

Private Line for a Guided Missile

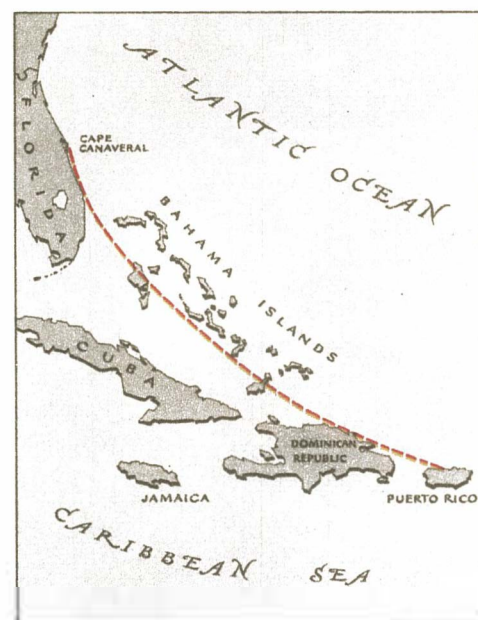


This special cable on the ocean floor stretches 1370 nautical miles from Cape Canaveral in Florida to Puerto Rico. The Air Force asked Western Electric to design, produce and supervise installation of a communications system for a guided missile test range extending out to sea. The cable is the backbone of this system.

It provides an instant, secret, weatherproof way of transmitting back to the test center in Florida a steady stream of data on missiles in flight. At certain island points along the way, radar installations spot the missile's position —

flash it to Florida via the cable. Signals transmitted by the missile itself — about fuel consumption, skin temperature, internal temperature, flight attitude and the like — are picked up by radio receivers, and relayed instantaneously to Florida by the new cable.

Western Electric was asked to do this job because, basically, it was a problem in communications requiring the special experience and skills we've developed in Bell telephone work as the manufacturing and supply unit of the Bell System. Also, we could (and did) draw extensively upon the combined skills of other Bell System units as well as our suppliers.



Route of the undersea cable for the Air Force's new guided missile testing range. It comes ashore at 22 points to have its current "boosted".

Western Electric

MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLY



UNIT OF THE BELL SYSTEM

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