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Naval Activity at
Dehalak Island
Ethiopia (S)



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Naval Activity at Dehalak Island Ethiopia

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GLOSSARY OF NAVAL TERMS

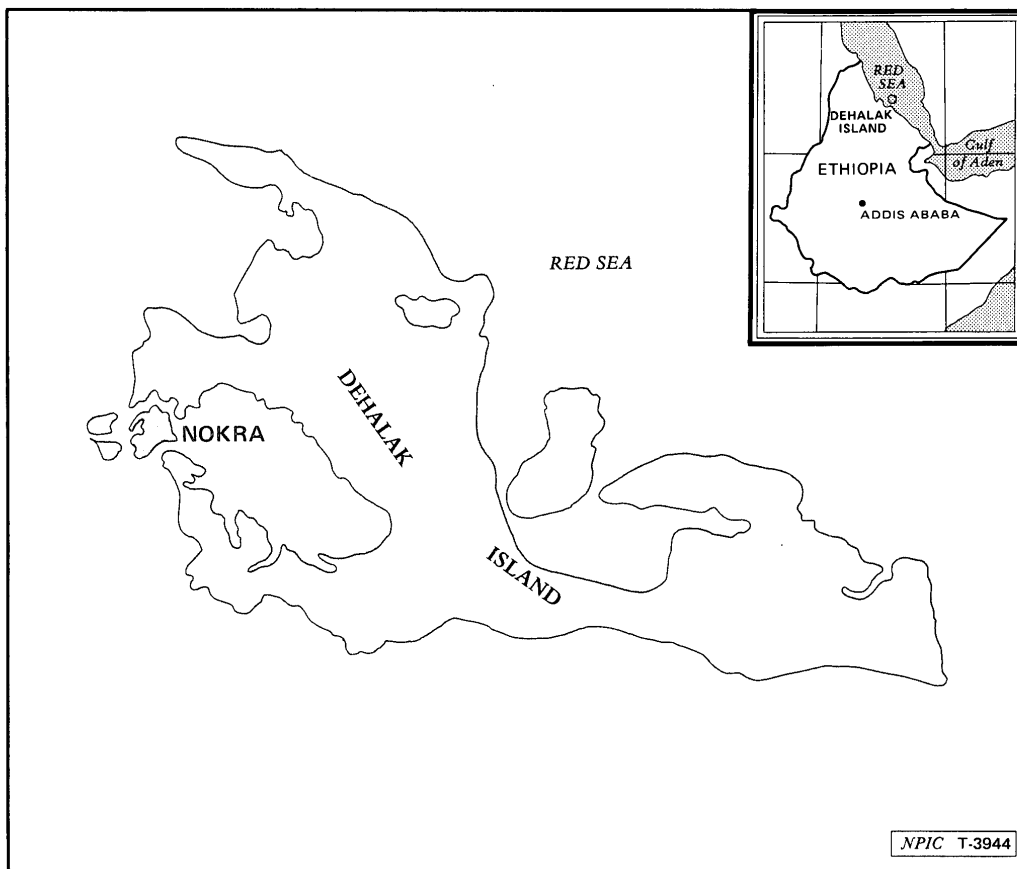
AG	Miscellaneous auxiliary ship	LCM	Medium landing craft
AGI	Intelligence collection ship	LCU	Utility landing craft
AGL	Buoy tender	LSM	Medium amphibious assault landing ship
AGOR	Oceanographic research ship	LST	Amphibious vehicle landing ship
AH	Hospital ship	MSF	Fleet minesweeper
AOR	Replenishment oiler	PB	Patrol boat
AR	Repair ship	PT	Torpedo boat
AS	Submarine tender	PTG	Missile attack boat
ATA	Fleet ocean tug	SS	Attack submarine
CL	Light cruiser	SSGN	Nuclear-powered cruise missile attack submarine
DD	Destroyer	SSN	Nuclear-powered attack submarine
DDG	Guided missile destroyer	YO	Fuel lighter
FF	Frigate		
FFG	Guided missile frigate		

NAVAL ACTIVITY AT DEHALAK ISLAND, ETHIOPIA (S)

1. (S/D) This report provides information on naval activity observed at Dehalak Island Naval Support Facility [redacted] Ethiopia, between [redacted]. This report contains a glossary of naval terms, a location map, a table of chronological data, and seven annotated photographs.

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2. (S/D) Dehalak Island Naval Support Facility is on the eastern side of Nokra Island on the western edge of a group of islands in the Red Sea referred to as Dehalak Island (Figure 1). This facility is a Soviet naval maintenance and support base utilized by Soviet vessels and naval infantry units. Occasionally, Ethiopian and South Yemeni vessels utilize the Soviet facilities there. The first evidence of Soviet presence at Dehalak Island was the identification of an 8,500-ton floating drydock which arrived in early April 1978. Prior to the Soviet departure from Somalia, this drydock was in Berbera. The drydock was then moved to Aden, South Yemen, where it remained until it was brought to Dehalak Island. This drydock is the primary maintenance and repair facility for the Soviet Indian Ocean Fleet. When the Soviets first arrived

**FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF DEHALAK ISLAND NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY, DEHALAK ISLAND, ETHIOPIA**

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at Dehalak Island, they occupied a former police post which consisted of 17 structures, 13 of which were in disrepair (Figure 2A). By the end of 1980, the facility had been expanded by the addition of a floating finger pier, a POL storage facility, two helicopter landing pads, and 13 newly constructed buildings (Figure 2B). Also, of the 13 structures in disrepair prior to the Soviet arrival, eight had been repaired and five had been razed.

