

# WWII Japanese Fortification Defensive Complex

## Ginalangan

The Ginalangan Japanese Defensive Complex also known as the Command Post is the sole manifestation in the Marianas of a defensive strategy developed by the Japanese Imperial forces after the fall of Saipan in July 1944. This strategy, which was effective in Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa called for defense in-depth to delay, demoralize and inflict maximum casualties on American Forces, instead of attempting to defend beach positions, as the Japanese had attempted to do in earlier battles. This new strategy required Japanese troops to fall back to prepare defensive positions where they were to fight to the last man. Since Rota was not invaded and occupied by the US Forces, the Ginalangan Defensive Complex survived the war, essentially intact. It is possibly the best preserved example of a fortification resulting from Japan's in depth defensive strategy during the final days of the war.