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basic imagery interpretation report

Qinhuangdao (Chin-huang-tao) Cruise Missile Depot (S)

STRATEGIC WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

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PRC

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY
Qinhuangdao (Chin-huang-tao) Cruise Missile Depot					CH
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO.	COMIREX NO.	NIETB NO.
NA	40-01-48N 119-27-23E				25X1

MAP REFERENCE

SAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0289-23, scale 1:200,000

LATEST IMAGERY USED	NEGATION DATE (If required)
	NA 25X1

ABSTRACT

1. (TSR) This report presents an imagery-derived analysis of activity observed at Qinhuangdao (Chin-huang-tao) Cruise Missile Depot, Heibei (Hubei) Province, People's Republic of China (PRC), since January 1972. This depot is the only cruise missile depot in the North Sea Fleet area.

2. (TSR) The depot is a multipurpose fleet support installation, the major function of which is STYX cruise missile support and storage; minor functions include storage and maintenance of unidentified munitions and specialized missile and munitions support vehicles.

3. (TSR) Events observed at Qinhuangdao since 1972 include the completion of the installation as a SAM and cruise missile depot, the cessation of SAM activity at the depot, and a doubling of covered storage area.

4. (TSR) Chinese CSA-1 (SA-2) SAM missile equipment was the first equipment to be identified at the depot after construction of the facility was completed in January 1972. SSM activity was first observed in August 1972 with the observation of CSS-N-1 (STYX) type A crates. Both the CSA-1 and the STYX missile systems remained at the depot until August 1975, after which CSA-1 equipment was no longer observed. In 1975, the first of the depot expansion programs was completed. Since then, STYX missile crates and associated equipment have predominated in order-of-battle observations. A brief description of the STYX missile system and its capabilities is provided in Appendix A to this report.

5. (U) This report contains a location map, seven annotated photographs, a chart, and a table of mensural and chronological data.

INTRODUCTION

6. (TSR) The Qinhuangdao Cruise Missile Depot is the only cruise missile depot in the North Sea Fleet area. The depot is west of the Bohai (Po-Hai) Gulf in a series of ravines in the coastal mountains 8.4 nautical miles (nm) northwest of the city of Qinhuangdao (Figure 1).

7. (TSR) The depot (Figure 2) consists of three operational areas—a torpedo handling/storage area (Figure 3); a cruise missile (STYX) handling/storage area (Figure 4); and an operations and munitions handling/storage area (Figure 4). A large administration facility (Figure 5), 0.5 nm west of the depot, probably provides administrative support to the depot. Access to the depot area is provided via hard-surfaced roads and a nearby rail-to-road transfer point. Security is moderate; entry is controlled at gates and by fences and difficult terrain.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

Operational Areas

8. (TSR) The operational areas of the cruise missile depot consist of 51 buildings/structures, 20 adits, and three bunkers in a series of interconnected mountain ravines (Figure 6 and Table 1).

9. (TSR) The torpedo handling/storage area (Figures 3 and 6) consists of two torpedo handling buildings, a narrow-gauge track, and two adits. The narrow-gauge track connects the torpedo handling buildings to the adits. Large stacks of torpedo crates (body and warhead) are generally observed piled near the adit entrances. The torpedo handling/storage facility has been in existence since 1972.

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10. (TSR) The cruise missile (STYX) handling/storage area (Figure 6) consists of two buildings, five adits, and a large open-air storage area. Depot maintenance functions are probably carried out within the hillside. STYX missile crates (types A, B, and C)[1] have been seen routinely in open-air storage areas adjacent to the five adits since August 1972. The large open-air storage area was graded and completed in 1978. Cruise missile equipment previously observed stored in small areas scattered throughout the depot and along the roads was placed in ordered storage in this area (Figure 7).

