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REPORT

**PLA GROUND FORCES
CANTON MILITARY REGION, PRC (S)**

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PLA GROUND FORCES, CANTON MILITARY REGION, PRC (S)

ABSTRACT

1. (TSRU) This report discusses the Peoples Liberation Army's (PLA) main ground force units in the Canton Military Region in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The functions and locations of these units were identified primarily from KEYHOLE imagery. 

2. (U) This report includes four location maps, three annotated photographs, and four tables listing the main force units by unit subordination.

INTRODUCTION

3. (TSR) The ground forces in the Canton Military Region (CMR) have the same general organizational structure as the ground forces observed throughout the PRC--the rule of three. Subordinate to CMR Headquarters (Figure 1 and Table 1) are three armies (Figures 2, 3, and 4 and Tables 2, 3, and 4, respectively) and various independent units (Table 1). The independent units include an artillery division, an antiaircraft artillery (AAA) division, a signal regiment, two engineer regiments, five motor transport regiments, a probable airborne/reconnaissance unit, and a military region probable training unit.

4. (TSU) The numbered unit designators used in this report were acquired from referenced document 1.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

5. (TSR) Armored units have been observed in each of the three armies; however, only one tank regiment has been confirmed from imagery.

6. (TSRU) There are two armored units in the 41st Army (Table 2), one of which is a probable tank regiment at Kuei-lin (121st Infantry Division). The facilities at Kuei-lin have the capacity to support a tank regiment. However, since September 1974 the largest number of tanks observed at Kuei-lin has been 12 which equates to a company-sized unit. The other armored unit in the 41st Army is the 327th Tank/Assault Gun (TAG) Regiment at Ho-chun (122nd Infantry Division). No armored vehicles have been observed at Ho-chun since January 1972, and when last observed in July 1978 the tracked-vehicle, driver-training courses did not appear to be active.

7. (TSRU) There are two armored units in the 42nd Army area (Table 3). The 329th Tank Regiment is at Chang-ning (124th Infantry Division) where, in November 1976, 111 tanks were observed. The other armored unit is a part of the military region training unit at Pi-tsun and is subordinate to CMR Headquarters.

8. (TSRU) The only armored unit observed in the 55th Army is at Chang-chi (164th Infantry Division; Figure 5). Tanks were first observed at Chang-chi in 1976, and until July 1978 the maximum number of tanks observed was nine. In July 1978 elements of a possible tank regiment--32 tanks and eight possible SU-76 assault guns (top photo)--were observed. A tank-gunner firing trainer (bottom photo) was constructed at Chang-chi between November 1976 and October 1977. Three additional vehicle storage buildings with the capacity to house tanks were also constructed during this time.

9. (TSR) Since the 42nd Army has a tank regiment and the 41st Army probably has a tank regiment, the establishment of a tank regiment in the 55th Army may be forthcoming. The presence of tanks in 1976, the increased number of armored vehicles observed in July 1978, and the construction of the tank-gunner firing trainer and storage building at Chang-chi indicate that Chang-chi will probably be the location of a tank regiment in the 55th Army.

Artillery

10. (TSR) Nineteen artillery-associated installations have been observed in the CMR. Three of these installations house army-level regiments, nine house division-level regiments, six house an independent artillery division, and one is a part of the CMR training unit.

11. (TSR) Miniature/terrain model artillery firing ranges have been constructed at 17 of these 19 installations since 1974. The two installations without artillery ranges are associated with the independent 1st Artillery Division.

12. (TSR) Since 1976 the 1st Artillery Division, headquartered at Shao-kuan, has occupied five installations in the Weng-cheng/Hsin-chiang area. These installations had previously been occupied by an infantry division. The construction of four-bay storage buildings with the capacity to store field artillery pieces and attached cargo trucks and the construction of miniature/terrain model firing ranges indicate that the occupancy of these installations is permanent. Headquarters units and the rocket launcher regiment have probably remained at Shao-kuan. However, no equipment except cargo trucks has been observed at Shao-kuan since September 1976.

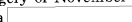
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Antiaircraft Artillery

13. (TSRU) AAA units have been observed with each of the armies, four of the nine infantry divisions, the 329th Tank Regiment, and the 70th AAA Division.

14. (TSRU) The new structure of army-level AAA regiments--eighteen 37mm, twenty-four 57mm, and six ZPU-4 antiaircraft (AA) guns--has been observed at two installations, Sha-pu-hsu (41st Army) and Li-lin-hsu (42nd Army).

