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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



DECLASS REVIEW by NIMA/DOD

SHAO-KUAN EXPLOSIVES  
PRODUCTION AND  
PROBABLE AMMUNITION  
LOADING PLANT NEAR  
SHAO-KUAN (CHU-CHIANG),  
CHINA

TCS-81061/65

AUGUST 1965

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## SHAO-KUAN EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION AND PROBABLE AMMUNITION LOADING PLANT NEAR SHAO-KUAN (CHU-CHIANG), CHINA

### SUMMARY

Recent good-quality photography revealed an explosives production and probable ammunition loading plant northwest of Shao-kuan (Chu-chiang), China; an associated revetted storage area is located nearby. This installation had previously been identified, on the basis of poor-quality photography, as the Suspect Ammunition Loading Plant near Chu-chiang. Although construction activity was still under way in [REDACTED], some portions of the installation were probably operational at that time. [REDACTED]

### DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The Shao-kuan Explosives Production and Probable Ammunition Loading Plant is located 8.5 nautical miles (nm) northwest of the town of Shao-kuan (Chu-chiang), China, at 24-55N 113-29E (Figure 1). The plant is situated in a bend of the Wu Shui (river) and covers an area of approximately 3 square nm on the east bank.

Collateral information indicates that in [REDACTED] a chemical plant located northwest of Shao-kuan and overtly known as a coal processing plant was reportedly producing [REDACTED] from raw materials shipped in via a newly constructed rail spur. Although the location of the reported chemical plant resembles that of this explosives

