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June 1965

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

SASYKTAU MISSILE-LAUNCH FACILITY USSR

CIA

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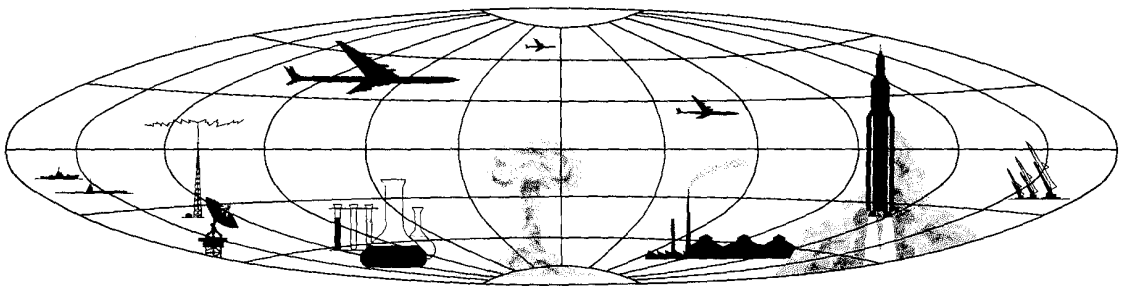

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SASYKTAU MISSILE-LAUNCH FACILITY, USSR

INTRODUCTION

This report presents a detailed analysis of the missile-launch activity at 47-32N 49-25E (computed geographic coordinates), approximately 5 nautical miles (nm) south-southwest of Sasyktau and 57 nm east-northeast of Kordon SAM Training Center (Figure 1). The installation is in a remote desert region north of the Caspian Sea where the only access is by unimproved trails. No major overland transportation facilities serve it; the nearest known landing strip within a 60-nm radius is at Kordon, and the nearest rail line is approximately 55 nm south of the installation. Permanent support facilities for housing, storage, and administrative functions are severely limited and no evidence of temporary facilities such as tent camps are discernible on photography through [redacted] 25X1D

DESCRIPTION 25X1D

[redacted]

gradual increase in the facilities at the installation as indicated on Figure 2.

The installation consists of 2 probably hard-surfaced loop roads connected by a straight east-west road, and several structures which are positioned along or near the basic road pattern (Figures 2 and 3). At the western loop road, there are 3 launch positions [redacted] 25X1D feet apart. Two, and probably all three positions are connected by linear scars which are prob-

