## Chemonolulu Advertiser

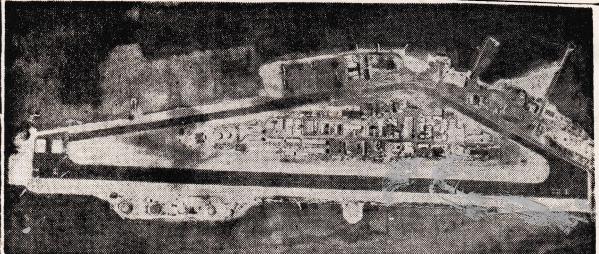
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HONOLULU, HAWAII, U.S.A. SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1956





U.S. Air Force

Johnston Island (this is all of it) soon to be virtually abandoned by Air Force.

## Air Force Closing Base at Johnston

Tiny Johnston Island, once a table has been set for closing from the surrounding area during key refueling stop in Pacific the base. All personnel with its 14 years occupancy by the aviation, has fallen before the school-age children will be trans- Navy. progress of the air age.

The Air Force announced started to close down its base ation will take several months, by Capt. Charles Johnston, the at Johnston, some 700 miles southwest of Honolulu. The announcement confirmed an Advertiser of the southwest of Honolulu and Advertiser of Honolulu. The announcement confirmed and Advertiser of Honolulu and Advertiser of Honolulu and Honol vertiser story on May 3 that against deterioration. Johnston was in for a drastic rollback because so few planes sible for Johnston's decline in its personnel to have dependents needed it any longer.

sonnel will be retained on the between Honolulu and Guam. the Air Force had planned to island to handle communica- The island was once described keep Johnston open and had tions and emergency service for by the late newsman Ernie Pyle undertaken a \$5 million buildmilitary and commercial planes as looking like "two aircraft car-ing program. which might need it.

ston. As of last June 30, there only a third that size before it which flock there by the thouwere only 220 military per-sonnel, 40 civilians and 50 dependents on the island.

Gen. Chappell said no time-

ferred out by Oct. 1, he said.

enough range to enable them more than 200 dependents were BRIG. GEN. Julian M. Chap- to by-pass the island on trans- on the little island. The Air pell, Seventh Air Force com-Pacific flights. During World Force built a chapel, school, mander, said Johnston will be War II and for several years service club and recreational fareduced to a "closed field" sta- after, Johnston was a main re- cilities for them. tus. About 100 Air Force per-fueling stop for planes flying As recently as two years ago

On Dec. 7, 1941, 134 years to THE "PHASING OUT" oper- the day after it was discovered

THE AIR FORCE took over Air age progress is respon-Johnston in 1948 and permitted stature. Today's planes have with them there. At one time,

riers strapped together." It is By the end of this year, John-At one time there were more one mile long, and one-third ston will be open only to planes than 600 men stationed at John-mile wide at its bulge. It was in trouble and the sooty terns