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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JCSM-120-75
1 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Military Land Requirements in Palau (U)

1. (C) Reference a memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), I-1048/75, 3 February 1975, "JCS Review of Palau Land Survey (U)," which requested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff review the report of the Palau Land Survey, conducted in August 1974, and make recommendations regarding military land requirements in the Palau District of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI).
2. (U) The US military land requirements in the Palau District, TTPI, as stated* in a September 1971 letter to Ambassador Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, are:
 - a. Access and anchorage rights in Malakal Harbor and adjacent waters, together with rights to acquire 40 acres for use within the Malakal Harbor area.
 - b. On the island of Babelthuap, the right to acquire 2,000 acres for exclusive use as a base support complex, along with the right for nonexclusive use of an adjacent area, encompassing 30,000 acres, for intermittent ground force training and maneuvers.
 - c. Rights for the joint use of an airfield capable of supporting military jet aircraft (Airai Airfield, Babelthuap).
3. (C) The planning criteria for establishing the military land requirements in Palau included, among other things, loading/unloading of a nominal ammunition ship and ammunition storage. However, explosive safety quantity distance considerations were

*Declassified by JS
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DECLASSIFIED ON DECEMBER 31, 1981

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not applied in arriving at the 2,000-acre size for the base support complex that is stated in Annex B of the Draft Compact for Free Association, the basic document of the Micronesian Status Negotiations.

4. (C) The US military land requirements in Palau, except for the training area, are options for possible future basing in Palau, which may become necessary to exercise in the event that the current basing structure in the Western Pacific is reduced or the operations therefrom are severely restricted. However, there is no timetable to exercise the Palau options.

5. (C) The Joint Chiefs of Staff have reviewed the report of the Palau Land Survey and conclude that: (U)

a. (U) The military requirements in the Palau District, TTPI, are valid.

b. (C) The sites recommended in the Palau Land Survey for the 40-acre facility in Malakal Harbor and for the proposed 30,000-acre training area are the preferred choices.

c. (C) The explosive safety quantity distance criteria for transfer and storage of ammunition are valid criteria in planning for the base support complex. Accordingly, the choices for the base support complex are Site C (1,400 acres) for ammunition storage and transfer coupled with, in order of preference, a portion (600 acres) of Base Support Site No. IV, V, or VI, respectively. Sites A and B would be acceptable only if more than 2,000 acres are acquired.

d. (C) The right to use the 30,000-acre training area on Babelthuap should become effective as soon as the negotiations with the Palau land entity are completed.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

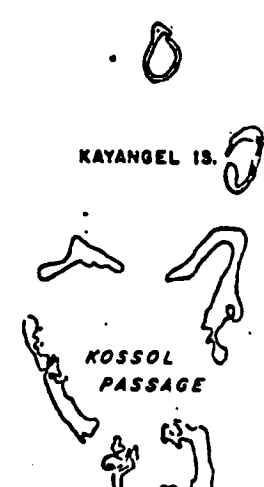
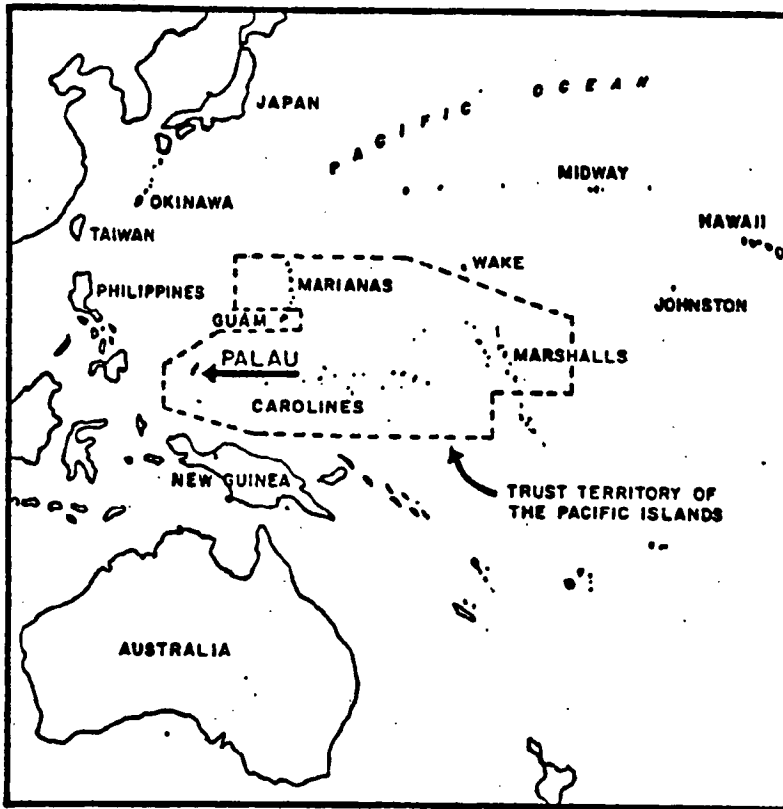
Robert N. Ginsburgh

