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imagery analysis report

Albanian Ground Order-of-Battle (S)



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ALBANIAN GROUND ORDER-OF-BATTLE (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/D) This report presents an imagery-derived order-of-battle for Albanian ground forces. Imagery acquired from September 1979 through March 1982 was used in writing this report. Collateral information, although limited, was used as an aid to determine unit subordination and identification.

2. (S/D) Development of a complete Albanian ground order-of-battle is hampered by several factors. Because of the intense competition for the collection of imagery of Eastern Europe, the quantity of imagery acquired of Albania is limited. Additionally, Albanian ground force units are generally housed in small facilities that are poorly secured and frequently appear to be nonmilitary. Compared to other Eastern European forces, many Albanian units are inadequately equipped, and most of the equipment these units possess is generally stored in vehicle sheds or tunnels (Figure 1).

[redacted] This report was prepared to fill some of the intelligence gaps in the current DIA Albanian ground order-of-battle.¹

3. [redacted] During the preparation of this report, 12 installations were newly identified, the locations and subordinations of a number of units were changed, and two new brigade-sized units were identified. Evidence is also presented suggesting the existence of a fifth army corps, headquartered at Fier. The August 1980 DIA order-of-battle states that the Albanian ground forces are composed of four army corps, with each corps containing only one brigade. However, analysis of imagery, supported by some collateral information,^{2,3,4,5} indicates the presence of more than one brigade in at least three of the corps. Figure 2 shows the location of all identified ground forces units in Albania.

4. (S/D) The tables below list the Albanian ground order-of-battle by army corps, brigade, regiment, battalion, and unit. The DIA ground order-of-battle for Albania was used as the primary reference for unit numbers.

DESCRIPTION

Northern Corps

5. [redacted] In the Northern Corps area, two additional infantry brigades have been identified.^{2,3}

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks	
21st Infantry Brigade			
Shkoder Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Bde hq		25X1
Ivanaj Army Bks [redacted]	2 prob inf units		25X1
Barbullush Army Bks [redacted]	2 prob inf units		25X1
Lac Army Bks AL-1 [redacted]	Tank bn, AAA bn	At least 10 storage tunnels; 5 prob Type 59 tanks outside tunnels	25X1
Shkoder Chem Tng Area [redacted]	Poss chem unit	Chem unit not confirmed from imagery	25X1
Shkoder Bks 004 [redacted]	Prob arty unit	6 weapons revetments	25X1
Lezhe Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf unit		25X1
Unid Infantry Brigade			
Peshkope Bks 001 [redacted]	Prob inf bde hq, 2 prob inf bns	Large admin area ² (Figure 3)	25X1
Bicaj Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf unit, AAA unit		25X1
Puke Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf unit, AT unit, AAA unit	17 trucks, 1 field gun, 6 AAA guns	25X1
Kukes Army Bks North [redacted]	Unid unit	10 cargo trucks	25X1

SECRET**Northern Corps (Continued)**

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks	
Unid Infantry Brigade			
Bajram Curri Army Bks [redacted]	Prob inf bde hq, ² inf unit		25X1
Bajram Curri Army Bks S [redacted]	Prob inf unit	New tgt; 13 cargo trucks	25X1
Tropoje Bks 001 [redacted]	Unid inf unit		25X1

