

TEKTITE I General Introduction

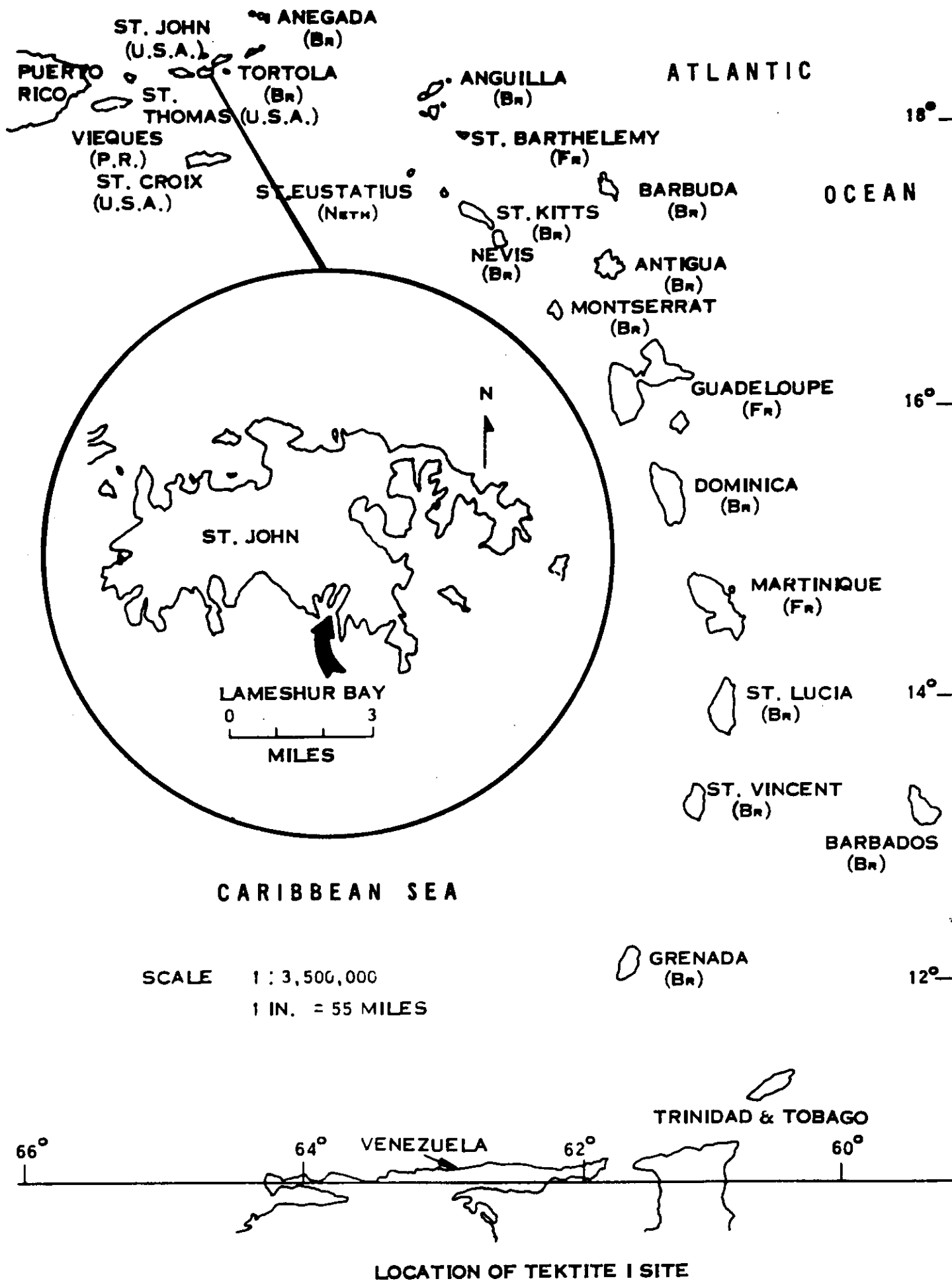
TEKTITE I is a multi-agency/industry program to determine the capability of a small group of men to satisfactorily perform a scientific research mission while living isolated on the ocean floor under saturated diving conditions for a long period of time.