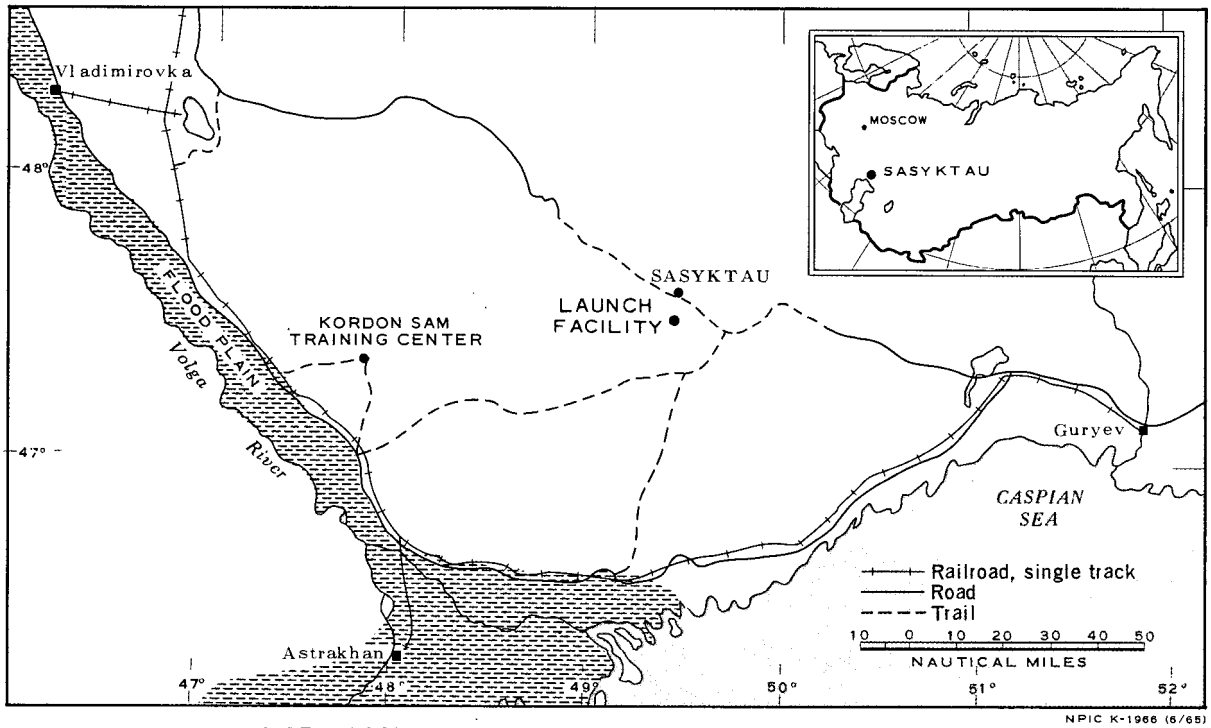
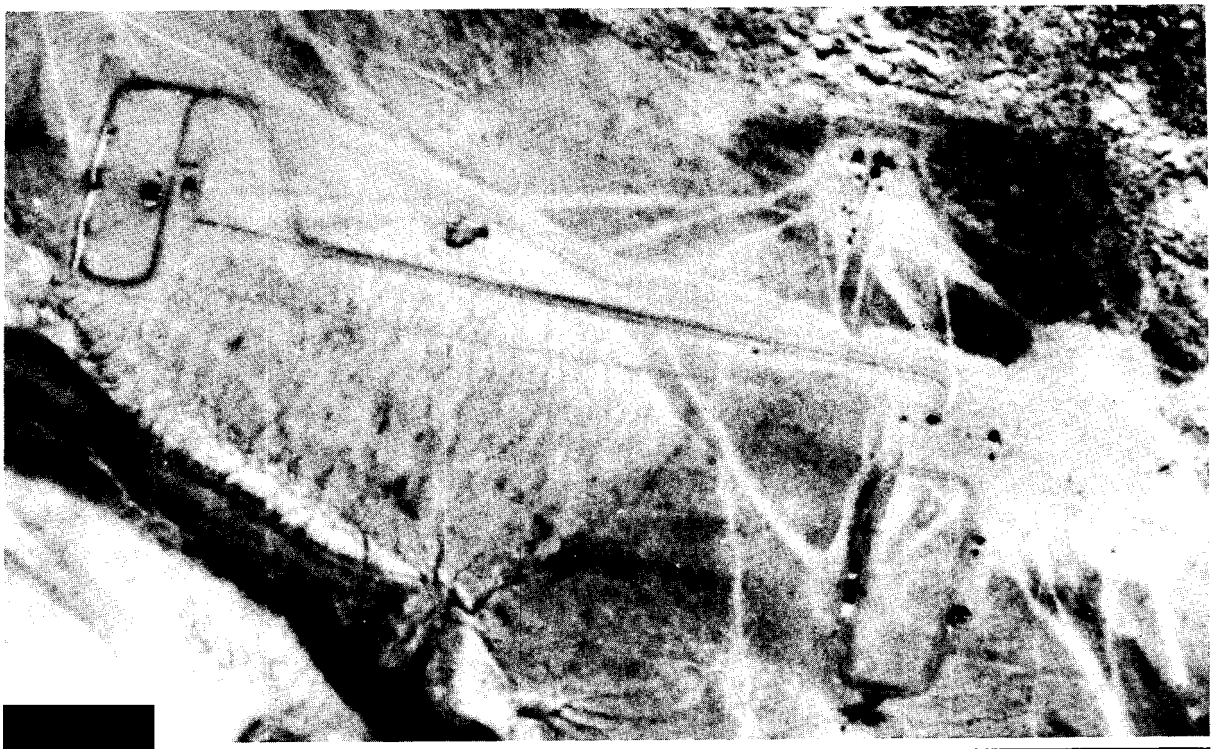


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF THE SASYKTAU MISSILE-LAUNCH FACILITY, USSR.



