

Report on US defenses of Panama

Of our visit of 17-03-13 – 26-03-13

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FORT KOBBE	3
12-INCH BATTERY MURRAY (CASEMATED)	3
12-INCH BATTERY HAAN	3
Bruja Point	4
BATELE POINT	4
FORT GRANT	5
FLAMINCO ISLAND	5
NAOS ISLAND	6
CULEBRA ISLAND	6
PERICO ISLAND	7
BATELE POINT	7
FORT AMADOR	8
FORT CLAYTON	8
FORT DELESSEPS	9
FORT GULICK	9
FORT DAVIS	9
COCO SOLO NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE	9
Coco Solo Naval Air Station	9
FORT RANDOLPH	10
MAIN SITE (MARGARITA ISLAND)	10
GALETA ISLAND	11
FORT SHERMAN	12
MAIN SITE (TORO POINT)	12
IGLESIA POINT	12
TORTUGUILLA POINT	13
NARANJITOS POINT	13
290-F00T HILL	13

S	HELTER POINT	.14
F	FORT SAN LORENZO	.14
APF	PENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY	.15

FORT KOBBE

Fort Kobbe is a secured area. Most of the old Coast Defense fort and Howard Air Base is fenced. Permission is needed to enter. Large parts of the base are still intact. But in certain areas the housing is demolished. Apparently this will continue in the next years.

Need a 1,5 day to visit all known objects in and around the fort.

12-INCH BATTERY MURRAY (CASEMATED)

In former Fort Kobbe the security area.

Object	Status	Accessibility
Casemated guns	Converted into offices. Casemated batteries are open and accessible.	1
Ammunition magazines	Three converted magazines are still available.	1
Plotting Room	Plotting Room is somewhat hidden in the jungle	3

12-INCH BATTERY HAAN

In former Fort Kobbe the security area.

Object	Status	Accessibility
Gun pits	Battery Haan is converted into a bus junkyard. Recently	1
	Panama City converted their bus-fleet with more	
	modern busses. The old busses are stored on Battery	
	Haan. Nothing remains of the Gun pits. We found the	
	pits, because we had the GPS coordinates.	
Ammunition	Four magazines are still available:	2/3
magazines	- One is hidden is the jungle	
	 One is next to the accessroad 	
	 Two are used by the junkyard 	
Plotting Room	No time to visit it. Hidden in the jungle.	?3
Radio Room	No time to visit it. Hidden in the jungle.	?3
Power Room	No time to visit it. Hidden in the jungle.	?3

BRUJA POINT

Outside the security area. Free accessible.

Object	Status	Accessibility
BC+B"Burnside	On the highest point of Bruja Point	4
	Instrument pillar still exists.	
SCR 296	On the highest point of Bruja Point	4
	Four footings, OP room footings and Generator building	
	footings	
Cable Hut	Close to the highest point of Bruja Point	4
155mm Battery 3A	Close to the highest point of Bruja Point	4
	Vague remains of two Panama Mounts	
60-inch Searchlight #2	Accessible by the old military road. You can find the	2
	remains of:	
	Searchlight position	
	Railway track	
	Generator building (footings)	
	Searchlight Shelter (footings)	
Cantonment	Lots of footings of barracks/storage buildings	2/3
4.7-inch Battery AZ	Footings of four 4.7-inch gun positions.	3

BATELE POINT

Outside the security area.

Object	Status	Accessibility
90mm AMTB Battery	We found two of the four pits. On a small hill, a little	3/4
#6	difficult to access.	
Mines Station 3	Two story observation post.	3/4
Harbor Defense Unit		
Cantonment	Lots of foundations for barracks in that area.	3
SCR-296	Looks like a SCR-296 Tower (four footings) with next	3/4
	to it the footings of one of the generator buildings.	

FORT GRANT

Fort Grant consists of a number island. General speaking, the island (or CD objects) are not accessible. You need special permission.

Fort Grant consist of the following island/locations:

- Flaminco Island (privately owned)
- Naos Island (Mine infrastructure [lower] area is owned by the Smithsonian. The upper is privately owned)
- Culebra Island (Owned by the Smithsonian)
- Taboguilla Island (status unknown, not visited)
- Perico Island (lower part is privately owned, upper part is used as a radar site by the Panama Civil Aviation Authority)
- Urava Island (status unknown, not visited)
- Batele Point (Free accessible)

FLAMINCO ISLAND

Object	Status	Accessibility
14-inch Battery Warren	Gun Pit #2 is largely demolished. Gun Pit #1 survived, counterweight pit is filled in. The whole upper battery area is asphalted area. Used to be a Hawk Missile Site in the 70's, 80's. Underground structures in good condition. But converted for other use (storage?). Part of the engines and panels in the power room are still present. On top of the battery are the BC's for the batteries and individual guns.	1
Primary Station of Battery Merritt (B'10)	Base End Station is still present and in good condition.	1
B2/3+M1+B3/9	Triple Fire Control Station under/next to the Panama Canal Command Post.	1/2
12-inch Mortar Battery Merritt	Original gun pits still present.	1
12-inch Mortar Battery Carr	Gun pits converted into shops and bars. But the structure of the battery is still visible.	1
12-inch Mortar Battery Prince	Gun pits converted into shops and bars. But the structure of the battery is still visible.	1
Tunnel and elevator shaft	Still complete present.	1

