

# NAVAL HISTORY STEM-H LESSON PLAN

**LESSON PLAN:** The Hottest Days of the Cold War – The Cuban Missile Crisis

**DEVELOPED BY:** Danielle Thomas, Chesnee Middle School, Chesnee, SC

2012 Naval Historical Foundation STEM-H Fellowship Teacher

**ACTIVITY ONE:** Reconnaissance Photo Analysis

**OBJECTIVE:** Evaluate photos to determine what if any threat exists to US national security and determine best advice to give to President Kennedy. Also, students will collaborate in groups, practicing listening and speaking skills.

**MATERIALS:** laminated aerial photos of Sague La Grande, Cuba (dated September 5 and October 17, 1962); Reconnaissance Photo Analysis worksheets; overhead projector or lcd projector to show photos and corresponding surveillance notes (not shown to students in activity, but should be reviewed during class discussion)

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide students into predetermined groups (depending on your needs and goals). Then, distribute copies of reconnaissance photos taken leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Students will analyze photos, and then evaluate the photos to determine what if any threat is evident. Groups will have to weigh options of possible responses to Cuba and the Soviet Union. Groups will complete sheet to justify their recommendations. Groups will select one representative to advise President Kennedy on appropriate actions. (You may select student representative if desired.) This will represent President Kennedy's EXCOMM (executive committee who advised him on appropriate actions).

# Reconnaissance Photo Analysis



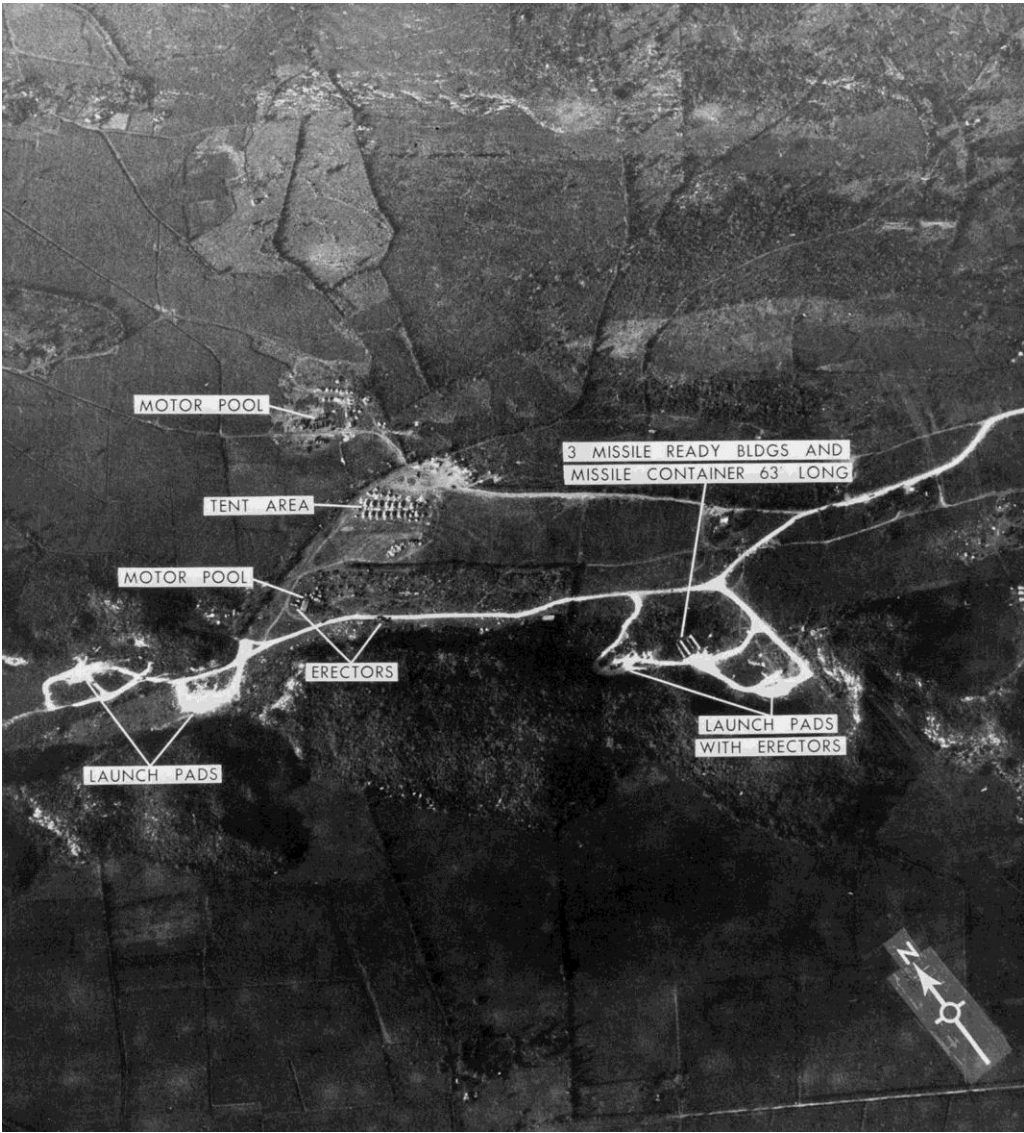


Photo Analysis

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

1) What did you see in the photos? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) How are the photos similar? How are they different? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) How have the photos changed over time? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) In your opinion, do you consider this a threat to United States national security? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What actions do you think President Kennedy should take? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) By taking this course of action, what might happen? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) Why do you think President Kennedy and his advisors might try to avoid any sort of confrontation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thoughts for consideration:

Does Cuba have a right to assemble nuclear missiles? Should the United States dictate who can/cannot assemble missiles?