11. (TSR) The operations and munitions handling/storage area (Figure 6) consists of 47 buildings/structures, 13 adits, three bunkers, and numerous small open-air storage areas. The operations portion of this area is centrally situated and consists of a steamplant, messhall, barracks, administration buildings, storage areas, vehicle storage buildings, and animal pens. The munitions handling/storage portion consists of 13 adits, several small buildings situated along the sides of small ravines, and small open-air storage areas.

Related Installation

12. (TSR) The large administration facility, 0.5 nm west of the perimeter of the operational areas, consists of a large, six-wing, multistory administration building with a single storage/support building attached at the rear; two probable hospital buildings; five barracks/quarters buildings, seven administration buildings; and numerous small support buildings (Figure 5).

Construction Chronology

13. (TSR) When the depot was identified in January 1972, construction was complete and initial operations were underway. Thirty-two buildings with a total roof area of approximately 8,700 square meters were complete. By 1975, 14 buildings/structures with a total area of approximately 7,500 square meters had been constructed. Two buildings totaling 368 square meters of roof cover were completed in 1978, and three buildings totaling approximately 1,100 square meters of roof area were under construction in late 1978. The overall result of these expansion programs has been a 59-percent increase in the number of buildings (from 32 to 51) and a doubling of roof-covered area (from 8,700 to 17,768 square meters) from 1972 through 1978.

FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF QINHUANGDAO CRUISE MISSILE DEPOT, PRC

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Order-of-Battle

SAM Equipment

14. (TSR) CSA-1 launchers and support equipment associated with the CSA-1 SAM system were at Qinhuangdao when the depot was identified on [ ] CSA-1-associated equipment was routinely observed at the depot until [ ] With the exception of a few stored trucks (Figure 8), no discernible evidence of SAM equipment has been seen since 1975.

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Cruise Missile Equipment

15. (TSR) STYX type A crates were first observed at the depot in August 1972; STYX type B crates in April 1973; and STYX type C crates in December 1978 (Figure 9). Other STYX-associated equipment and support vehicles have been seen routinely at Qinhuangdao since they were first identified at the depot in 1972. This equipment was previously stored in small areas scattered throughout the depot but has been stored in the large open-air area since 1978, when the area was completed. Appendix A to this report provides a brief description of the STYX cruise missile system and a tabular listing of the North Sea Fleet STYX firing units.[1]

Torpedo Equipment

16. (TSR) Torpedo crates, crate transporter trucks, and crate handling equipment have been observed continually since the depot was first operational.

Imagery Analyst's Comments

17. (TSR) The Qinhuangdao depot was built to meet the need for a defensive missile handling facility in the North Sea Fleet area. During the first few years that the depot was observed, both SAM and cruise missile equipment (crates, canisters, vehicles, etc.) were seen together. A China-wide increase in the deployment of both systems apparently dictated that the two systems be separately supported. By 1975, both systems had been deployed in numbers substantial enough to warrant a dedicated maintenance facility for each, and since then no SAM equipment has been seen at the depot. The large capital expenditure necessary for the construction and expansion of this depot illustrates the PRC's reliance on the STYX missile system and presages an expanded use of the system in the immediate future.

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Table 1.
Buildings/Structures in Operational Areas of Qinhuangdao Cruise Missile Depot
(Keyed to Figure 6)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF

