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NPIC/IEG/SANND

9 JANUARY 1985

FORMATION OF FIRST SOVIET NAVAL AVIATION BACKFIRE C REGIMENT
NIKOLAYEV/KULBAKINO AIRFIELD, USSR (SWN)

[Redacted]

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: THE FIRST SOVIET NAVAL AVIATION (SNA) BACKFIRE C REGIMENT IS FORMING AT NIKOLAYEV/KULBAKINO AIRFIELD, THE MAJOR SNA TRAINING BASE. DEPLOYMENT TO AN OPERATIONAL BASE IS EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: THE COUNT OF BACKFIRE C AT THIS AIRFIELD HAS STEADILY INCREASED FROM FOUR AIRCRAFT IN JUNE 1984 TO 15 ON [Redacted] PRIOR TO JUNE 1984, TWO BACKFIRE C HAD NORMALLY BEEN PRESENT. (SWN)

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THE MOST RECENTLY FORMED SNA BACKFIRE B REGIMENT AT ALKSEYEVKA AIRFIELD [Redacted] WAS FORMED IN A SIMILAR FASHION. THE NUMBER OF BACKFIRE B INCREASED AT NIKOLAYEV/KULBAKINO FROM TWO TO 15 DURING AN APPROXIMATELY SIX-MONTH PERIOD. TEN AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY REDEPLOYED TO ALEKSEYEVKA ESTABLISHING THE CORE OF THE NEW REGIMENT. ADDITIONAL BACKFIRE THEN DEPLOYED FROM KAZAN AIRFRAME PLANT GORBUNOV 22 [Redacted] UNTIL THE REGIMENTAL STRENGTH OF 20 AIRCRAFT WAS REACHED. (SWN)

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ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- THE NEW BACKFIRE C REGIMENT WILL PROBABLY BE ASSIGNED TO OKTYABRSKOYE AIRFIELD

[Redacted] OR VESELOYE AIRFIELD [Redacted] IN THE BLACK SEA FLEET AIR FORCE (BSFAF). THE BSFAF CURRENTLY HAS ONLY ONE BACKFIRE B REGIMENT. THE BALTIC SEA FLEET AND THE PACIFIC OCEAN FLEET EACH HAVE TWO BACKFIRE B REGIMENTS. NO BACKFIRE ARE ASSIGNED TO THE NORTHERN FLEET. (SWN)

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IF SNA BACKFIRE C DEPLOYMENTS PARALLEL SOVIET AIR FORCE (SAF) DEPLOYMENTS, THEN OKTYABRSKOYE, WHICH WAS THE FIRST SNA BASE TO RECEIVE BACKFIRE B, WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE THE BACKFIRE C. THE BACKFIRE B CURRENTLY AT OKTYABRSKOYE WILL PROBABLY REDEPLOY TO VESELOYE AIRFIELD. POLTAVA AIRFIELD [Redacted] WAS THE FIRST SAF BASE TO RECEIVE BACKFIRE B AND THE FIRST TO CONVERT TO BACKFIRE C. THE BACKFIRE B FROM POLTAVA THEN REDEPLOYED TO FORM A NEW REGIMENT AT ANISOVO

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GORODISHCHE AIRFIELD



(SWN)

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ALTERNATIVELY, THE BACKFIRE C MAY DEPLOY DIRECTLY TO VESELOYE AIRFIELD WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERGOING BACKFIRE-RELATED RENOVATIONS SINCE SPRING 1984. THE RUNWAY NOW EXCEEDS 3000 METERS, THE AIRFIELD CONTAINS 30 BACKFIRE-ASSOCIATED PARKING POSITIONS AND KITCHEN AIR-TO-SURFACE MISSILE CONTAINERS HAVE BEEN PRESENT SINCE MAY 1984. (SWN)

WHETHER DEPLOYMENT OCCURS AT OKTYABRSKOYE OR VESELOYE, THE BACKFIRE THREAT TO ALLIED FORCES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND SOUTHERN EUROPE WILL HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED BY THE PRESENCE OF TWO BACKFIRE REGIMENTS IN THE BSFAF. (SWN)

COORDINATES 46-56-15N 032-05-55E (S)



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