ROBERT N. GINSBURGH
Major General, USAF
Deputy Director
Joint Staff

Reference:

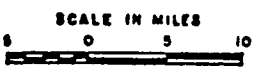
- * Letter from the Secretary of Defense to the Presidential Special Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, 9 September 1971

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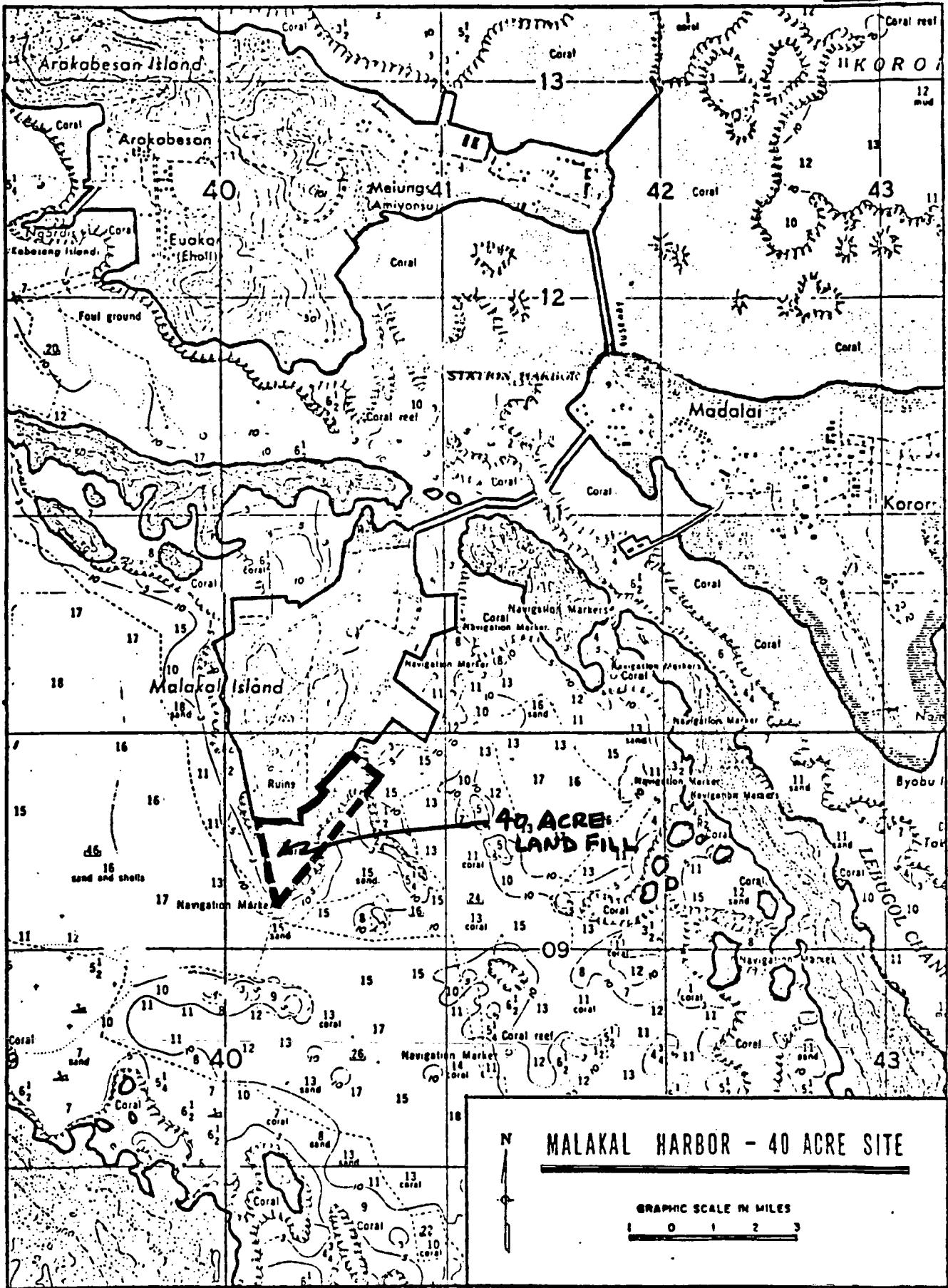