Item	Function	Dimensions L (m)	Dimensions W (m)	Floorspace (sq m)	Year Completed
1	Vehicle stor/maint bldg				1975
2	Vehicle stor/maint bldg				1975
3	Latrine				1975
4	Misc support bldg				1975
5	Misc support bldg				1972
6	Misc support bldg				1972
7*	Misc support bldg				1972
8	Misc support bldg				1972
9	Misc support bldg				1972
10	Misc support bldg				1972
11	Vehicle-assoc support bldg				1972
12*	Misc stor/support bldg				1972
13	Admin/support bldg				Ucon
14	Misc support bldg				1972
15	Misc support bldg				1972
16	Misc support bldg				1972
17	Misc support bldg				1972
18a	Livestock barn				1975
b	Livestock pen				1975
c	Livestock pen				1975
19	Thermal powerplant-assoc support bldg				1972
20*	Thermal powerplant				1972
21	Prob missile support bldg				1972
22a*	Prob missile support				1975
b*	Prob missile support				1975
23	Admin/support bldg				1975
24	Admin/personnel support bldg				1972
25	Admin/personnel support bldg				1972
26	Vehicle-assoc support bldg				1972
27	Latrine				1972
28	Misc support bldg				1975
29	Misc support bldg				1975
30	Misc support bldg				1975
31	Vehicle-assoc support bldg				1972
32	Admin/support bldg				Ucon
33	Barracks				1978
34	Messhall				1978
35	Misc support bldg				1975
36	Munitions stor bldg				1972
37	Munitions stor bldg				1972
38*	Misc support bldg				1972
39	Munitions stor bldg				1972
40	Guardhouse				1972
41	Misc support bldg				Ucon
42	Misc support bldg				1972
43	Misc support bldg				1972
44	Torpedo handling (fuel) bldg				1972
45	Torpedo handling (checkout) bldg				1972
46	Vehicle shed				1972
47*	Barracks				1972
48	Barracks				1972
49	Bunker				1972
50	Bunker				1978
51	Bunker				Ucon
Adits					
A	Torpedo stor	Not measurable			1972
B	Torpedo stor	Not measurable			1972
C	Munitions stor	Not measurable			1972
D	Munitions stor	Not measurable			1972
E	Cruise missile handling	Not measurable			1972
F	Cruise missile handling	Not measurable			1972
G	Cruise missile handling	Not measurable			1972
H	Propellant stor	Not measurable			1972
I	Propellant stor	Not measurable			1972
J	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
K	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
L	Misc stor	Not measurable			1978
M	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
N	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
O	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
P	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
Q	Misc stor	Not measurable			1972
R	Fuel stor	Not measurable			1972
S	Fuel stor	Not measurable			1972
T	Fuel stor	Not measurable			1972

*Irregular in shape, overall dimensions listed.

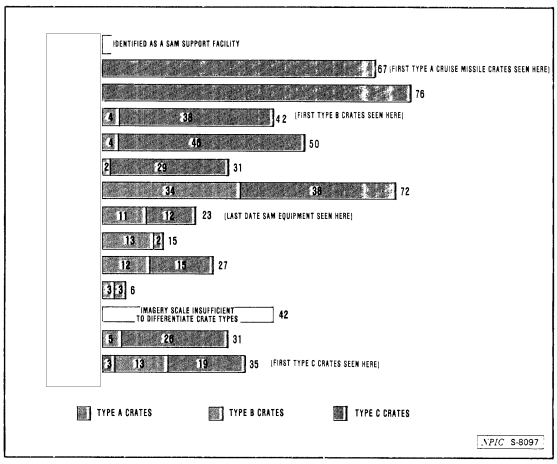

FIGURE 9. STYX CRATE ORDER-OF-BATTLE SINCE 1972, QINHUANGDAO CRUISE MISSILE DEPOT

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All relevant KEYHOLE imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0289-23, scale 1:200,000

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC, [redacted] PIR-033/79, *Types of Chinese Cruise Missile Crates (S)*, May 79 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

2. NPIC, [redacted] PIR-080/74, *STYX Missile Activity, Chin-huang-Tao SAM Support Facility, China*, Jan 75 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

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4. DIA, [redacted] DDB-1200-133-78-SAO, *PRC Cruise Missile Network: Development, Deployment, and Interrelationships (U)*, Sep 78 (TOP SECRET [redacted])

5. DIA, DDB-1200-107-78, *Naval Order of Battle (NOB) Vol VII, People's Republic of China and Eastern Asia (U)*, Aug 78 (SECRET [redacted])

*TCO/NPIC has determined that extracted information from reference documents 3, 4, and 5 is SECRET/-[redacted]

REQUIREMENT

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Project 290001DJ

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

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