

## BONHAM AIR FORCE BASE

1. Bonham Air Force Base, comprising 1896.99 acres, is located on the west coast of the Island of Kauai, approximately 8 miles NW of Kekaha, nearest town and approximately 135 miles NW of Hickam Air Force Base. Most of the installation is on a sandy low land and is bordered by agricultural land on one side and approximately 44,100 feet of beach frontage on the other.
2. This installation was established by the Governor's Executive Order No. 887 dated 29 June 1940 which withdrew and set aside 548.57 acres of land for military purposes and designated it as Mana Airport Military Reservation. Subsequently, by the Governor's Executive Orders No. 945 dated 10 June 1941, No. 911 dated 3 December 1940, and No. 912 dated 3 December 1940, 1509.00 acres, 2.67 acres, and .33 acres respectively, were acquired for the enlargement of the Base to meet the military mission.
3. In addition to the above parcels, 198.36 acres are occupied by verbal permission and include approximately 75 acres of land off-base on the Mana Hills and located thereon are 10 permanent ammunition storage tunnels. To date acquisition of formal real estate coverage has not been obtained for some 198 acres in view of the uncertain status of Bonham as outlined in paragraph 6 below. The Department of the Navy will take separate action to obtain necessary interest through DOD and congressional action.
4. In May 1941, recommendation was forwarded to Washington covering improvements at an estimated cost of \$1,772,220, the construction to include two runways 5000' x 5000', gasoline storage, and other supporting facilities. This development was to be undertaken in view of the crowded airfield facilities on Oahu and had been recommended by the District Engineer in April 1941. The construction on the runway began in August 1941 and by January 1942 the landing strip was ready for pavement. Besides the construction of two 200' x 6000' runways, 9 each 50,000 gallon gasoline storage tanks, many mobilization type buildings and other supporting facilities necessary for a major airport were constructed during the war years.
5. The installation was activated as Barking Sands Army/Air Base and later redesignated as Barking Sands Air Force Base by the Department of the Air Force General Order No. 10 dated 26 March 1948 when the Air Force became a separate branch of the military service. Effective 1 June 1953, the Base was redesignated as Bonham Air Force Base in honor of Major Carlos W Bonham by the Department of the Air Force General Order No. 14 dated 8 May 1953.
6. With the end of World War II and phase-out of military operations, Bonham was declared excess and inactivated in 1949. In 1950, the Honolulu Area Engineer was in the process of effecting return of Bonham to the Territory of Hawaii when a suspension of all disposal action was ordered by USAF in view of the critical world situation. In February 1954, the entire

installation, which was valued at \$5,000,162, was again declared excess in compliance with Headquarters MATS directives. However, in January 1955, Headquarters USAF suspended disposal action pending transfer of Bonham from MATS to FEAR. Subsequently, disposal action was cancelled in July 1955.

7. Upon the inactivation of the Base, a caretaker was stationed on the Base to maintain facilities and safeguard Air Force property. In January 1957, the Air Force caretaker vacated the premises and the Navy assumed the caretaker responsibility of Bonham as of 1 February 1957. The Navy is utilizing a major portion of Bonham for training purposes by Permit No. HONEA 180 effective 27 March 1956, renewable and revocable at the discretion of the Secretary of Air Force upon 30 days notice. Amendment No. 2 extended permit for a term of five years ending 26 March 1966. The area used by the Navy is delineated on the attached map; however they are acting as caretaker for the Air Force for the remainder of the Base. In this connection the Navy is not authorized to demolish and/or construct any facilities on the Base without prior approval of the Air Force.

8. In 1953, more than 100 temporary demountable buildings were disposed through sale to the Kauai community by the Honolulu Area Engineer. Also, in May 1958, approximately 90 demountable and mobilization type buildings which were deteriorated beyond economical repair were processed for disposal action. The demolition was accomplished by the Area Engineer through sale which realized a revenue exceeding \$13,000 due to the need of second-hand lumber to repair damages caused by "Hurricane Dot" in Kauai. In addition to the disposal of deteriorated buildings, 229.5 acres of land located in the south end of Bonham was transferred to the Department of the Army for the construction of a communications facility.

9. After screening with the local military commands, declaration of excess for † 132-acre parcel located at the north end of the Base was submitted to PACAF on 12 September 1960. This parcel of land is a portion of ceded land which was acquired by Executive Order No. 945. The Honolulu District Engineer has estimated the value to be \$40,000 and later appraised at Departmental level to be \$87,500. By a deed signed by BOB Director Kermit Gordon, this was transferred to the State on 17 January 1963. In addition to the above parcel, DOD recommended excessing 1,200 acres of the installation proper. However, this command expressed non-concurrence and USAF was advised on 15 April 1960 of our objections.

10. In December 1961, the Secretary of the Air Force received a query from the Secretary of the Navy as to the availability of Bonham Air Force Base for transfer to the Navy. Headquarters USAF decided that the Base is available for transfer provided Navy agrees to accommodate current Air Force peace-time and war-time missions on a continuing basis. District Engineer advised in June 1962 that the proposed transfer in the near future appears very unlikely in light of the information contained in BUDOCKS message which foresees lengthy administrative proceedings. Transfer was approved by the Secretary of Defense. Hq USAF states that the matter is currently in BOB for final approval.

11. In addition to the Navy utilizing Bonham, the Department of the Army has also been granted the use of Tunnels No. 3 and 4 by a 5-year permit, Contract No. DA-94-622-ENG-305, effective 5 February 1962. Further, Tunnels 8 and 9 are used by the Navy, while Tunnels 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 10 are vacant. Also, two parcels, 635 and 545 acres on both ends of the base, have been outgranted until 30 June 1965 by a memorandum of understanding to JTF 8/AEC for operation and standby periods.

12. In January 1964, Honolulu District Engineer requested that preliminary siting approval for the construction of Army Satellite Communications facility, as programmed in FY-66 MCP, and proposed to be located in the vacant 635-acre southern portion of Bonham. The 14th ND has been requested for their comments or concurrence; however, no reply has been received to date. Further, DPWO in February 1964 requested our approval for the construction of a boresight tower and MPS-25 radar for Pacific Missile Range. BDO replied that our planned use of Bonham precludes the possibility of obtaining waivers for their proposed improvements.