15. (TSR/SPOKE) On imagery of November 1977 an AAA exercise was observed in progress at Pei-po AAA Exercise Area . Approximately 400 AA guns were observed. Collateral sources indicate that the 70th AAA Division and a 41st Army organic AAA regiment were involved in this exercise.² The number of AA guns observed indicates that other units were also involved. These could have been units (other than ground force subordinate units) that are observed in the vicinity of the airfields, naval bases, and urban areas throughout the CMR. Exercises also occurred in this area in 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976.

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Infantry

16. (TSR/SPOKE) There are nine infantry divisions in the CMR--three in each army. Since December 1975 five of these divisions have changed location. In December 1975 the 164th and 165th Infantry Divisions of the 55th Army switched locations³ and in December 1976 the 121st and 123rd Infantry Divisions of the 41st Army switched locations.⁴ These switches in location may have occurred in order to improve area familiarization and troop movement techniques. In March 1976 the 126th Infantry Division of the 42nd Army moved to the Lei-yang area from the Weng-cheng/Hsin-chiang area.⁵

17. (TSR/SPOKE) The 126th Infantry Division is now probably located at Tsao-shih Army Barracks AL-1 just south of Lei-yang. The barracks at Tsao-shih is the only barracks in the Lei-yang area with the capacity to house an infantry division. The construction of a troop obstacle course in the old TAG regimental area and a miniature/terrain model artillery firing range indicates that a main force unit is at this barracks.

18. (TSR) Troop obstacle courses, antitank ditching, and athletic fields have been constructed at most of the barracks areas in the past several years. The construction of these facilities indicates that increased emphasis is being placed on troop training.

Airborne/Reconnaissance

19. (TSR) The only airborne/reconnaissance unit outside the Wuhan Military Region has probably been observed in the Canton area. Imagery has confirmed the existence of airborne-type training facilities at two installations. One installation has been observed for some time in Canton. The second installation has recently been identified in the Lung-kuei-shih area just north of Canton. Training equipment at these two installations consists of an aircraft fuselage mockup, jump stands, troop obstacle courses, a modified swing-landing trainer, and a swing-landing tower (Figure 6). On imagery of August 1977 three parachutes were seen at the swing-landing tower at the Canton installation.

20. (TSRU) River crossing units have been observed at two installations in the CMR. One unit is at Chang-sha where river crossing equipment was first observed in July 1976. The highest count of equipment has been 134 TPP (heavy ponton bridge) sections, which were observed in

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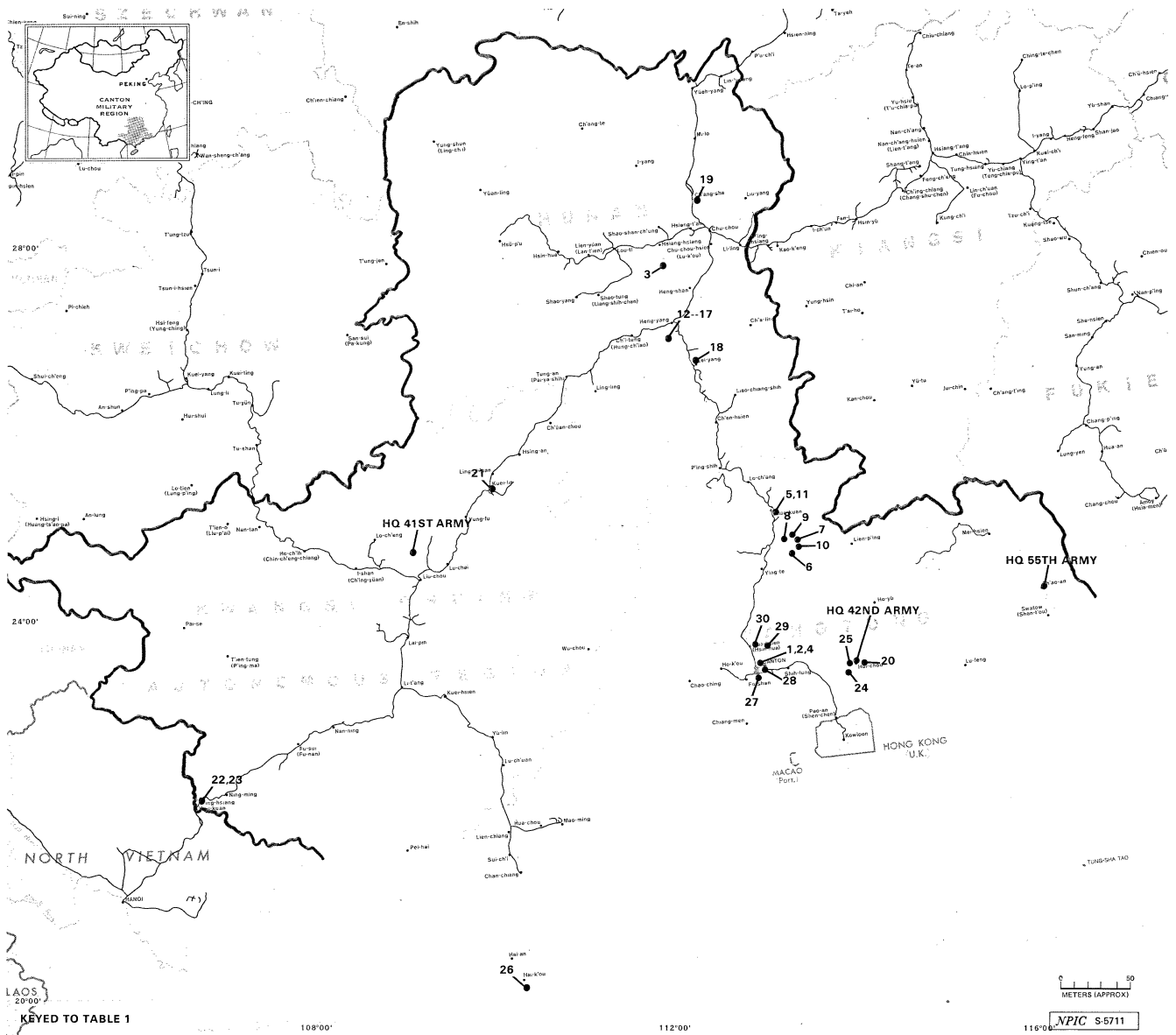


