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imagery analysis report

**Bulgarian Air Force, May 1983 (S)**

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## **BULGARIAN AIR FORCE, MAY 1983 (S)**

### **ABSTRACT**

1. This report, presenting imagery-derived information on the upgrading of the Bulgarian Air Force, provides information on the status and disposition of aircraft at 18 major military airfields in Bulgaria. Because some aircraft are inside hardened aircraft bunkers, low numbers of aircraft have been reported. All pertinent imagery acquired between [ ] [ ] has been used in the preparation of this report. Included are two annotated photographs, two tables, and one location map. (S/WN)

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### **INTRODUCTION**

2. The capability of the Bulgarian Air Force has been upgraded by the introduction of FLOGGER Gs to Sofia/Kumaritsa Airfield and FOXBAT Bs/Ds to Tolbukhin Airfield (Figure 1 and Table 1). The Bulgarian Air Force is the third Warsaw Pact nationalist air force to receive FLOGGER Gs and the only one to receive FOXBATs. East Germany and Czechoslovakia are the other Warsaw Pact Countries with FLOGGER Gs. Prior to the arrival of FLOGGER and FOXBAT aircraft, FISHBEDs and FRESCOs were the major Bulgarian air defense and ground attack assets. (S/WN)

### **BASIC DESCRIPTION**

3. FLOGGER Gs, a dual-purpose (air intercept and ground attack) version of the FLOGGER B, were first observed in Bulgaria on [ ] at Sofia/Kumaritsa Airfield, when one FLOGGER G and one possible FLOGGER G were seen. Nine FLOGGER Gs (Figure 2) were observed there on [ ] Sofia/Kumaritsa Airfield previously supported a FLOGGER B and FRESCO air defense squadron. The absence of a normal FRESCO complement since June 1982 has served as an early indication of upgrading at Sofia/Kumaritsa. (S/WN)

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4. FOXBAT aircraft were observed for the first time in Bulgaria on [ ] when four were at Tolbukhin Airfield. The aircraft (Figure 3) were subsequently identified as three FOXBAT Bs/Ds (reconnaissance variant) and one probable FOXBAT C (trainer variant). It could not be determined initially whether they were Bulgarian FOXBATs or Soviet aircraft in transit. However, the continued presence of four FOXBATs, along with that of an RSBN-4N navigational system, at Tolbukhin, indicated an upgrading of the Bulgarian FISHBED H and FAGOT reconnaissance regiment. (S/WN)

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### **IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS**

5. The introduction of FOXBAT B/D and FLOGGER G aircraft into Bulgaria will greatly enhance the reconnaissance, air intercept, and ground attack capabilities of the Bulgarian Air Force. The range of FOXBAT B/D aircraft is substantially greater than that of FISHBED H aircraft.<sup>1</sup> The FLOGGER G is a significant upgrading from the FRESCO because of its greater range, its larger ordnance capability, and its more sophisticated avionics package.<sup>2</sup> (S/WN)

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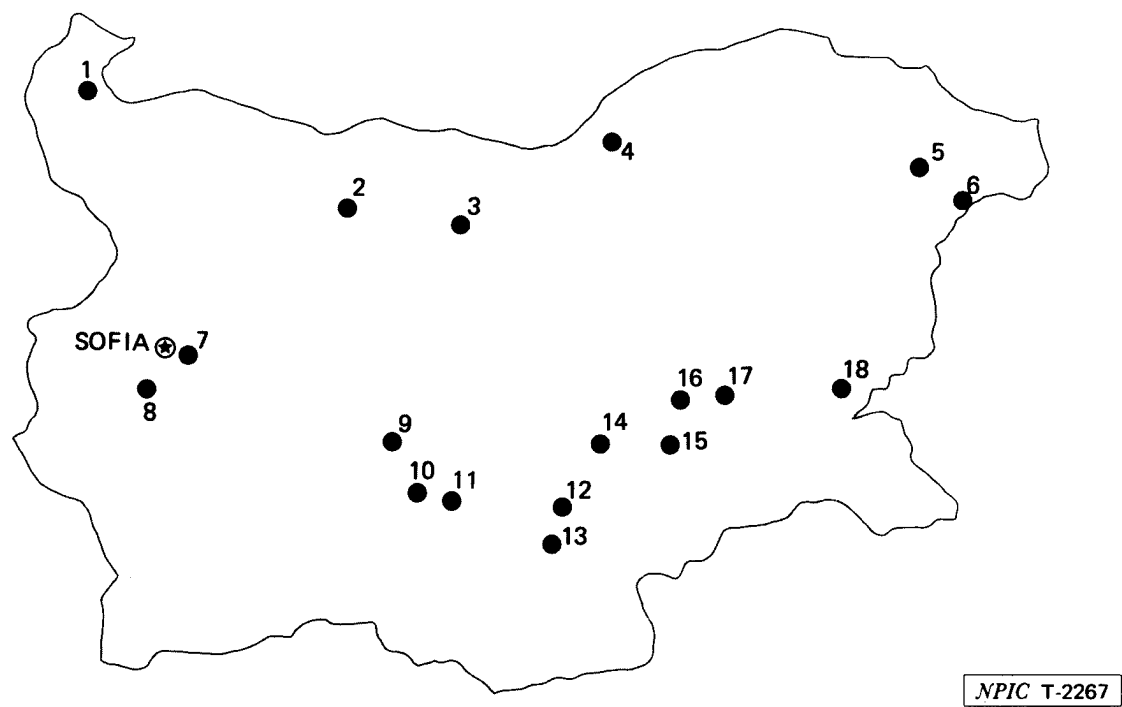