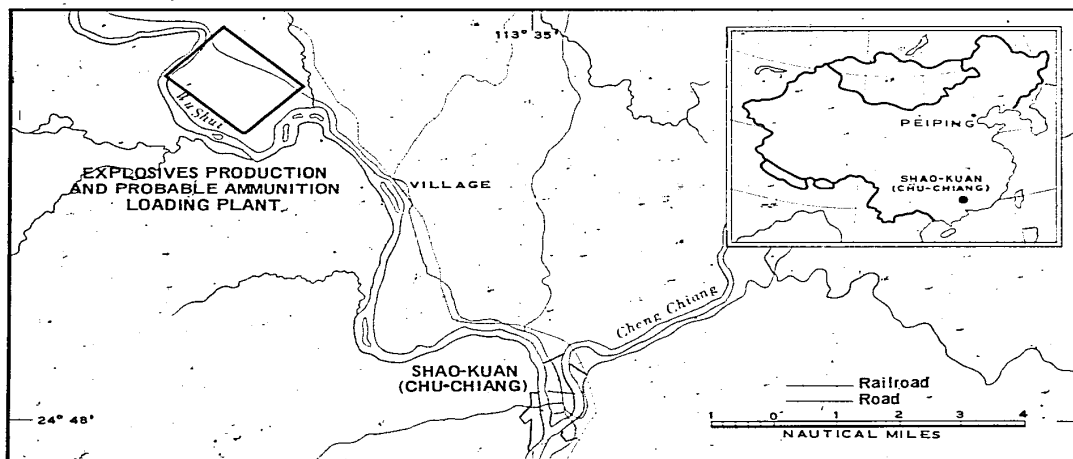


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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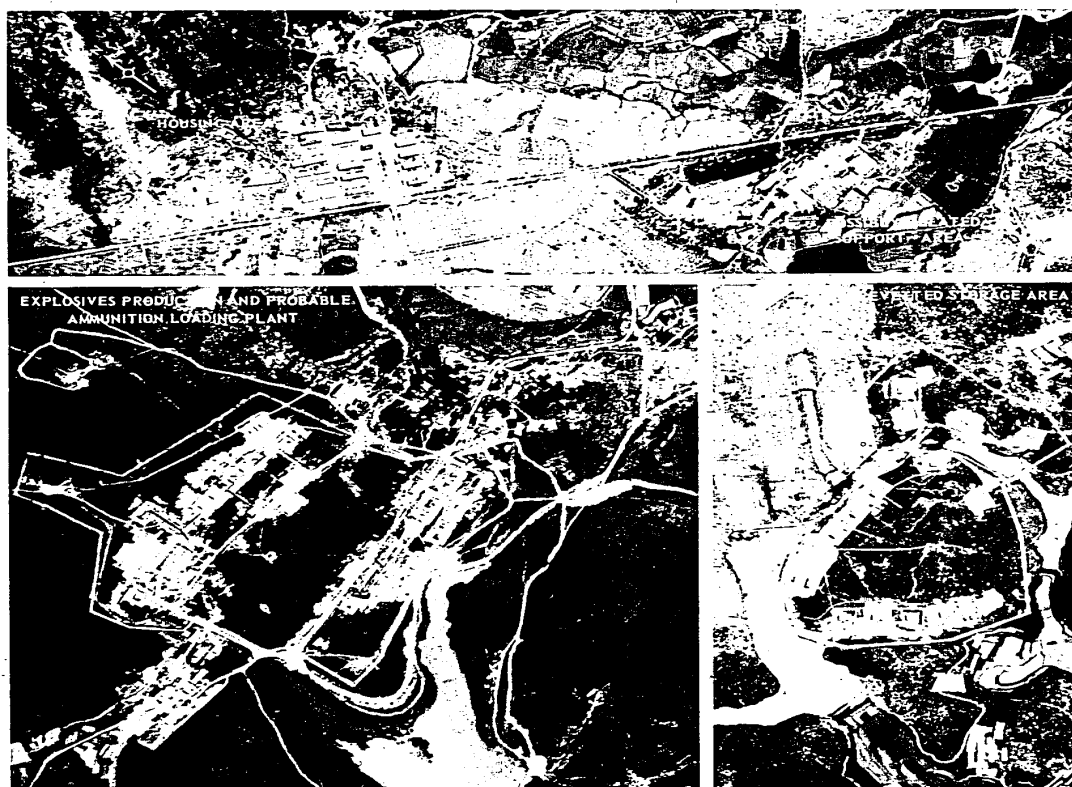


FIGURE 2. SHAO-KUAN EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION AND PROBABLE AMMUNITION LOADING PLANT, CHINA.

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Table 1. Structures at Shao-kuan Explosives Production and Probable Ammunition Loading Plant  
(Item numbers appear on Figure 3)

Item	Dimensions (ft)	Item	Dimensions (ft)	Item	Dimensions (ft)	Item	Dimensions (ft)
1	205 x 45	9	200 x 30	17	210* x 30*	25	15 x 10
2	100 x 90	10 (4)	45 x 35	18	30 x 25	26 (2)	30 x 15
3 (6)	95 x 25	11 (2)	30 x 25	19	165 x 30	27	70 x 15
4 (3)	140 x 40	12	120 x 30	20	70 x 20	28	65 x 25
5 (4)	120 x 45	13	75 x 30	21	15 x 10	29	130 x 50
6	55 x 30	14	115 x 30	22	50 x 15	30 (4)	50 x 25
7 (2)	30 x 30	15	135 x 35	23	25 x 15	31 (7)	60 x 45
8	35 x 30	16	135 x 30	24	35 x 15	32	70 x 25

\*Overall dimension.