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF CANTON MILITARY REGION HEADQUARTERS AND INDEPENDENT UNITS, PRC



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Table 1. Canton Military Region, Headquarters and Independent Units (Keyed to Figure 1)

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Item	Unit	Name	Coordinates	BE No	Function (Photo Assessed)	Remarks
1	CMR Hq	Kuang-chou MR a A ADEF Sector Hq	23-07-12N 113-17-54E		Prob	Collocated with air defense sector; hq poss relocates to underground command post during periods of national emergency
2	Prob Underground Command Post	Kuang-chou Rad Sta/ Bnk/hd	23-11-42N 113-20-13E		Poss	Consists of 26 conf & 2 poss hardened antennas & several personnel & vehicle adits
3	Poss Alt Underground Command Post	Kuan-yin-shan Radcom Sta/Bnk/Hd	27-22-59N 112-24-31E		Poss	Consists of 14 conf hardened antenna & 1 prob hardened antenna & several personnel & vehicle adits
4	5th Signal Regt	Kuang-chou Army Bks AL-10	23-11-29N 113-19-14E		Prob	Prob used as housing for those troops who may work at Kuang-chou Rad Sta/Bnk/Hd
5	1st Arty Div	Shao-kuan Army Bks and Arty Div Hq AL-1	24-42-25N 113-36-18E		Conf	Prob only hq units & rocket launcher regiment remain at this facility (see text)
6	Elements Arty Regt	Weng-cheng Army Bks SW AL-2	24-19-03N 113-42-52E		Conf	This facility & the following four facilities were vacated during 1975--1976 by the 126th Infantry Div (see text)
7	Elements Arty Regt	Hsin-chiang Army Bks AL-3	24-28-50N 113-50-38E		Conf	See text
8	Elements Arty Regt	Hsin-chiang Army Bks NW AL-2	24-31-15N 113-40-48E		Prob Prob	Arty ranges have not been constructed at this facility & the following facility; only a few field arty pieces have been observed at this facility. (see text)
9	Elements Arty Regt	Hsin-chiang Army Bks A Inf Div Hq AL-1	24-30-52N 113-49-30E		Prob	See text
10	Elements Arty Regt	Weng-cheng Army Bks NE AL-1	24-23-30N 113-51-05E		Conf	See text
11	209th Rocket Launcher Regt	Shao-kuan Army Bks and Arty Div Hq AL-1	24-42-25N 113-36-18E		Conf	Rocket launchers were last observed on [] (see text)
