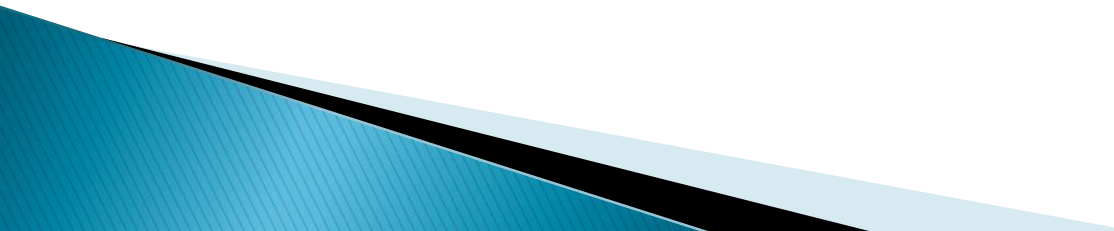


# The Cuban Missile Crisis

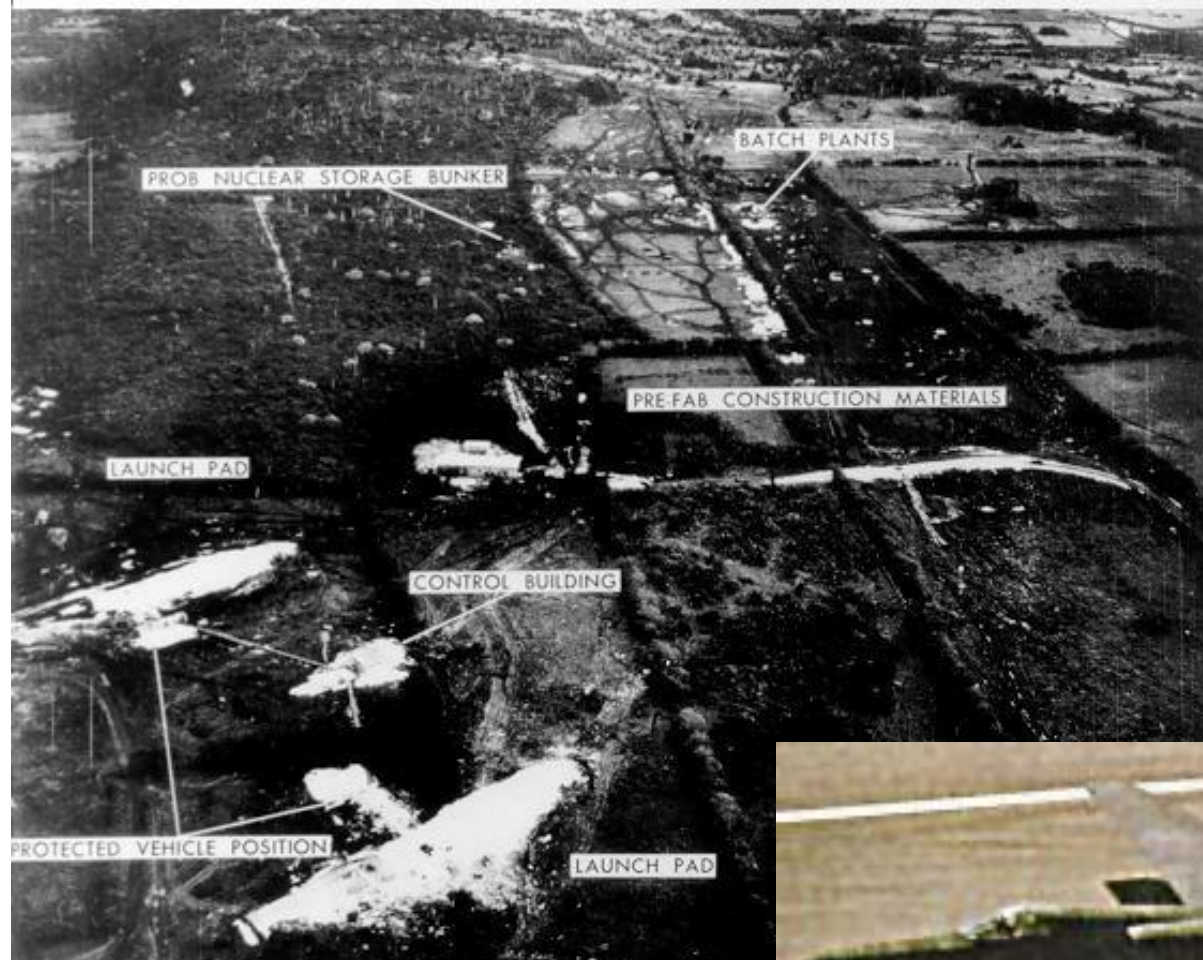
The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast, calm blue ocean stretching to the horizon. Above the horizon, a range of low, hazy mountains is visible against a pale, overcast sky. The overall tone is serene and expansive.

