

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Arad Military Airfield	DATE DISTR.	21 December 1955 25X1
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	6
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
DATE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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Aircraft and Aircraft Activity

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- The Arad military airfield is located north of the city, six kilometers from the Arad railroad station, between the Arad-Bekescsaba (Hungary) and the Arad-Sfanta Ana railroad lines. The southeast corner of the airfield is directly on the Arad-Sfanta Ana railroad line; the northwest corner of the airfield is directly on the Arad-Bekescsaba railroad line. The field is 3,000 meters long, running in a northwest-southeast direction, and 1,400 meters wide.
- The following numbers and types of aircraft were stationed at the airfield:
 - 18 IL-10 aircraft;
 - 38 MIG-15 aircraft;
 - 2 biplane aircraft for communication purposes; and
 - 1 twin-engine LI-2 transport plane.
- The aircraft are parked on the field in groups of six, with three groups of six always close together. The aircraft are gray in color. The MIGs have a high gloss finish with a red circle on the nose. The other aircraft have a dull finish.
- MIG aircraft are usually aloft for 30 to 35 minutes, but often stay in the air for only 15 to 20 minutes. IL-10 aircraft also make short daily flights, but sometime stay in the air for one to two hours. Fighter squadrons often remain aloft for a longer period of time and it is not unusual for these units to be absent from the airfield for several days.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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5. Aircraft usually fly solo during short flights. In formation, two planes fly as a pair so that the second aircraft flies under and in front of the plane which took off first. In staggered flights, three pairs of airplanes fly in a line or wedge. Since 1954, a formation is used in which the pairs fly one above the other, so that the first pair fly at the lowest level and the last pair fly at the highest level.
6. Night flights are made both by MIGs and by IL-10s. Fighters fly in any kind of weather, but IL-10 planes fly in bad weather only in exceptional cases.
7. Aircraft take off at intervals so that the second plane receives its starting signal when the first plane is already in the air. If a take-off is made from both runways, the planes take off simultaneously. However, aircraft operating as a pair usually take off from the same runway. Under conditions of poor visibility, and at night, the interval between take-offs is lengthened. At night, the plane in the air gives a rocket signal and the second plane does not take off before receiving this signal.
8. Frequently aircraft come to the Arad airfield from airfields at Timisoara-South, Timisoara-North, Sfanta Ana, and Calnic.
9. The crew of the aircraft is changed after each short flight. In general, in one flying day only one flight consisting of six planes of the squadron goes aloft, and the personnel is changed after each landing.
10. Refueling is always done by tank trucks and the refueling time varies between five and 15 minutes. Normally, aircraft are not fully fueled.

Antiaircraft Artillery Installations

11. On each side of the field in line with the runway, there are concrete antiaircraft gun emplacements which accommodate a four-gun battery. The emplacements are usually unoccupied, being used only for practice maneuvers or, in cases of an alert, by batteries of the antiaircraft artillery regiment stationed at Arad and equipped with 85-millimeter antiaircraft guns. These units are said to have radar equipment. The emplacements for the antiaircraft machine guns of the ground troops consist of earth foundations covered with squares of sod. They are equipped with 37-millimeter antiaircraft guns. In addition to six 37-millimeter automatic cannons, the airfield has nine 12.7-millimeter antiaircraft machine guns which have no fixed emplacements.

Radar

12. On the south side of the field, a permanent radar station is located in a 10 by 10 meter blockhouse. On the roof of the blockhouse, there are two semi-circular radar screens on a round iron column. The length of the screens is about 10 meters. The semi-circular curve is about 3.5 to four meters and the height of the screen section is about 1.5 meters. The radar station is served by Rumanian personnel of the ground crew battalion. The radar screen could be rotated up to 170 degrees in a horizontal direction, but could be moved only 10 to 12 degrees vertically.

Buildings and Runways

13. There are seven buildings and a barracks complex located at the field:

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- a. In the center of the west side of the field there are four concrete hangars, each 85 by 50 meters, painted gray, with flat roofs camouflaged to look like earth;
- b. One 50 by 20 meter two-story building, painted gray, with a flat roof. The airfield headquarters is located in this building.
- c. One two-story building, 50 by 20 meters, painted gray, with the roof camouflaged to look like earth; also a building for the airfield guard, offices, and storerooms;
- d. One eight by eight meter, 18 to 20 meters high, control tower, painted gray;
- e. The barracks complex, southwest of the hangars, consisting of the following:
 - 1) Six 40 by 15 meter two-story buildings;
 - 2) One assembly hall;
 - 3) A three-story headquarters building with a flat roof;
 - 4) An E-shaped two-story warehouse; and
 - 5) Two rows of garages.