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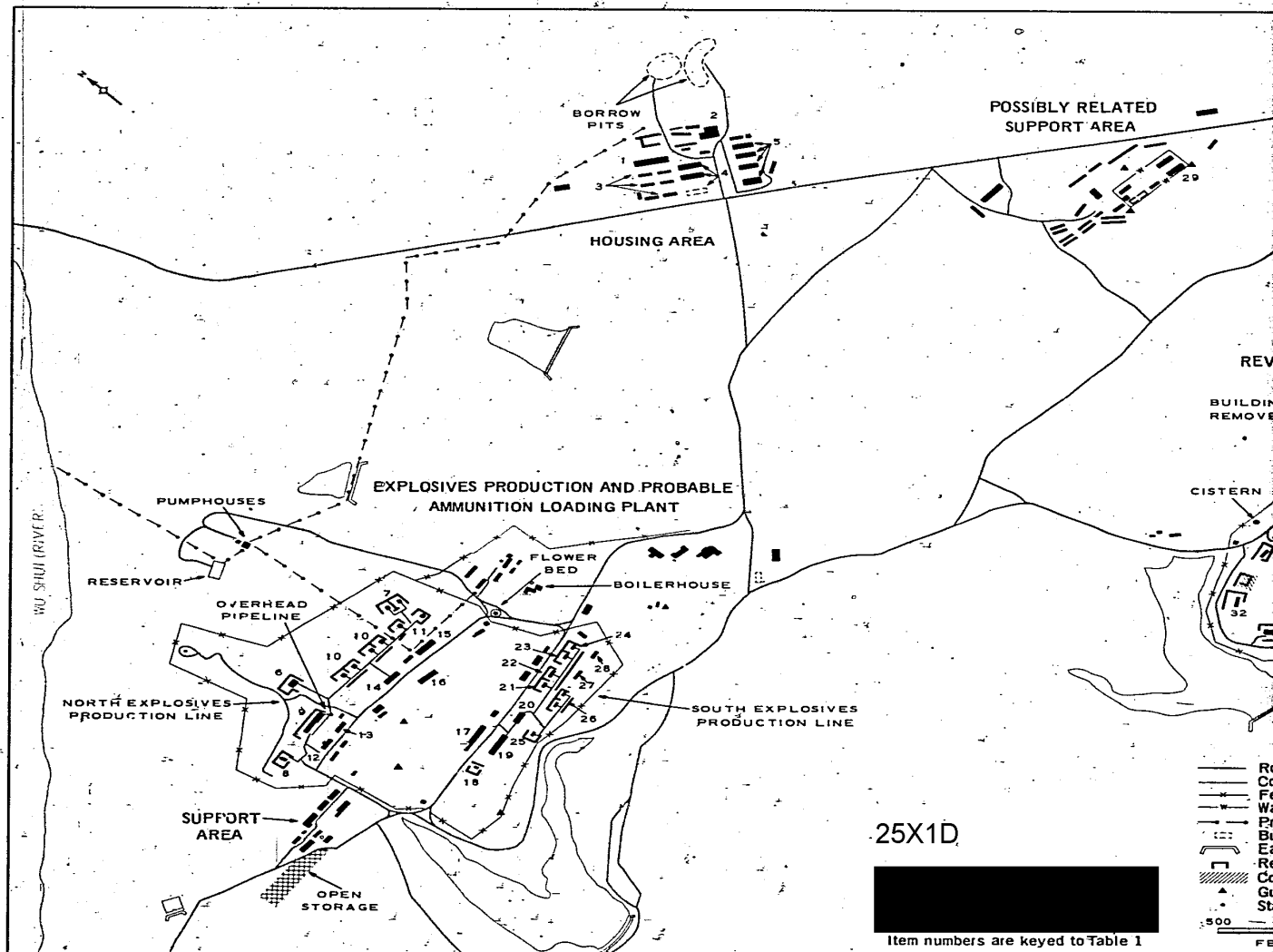


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION AND PROBABLE AMMUNITION LOADING PLANT.

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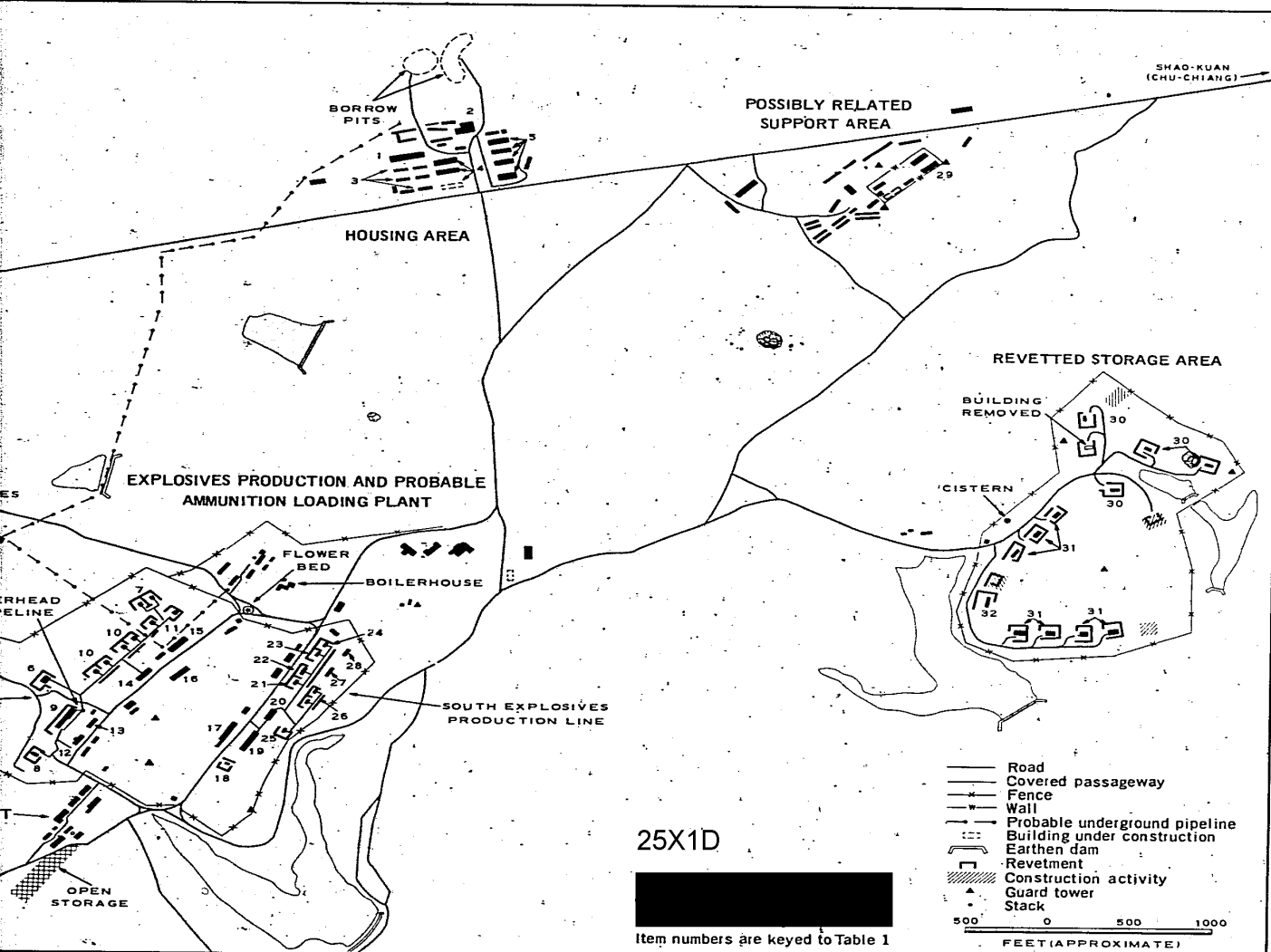