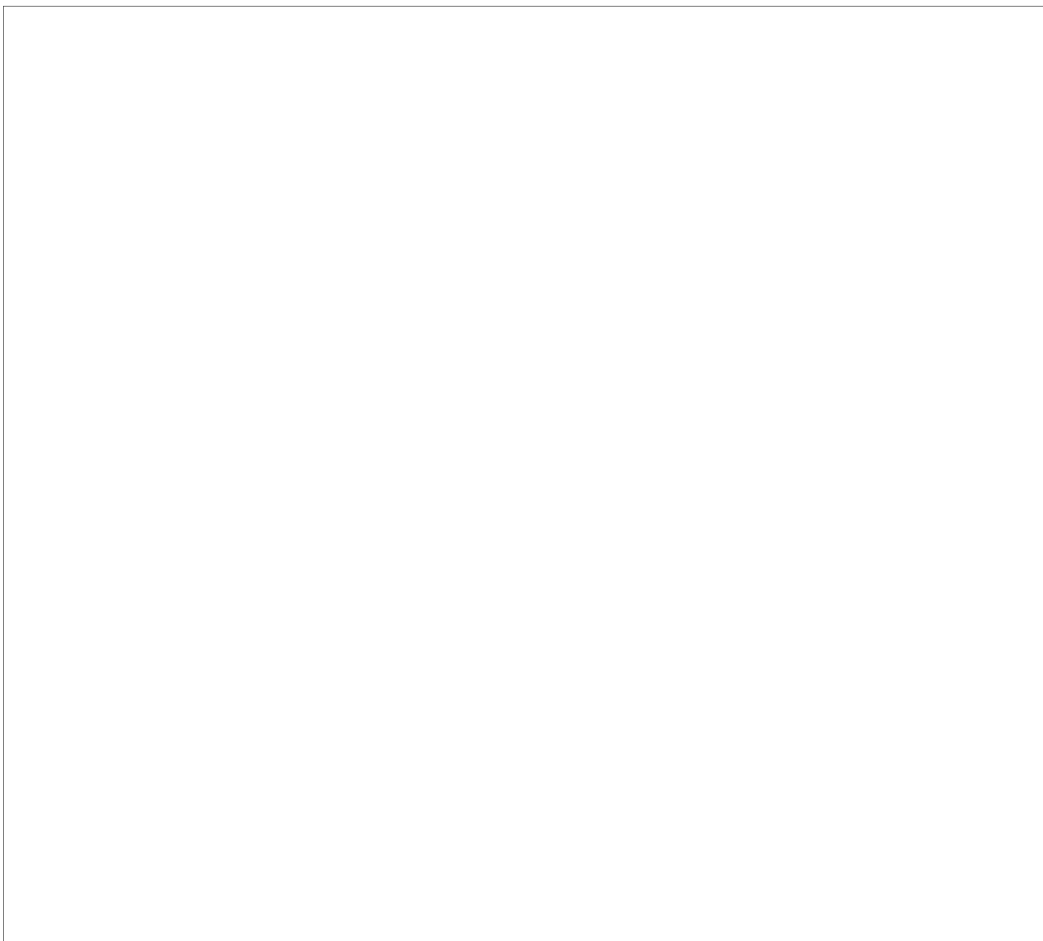
Central Corps

6. [redacted] The 14th Infantry Brigade (the unit designator may be 32nd⁶) is headquartered at Elbasan, but too many units exist within the boundaries of the Central Corps for all to be subordinate to this brigade. The numbers and types of units, especially the five tank battalions, in the Central Corps indicate the presence of more than one brigade. However, no collateral information was available to aid in determining unit subordination. Collateral information indicates that an infantry brigade may be headquartered in Gramsh,⁴ but this could not be confirmed from imagery. 25X1[✓]

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks	
Elbasan Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Bde hq, ⁶ tank bn, AT bn, engr bn		25X1
Elbasan Army Bks Labinot Mal [redacted]	At least 1 inf bn	5 AAA guns, 31 trucks	25X1
Elbasan Army Bks Shkumbin 2 [redacted]	At least 2 inf bns	Facility large enough to house 2 or more bn	25X1
Burrel Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Prob arty bn, prob AAA unit	Numerous arty bunkers in area; 9 AAA guns	25X1
Belqize Mil Facility [redacted]	Inf bn	New tgt	25X1
Librazhd Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf bn	12 trucks 4 AAA guns	25X1
Stalin Mil Bks [redacted]	Inf bn, tank bn, unid unit	1 T-34 tank in front of tunnel entrance	25X1
Cerrik Army Bks N [redacted]	Inf bn	New tgt; tunnel storage	25X1
Peqin Mil Installation [redacted]	Prob inf bn		25X1
Fushe-Kruje Bks and Tng Area [redacted]	2 prob inf bns; poss AAA bn		25X1
Durres Army Bks 1/6 [redacted]	Tank bn	18 med tanks	25X1
Prushkull Army Bks [redacted]	Tank bn, arty bn	New tgt; tank bn in convoy 1 nm south of bks on [redacted] numerous arty revetments	25X1 25X1
Shijak Army Bks [redacted]	Tank bn	17 med tanks	25X1
Kavaje Bks 001 [redacted]	Prob arty regt		25X1
Durres Army Bks N [redacted]	AAA bn	3 occupied AAA sites	25X1
Prenjas Bks 001 [redacted]	Engr unit	1 bulldozer, 5 trucks	25X1
Cerrik Army Bks S [redacted]	Inf bn	New tgt; tunnel storage	25X1
Gramsh Bks 001 [redacted]	Unid unit	Poss inf bde hq; ⁴ not confirmed from imagery	25X1
Dars Army Bks E [redacted]	Prob arty unit	New tgt; 8 arty revetments south of barracks	25X1

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**Southeastern Corps**

7. [] Only one infantry unit subordinate to the Southeastern Corps has been identified. Collateral information indicates that one additional infantry brigade may exist in the area of Erseke,⁵ however, the existence of such a brigade could not be confirmed from imagery.

