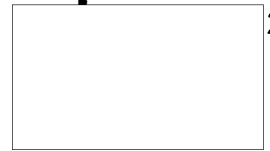


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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Imagery analysis report

**Warhead Mating Exercise Underway at
Dengshahe (Tong-sha-ho) SSM Field
Training Position 1/2, PRC (TSR)**

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WARHEAD MATING EXERCISE UNDERWAY AT DENGSHAHE (TENG-SHA-HO) SSM FIELD TRAINING POSITION 1/2, PRC (TSR)

1. (TSR) A warhead mating exercise was observed underway at Dengshahe (Teng-Sha-Ho) SSM Field Training Position 1/2 [redacted] in the People's Republic of China (PRC) on [redacted] (Figure 1). This exercise demonstrated the capability of the Chinese to perform direct transfer of a weapon from a warhead van to a missile. The imagery also provided details of the interior of the warhead van.

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2. (TSR) A CSS-1 missile with a warhead was in the horizontal position on a CSS-1 transporter/erector at position 1. A warhead van with the roof and rear doors open was in front of the missile. The van was backing up to the missile and was guided by personnel standing behind, to one side, and in front of the van (Figures 1 and 2). Inside the van, a cradle in the bed of the vehicle appeared to be mounted on rails which would allow it to be moved forward or aft after the van had been aligned with the missile. If the cradle also has a hydraulic lift mechanism, this would allow it to be raised for a proper fit with the warhead, which would be advantageous in the field where the terrain can be irregular. The absence of a crane or other lifting equipment during the mating procedure supports this hypothesis. A similar procedure has been observed in the Soviet Union where a warhead is mounted by transferring it from a truck to an SS-4 or SS-5 missile without using a crane or other lifting equipment.¹ Also, a light-toned panel, which may be protective shielding for the warhead, was observed on each side of the cradle along the interior wall of the van.

3. (TSR) Because this is the training position for the Dengshahe (Teng-sha-ho) SSM Field Garrison [redacted] the warhead on the CSS-1 missile was probably inert since a live warhead could be damaged in an extensive training exercise such as this. However, the inert warhead would probably duplicate the size, weight, and center of gravity of a live warhead.

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REFERENCES

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC, [redacted] PIR-011/76, *Soviet MRBM/IRBM Warhead-Mating and Handling Procedures*, USSR, Jul 76 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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