FIGURE 3. LAYOUT OF EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION AND PROBABLE AMMUNITION LOADING PLANT.

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plant, a significant resemblance between the facilities of the 2 plants is not apparent on the most recent photography.

A previous report based on poor-quality photography presented construction progress and layout details as of [REDACTED] 2/ Recent good-quality photography, including that of [REDACTED] has provided additional details, measurements, and the interpretations which follow.

The installation consists of the following sections: a secured plant containing 2 parallel explosives production lines and adjacent probable ammunition loading buildings, a secured revetted storage area for explosives, and a housing area (Figures 2 and 3). Support structures are located near the secured plant. A small walled compound east-southeast of the plant may provide additional support facilities. Table 1, which is keyed to Figure 3, presents the dimensions of various structures at the installation, and color coding of the line drawing of the plant layout (Figure 3) indicates construction progress.

The sections of the installation are interconnected by roads. The main Shao-kuan/Chen-hsien railroad passes 2 nm to the east of the production area, but there are no rail spurs in the plant vicinity. The nearest rail-to-road transfer point appears to be located along the main railroad 4.5 nm southeast of the installation at a small village at 24-52N 113-33E. No unusual rail cars have been observed in the area.

Earthen dams have been built at various locations throughout the site to stabilize the terrain and to serve as reservoirs. There is no evidence of the mining nor of the processing of coal. No unusual storage facilities are apparent.

#### EXPLOSIVES PRODUCTION AND PROBABLE AMMUNITION LOADING PLANT

The Explosives Production and Probable Ammunition Loading Plant is secured by a fence and isolated from the agricultural areas to the northeast by a second fence. Gatehouses are located at the main entrances, and guard towers are scattered throughout the area. The principal plant entrance is marked by a circular flower bed with a star-shaped interior design. Related support buildings are situated outside the security fence.

The plant contains 2 parallel explosives production lines. The northern line consists of 11 revetted structures interconnected by a covered passageway and 6 unrevetted structures, 2 of which are connected to the passageway. The revetted structures on the eastern end of the line are small gable-roofed typical explosives production or loading buildings. A larger structure at the western end of the line is connected by pipeline to a small structure outside the revetment. The southern production line is similar to the northern one, but somewhat smaller. It consists of 8 small revetted structures, 7 of which are interconnected by a covered passageway, and 5 other structures, 2 of which are connected to the passageway. The alignment and type of structures in both production lines resemble the layout for the manufacture of an intermediate-type explosive such as black powder; however, the production of initiator or bursting-type explosives cannot be discounted. It is also probable that some of these structures are used for ammunition loading.