12	70th AAA Div	Che-chiang Army Bks A AAA Div	26-45-16N 112-35-52E		Conf	See text
13	633rd AAA Regt	Che-chiang Army Bks AL-1	26-44-37N 112-35-52E		Conf	See text
14	Elements 633rd AAA Regt	Che-chiang Army Bks AL-5	26-44-49N 112-37-34E		Conf	See text
15	Unid AAA Regt	Che-chiang Army Bks A AAA Div Hqs AL-2	26-45-16N 112-35-52E		Conf	See text
16	635th AAA Regt	Che-chiang Army Bks AL-3	26-44-15N 112-37-03E		Conf	See text
17	636th AAA Regt	Che-chiang Army Bks AL-4	26-45-13N 112-36-43E		Conf	See text
18	19th Engineer Regt	Lei-yang Airfield SW	26-31-42N 112-50-30E		Prob	This regt is prob located here & involved in the construction of this new airfield; when the construction is complete this regt will prob relocate elsewhere
19	Unid Engineer/ Ponton Unit	Chang-sha Army Bks AL-6	28-13-50N		Conf	See text
20	Elements 22nd Ponton Bridge Regt	Po-lo Army Bks	23-05-00N 114-10-20E		Poss	This installation was recently identified by [] on imagery of Dec 77
21	39th Motor Trans Regt	Kuei-lin Area (un- located)	--		--	Poss collocated with 121st Inf Div at Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq & Army Bks AL-1 (BE [])
22	41st Motor Trans Regt	Ping-hsiang Army Bks and Stor AL-1	22-05-21N 106-44-27E		Conf	
23	Elements 41st Motor Trans Regt	Ping-hsiang Army Bks and Stor AL-2	22-06-43N 106-45-26E		Conf	
24	46th Motor Trans Regt	Chun-tzu-ying Army Bks AL-1	22-57-26N 114-12-29E		Conf	
25	Elements 46th Motor Supply or support	Chen-chiang Army Bks A Sup Depo AL-1	23-01-46N 114-20-27E		Conf	
26	47th Motor Trans Regt	Hsiu-ying Army Bks AL-1	19-59-10N 110-18-57E		Prob	
27	Unid Motor Trans Regt	Kuang-chou Army Bks SW	23-05-19N 113-10-23E		Conf	
28	Unid Recon- naissance/Air-	Kuang-chou Army Bks AL-12	23-09-10N		Prob	See text
29	Elements Unid Re- connaissance/Air- borne Unit	Lung-kuei-shih Army Bks AL-1	23-16-36N 113-20-22E		Prob	See text
30	MR Prob Trng	Pi-tsun Army Bks AL-3	23-22-58N		Prob	Field arty & armor training conducted here; however CSA-1 & poss chemical decontamination equip have observed

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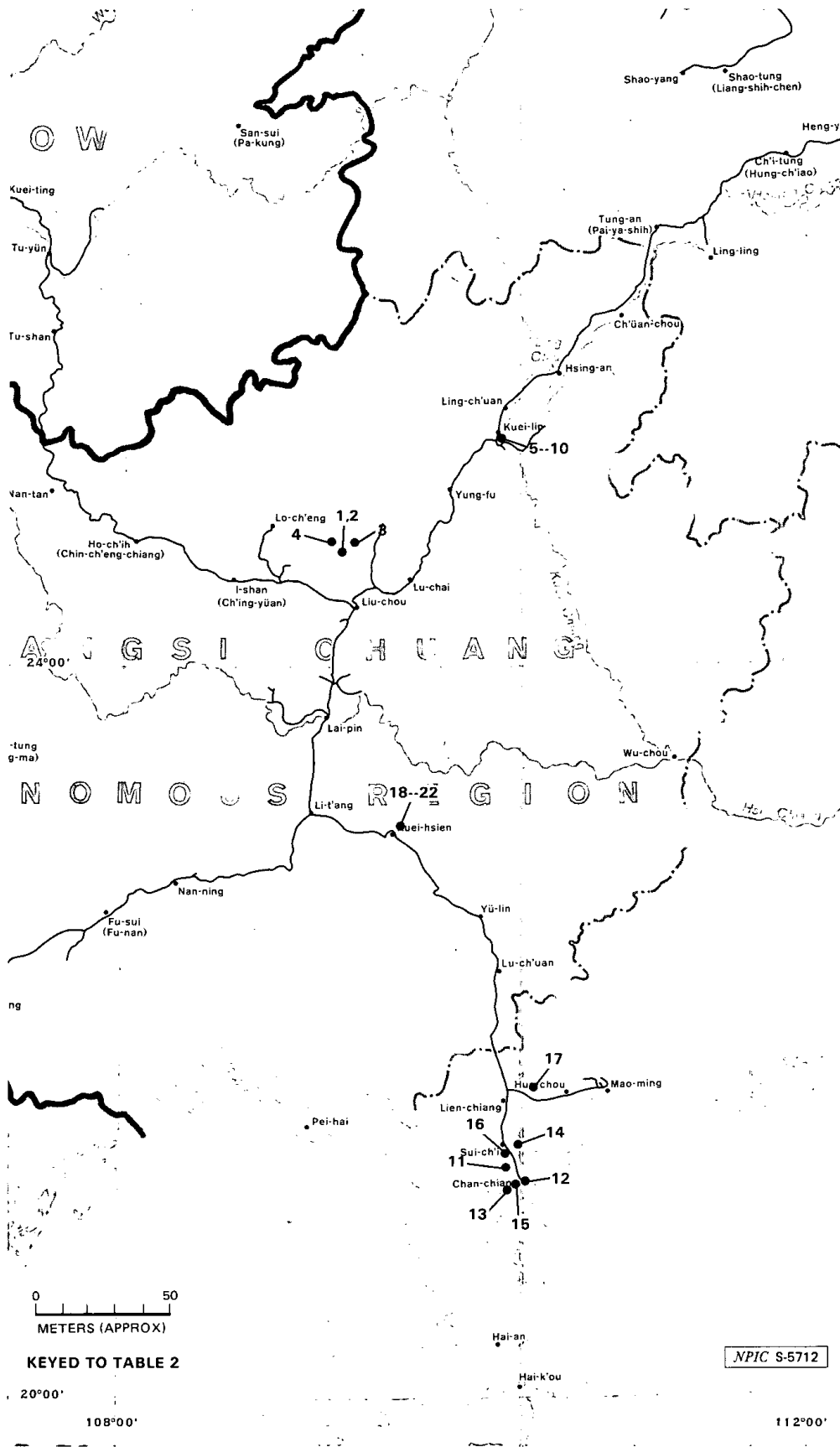