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Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks
8th Infantry Brigade		
Korce Army Bks S/Corp Hq []	Inf bde hq	
Pojan Army Bks []	AT unit	4 85/100mm AT guns, 8 arty revetments, 8 trucks
Korce Bks NNW []	2 tank bns	24 T-34 tanks parked in 2 groups; 2 prob Chinese M-1967 APC
Bilisht Bks 001 []	AAA unit	4 57mm AA guns, 4 37mm AA guns
Erseke Bks 001 []	Unid unit	Poss inf bde hq, ⁵ not confirmed from imagery
Erseke Army Bks E []	Inf unit	New tgt

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Southwestern Corps

8. (S/D) Two artillery regiments have been identified in the Southwestern Corps, but the artillery regiment in Sarande may be a Coastal Defense asset and not subordinate to the Southwestern Corps.

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks
5th Infantry Brigade		
Gjirokaster Army Bks/ Hq 001 [redacted]	Bde hq	
Tepelene Bks 001 [redacted]	Arty regt	25X1
Delvine Army Bks 001 [redacted]	3 poss inf units	25X1
Permet Ft Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf unit	25X1
Rajan Army Bks [redacted]	Unid unit	New tgt 25X1
Sarande Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf bn	25X1
Sarande Army Bks W [redacted]	Arty regt	New tgt 25X1

Newly Identified Corps

9. [redacted] A previously unidentified army corps, composed of one brigade, is probably headquartered at Fier with subordinate elements in Berat, Patos, and Vlore.⁷ Berat and Vlore were previously carried within the boundaries of the Central and Southwestern Corps, respectively. The artillery regiment for this corps is probably at Fier Army Barracks 002. The only confirmed BM-13 multiple rocket launchers in Albania are south of Fier at Fier Rocket Emplacements (Figure 4). 25X1

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks
Fier Army Bks/Park [redacted]	Prob inf unit	25X1
Fier Rocket Emplacements [redacted]	MRL bn	8 BM-13 MRLs (Figure 4) 25X1
Fier Army Bks 002 [redacted]	Prob arty regt	25X1
Fier Army Bks 005 [redacted]	AAA unit	25X1
Vlore Army Bks 002 [redacted]	Prob inf unit	25X1
Lushnje Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf bn	25X1
Patos Army Bks [redacted]	Inf bn	25X1
Berat Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Inf unit, AAA bn	12 AAA guns? 25X1
Kryegjate Army Bks [redacted]	AAA bn	New tgt; 15 AAA guns 25X1

Tirane

10. (S/D) Military units in the Albanian capital of Tirane are not subordinate to an army corps. A number of national-level assets, as well as smaller units, are in and immediately around the city.

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks
Tirane Bks 001 [redacted]	Unid unit	25X1
Tirane Mil Bks NW 002 [redacted]	Poss arty regt	DIA GOB lists 1 unid arty regt; only 7 AT-S and 16 37mm AAA guns visible 25X1

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Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks	
Tirane Mil Bks NE 003 [redacted]	Unid engr regt		25X1
Tirane Army Bks Skanderenberg 4 [redacted]	Unid unit	DIA GOB lists 1 unid CBR unit; no CBR equipment discernible	25X1
Tirane Army Bks SE [redacted]	2 tank bn	6 Type 59 tanks; adequate storage for 2 tank bns	25X1
Tirane Army Bks E [redacted]	Prob inf unit	7 85/100mm AT guns, 6 trucks	25X1
Tirane Army Bks SW Ali Riza 005 [redacted]	Prob inf bn	3 trucks, 2 tractor-trailers	25X1
Tirane Army Bks A [redacted]	Inf unit	2 85/100mm AT guns	25X1
Tirane Army Bks N [redacted]	Tank unit, arty regt/bde	1 med tank, 36 85/100mm AT guns	25X1
Tirane Army Bks NNE [redacted]	Unid unit	New tgt	25X1
Tirane Army Bks B [redacted]	Unid unit		25X1
Tirane Army Bks NE [redacted]	3 inf bns	New tgt	25X1
Tirane MT Park 008 [redacted]	Unid MT bn		25X1

Coastal Defense Artillery Units

11. (S/D) All coastal defense artillery units are subordinate to Coastal Defense Headquarters, Tirane Ministry of National Defense [redacted] 25X1

Installation Name BE No	Units Present	Remarks	
Shengjin Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Rodeni Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Prushkull Army Bks [redacted]	Arty bn	New tgt	25X1
Seman Army Bks [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Sazan Army Bks [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Vlore Bks 003 [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Port Palermo Army Bks [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Sarande Army Bks 001 [redacted]	Arty bn		25X1
Sarande Army Bks W [redacted]	Arty regt	New tgt; possible Coastal Def arty asset instead of SW Corps asset	25X1