NAOS ISLAND

Object	Status	Accessibility
14-inch DC Battery Burnside	Two underground access stairs still present and accessible. Underground structures still present. Gun pit #1 and #2 completely filled in. BC is partly visible	1/2
14-inch DC Battery Buell	Two underground access stairs still present and accessible. Underground structures still present. Gun pit #1 completely filled in. Gun pit #2 completely open and accessible Both BC's are partly visible	1/2
6-inch Battery Parke	Demolished. New condo's being build.	-
Searchlight Shelter	In use as a guard shack	1
Mine Casemate	In use by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute	1
Cable Tank	In use by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. Cable Tanks are still present.	1
Loading Room	In use by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Converted into something,	1
Ordnance Storehouse	In use by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Converted into offices.	1
Torpedo Storehouse	In use by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Converted into offices.	1
Mine Wharf	In use by the Panama Canal Organization	1

CULEBRA ISLAND

Object	Status	Accessibility
14-inch Railway	The two firing positions are gone or covered.	1
Battery #8	Parts of the rail of Gun #1 is still present.	
	Two big concrete magazines still present.	
75mm Battery AW	Two concrete gun emplacements still present.	1
155mm Battery V	Found one of the Panama Mounts (180°). The other is	1/2
(10B)	probably hidden in the jungle.	

PERICO ISLAND

Object	Status	Accessibility
16-inch DC Battery	Site is fenced and converted into a radar of the	1
Newton	Panamanian Civil Aviation Authority	
	Magazine area is used by someone as a living quarters.	
	Accessible from stairs.	
	Magazine area is fenced off (gated) from the gun pit by	
	the original gate (with a lock).	
Fire Control Station	Inside the fenced area.	1
(Abandoned)		
Fire Control Station	Outside the fenced area.	1
(Abandoned)		
Quinary Station of	Inside the fenced area.	1
Battery Newton (Bv9)		
Secondary Station of	Inside the fenced area.	1
Battery Newton (B"9)		
Watertank	Inside the fenced area.	1
Power House	Underground Power House at the entrance of the	1
	current entrance.	

BATELE POINT

Object	Status	Accessibility
Base End Station	DPF Base and foundation present. Wooden structure	3
	gone.	
Base End Station	DPF Base and foundation present. Wooden structure	3
	gone.	

FORT AMADOR

Most of Fort Amador is gone or the few remains are in a bad state.

Object	Status	Accessibility
6-inch DC Battery	Listed as "Buried". Seems to be gone. New military	-
Birney	housing on top of the battery. Housing is now in a bad state.	
6-inch DC Battery	Listed as "Buried". Seems to be gone. New military	-
Smith	housing on top of the battery. Housing is now in a bad	
	state.	
Cable Hut	Small Cable Hut next to the site of Battery Smith.	1
CRF Station 3 (Smith)	In a good shape. No traces of any pedestals.	1
Officers Row	Still there. Rented to different companies. Part is a	1
	bar/disco area.	
Barracks	A few Barracks buildings survived. But is a bad state.	1

FORT CLAYTON

Completely there. Converted into offices, university building, etc. Easy accessible.

FORT DELESSEPS

Basically only Battery Morgan survived. Buildings are gone.

Object	Status	Accessibility
6-inch Battery Morgan	Good condition. Ammo rooms used a small exhibition room.	1
75mm Battery	In front of the parapet are two round emplacements. We saw more of those. In other cases these were 75mm emplacements. No records of a 75mm in RCW's etc.	1
M"1 and M"2	Both present as part of the battery.	1

FORT GULICK

Completely there. Different users. Easy accessible.

FORT DAVIS

Completely there. Different users. Easy accessible.

COCO SOLO NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE

A few buildings left. All inside the container terminal areas.

COCO SOLO NAVAL AIR STATION

A few buildings left. All inside the container terminal areas.

FORT RANDOLPH

Battery row is still present. No original barracks present. A private company want to convert Randolph into a new container terminal. Work starts this year. Probably ready for the Panama Canal Extension in 2014. For now there are no plans to demolish Battery row (not yet).

