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Imagery analysis report

**Possible Alternate National Military
Command Center, Wuhan Military Region, China (S)**

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POSSIBLE ALTERNATE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER, WUHAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/[redacted]) A new possible alternate national military command center was identified in Northern Hubei Military District, Wuhan Military Region (MR), China.¹ This command center may consist of six separate, but related, facilities. Its identification was based on the association of the General Staff Department (GSD) Counterpart near Xiangfan (32-03N 112-05E)¹ with these six installations and their association with each other.

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2. (S/D) This report discusses six facilities, possibly making up the GSD Counterpart, within 75 nautical miles (nm) of Xiangfan (Figure 1). Their location and construction indicate a probable high-level function. These facilities consist of one extensive underground administration complex, one heliport, and four communications sites. All of these facilities are situated on interconnecting underground telecommunications cables.^{2,3}

DISCUSSION

Underground Administration Complex

3. (S/D) Fangxian MR Alternate Command and Control and Military Storage is an elaborate underground administration complex covering a 385-square-nautical mile area. It consists of five areas situated in steep mountain valleys approximately 7.5 nm southwest of Fangxian (Figure 2). The five areas are an headquarters/operations area (area D, Figure 3), a communications area (area B, Figure 4), and three operations areas (areas A, C, and E; Figures 5, 6, and 7). Each area consists of numerous cave adits and administration-style buildings that are connected to cave entrances by enclosed walkways (Figure 8). Each area is interconnected by underground cable. This cable is connected to the main northwest/southeast underground telecommunications cable.

[redacted] Much of the support equipment present during construction was stored under camouflage netting.⁴

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4. (S/D) Fangxian Heliport is located on the northern edge of Fangxian MR Alternate Command and Control and Military Storage and is 5.0 nm southwest of the town of Fangxian (Figure 9). The presence of this heliport indicates that this area has an important function since the Chinese utilize their helicopters mainly for administrative support of major headquarters. The closest airfields are Guanghai Airfield [redacted] 58 nm to the northeast, Dangyang Airfield [redacted] and Yichang/Tumenya Airfield [redacted] 95 nm to the southeast. The heliport consists of a helicopter landing area (239 by 44 meters, oriented northwest/southeast), two parking aprons (one 67 by 40 meters and one with a 30-meter diameter), and an 8-meter-wide taxiway/road extending to three cave adits. One adit is an aircraft tunnel with a 26-meter-wide entrance.

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Communications Facilities

5. (S/D) Four communications facilities that may serve a high-level function have been identified within 75 nm of the Fangxian complex. The facilities are Xiangyang Radio Communications Transmitter Station North, Oumiao Radio Communications Receiver Station, Hu-chia-chi Radio Communications Station West, and Hu-chia-chi AM Broadcast (BC) Station.

6. (TSR) Xiangyang Radio Communications Transmitter Station North has been identified as probably the transmitter facility for the GSD Counterpart near Xiangfan. This facility was constructed prior to 1972; a modern operations building has been added since November 1976. Antennas consist of eight transmitting rhombics, two frequency-diverse pairs of phased dipoles, eight high-frequency (HF) horizontal dipoles, four quadrants, and one dual-shunted dipole (Figure 10).

7. (S/D) Oumiao Radio Communications Receiver Station is approximately 15 nm south of Xiangyang Radio Communications Transmitter Station North and is probably its companion receiver station. This station contains seven receiving rhombics, two 3-3-3 fishbones, and four HF horizontal dipoles (Figure 11).

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8. (S/D) Hu-chia-chi Radio Communications Station West is a large HF facility with its operations/support area along a mountain valley. The antennas are on the valley floor and along two adjacent ridgelines. This station is connected by underground cable and is immediately adjacent to Hu-chia-chi Radio Relay Station West . Antennas consist of three frequency-diverse pairs of phased dipoles, two frequency-diverse pairs of HF horizontal dipoles, and ten HF horizontal dipoles. Three probable adits along the base of the mountain are the terminus of identifiable feedlines (Figure 12).

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9. (S/D) Hu-chia-chi AM BC Station contains a guyed-lattice-mast, medium-frequency, vertical radiator 103 meters in height with a ground plane radial reflector. Six feedlines extend from the tuning building at the tower base to one of three reinforced cave adits. One HF horizontal dipole antenna is positioned on the ridgeline above the cave adits. A possible radio relay terminal is also on the ridgeline (Figure 13).

Imagery Analyst's Comments

10. (S/D) All of these facilities are connected by major interconnected underground telecommunications cables. One HF radio communications facility (Hu-chia-chi) is connected with a major north/south radio relay line. Therefore, it would be possible for the Fangxian complex to conduct remote communications from these communications sites.