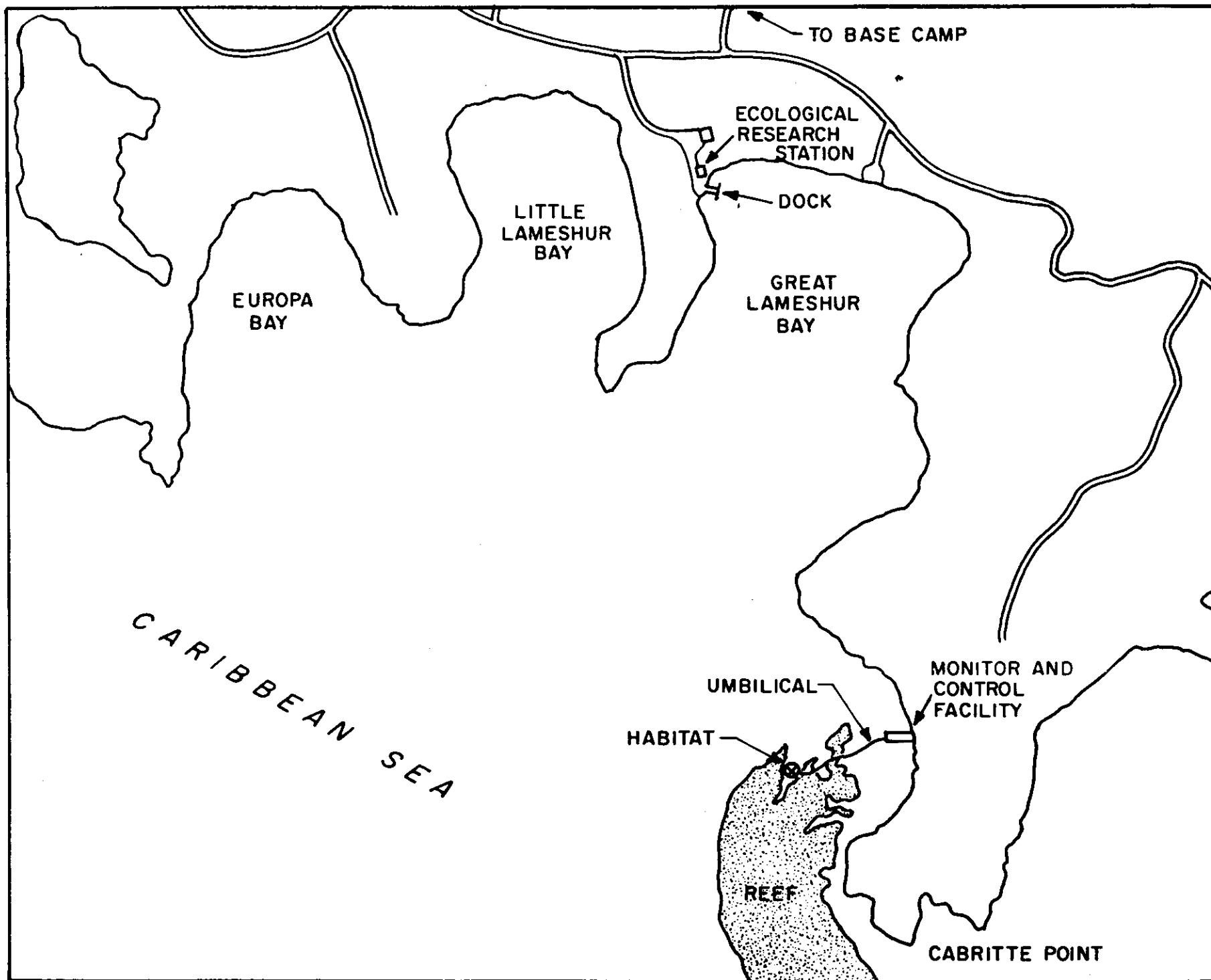
The program is jointly sponsored by the Navy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Department of Interior, with participation by the U. S. Coast Guard. The prime contractor is the General Electric Company, which is furnishing the undersea habitat and assisting in program planning and scientific mission coordination. TEKTITE I is the first undersea program to be undertaken by a group of federal agencies, in cooperation with private industry.

Four marine scientists will live for a period of sixty days, beginning February 15, 1969, in the TEKTITE I habitat on the ocean floor at a depth of approximately fifty feet. The site is Great Lameshur Bay, St. John, Virgin Islands, chosen for its favorable climate, clear waters, and abundant tropical plant and animal life.