25X1D

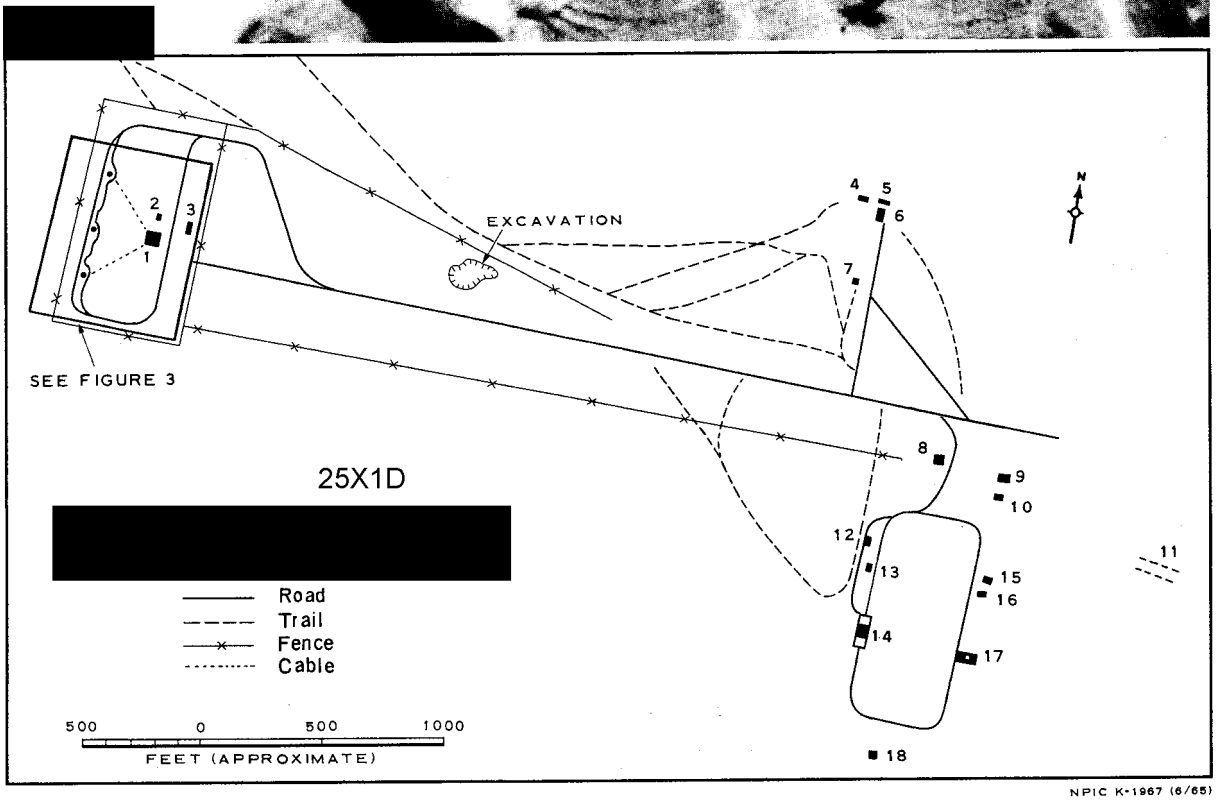


FIGURE 2. THE SASYKTAU MISSILE-LAUNCH FACILITY, USSR.

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ably cable connections to a building (Item 1), 65 by 40 by 15 feet high, [redacted] to the east, inside the loop (Item numbers are keyed to the list below and Figures 2 and 3). The building is the probable control center for the 3 launch positions. A 20 by 20 foot structure (Item 2) is just north of the probable control building. A third building (Item 3), 55 by 30 by 15 feet high, is across the loop road, to the northeast of the probable control building. The entire loop road and the 3 buildings are within a single security fence which measures approximately 975 by 530 feet.