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF MAJOR BULGARIAN AIRFIELDS

Table 1.  
Bulgarian Air Force Air Order-of-Battle as of   
(Items keyed to Figure 1)

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Item	Airfield/BE No	Date of Latest Imagery	Aircraft Observed	Remarks
1	Gabrovnitsa <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	12 FISHBEDs	18 hardened aircraft bunkers
2	Dolna Mitropoliya <input type="text"/>		1 FISHBEDs, 5 FRESCOs, 25 MAYAs, 1 MIDGET	Flight training airfield
3	Kamenets <input type="text"/>		31 FRESCOs, 10 FAGOTs/ MIDGETs	Flight training airfield
4	Shtruklovo <input type="text"/>		1 FRESCO, 44 MAYAs	Flight training airfield
5	Tolbukhin <input type="text"/>		3 FOXBAT Bs/Ds, 2 FISHBEDs, 26 FAGOTs/FRESCOs	FOXBATs were first identified in Bulgaria on <input type="text"/> 17 hardened aircraft bunkers

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**SECRET****Table 1. (Cont.)**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Airfield/BE No</b>	<b>Date of Latest Imagery</b>	<b>Aircraft Observed</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	
6	Balchik <input type="text"/>		2 FISHBEDs	18 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1 25X1
7	Sofia/Kumaritsa <input type="text"/>		9 FLOGGER Gs, 5 FLOGGER Bs/Cs, 4 COKEs, 6 CRATEs, 3 COLTs, 2 CLODs, 2 L-200s	One FLOGGER G and one possible FLOGGER G were first observed in Bulgaria on <input type="text"/> 14 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1 25X1
8	Radomir/Dolni Rakovets <input type="text"/>		2 COLTs	Fighter dispersal airfield	25X1
9	Graf Ignatievo <input type="text"/>		16 FISHBEDs, 18 FARMERs, 2 FRESCOs, 1 HIP	18 FARMERs were clustered in a dispersal area, suggesting that the aircraft were in storage; 38 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1
10	Krumovo <input type="text"/>		18 HINDs, 5 HIPs, 11 HOUNDs, 12 HOPLITEs	This airfield supports the only combat helicopter assault regiment in Bulgaria	25X1
11	Cheshnegirovo <input type="text"/>		None	39 hardened aircraft bunkers; Up to 14 FLOGGERS have been observed	25X1
12	Uzundzhovo <input type="text"/>		20 FRESCOs, 4 FAGOTs/ MIDGETs	Six new hardened aircraft bunkers are under construction; 38 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1
13	Malevo <input type="text"/>		1 COLT	Fighter dispersal airfield	25X1
14	Stara Zagora <input type="text"/>		1 COLT	Fighter dispersal airfield; 8 small straight-wing aircraft	25X1
15	Bezmer <input type="text"/>		9 FRESCOs/ MIDGETs	38 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1
16	Sliven <input type="text"/>		None	Fighter dispersal airfield	25X1
17	Zimnitsa <input type="text"/>		1 COLT	Fighter dispersal airfield	25X1
18	Ravnets <input type="text"/>		18 FISHBEDs, 20 CANDIDs, 1 CUB, 1 HIP	CANDIDs and CUBs were Soviet military transport aviation aircraft deployed in USSR during Shield-82 exercises; 27 hardened aircraft bunkers	25X1

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

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**REFERENCES**

All pertinent imagery acquired between [ ] was used in the preparation of this report.

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**DOCUMENTS**

1. *Jane's all the World's Aircraft, 1981—82* (UNCLASSIFIED)
2. DIA. DST-1320S-105-82, *FLOGGER Weapon System* (U) Supplement 1 (FLOGGER G), 31 Dec 82 (SECRET/NOFORN/WNINTEL\*)

\* Extracted information is classified SECRET.

Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, extension [ ]

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