14. There are no buildings under construction and there is no construction material on the airfield. Civilians from Arad and Timisoara work on repairs.

15. The airfield has two concrete runways, each 2,400 meters long and 40 meters wide, running parallel in the middle of the field from southeast to northwest. East of the hangars, there is a 700 by 100 meter concrete taxi apron.

Radio and Illumination

16. [Redacted] the radio station in the control tower is equipped with an R-12 type installation. The antenna on the roof of the control tower resembles an inverted umbrella. Moreover [Redacted] there is another radio station in the headquarters building in the barracks complex. There is a spherical antenna 1.5 meters in diameter on the roof of this headquarters building.

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17. Four 1,800-millimeter searchlights of Soviet make are mounted on three-axle Skoda diesel trucks on the field. Red and yellow lights, one meter long, are installed 30 meters apart on the edge of the runway. Red neon lights are installed on the roof of the control tower and on the hangars. Wedge-shaped lights on concrete disks are arranged on the ground in a line with the runways beyond their ends.

Fuel and Ammunition

18. The fuel depot, 150 meters south of the south corner of the airfield, occupies an area of 200 by 80 meters, south of the airfield siding.

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The fuel depot consists of four underground, cylindrical, concrete tanks with a capacity of 10 tons each, and four cast-iron tanks with a capacity of five carloads each. The latter are above ground but sunken and entrenched with earth.

19. Zigzag trenches run along the west front of the hangars. There is a 15 by 15 meter ammunition bunker on the grounds of the barracks complex.

Troops

20. The troops at the airfield include the following:
- a. One joint aviation regiment; strength 1,200 men; and
 - b. One ground crew battalion; strength 420 men.
21. Shoulder straps are light blue with insignia showing the type of arms. No numbers are ever worn on the shoulder straps.
22. The Commanding Officer of the joint aviation regiment and of the airfield, [redacted] was Lt. Col. Vladimir Tundrea; the Commanding Officer of the ground crew battalion was Capt. Ivan Pop; the Commanding Officer of the fighter squadron was Lt. Col. Constantin Munteanu.

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Railroad Connections and Transport

23. The airfield has a standard-gauge siding, branching off the Arad-Sfanta Ana line toward the west. Two automatic pumps are installed at the central fuel depot. The siding ends at the barracks complex at an L-shaped ramp. Six to seven times a month, four 10-ton tank cars and open or closed freight cars, drawn to the field by old shunt locomotives, arrive from Arad. The cars have the initials CFR. One train carries only one type of freight, either fuel only or ammunition only, or coal only. The average train is made up of only three cars. Supplies are brought by freight and tank cars. Food supplies are trucked from military warehouses in Arad.

Vehicles

24. The following vehicles were observed at the airfield:
- a. Skoda-type diesel trucks, ZIS and GSEPEL diesels; Buessing-NAG repair trucks;
 - b. Skoda diesel trucks and Wippen communications trucks of the ground crew battalion.
25. The aviation regiment has six 5-ton, ZIS-type fuel tank trucks. The ground crew battalion has two ZIS-type tank trucks. The repair trucks have hoists and the usual repair equipment. The communications trucks are equipped with built-in switchboards and radio sets.

Guardposts and Fences

26. There are day and night posts at the gate of the barracks complex, at the gate of the aviation field, and at the ammunition bunker. There are two posts at the fuel depots. At night, there is one post at the hangars and another by the unprotected aircraft parked on the field.

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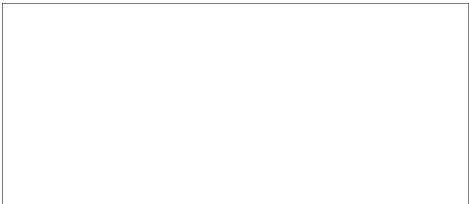
27. The airfield is surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The barracks complex and the fuel depot are each surrounded by separate barbed wire fences. There is no "prohibited area". North and south of the airfield, there are state farms at which only farm employees can stay.