MAIN SITE (MARGARITA ISLAND)

Object	Status	Accessibility
12-inch Mortar Battery Tidball	In relative good condition. Used as quarters by personal of the company.	1
12-inch Mortar Battery Zalinski	In relative good condition. Used as quarters by personal of the company.	1
14-inch DC Battery Webb	In good condition.	1
14-inch RR Battery #1	Firing position #1 is still present. Metal ring still in place. Behind the emplacement is something that looks like a Panama Mount. No record of a 155 Battery in that area. Firing position #2 covered. You can see it from Google Earth. You recognize it on site.	1
6-inch DC Battery Weed	In relative good condition. Seems to be converted into a radar site or something at a point in time.	1
155mm Battery	Next to Battery Webb is one complete 360 Panama Mount and a part of another one. The RCW's, etc. don't mention a 155mm Battery there. Maybe they move the Panama's of 155mm Battery X (4A).	1
Cable Hut	Small Cable Hut survived.	1
Cable Hut No 6	Cable Hut next to Battery Zalinski	1
F'1+G'2	F'1+G'2 Fire Control Structure next to Battery Webb.	1
New (WWII) concrete Fire Control Tower	Between Battery Webb and Weed is a new Fire Control Tower.	1

GALETA ISLAND

Object	Status	Accessibility
155mm Battery Z	One Panama Mount survived. Almost next to the	1
	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute station.	
4.7-inch Battery 1B	Two 4.7-inch emplacements are in the water. Later used	2
	a 75mm Battery.	
155mm Battery Z (1A)	Three Panama mounts survive in the surf. The fourth is	2
	probably in the water.	
Cable Hut	Cable Hut in the surf.	2
60-inch Searchlight	Base of the searchlight tower still present.	2
Position #2		

FORT SHERMAN

Most of the tactical structures of Sherman are still present. But all in the Jungle. QM structures are largely gone.

MAIN SITE (TORO POINT)

Object	Status	Accessibility
12-inch Mortar Battery Baird	Probably used as a storage facility after the war. In good condition.	1
12-inch Mortar Battery Howard	Probably used as a storage facility after the war. In good condition. Plotting room is destroyed.	1
14-inch DC Battery Mower	A little overgrown. But the inside is more or less well preserved.	2
14-inch DC Battery Stanley	A little overgrown. But the inside is more or less well preserved.	2
155mm Battery	Three 155 Panama Mounts in front of Mower and Stanley. One Panama Mount (I saw) had a concrete protection wall. Don't know about the other.	2/3
Base End Station	Remaining instrument pillar next to the main access road Sherman.	1
BC+B'6 (Baird)	Part of a row of FCS's behind Stanley.	2/3
Central Powerhouse	Large concrete powerhouse, close to a former housing area (now demolished)	1
G4+O2	Part of a row of FCS's behind Stanley.	2/3
F3+HDOP	Part of a row of FCS's behind Mower.	2/3
HECP	Part of a row of FCS's behind Mower. Very large, three story concrete structure.	2/3
Loopholed Wall	Very strange loopholed concrete wall on the west site of Sherman.	2/3
M (concerted to PH)	Part of a row of FCS's behind Mower.	2/3

IGLESIA POINT

Object	Status	Accessibility
12-inch Battery	Easy to access. Battery in relative good condition. Nice	1
MacKenzie	but not spectacular.	
12-inch Battery Pratt	In use by a Telecom Operator. Walked around the	1
	fence.	

TORTUGUILLA POINT

Object	Status	Accessibility
60-inch Searchlight	U-shaped searchlight position with railbed, shelter and	3
Position #9	powerhouse.	
E"6 (Baird)	Wooden Fire Control Tower. Collapsed, wooden	3/4
	structure is still present.	
Water tank	Nice riveted water tank on concrete bases.	3/4
155mm Battery U	Panama Mounts must still be there. But no time to visit	3/4
	the site.	

NARANJITOS POINT

Object	Status	Accessibility
BC+E'4 (Howard)	Concrete structure foundation and large instrument base is still present.	2/3
B"6 (Baird)	Concrete DPF base and structure foundation is still present.	2

290-FOOT HILL

Object	Status	Accessibility
BC+B'12 (MacKenzie)	Large and high concrete Fire Control Tower. Wooden	2/3
	stairs on the inside. Well concealed in the jungle.	
BC+B'11 (Pratt)	Large and high concrete Fire Control Tower. Wooden	2/3
	stairs on the inside. Well concealed in the jungle.	
F4	Concrete building, one room.	2/3
Operations and	Concrete building, one room.	2/3
Plotting Room "C"		

SHELTER POINT

Object	Status	Accessibility
6-inch DC Battery	In relative good condition.	1
Kilpatrick		
G4+M'1+M'2	Fire Control Structure next to Battery Kilpatrick	1
CRF Station	Behind Battery Kilpatrick	1
Mine Casemate	Extra fortified in WWII. Was closed.	1
Power House	Power House just behind Mine Casemate.	1
90mm AMTB	In front of Battery Kilpatrick. A little bit in the jungle.	1/3

FORT SAN LORENZO

Object	Status	Accessibility
4.7-inch Battery	One of the 4.7-inch emplacements is present inside the	1
	old Spanish Fort.	

APPENDIX A: ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility	Description
1	Easy access. Can park car next to object.
2	Need to walk to object. Normal terrain.
3	Mild strenuous. Light Jungle.
4	Strenuous. Long hike. Rough terrain. Mild Jungle
5	Very difficult to access. Very strenuous. Heavy jungle.