military academy by emigre reporting. [13] Under construction since 1979, the building was nearing completion in mid-1983. No training facilities have yet been identified at this complex. (S [Redacted])

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Pepito Mendoza Mechanics School (22-57-53N 82-16-29W)

This facility is used to train personnel in APC maintenance and repair, and may double as a repair depot for BTR-60 and BTR-152 APCs. The school was identified by analyzing the flow patterns of APCs through the facility, and by the identification of a divisional maintenance building in a non-divisional area. Also, shrubbery in front of this school has been manicured to spell the name, Pepito Mendoza. (S [Redacted])

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References

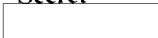


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Documents

Document references are available upon request. (U)

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