



**Ufisinan I Maga'lahren Guahan
Office of the Governor of Guam
News Release**

**GOVERNOR REACTS TO REPORTS OF HISTORIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS
STORAGE ON GUAM**

October 21, 1999

(Hagåtña, Guam) – Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez today reacted to recent media articles regarding Pentagon admissions of the location of nuclear weapons on Guam.

The presence of U.S. nuclear weapons and delivery systems in Guam has hardly been a national security secret. Throughout the Cold War the Soviets knew there were nuclear weapons in Guam which is why Guam was so closely monitored by the former U.S.S.R. and why, during that time, Soviet school children knew where Guam was more readily than American school children.

The U.S. nuclear strategy of the 1950s and 1960s -- which required a forward presence to deploy weapons in a war-theory of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) -- used Guam. The U.S. nuclear strategy in the 1970s and beyond ("limited nuclear war") depends on deploying and receiving nuclear weapon strikes at places which were peripheral to the superpower state; in this scenario, Guam was important because a nuclear strike at Guam would not require a U.S. retaliatory strike at Moscow.

Governor Gutierrez

Aside from the great deal of colloquial information in Guam that has been around for decades (including the dumping of delivery systems and nuclear weapons storage systems into the waters around Guam), two books in the mid-1980s provided very straight forward information about nuclear weapons (Arkin, Fieldhouse, *Nuclear Battlefields*- 1985; and Hayes, Zarsky, Bello, *American Lake* - 1986).

- *American Lake* included a 1961 photo at AAFB of a Matador cruise missile (p. 64)
- *Nuclear Battlefields* (at p. 147, 224) noted that AAFB had 150 bombs with 60 nuclear SRAMs proposed for deliver in 1986. Naval Magazine was identified as having 45 nuclear artillery projectiles, 75 nuclear bombs and 98 nuclear depth bombs.

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The Governor also noted:

When it has been beneficial to the United States, Guam has been a nuclear target. Present U.S. communications activities, weapons storage areas, and recoverable operational airfields make Guam a “tier one” target in the even of a conflict with any military power capable of projecting in the Asia/Pacific region. Guam has remained quiet about the cloud of destruction that has hung over us because of our strong support for regional peace and security. It is, however, ironic that while the U.S. citizens of Guam accept this potentially perilous role for regional defense and U.S. national security, that we are at the same time not receiving more fair attention from the federal government on issues that involve the U.S. military. One of the most pressing of those issues is the need to have our lands returned if they are not actually being used by the military. We also deserve a self-governing sovereign political status.

For more information on this topic, contact Governor’s Advisor on Federal Issues, Leland Bettis at 475-9312.

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