11. (S/D) The azimuth of one antenna from each of the Fangxian complex, the Xiangyang station, the Oumiao station, and Hu-chai-chi Radio Communications Station intersect within 4 nm of 34-16N 108-54E, the GSD counterpart at Xian.¹

12. (S/D) The Fangxian complex was probably built by army engineer units. During construction, some obstacle courses and physical training sand pits were observed within a few construction support sites. These items are characteristic of Chinese army units.

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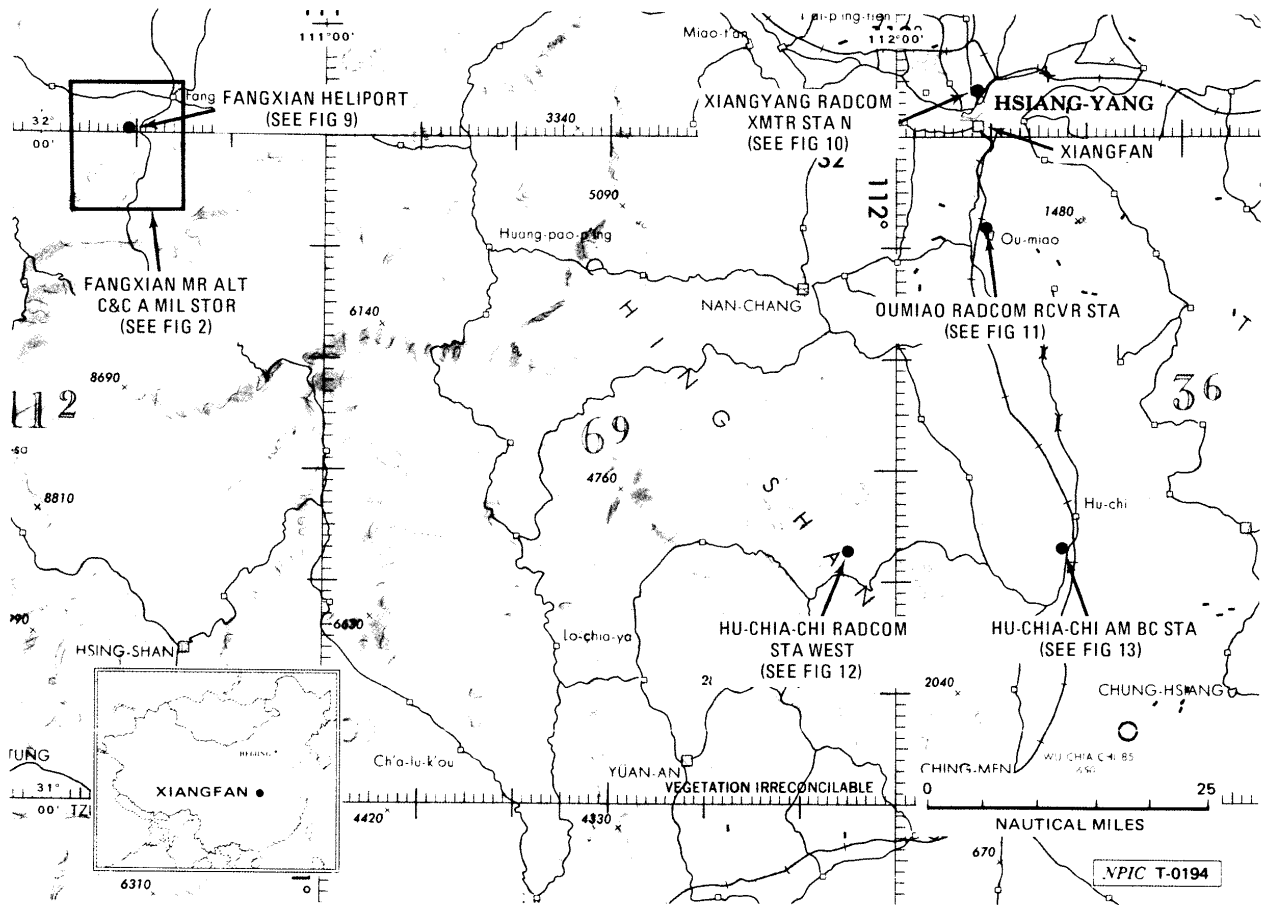


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF POSSIBLE GENERAL STAFF DEPARTMENT-RELATED FACILITIES, WESTERN WUHAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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13. (S/D) The construction of Fangxian Heliport indicates a high-level function for the Fangxian complex. The Chinese use helicopters primarily for liason/support of high headquarters. The construction of the heliport in such a mountainous, isolated area with an aircraft tunnel would tend to emphasize the importance of the Fangxian complex.

14. (S/D) The widely dispersed subareas of the Fangxian complex within this mountainous region along with its extensive underground construction and possible remote communications of up to 75 nm would provide a high level of security and survivability.

15. (S/D) The AM station appears to be unusually important because the operations/-transmitter facility is underground.

16. (S/D) All of these facilities may or may not be interrelated, but this general geographic area near Xiangyang/Xiangyang appears to be increasing in strategic importance.

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