A plant support area is located outside the secured area and immediately west of the plant; this contains an open storage area and

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several storage and support buildings. A rectangular reservoir is located on a hilltop north of the plant. Probable underground pipelines lead from the reservoir and nearby pumphouses to the river, the plant, and the Housing Area. A boilerhouse with an adjacent smokestack and several support buildings are situated east of the plant area.

Ground scarring throughout the area of the plant indicates continuing construction, but some of the older buildings are probably operational.

#### REVETTED STORAGE AREA

The Revetted Storage Area is located about 4,000 feet southeast of the plant. The area is secured by a perimeter fence, strategically placed guard towers, and a guardhouse at the single entrance. A cistern is located near the entrance. Within the secured area are 12 revetted buildings, 2 recently completed revetments, 2 areas of construction activity, and a revetment which contained a building in [REDACTED] but was empty in [REDACTED]. The average height of the revetments is 20 feet. The storage buildings are small gable-roofed typical explosives-storage buildings with single covered entrances; no roof ventilators are visible.

#### HOUSING AREA

The Housing Area is located about 3,500 feet east-northeast of the plant. It contains the following structures: a large administration building; 7 multistory housing buildings, 1 of which has been under construction since [REDACTED] 6 smaller barracks buildings, 2 of which were recently constructed; a vehicle shed; and several other support buildings. Borrow pits for fill dirt are visible immediately northeast of this area.

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#### POSSIBLY RELATED SUPPORT AREA

The Possibly Related Support Area containing a rectangular walled compound is located about 5,000 feet east-southeast of the plant. On early photographic coverage of the site this area resembled a construction camp. It could originally have been used to house prisoners and may now be an agricultural storage area. The walled compound has guard towers at 2 corners and another on 1 side. The compound formerly contained several small buildings which have been razed; the most recent photography reveals within the walls a large recently constructed storage building, a similar building under construction, and 4 smaller buildings. Numerous low sheds are located outside the wall.

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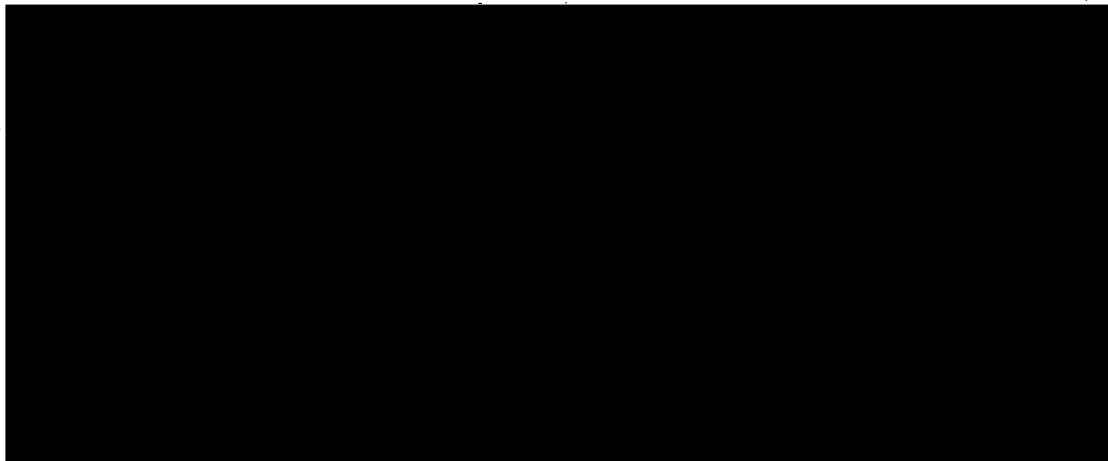
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REFERENCES



MAPS OR CHARTS

DIA. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0498-16HL, 2d ed, Mar 64, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

DOCUMENTS

25X1A

1. Air. Hq 6499th Support Group. [REDACTED] (C) Shao-kuan (2448N/11335E, Gaz 22) Chemical Plant, 25 Oct 62 (CONFIDENTIAL/No Foreign Dissem)
2. NPIC. R-260/63, Suspect Ammunition Loading Plant, Near Chu-chiang (Shao-kuan), China, Nov 63 (TOP SECRET RUFF/No Foreign Dissem)

REQUIREMENT

CIA/OSI. C-SI5-82,208

NPIC PROJECT

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