

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

# FIXED FIELD-TYPE LAUNCH SITES NEAR SMORGON AND VAINODE, USSR

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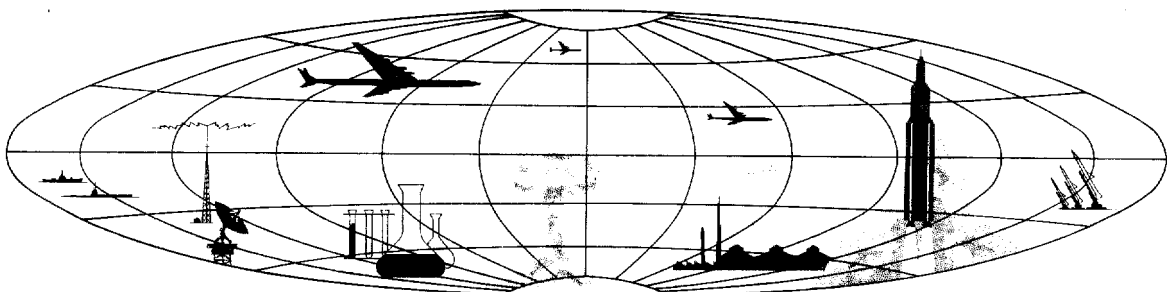
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Title: Fixed Field-Type Launch Sites Near Smorgon and Vainode, USSR	Geo Coords: See text	COMOR No: None	Publication No: NPIC/R-286/63
	NPIC Target No: See text	BE No: None	Date: November 1963
Photo Data:	[REDACTED]		
References: USATC Series 200, Sheets 0168-811L and 0152-2511L (S) NPIC Project J-390/63 (PC 857-63)			

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Following is a description of two fixed field-type launch sites in western USSR. No weapons system has been designated for these sites because, while they closely resemble many of the recently identified fixed field-type MRBM launch sites, they are deployed in close proximity to IRBM launch complexes.

A fixed field-type launch site (NPIC Target No 0168-68E) is located in a wooded area at 54-34-45N 26-21-30E, 3.8 nm NE of Smorgon IRBM Launch Area No 1, 1.8 nm SSW of Smorgon IRBM Launch Area No 2, and 6 nm NNW of Smorgon. The site consists of a figure-eight type outer road pattern which serves two launch-pad clearings (Figure 1). The launch-pad clearings also are connected by a single internal road and are separated by approximately 610'. The eastern launch-pad clearing is oriented along an azimuth of approximately 240°. The western launch-pad clearing is oriented along an azimuth

of 220°, as are the launch pads of both of the Smorgon soft IRBM launch areas.

The fixed field-type site is tied directly to the road which connects the two soft launch areas. It was first covered by KEYHOLE photography of [REDACTED] 1/ which also provided the first look at Smorgon Launch Area No 1. Smorgon Launch Area No 2 was not present at this time, and was first observed in an early stage of construction on [REDACTED] 2/ The field site was visible on this and several subsequent missions, the best of which was [REDACTED] On each coverage the western portion of the launch site, the launch-pad clearing, and the road which serves it were more clearly visible than the eastern portion of the site.

The second fixed field-type launch site (NPIC Target No 0152-15B) is located in a wooded area at 56-28-15N 21-51-00E, 3.1 nm

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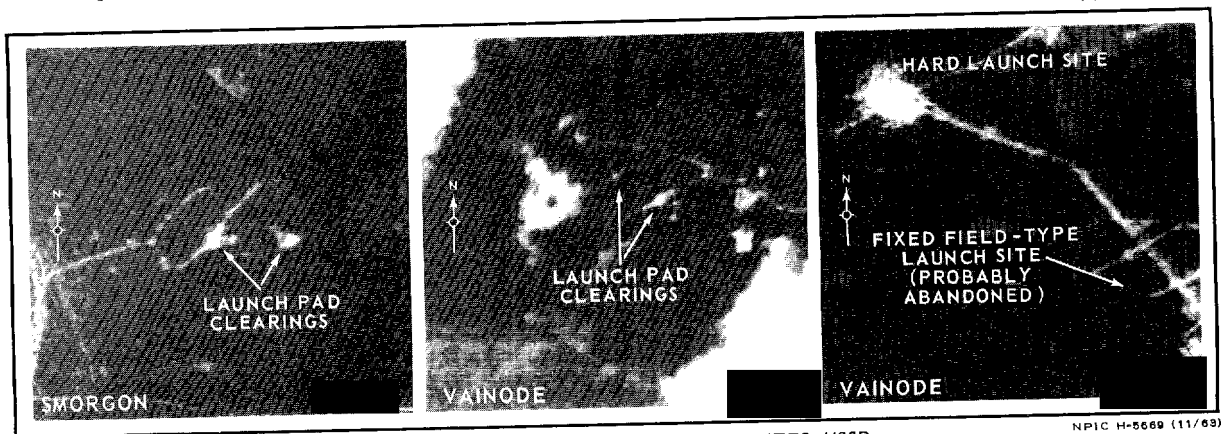


FIGURE 1. FIXED FIELD-TYPE LAUNCH SITES, USSR.

NPIC H-8669 (11/63)

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north of Vainode. The site is adjacent to the administration and housing section of Nigrande IRBM Launch Area No 3 (TDI name, Vainode), and probably was abandoned when construction of the hard launch area began. 25X1D

The site was first visible on [REDACTED] photography. 3/ Nigrande hard IRBM Launch Areas No 2 (TDI name, Skrunda) and No 3 were not present at this time and the existence of Nigrande IRBM Launch Area No 1 could not be determined because of clouds and cloud shadow. The two launch areas of the Paplaka MRBM Launch Complex were visible in a completed state on this photography. The Paplaka Complex is located 20 nm west of the fixed field-type site.

The site was covered again in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] During this period it was served by a single access road and consisted of an outer loop road, an internal

road, and two launch-pad clearings (Figure 1). The launch-pad clearings were 450' apart and oriented along an azimuth of 240°. Nigrande IRBM Launch Area No 1 is oriented on an azimuth of [REDACTED] and the Paplaka MRBM launch areas are oriented on azimuths of 215°.

Nigrande IRBM Launch Area No 3 was first observed in a very early stage of construction on [REDACTED] photography. 5/ Subsequent KEYHOLE missions, including [REDACTED] (Figure 1), showed the construction progress at this launch area. The main access road which connects the hard launch site with the administration and housing section now passes directly through the fixed field-type launch site.

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ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

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