28. The following is a legend for the attached sketch:

- 1 - Concrete runways
- 2 - Parking area for the fighter squadron
- 3 - Parking area for the combat squadron
- 4 - Antiaircraft artillery emplacements
- 5 - Antiaircraft machine gun emplacements
- 6 - Electric power trunk line
- 7 - Permanent radar station
- 8 - Concrete apron northeast of the hangars
- 9 - Hangars
- 10 - Aviation field headquarters
- 11 - Control tower
- 12 - Airfield guard house and offices
- 13 - Barracks complex
- 14 - Take-off and landing lights
- 15 - Central fuel depot
- 16 - Ammunition bunker
- 17 - Aviation field siding
- 18 - Unloading ramp

Comment: This airfield is not the same as the civilian airfield which is located on the southwest edge of Arad, north of the Mures River.

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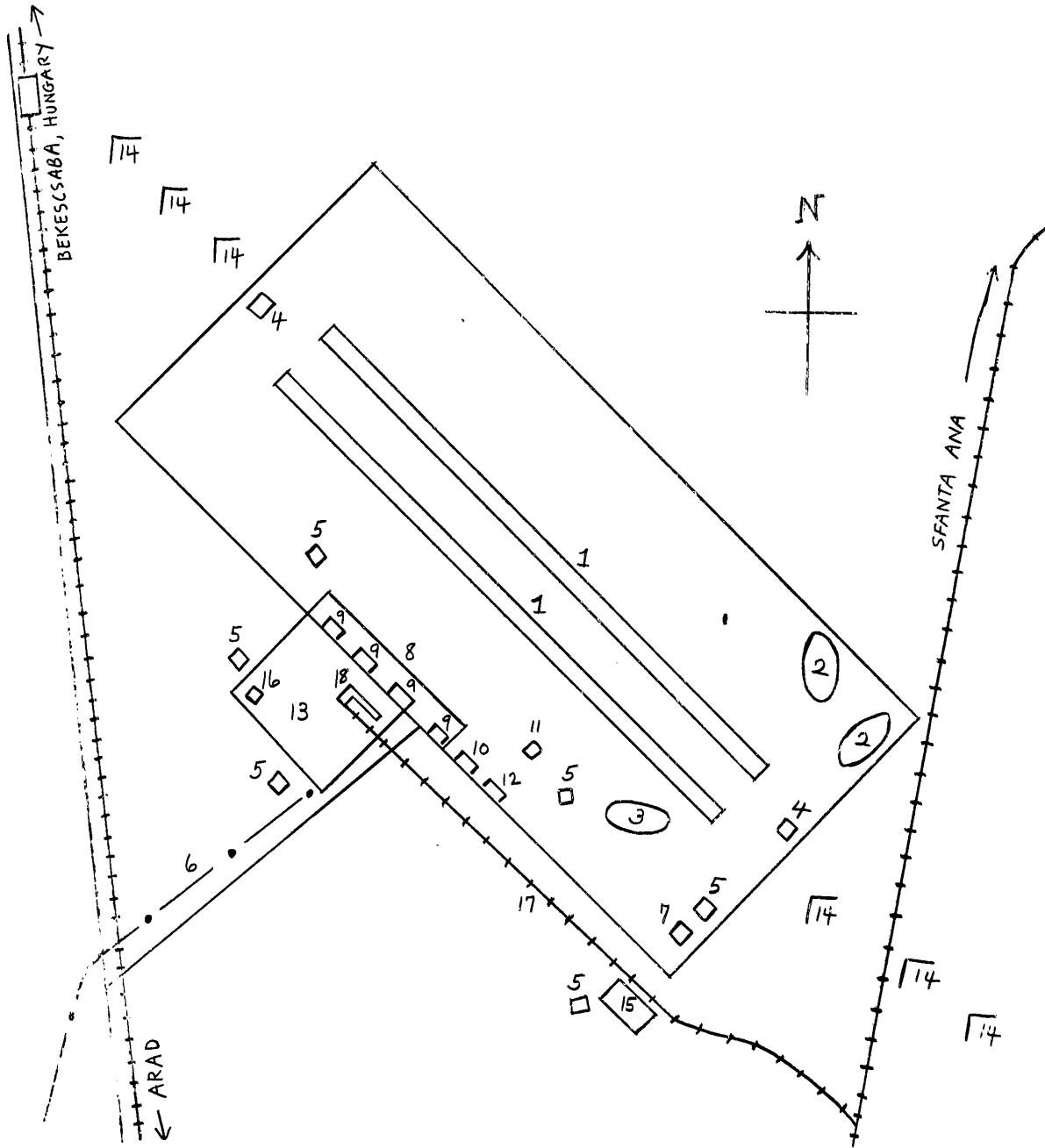
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ARAD MILITARY AIRFIELD



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