FIGURE 2. LOCATION OF 41ST ARMY UNITS

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Table 2. Canton Military Region 41st Army Units (Keyed to Figure 2)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF UMBRA¹

Item	Unit	Name	Coordinates	BE No	Function (Photo Assessed)	Remarks
1	41st Army Hq	Feng-shan Army Hq and Bks NE AL-1	24-34-18N 109-18-20E		Conf	
2	144th Arty	Feng-shan Army HQ and Regt	24-34-18N 109-18-20E		Conf	
3	Unid AAA	Sha-pu-hsu Army Bks NE	24-38-12N		Conf	
	Regt	AL-1	109-20-30E			
4	Elements	Feng-shan Army Bks	24-39-18N		Prob	AAA observed here only one time, Apr 74
	Unid AAA	AL-3	109-14-05E			
	Regt					
5	121st Inf	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Conf	
	Div Hq	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
6	361st Inf	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Conf	
	Reg	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
7	362nd Inf	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Conf	
	Regt	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
8	363rd Inf	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Conf	
	Regt	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
9	501st Arty	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Conf	
	Regt	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
10	Unid Tank	Kuei-lin Inf Div Hq A	25-10-22N		Prob	Storage for a tank Regt is sufficient; however, 12 tanks is the largest number recently observed (see text)
	Regt	Army Bks AL-1	110-19-45E			
11	122nd Inf	Chih-k'an Inf Div Hq and Bks AL-1	21-17-29N 110-16-22E		Conf	
12	Unid AAA	Chan-chiang Army Bks	21-12-30N		Conf	
	Battalion	AL-5	110-23-00E			
13	364th Inf	Chang-chiang Army	21-09-20N		Conf	
	Regt	Bks W AL-2	110-15-30E			
14	365th Inf	Kuan-hu Army Bks AL-1	21-23-35N		Conf	
	Regt		110-21-22E			
15	366th Inf	Hsi-pai-wei Army Bks S	21-13-58N		Conf	
	Regt	AL-1	110-11-06E			
16	502nd Arty	Sui-hsi Army Bks S	21-18-45N		Conf	
	Regt	AL-1	110-14-47E			
17	327th TAG	Ho-chun Army Bks	21-44-20N		Prob	The status of this facility is not certain; although tracked activity is usually observed, no tanks have been seen since 1972 (see text)
	Regt	AL-1	110-28-42E			
18	123rd Inf	Kuei-hsien Army Bks	23-07-00N		Conf	
	Div Hq	A Inf Div Hq AL-1	109-38-15E			
19	367th Inf	Kuei-hsien Army Bks	23-07-00N		Conf	
	Regt	A Inf Div Hq AL-1	109-38-15E			
20	368th Inf	Kuei-hsien Army Bks	23-07-00N		Conf	
	Regt	A Inf Div Hq AL-1	109-38-15E			
21	369th Inf	Kuei-hsien Army Bks	23-07-00N		Conf	
	Regt	A Inf Div Hq AL-1	109-38-15E			
22	503rd Arty	Kuei-hsien Army Bks	23-07-00N		Conf	
	Regt	A Inf Div Hq AL-1	109-38-15E			