3. (S/D) Expansion of the facility at Dehalak Island continued during 1981 and 1982. By late February 1981, construction of a second floating finger pier just south of the existing pier had been completed (Figure 2C). Two large buildings and two storage sheds were complete in early June 1981. A second POL storage facility with 40 horizontal storage tanks was in the final stages of construction at the end of the reporting period. The arrival of a Soviet PSKL-16 stores ship on [] has also increased the support capability of this facility.

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4. (S/D) Five Soviet vessels appear to be permanently based at Dehalak Island. Since its arrival in April 1978, the 8,500-ton floating drydock has been anchored in the roadstead just south of the piers. Since its arrival in May 1981, the PSKL-16 stores ship has been moored at the north pier, and an Amur AR has been at Dehalak Island approximately 400 of the 424 days of this reporting period. Furthermore, the frequent presence of a Goryn ATA and a Toplivo YO suggests the permanent basing of these two vessels at Dehalak Island. The Toplivo YO, when not at Dehalak Island, has frequently been seen at Mitsiwa Port Facilities [], an Ethiopian port approximately 30 nautical miles west of Dehalak Island.

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5. (S/D) The 8,500-ton floating drydock at Dehalak Island has also been utilized by both Ethiopian and South Yemeni vessels. Two visits to the drydock by South Yemeni vessels occurred during the reporting period. The first, on [] involved a Polnocny LSM and an Osa-II PTG. The second visit, in June, consisted of a Ropucha LST and an Osa-II PTG (Figure 3A). On at least 10 occasions, from one to four Ethiopian vessels have used the drydock (Figure 3B). The ships observed have included a majority of the Ethiopian naval order-of-battle. These consisted of the Osa-II PTG, the Ethiopian AG (US-built Barne-gat-class), the 105-foot Swiftships PB, the Edic-II LCU, the Mol PT, the Kraljevica PB, and the T-4 LCM.

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6. (S/D) A probable small Soviet naval infantry contingent is also deployed on Dehalak Island. This contingent is equipped with two BTR-60 armored personnel carriers and two ZSU-23/4 self-propelled antiaircraft guns. This unit probably serves as an onsite security force. Evidence of other Soviet naval infantry presence in Ethiopia has been observed at this facility. Two visits of an Alligator LST (from September through November 1981 and in January 1982) involved offloading of Soviet naval infantry units (Figure 4). During these visits, approximately 15 vehicles were on the deck of the Alligator LST. In addition, from ten to 12 BTR-60s and from two to four tanks were brought ashore.

7. (S/D) The large number of Soviet ships observed at Dehalak Island provides continuing evidence of the Soviet commitment to the Dehalak Island facility. Eleven visits by Soviet submarines were observed during the reporting period (Figure 5). The following is a list of the submarines that visited the installation between []

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Submarine	Date First Seen	Date Last Seen	Submarine	Date First Seen	Date Last Seen
Echo-II SSGN			Victor-I SSN		
Foxtrot SS			Foxtrot SS		
Foxtrot SS			Charlie-I SSGN		
Foxtrot SS			Foxtrot SS		
Echo-II SSGN			Charlie-I SSGN		
Victor-II SSN					

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8. (S/D) Other Soviet vessels observed at Dehalak Island between [] included combatants, submarine tenders, intelligence collectors, oilers, other auxiliaries, and merchant ships. Twelve visits by Soviet combatants have occurred during this period. These visits consisted of two by a Kotlin DDG, one by a Kotlin DD, two by a Krivak FFG, three by a Riga FF, one by a Sverdlov CL, and three by a T-58 MSF. Visits during this period by ASs consisted of two by a DON and three by a UGRA. Seven visits of an Alligator LST, including the two previously noted, were observed. Visits by vessels known to be intelligence collectors to Dehalak Island during the reporting period consisted of seven visits by a Moma AGI/AGOR, two by a Nikolay Zubov AGI/AGOR, and two by a Pamir AGI. Fourteen visits by Soviet oilers also occurred during this period, including four visits by a Boris Chilikin AOR. Visits by other Soviet auxiliaries to Dehalak Island during the reporting period consisted of one visit by a Vytegrales AG, two by an Ob AH, one by a Sura AGL, one by a Yug AGOR, two by an Akademik Krylov AGOR, one by an Atlant civilian tug, and five by a trawler. Soviet merchant ships that visited Dehalak Island during this period consisted of a Pula, a Pyat Komsomola, an Omsk, and a Krasnokamsk.

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IMAGERY

(S/D) All available satellite imagery acquired from [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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

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