The eastern loop road is 3,300 feet southeast of the western loop road and, although it has no launch positions, it widens on the west side to provide a hardstand area approximately 175 by 50 feet. A probable drive-through building (Item 14), 60 by 50 by 20 feet high, may be used as a missile-checkout building.

The following is a descriptive listing, with date first observed, of the structures within the Sasyktau Facility (Item numbers are keyed to Figures 2 and 3).

1 Probable control building 65 by 40 by 15 feet high, probably flat-roofed [redacted]
2 Unidentified structure 20 by 20 feet [redacted]
3 Support building 55 by 30 by 15 feet high, probably gable-roofed [redacted]
4 Support building 40 by 30 by 10 feet high, probably gable-roofed [redacted]
5 Support building 75 by 25 feet, probably gable-roofed [redacted]
6 Support building 150 by 40 feet, probably flat-roofed [redacted]
7 Unidentified structure 20 by 15 feet [redacted]
8 Support building 35 by 20 feet, roof configuration undetermined [redacted]

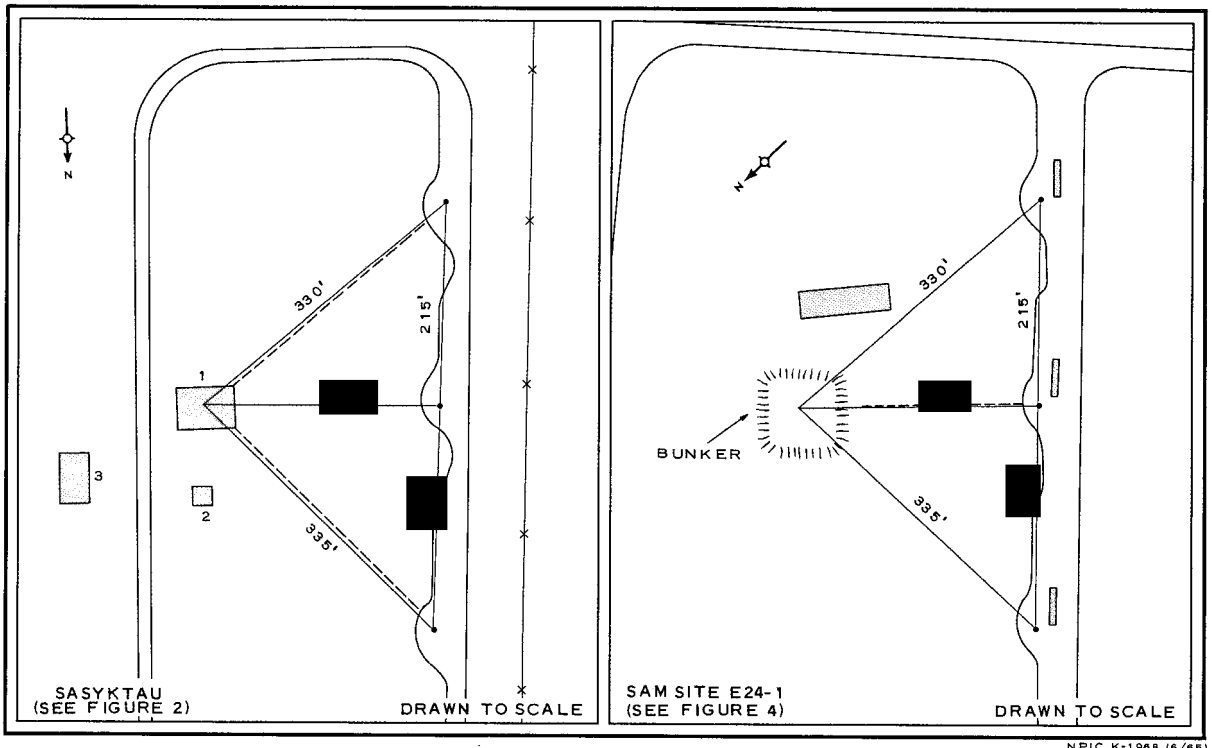

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FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF THE WESTERN LOOP ROAD OF THE SASYKTAU MISSILE-LAUNCH FACILITY AND PART OF THE MOSCOW SAM SITE E24-1.