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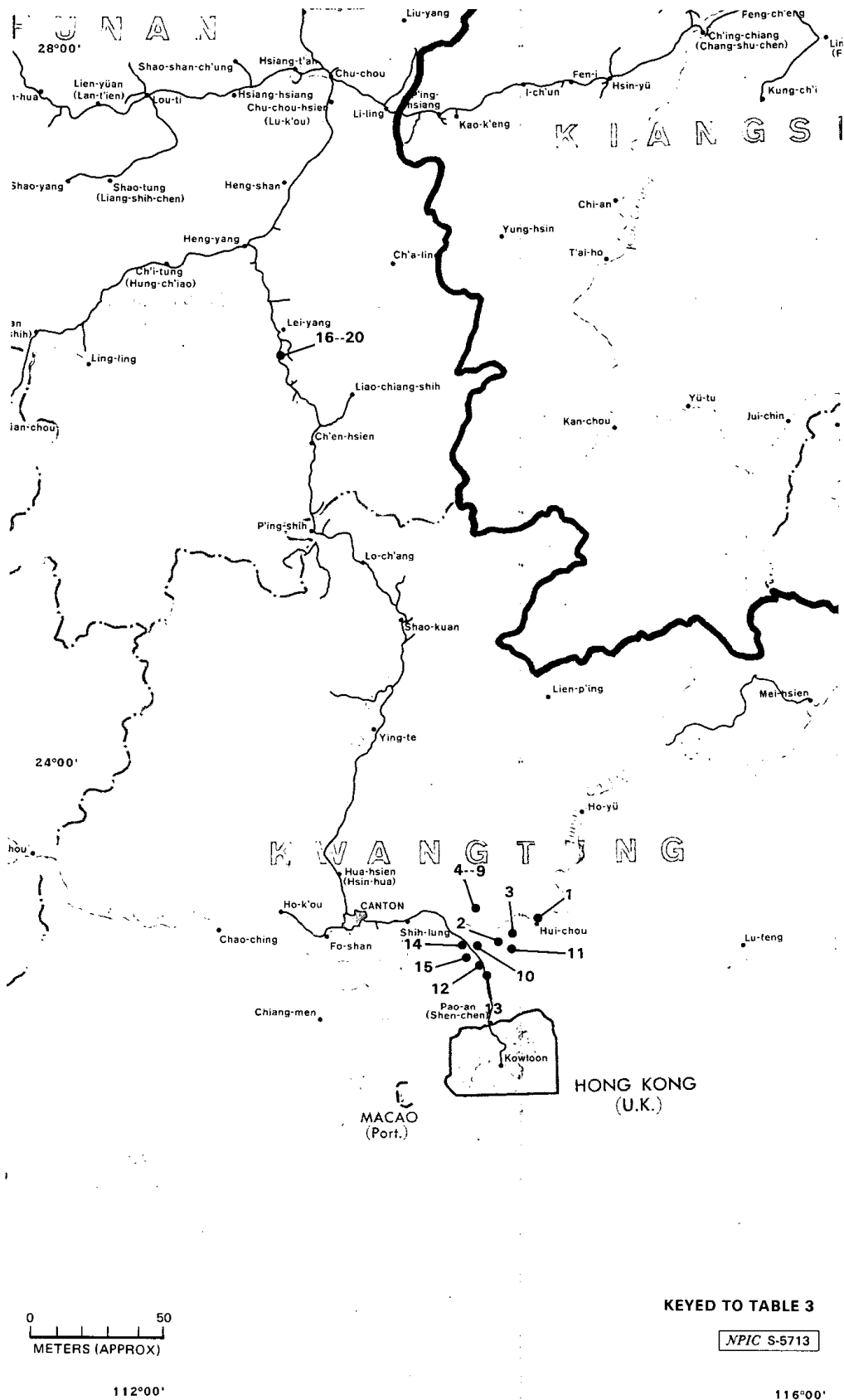


