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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

SS-X-16 MISSILE CANISTERS PLESETSK MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER SSM, USSR

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SEPTEMBER 1975

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME	COUNTRY
SS-X-16 Missile Canisters, Plesetsk Missile/Space Test Center SSM	UR

UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES
NA	62-57-46N 040-23-46E

MAP REFERENCE

DMA. USATC, Series 200, Sheets 0102-9 and -10, scale 1:200,000

ABSTRACT

1. Two different types of canisters associated with the SS-X-16 solid-propellant ICBM system have been identified at the Plesetsk Missile/Space Test Center (PM/STC) SSM, USSR. The canisters will be designated Type 1 and Type 2 in this report. Type 1 is a cylinder of constant diameter. Type 2 is a cylinder with an extension of lesser diameter protruding from one end. These canisters were seen in open storage areas at the test center. Additionally, one canister was seen with an extension protruding from one end and a domed cap over the other end. This canister was considerably longer than the others and was the only one observed on the edge of a launch pad.

2. This report provides refined measurements of the SS-X-16 canisters. These measurements resulted from a recent mensuration study which used 13 different coverages on four KH-8 missions. A brief history of the SS-X-16 canisters at the PM/STC and a map showing their locations are included in the report. Also included are annotated photographs and line drawings of the Type 1 and 2 SS-X-16 canisters and a table containing dates of SS-X-16 launches and sightings of SS-X-16 canisters at the PM/STC.

INTRODUCTION

3. The SS-X-16 solid-propellant ICBM system has been undergoing research and development at the PM/STC since March 1972. This missile system may be deployed in a silo or a mobile mode. The SS-X-16 canisters may be shipping containers or launch tubes.

4. The first identification of SS-X-16 canisters at the PM/STC was made wo canisters were in the SS-X-16 receiving and checkout area of the Missile Handling Facility and one canister was at ICBM Launch Test Site 5 These canisters were not present in January 1972. A total of 28 confirmed, one probable, and one possible SS-X-16 canister have been identified to date. These correlate to the 30 reported SS-X-16 launches from the PM/STC. All the SS-X-16 canisters except for a few probable pieces were removed from their open storage areas at the test center The canisters may have been placed in buildings or removed from the test center.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Type 1 SS-X-16 Canister

6. The first SS-X-16 canisters were observed at the PM/STC and were cylindrical tubes 59.4 feet long and 6.8 feet in diameter (Figure 2). This type was observed at both the Missile Handling Facility SS-X-16 receiving and checkout area and at ICBM Launch Test Site 5.

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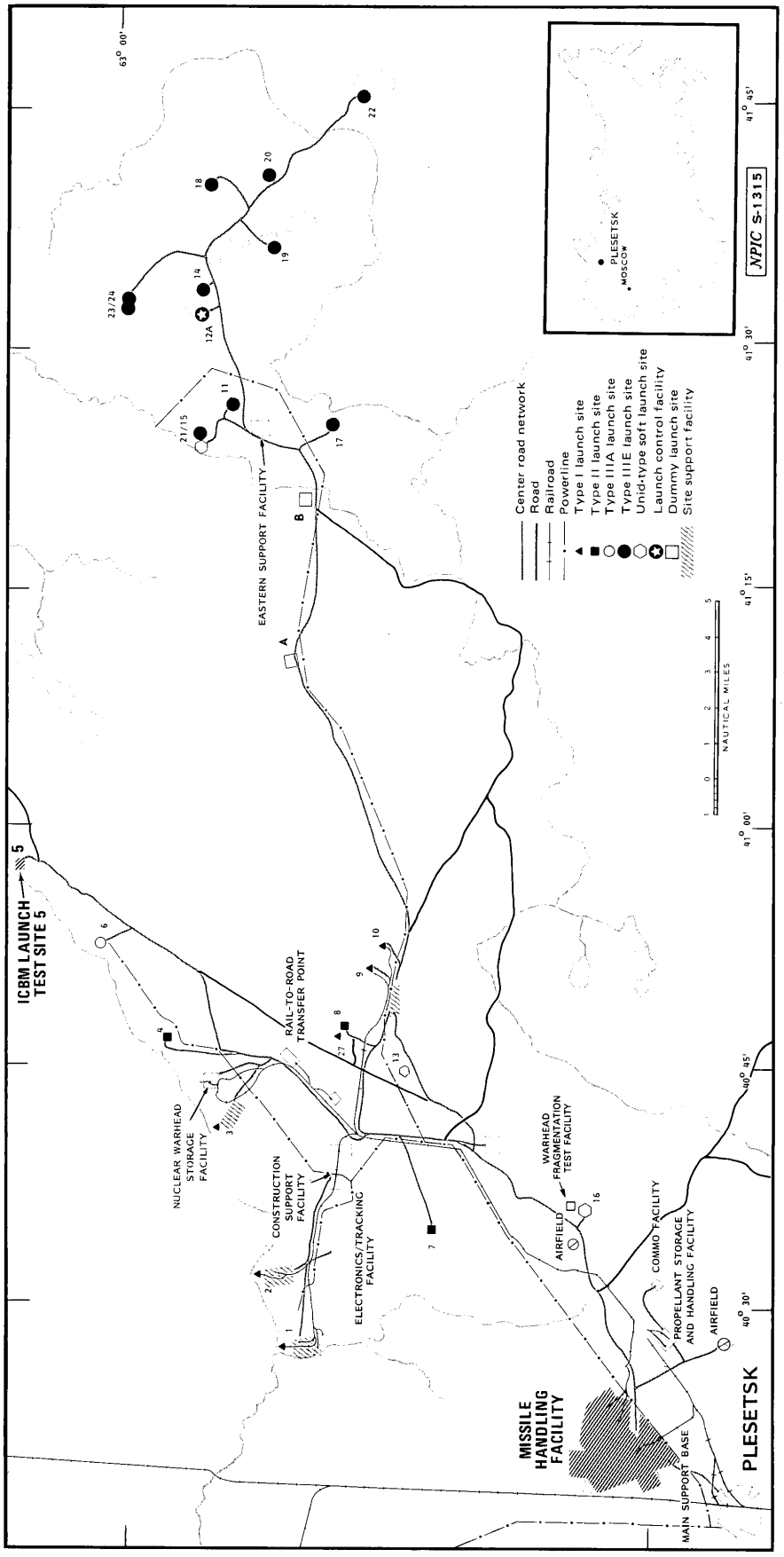