# Background

- ▶ The Soviets were lagging behind the U.S. in the arms race, and began to look for ways to counter the U.S. lead.
  - ▶ Castro feared another U.S. invasion of Cuba and in order to protect himself he agreed to the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba.
  - ▶ Tensions rose as the United States U-2 plane reconnaissance missions reveal what appeared to surface-to-air missiles located in Cuba.
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# GUANAJAY IRBM LAUNCH SITE NO. 1

22-56N 82-39W





# October 15, 1962

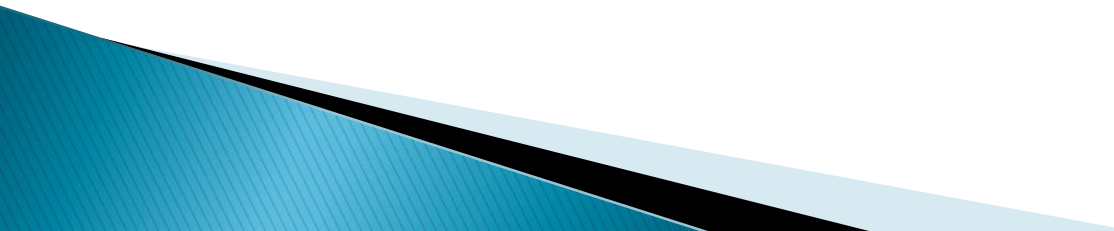
- ▶ Kennedy was informed in the morning that the thought to be surface-to-air missile were actually nuclear missiles.
- ▶ He assembled a group of trusted advisors which would come to be known as EXCOMM
- ▶ The group created 3 possible courses of action.
  - A blockade
  - An air strike
  - An invasion

# Key Players

- ▶ Dean Rusk–Secretary of State
- ▶ Robert McNamara–Secretary of Defense
- ▶ Robert Kennedy–Attorney General



# October 21, 1962

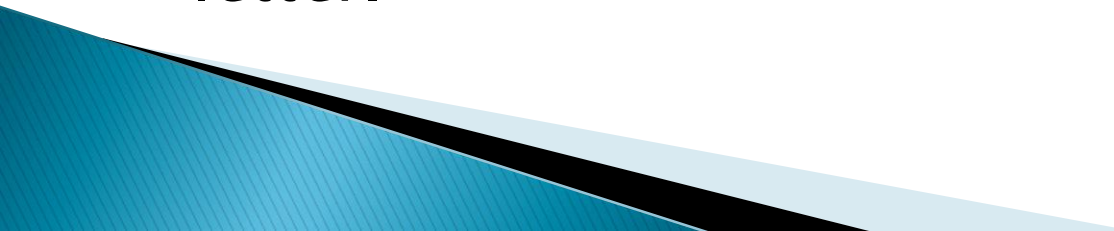
- ▶ Kennedy's advisors had created two speeches, one for the decision of a blockade, the other for an air strike.
  - ▶ Finally Kennedy made his decision. He chose to use a naval quarantine of Cuba.
  - ▶ Kennedy knew he could use the threat of an air strike to his benefit.
- 

# October 22, 1962

- ▶ At 7pm Eastern time the President made his television and radio announcement to the U.S., Khrushchev and the world.
- ▶ He announced the U.S. plan of a naval quarantine.
- ▶ Khrushchev was furious.



# October 24–27, 1962

- ▶ The military alert was raised to DEFCON 2, the U.S. and the world stood at the brink of a nuclear war.
  - ▶ Kennedy received a letter from Khrushchev pledging to remove the missiles of the U.S. removed the blockade and would not invade Cuba.
  - ▶ The next day a second letter was received asking the U.S. to remove their missiles from Turkey.
  - ▶ Kennedy only publically responded to the first letter.
- 



# The Result

- ▶ The world had come closer to a nuclear war than it would before or after the Cuban Missile Crisis.
  - ▶ Kennedy emerged as a hero, and showed that the U.S. would not be pushed around.
  - ▶ A “hot line” would be established between the United States and Soviet Union.
  - ▶ Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- 