LOCATION AND REGIONAL MAP

PALAU ISLANDS



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MALAKAL HARBOR - 40 ACRE SITE



GRAPHIC SCALE IN MILES
0 1 2 3

BEACHES AND TRAINING AREA

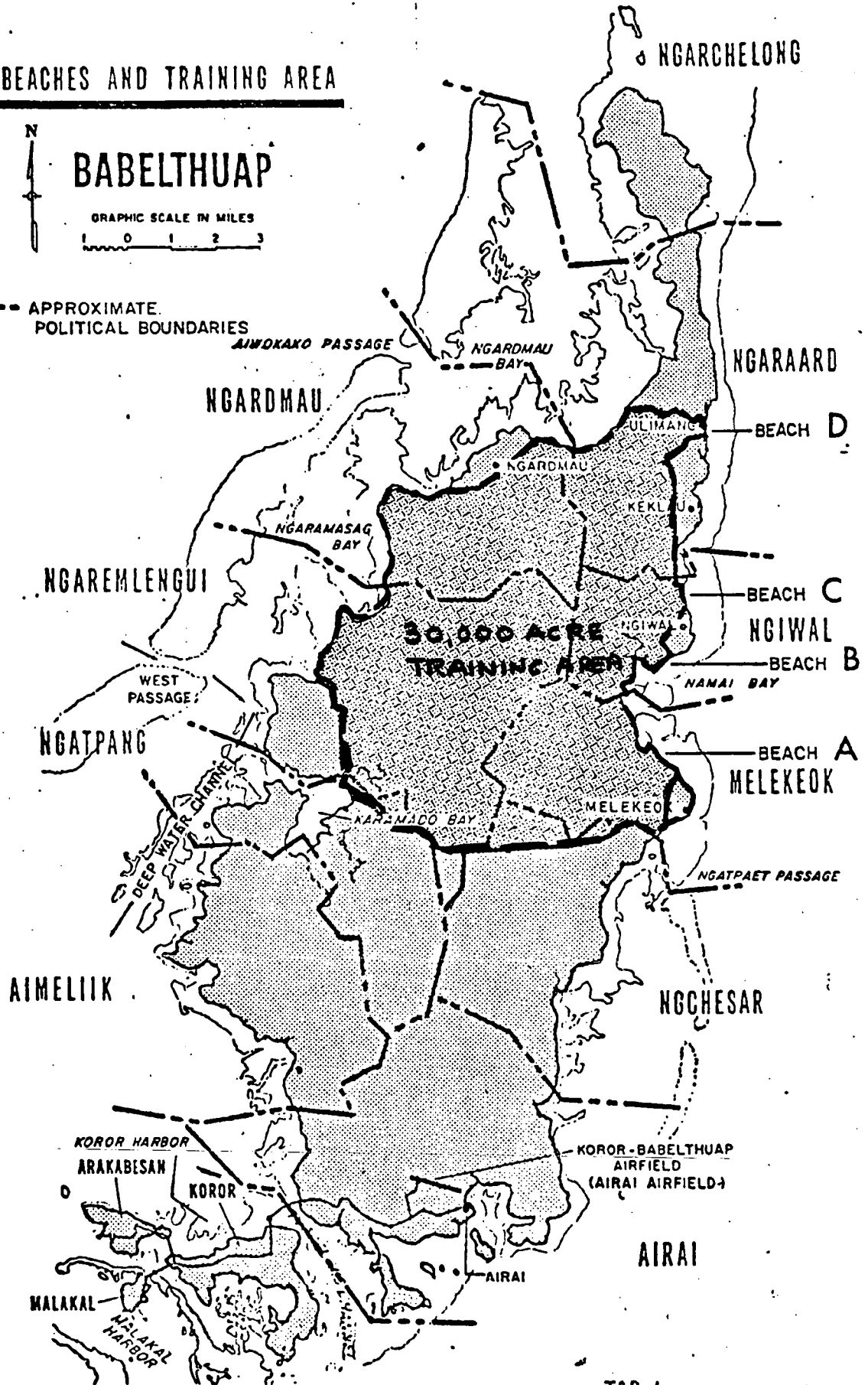