FIGURE 3. LOCATION OF 42ND ARMY UNITS

Table 3. Canton Military Region 42nd Army Units (Keyed to Figure 3)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF UMBRA¹

Item	Unit	Name	Coordinates	BE No	Function, (Photo Assessed)	Remarks
1	42nd Army Hq and Bks AL-1	Hui-chou Army	23-05-24N 114-23-11E		Conf	
2	145th Arty Regt	Ni-keng Army Bks AL-1	22-57-13N 114-06-44E		Conf	
3	67th AAA Regt	Li-lin-hsu Army Bks AL-1	22-58-24N 114-18-48E		Conf	
4	124th Inf Div Hq A Bks AL-6	Chang-ning Inf Div Hq A Bks AL-6	23-14-58N 114-02-35E		Conf	
5	370th Inf Regt	Chang-ning Army Bks AL-1	23-13-18N 114-01-38E		Conf	
6	371st Inf Regt	Chang-ning Inf Div Hq A Bks AL-6	23-14-58N 114-02-35E		Conf	
7	372nd Inf Regt	Chang-ning Army Bks AL-2	23-13-18N 114-02-24E		Conf	
8	504th Arty Regt	Chang-ning Army Bks AL-5	23-15-50N 114-04-32E		Conf	
9	329th Tank Regt	Chang-ning Army Bks AL-4	23-14-05N 114-03-37E		Conf	This is the only confirmed tank regt in the CMR (see text)
10	125th Inf Div Hq	Chang-mu-tou Inf Div Hq and Bks AL-1	22-53-37N 114-01-07E		Conf	
11	373rd Inf Regt	Hsin-hsu Army Bks AL-1	22-50-21N 114-19-24E		Conf	
12	374th Inf Regt	Nui-ti-pu Mil Bks	22-39-48N 114-00-21E		Prob	Facility is widely dispersed, small-arms range & personnel trenching observed; however, no troop obstacle courses or GOB have been identified
13	Elements 374th Inf Regt	Pu-chi Army Bks AL-1	22-36-13N 114-06-19E		Poss	Facility may be local forces or border defense bks
14	375th Inf Regt	Tien-hsin Army Bks SW AL-5	22-48-20N 113-57-16E		Prob	May also be used as a training facility; contains a small-arms range, arty range, & wheeled-vehicle driver-training course
15	505th Arty Regt	Tien-hsin Army Bks AL-3	22-50-39N 114-00-34E		Conf	
16	126th Inf Div Hq	Tsao-shih Army Bks AL-1	26-22-04N 112-48-44E		Prob	See text
17	376th Inf Regt	Tsao-shih Army Bks AL-1	26-22-04N 112-48-44E		Prob	See text
18	377th Inf Regt	Tsao-shih Army Bks AL-1	06-22-04N 112-48-44E		Prob	See text
19	378th Inf Regt	Tsao-shih Army Bks AL-1	26-22-04N 112-48-44E		Prob	See text
20	506th Arty Regt	Tsao-shih Army Bks AL-1	26-22-04N		Prob	See text

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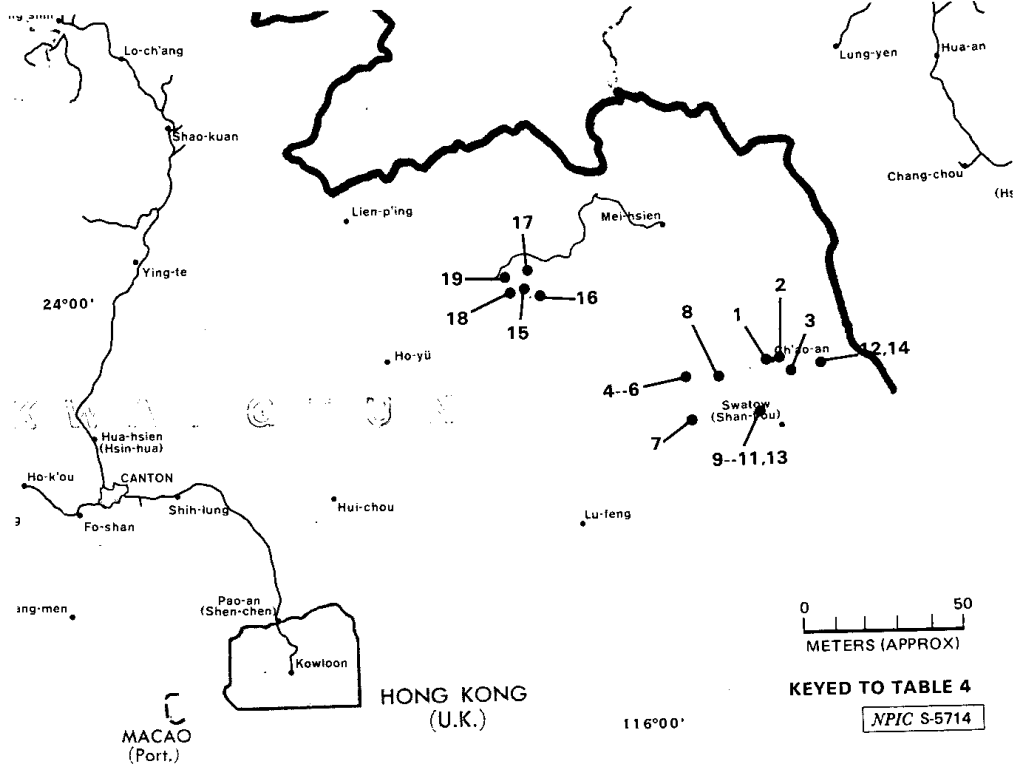