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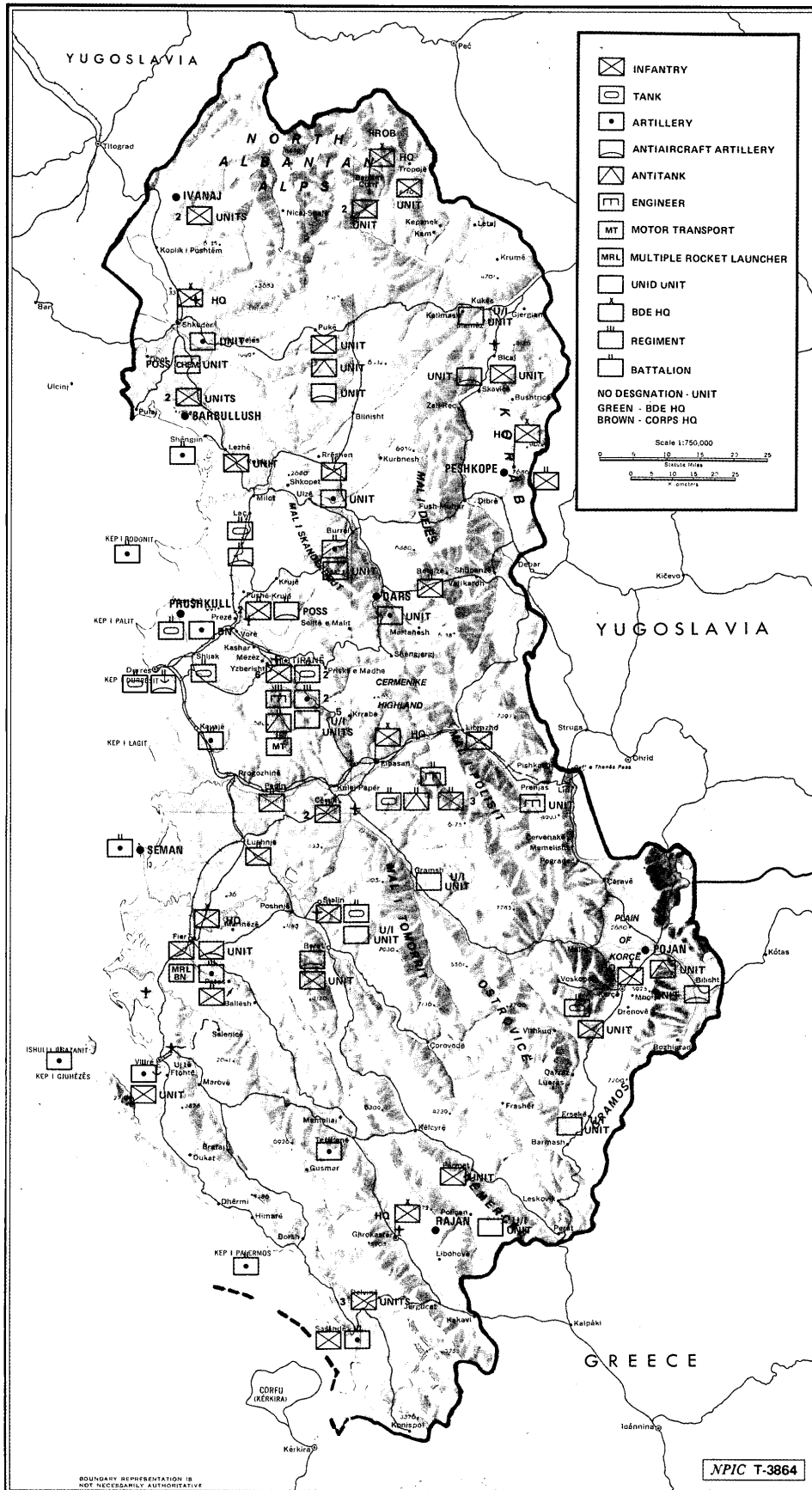


FIGURE 2. LOCATIONS OF GROUND FORCES UNITS IN ALBANIA

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) Satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

DOCUMENTS

- 1. DIA. DDB-1100-AL-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Albania (U)*, Aug 80 (SECRET)
- 2. DoD. 2 210 4423 79, *Infantry Brigade (U)*, 27 Nov 79 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1
- 3. DoD. 2 210 4261 77, *Military Units/Defensive Works (U)*, 3 Aug 77 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1
- 4. DoD. 2 210 4164 78, *U/I Mixed Brigade (U)*, 14 Jul 78 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1
- 5. DoD. 2 199 0299 81, *Infantry Brigade in Erseke (U)*, 5 Nov 81 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1
- 6. DoD. 2 210 4276 79, *Infantry Brigade (U)*, 21 Jun 79 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1
- 7. DoD. 2 210 4303 76, *Military and Industrial Installations (U)*, 30 Mar 76 (CONFIDENTIAL [redacted]) 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] 25X1

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