BABELTHUAP

GRAPHIC SCALE IN MILES

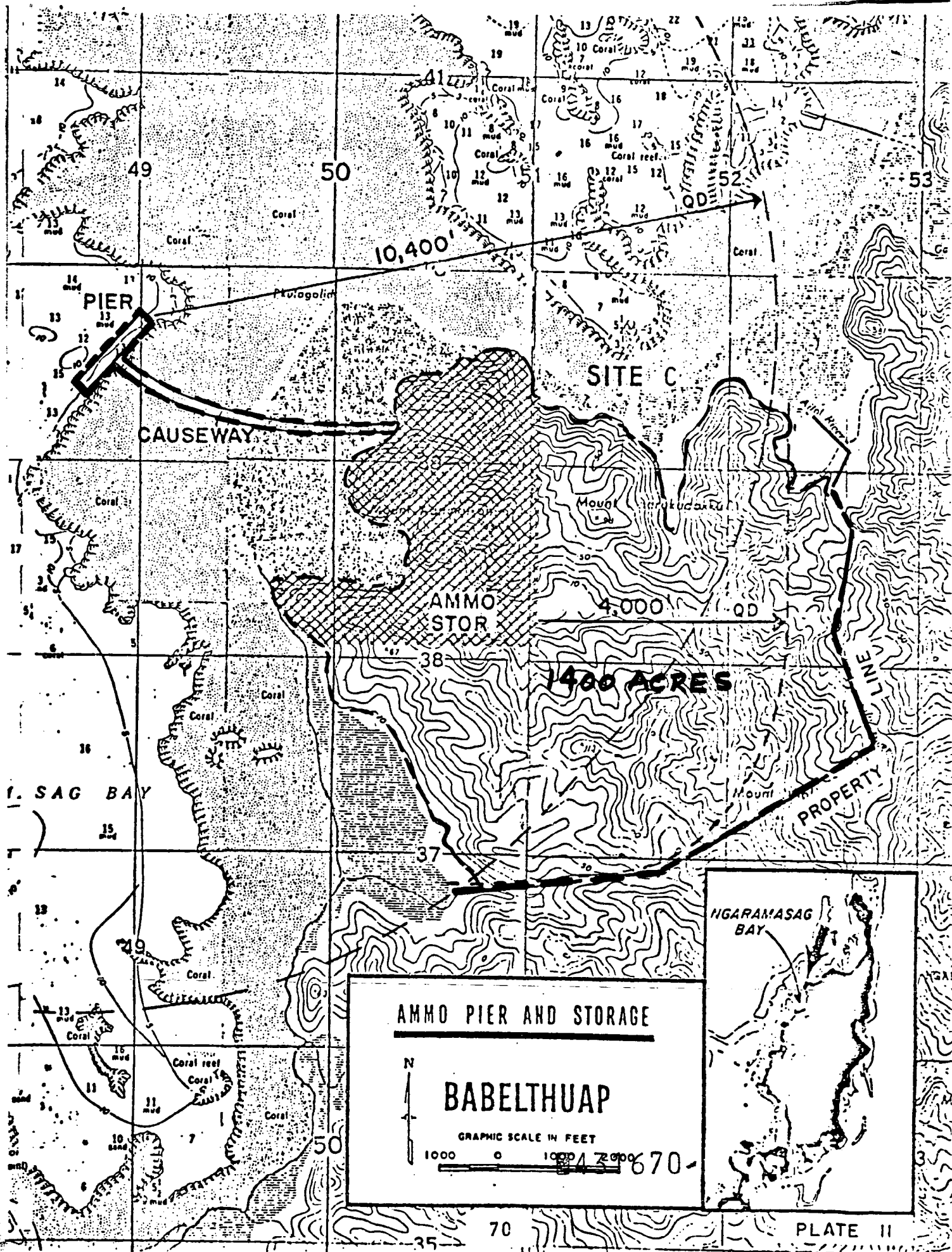


--- APPROXIMATE POLITICAL BOUNDARIES



TAB L

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POTENTIAL
BASE SUPPORT AREAS

