

~~SECRET~~

(Classification and Control Markings)

*This report contains unprocessed information.
Plans and/or policies should not be evolved
or modified solely on the basis of this report.*

6. REPORT NUMBER: IR 1 809 0180 68

9. DATE OF REPORT: 18 October 1968

10. NO. OF PAGES: 3

3. ISC NUMBER:

11. REFERENCES: DIRM 1.Q
IR 1 809 0046 68
IR 1 809 0181 68

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 17 September 1968
Barreira do Inferno Missile Site
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: near Natal, Brazil;
17 September 1968

12. ORIGINATOR: USDAO, Brazil

13. PREPARED BY:

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE B INFORMATION 2

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:

7. SOURCE: Photography; Base Commander Colonel
Cyro de Souza Valente and Captain Jacobs

JERRY J. HUNT, Colonel, USAF
United States Defense Attache

15. SUMMARY:

(U) IR transmits information received during routine visit at the Brazilian research missile site by Air Attache/Assistant Air Attache.

(Leave Blank)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority MND 53094

REQUEST PHOTOS DIRECTLY FROM DIAAP-10X
ORDER BY IR AND PHOTO LOG NUMBER

1. (C) Aerial photography of Natal Air Base was forwarded by IR 1 809 0181 68.

2. (U) Barriera do Inferno missile site is located about twelve miles south of Natal, Brazil (0555S - 03515W). The complex is divided into five general areas (see enclosure #1). Enclosure 1⁵ indicates storage (missile); 1⁴ indicates propellant storage; 1⁶ indicates missile preparatory area; 1³ indicates launch area; and 1² indicates an operations area. Enclosure 2, which provides blowups of blockhouse and launch area shown in enclosure 1³, in addition to a picture of FERNANDO MENDONCA, Scientific Director of the CNAE, was provided by SCIATT, Rio de Janeiro. The Chief of the range (in Rio) is Lieutenant Brigadier OSWALDO BALLOUSSIER, FAB Inspector General; on site is Colonel JANVROT (now in school), Captain COBS and Lieutenant MOTTA. The tour was conducted by Captain JACOBS.

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

USCINCSO w/o encl.
USAFSO w/o encl.

17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

GROUP-3
DOWNGRADED AT 12-YEAR INTERVALS;
NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.

19. ATTACHMENT DATA:
Enclosures (S)

1. Ground photos of base/personnel (8 photos, 1 cy ea.)
(U)

2277

411100-
411200-
416200-
BT

15

1	1	1
00	00	00
00	06	00
00	-	00
20	+	+
00	00	00
+	+	+

REC'D CO-3 23 OCT 1968

CONTINUATION SHEET

SECRET
SECRET

(Classification and Control Markings)

REPORT NO. IR 1 809 0180 68
PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
ORIGINATOR USDAO, Brazil

(Leave Blank)

along with Colonel CYRO DE SOUZA VALENTE, Natal Base Commander (with wives; see enclosure 18). Approximately three officers and fifteen-twenty enlisted men are permanently located at the base. During special launches a FAB launch team from Sao Jose dos Campos is flown in for the duration of the launch activities. There is also a Mr. Bennett (from Smithsonian Institute) working at the Base on satellite tracking by celestial/photographic means. Generally, the missions are in support of NASA satellite tracking projects, weather data sampling, Smithsonian project, and miscellaneous FAB (small) missile projects. There have been some two hundred successful launches since late 1965 when the base was opened (see enclosure #3, which shows pictures of a launch performed in August 1968 with President Costa e Silva present). According to source there had been no complete failures.

3. (S) As is indicated in the enclosed Embassy airgram (Rio A-868, dated 27 June 1968, enclosure #4), there has been a mild battle going on between FAB (Lieutenant Brigadier OSWALDO BALLOUSSIER) and the civilian (CNAE) side of the Brazilian scientific efforts at the Barreira do Inferno over who is actually in charge of the missile launching program.

4. (U) Approximately twenty small missiles, ranging from the Black Brant (Canadian) to the small missile made in Brazil by the AVIBRAS Company in Sao Paulo, were in storage. When asked what the future launch schedule was, the operations officer said that this was generated by FAB in Rio and they seldom get more than a week's notice of the launch plans. Considerable time was spent showing the new billeting area for VIP personnel. In fact, it entered the R.O.'s mind that more money was put into these buildings than the actual launch (and associated) missile site. Regardless of the significance of the missile site, it is an area of which the FAB is quite proud. The officers contacted during the visit were quite well educated and appeared well informed on all aspects of this sort of operation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SECRET
SECRET

(Classification and Control Markings)

REPORT NO. IR 1 809 0180 68
PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES
ORIGINATOR USDAO, Brazil

(Leave Blank)

along with Colonel CYRO DE SOUZA VALENTE, Natal Base Commander (with wives; see enclosure 18). Approximately three officers and fifteen-twenty enlisted men are permanently located at the base. During special launches a FAB launch team from Sao Jose dos Campos is flown in for the duration of the launch activities. There is also a Mr. Bennett (from Smithsonian Institute) working at the Base on satellite tracking by celestial/photographic means. Generally, the missions are in support of NASA satellite tracking projects, weather data sampling, Smithsonian project, and miscellaneous FAB (small) missile projects. There have been some two hundred successful launches since late 1965 when the base was opened (see enclosure #3, which shows pictures of a launch performed in August 1968 with President Costa e Silva present). According to source there had been no complete failures.

3. (S) As is indicated in the enclosed Embassy airgram (Rio A-868, dated 27 June 1968, enclosure #4), there has been a mild battle going on between FAB (Lieutenant Brigadier OSWALDO BALLOUSSIER) and the civilian (CNAE) side of the Brazilian scientific efforts at the Barreira do Inferno over who is actually in charge of the missile launching program.

4. (U) Approximately twenty small missiles, ranging from the Black Brant (Canadian) to the small missile made in Brazil by the AVIBRAS Company in Sao Paulo, were in storage. When asked what the future launch schedule was, the operations officer said that this was generated by FAB in Rio and they seldom get more than a week's notice of the launch plans. Considerable time was spent showing the new billeting area for VIP personnel. In fact, it entered the R.O.'s mind that more money was put into these buildings than the actual launch (and associated) missile site. Regardless of the significance of the missile site, it is an area of which the FAB is quite proud. The officers contacted during the visit were quite well educated and appeared well informed on all aspects of this sort of operation.