FIGURE 4. LOCATION OF 55TH ARMY UNITS

Table 4. Canton Military Region 55th Army Units (Keyed to Figure 4)

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF UMBRA¹

Item	Unit	Name	Coordinates	BE No	Function (Photo Assessed)	Remarks
1	55th Army Hq	Chao-an Army Hq and Army Bks AL-1	23-41-08N 116-37-17E		Conf	
2	158th Arty Regt	Chao-an Army Bks East AL-2	23-40-41N 116-40-52E		Conf	
3	Unid AAA Regt	Pu-tou-fou Army Bks AL-1	23-37-50N 116-46-31E		Conf	
4	163rd Inf Div Hq	Keng-wei Bks N AL-1 A Hq Inf Div	23-35-23N 116-10-02E		Conf	
5	487th Inf Regt	Keng-wei Bks N AL-1 a Hq Inf Div	23-35-23N 116-10-02E		Conf	
6	488th Inf Regt	Keng-wei Bks N AL-1 a Hq Inf Div	23-35-23N 116-10-02E		Conf	
7	489th Inf Regt	Hung-yang Army Bks SW AL-1	23-24-50N 116-10-40E		Conf	
8	443rd Arty Regt	Hsi-chang Army Bks AL-1	23-35-05N 116-21-12E		Conf	
9	164th Inf Div Hq	Shan-tou Inf Div Hq A Army Bks AL-1	23-26-47N 116-35-36E		Conf	See text
10	Inf Regt	Shan-tou Inf Div Hq a Army Bks AL-1	23-26-47N 116-35-36E		Conf	
12	Inf Regt	Chang-chi Army Bks South AL-1	23-42-46N 116-52-57E		Conf	
13	444th Arty Regt	Shan-tou Inf Div Hq a Army Bks AL-1	23-26-47N 116-35-36E		Conf	
14	Unid Tank Unit	Chang-chi Army Bks South AL-1	23-42-46N 116-52-57E		Conf	See text
15	165th Inf Div Hq	Hao-shih Army Bks & Inf Div	24-01-19N 115-22-44E		Conf	
16	Inf Regt	Hao-shih Army Bks AL-3	24-00-51N 115-27-30E		Conf	
17	Inf Regt	Kao-chang-hsia Army Bks N AL-1	24-04-50N 115-22-20E		Conf	
18	Inf Regt	Hao-shih Army Bks NW AL-2	24-01-08N 115-20-13E		Conf	
19	445th Arty Regt	Kao-chang-hsia Army Bks AL-2	24-03-52N 115-20-21E		Conf	

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October 1977 (Figure 7). The size of the facility is adequate to house two ponton bridge regiments--144 ponton sections equate to two regiments. The other installation is approximately 13 nautical miles west of Hui-chou along the Tung Chiang (River) and possibly houses elements of the 22nd Ponton Bridge Regiment. This installation was identified on imagery of December 1977. Seventeen ponton sections on vehicles were observed in the barracks area, and five ponton sections and two probable BMK-150 power boats were observed in the water.

Hainan Area Command, Hainan Island

21. (TSRU) The only main force ground unit observed on Hainan Island is the 47th Motor Transport Regiment at Hai-kou. Ground forces on this island consist of at least two garrison divisions, a possibly independent artillery regiment, and other local forces.

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

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

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MAPS OR CHARTS

CIA Base Map. 500071 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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REQUIREMENT

Project 130013NG

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

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