25X1D

9 Support building 45 by 20 by 10 feet, probably gable-roofed [redacted] 25X1D

10 Support building 25 by 20 feet, roof configuration undetermined [redacted] 25X1D

11 Two parallel linear scars approximately 150 feet in length, 50 feet apart [redacted] 25X1D

12 Support building 45 by 25 feet, roof configuration undetermined [redacted] 25X1D

13 Unidentified structure approximately 25 by 20 feet [redacted] 25X1D

14 Probable drive-through building 60 by 50 by 20 feet high, flat-roofed [redacted]. The building is situated on a hardstand approximately 175 by 50 feet. 25X1D

15 Support building 35 by 25 by 10 feet high, probably gable-roofed [redacted] 25X1D

16 Support building 30 by 20 feet, probably gable-roofed [redacted] 25X1D

17 Support building 85 by 40 by 15 feet high, probably flat-roofed with an unidentified object positioned on the roof [redacted]

18 Unidentified structure 25 by 15 feet [redacted]

DISCUSSION

The mensural data and configuration of the Sasyktau Facility revealed some similarities to a segment of the SA-1 SAM sites which are deployed in the Moscow area. Mensural data for both Sasyktau and Moscow SAM Site E24-1, which was selected for comparison, revealed that separation of launch positions at Sasyktau, [redacted] feet, was identical to the average launch position separation of [redacted] feet at Site E24-1 (Figures 3 and 4). Figure 3, which portrays a segment of the launch area of Site E24-1 and the Sasyktau Facility with dimensions, shows that the control building at 25X1D 25X1D 25X1D

[redacted]

this facility is in the same relative location as the control bunkers of the SA-1 SAM sites at Moscow. Another dimensional similarity exists between the control building, 65 by 40 feet, at Sasyktau and the bunkers at Site E24-1, which have average dimensions of 60 by 35 feet.

These similarities would indicate that the Soviets have constructed a facility that is patterned after a segment of an SA-1 launch area and that the construction of the facility began in the [redacted] period, some 11 years after the initial deployment of SA-1 SAM sites in the Moscow area. After having ascertained that the facility does resemble a segment of an SA-1 SAM site, the primary orientation of the 3 launch positions based on the east-west access road was computed to be [redacted] Missiles fired along this azimuth would pass approximately 10 nm north of the Kordon SAM Training Center and would have traveled a distance of approximately 56 nm. A continuation of the missile beyond this point along the [redacted] orientation would place it approximately 30 nm south of the facilities of the Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center (KY/VMTC) at a distance of approximately 135 nm. A secondary azimuth based on the orientation of a line connecting the 3 launch positions was computed as being [redacted] Missiles fired along this azimuth would intersect most of the surface-to-surface missile (SSM) trajectories from the KY/VMTC at a point approximately 125 nm from KY/VMTC at a distance approximately 50 nm north of Sasyktau. 1/ At this intersection, most of the SSMs from KY/VMTC are ascending and have not yet reached their apogees. As of [redacted], no electronic facilities had been identified at Sasyktau, which would presumably preclude its use for firings against SSM warheads or other target vehicles.

The exact construction status of the facility cannot be determined at this time. There has been no increase in the components of the facility during the winter period extending from [redacted] even though there was indication of snow removal on the coverage of [redacted]

The location of the Sasyktau Facility in an inaccessible and isolated area and the limited support facilities present might indicate that the installation may be used as a sensitive missile research and development facility.

25X1D

25X1D

REFERENCES

[redacted]

MAPS AND CHARTS

USAF. Operational Navagation Chart, F-4, 1st ed, Rev, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

RELATED DOCUMENT

1. US Army Missile Command. MIS 26-64, *Soviet Surface-to-Surface Missile Trajectory Data Handbook,* Sep 64 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-RR5-82,529

NPIC PROJECT

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