FIGURE 1. PLESETSK MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER SSM, USSR. SS-X-16 canisters have been observed at the Missile Handling Facility and ICBM Launch Test Site 5.

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Type 2 SS-X-16 Canister

7. In May 1973 a second type of SS-X-16 canister was identified alongside the Type 1 canisters at the Missile Handling Facility (Figure 3) [redacted] It consisted of a cylindrical portion [redacted] and an extension which protruded from one end. [redacted]. Type 2 canisters were later observed at ICBM Launch Test Site 5 also. 25X1 25X1 25X1

Additional SS-X-16 Canister

8. In addition to the Type 1 and Type 2 SS-X-16 canisters, a canister [redacted] was seen on the edge of the west launch pad at ICBM Launch Test Site 5 [redacted]. An extension protruded from one end and a domed cap was over the other end. Canvas draped over the canister precluded precise measurements of its diameter, the cylinder extension, and the domed cap. In addition to being the longest SS-X-16-associated canister observed at the test center, this was the only one seen on the edge of a launch pad. 25X1 25X1 25X1

Table 1. Correlation of SS-X-16 Launches and Sightings of SS-X-16 Canisters at PM/STC

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[redacted]	SS-X-16 Launch/Canister Sighting
	1st launch
	2d launch
	1st thru 3d canisters
	3d launch
	4th canister
	4th launch
	5th thru 8th canisters
	5th launch
	9th canister
	6th launch
	7th launch
	10th canister
	8th launch
	11th canister
	9th launch
	Poss 12th canister
	10th launch
	11th launch
	12th launch, 13th canister, and prob 14th canister
	15th thru 17th canisters
	13th launch
	14th launch
	18th and 19th canisters
	20th canister
	15th launch
	21st canister
	16th launch
	17th launch
	22d canister
	23d canister
	18th launch
	19th launch
	20th launch
	21st launch
	22d launch and 24th canister
	23d and 24th launches
	25th launch
	26th launch
	27th launch
	25th canister
	26th canister
	27th canister
	28th launch
	29th launch
	28th and 29th canisters
	30th launch
	30th canister

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REFERENCES

[redacted] 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheets, 0102-9 and -10, scale 1:200,000

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC. TCS-10033/75, *SS-X-16 Canister Study,* 28 Jul 75 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

RELATED DOCUMENT

NPIC. [redacted] RCA-15/0007/75, *Plesetsk Missile Handling Facility,* Jan 75 (TOP SECRET RUFF [redacted] 25X1
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REQUIREMENT

Project 121001NB

[redacted] 25X1