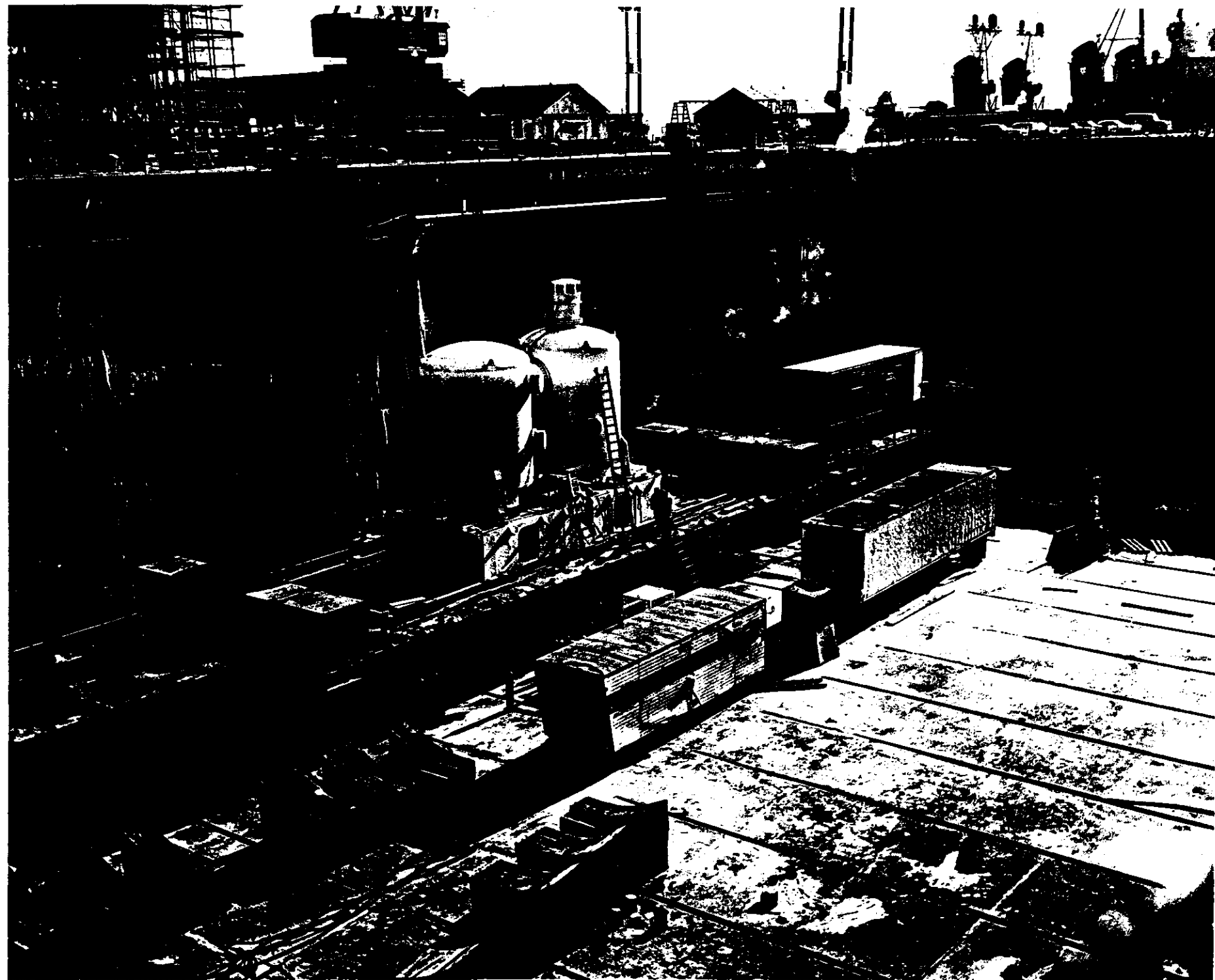
The four marine scientists, all from the Department of Interior, will swim from the habitat each day to conduct various scientific projects. They virtually will be living in a marine laboratory, both on the ocean floor and in the habitat's working spaces. This environment provides an unprecedented opportunity for intimate long-term marine investigation.

While the four marine scientists are conducting their underwater research mission, they will be continuously observed by Navy and NASA behavioral and biomedical teams. The objectives here will be to identify man's psychological and physiological reactions to a long-term mission performed in an isolated, hostile environment common to undersea and space missions.





TEKTITE I SITE



TEKTITE-I UNDERGOES SYSTEMS TESTS

The TEKTITE-I habitat, designed and built by General Electric's Missile and Space Division, undergoes systems tests at Dry Dock #5 in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. The tests are in preparation for the four-man underwater habitat's delivery to Great Lameshur Bay in the Virgin Islands, site of the Tektite-I program. Due to begin in early 1969, the program will see four aquanaut-scientists live 60 days continuously below the water's surface in a marine sciences and behavioral program sponsored by the Navy, Department of Interior, NASA, and General Electric Company.

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Photo by:

General Electric Company
Missile & Space Division
Valley Forge, Pa.