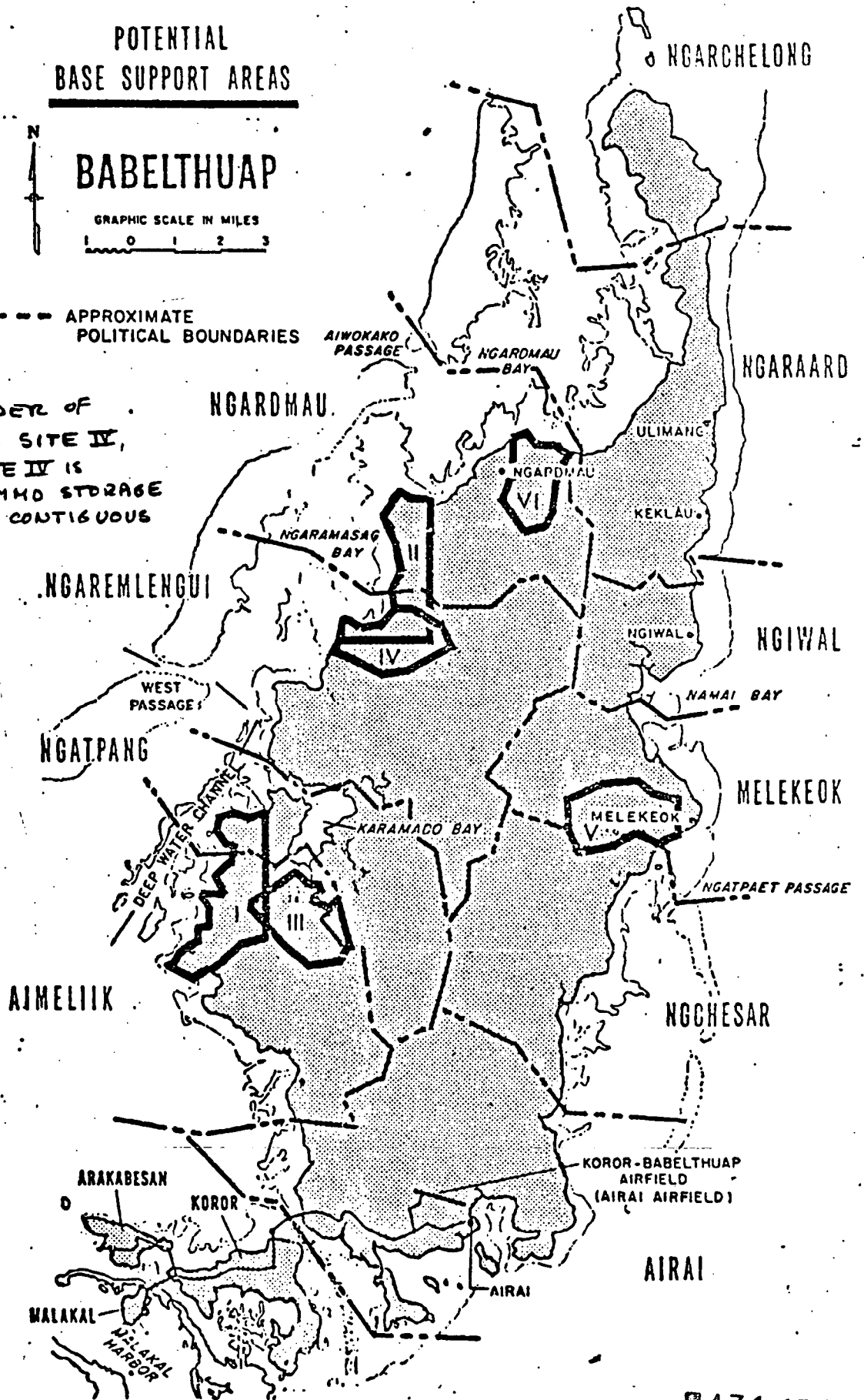
BABELTHUAP

GRAPHIC SCALE IN MILES



--- APPROXIMATE
POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

NOTE: JCS ORDER OF
PREFERENCE IS SITE IV,
V, OR VI. SITE IV IS
CLOSEST TO AMMO STORAGE
SITE, BUT NOT CONTIGUOUS
TO IT.



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