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## **Cuban Newspapers Report On Large-scale U.S. Air Force Maneuvers**

*by John Neagle*

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On May 27, daily newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, Granma, reported that the US Air Force staged large- scale maneuvers off Cuba a week ago, prompting the country's defense system to go on alert. Granma reproduced a report of the Cuban armed forces newspaper Bastion, which said that B-52 strategic bombers and F-14, F-15 and F-16 fighter jets were involved in the war games. The maneuvers took place off Havana, near Cuba's northern coast. The maneuvers were part of the annual "Global Shield" exercise designed to test the Pentagon's concept of "total nuclear war" against socialist countries, said Granma. Bastion quoted a Cuban officer as saying, "This provocation, which can lead to errors with catastrophic consequences, runs counter to norms of international coexistence and even less to the current process of Soviet-American detente." Bastion reported that the annual exercise had been suspended last year before the summit between US president Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. In this year's war games, the number of B-52's sent to Europe was reduced, but a greater number of aircraft flew near the Cuban coast, said the paper. "For the US government, detente does not apply to small countries," Bastion remarked. The US maintains a naval base at Guantanamo, on Cuba's southeastern coast. (Basic data from AFP, Notimex, 05/27/89)

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