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**BASIC IMAGERY
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

SARY SHAGAN MISSILE TEST CENTER

[Redacted]

25X1A

MISSILE RANGES--SAM/AMM FACILITIES

USSR

JUNE 1970

25X1

[Redacted]

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

RCA-19/0024/70

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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME		COUNTRY
Sary Shagan Missile Test Center		UR
UTM COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	
NA	46-11-05N 072-41-30E	
MAP REFERENCE ACIC. USATC 200, Sheets M0245-1HL, 2AL, 3AL, 7AL, 8AL, 9HL, 10HL, 13AL, 14HL, 15HL, 19AL, 0244-1AL and 0237-16AL, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/		

25X1A

25X1

25X1C

25X1D

ABSTRACT

Significant activity at the Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center (SSMTC) during the reporting period included the installation of a second GALOSH-type launcher erector and initial construction preparation for two possible launch positions at launch complex F, the installation of an antenna atop TRY ADD building A at launch complex D, the installation of two probable GALOSH-type launcher erectors at launch complex D, and the construction of a second launch pad at launch complex C.

25X1D

This report on the SSMTC covers the [redacted] period. It updates previous basic reports.

References are included for the basic reports published during the reporting period, and attention is directed to basic reports scheduled for publication on specific SSMTC installations.

The report contains photographs of the unidentified activity east of the launch complex C support area, the suspect electronics facility, and the large crater observed near tracking facility 15.

INTRODUCTION

Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center (SSMTC)^{1,2} the largest and most instrumented defensive missile test center in the Soviet Union, is located along the western shore of Lake Balkhash in the southern portion of Soviet central Asia and extends from the lake front westward for approximately 275 nautical miles (nm). The area is relatively isolated and has a limited indigenous population. The area is suited for missile testing by the nature of the climate and its relatively flat, desert-like terrain. Except for the salt flats, trafficability appears to be no problem. The terrain varies from salt flats to rocky outcroppings. Vegetation consists of grasses and shrubs, but a large portion of the range is barren. The average annual precipitation is approximately 4 inches, and the average temperature ranges between 0 degrees and 30 degrees F during the winter and between 60 and 80 degrees F during the summer.

The test center is served by rail, road, and air. The Mointy-Chu rail line is the only rail line serving the test center. An intricate network of all-weather roads and trails permits transportation from one facility to another within the test center. A primary airfield, whose longest runway is approximately 2,926 meters (9,600 feet), is the main facility serving air traffic to and from the test center.

25X1D

Although evidence was available to support construction of a missile test center at Sary-Shagan in the early 1950s, it was not until [redacted] the first photographic coverage of the test center was obtained (Figures 1 and 2).

BASIC DESCRIPTION

HEADQUARTERS AND MAIN HOUSING AREA

No significant change occurred during the reporting period.

25X1

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OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BASE

25X1D

The area was covered by one pass of interpretable [redacted] photography during the reporting period. No significant changes occurred during the reporting period. The next basic report on this facility is scheduled for publication in the first quarter of fiscal year 1971.

25X1D

Explosives and Solid Propellant Storage & Handling Area

25X1D

No change in facilities has occurred. The probable GALOSH missile canister that had been observed on the [redacted] wide apron [redacted] All seven of the GRIFFON missile sustainers, first identified [redacted] appear to be present in the same location [redacted]

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

25X1D

Liquid Propellant Storage & Handling Facility

Both of the tank farms have been earth covered, and only one building remains externally under construction. The area has a general appearance of having been cleared of construction debris -- except for the immediate area around the fuel-loading building. A new coal pile near the heating plant could also indicate that the facility is nearing an operational status.

SAM Support Facility

No change has occurred within the fenced area of the facility. An open-ended revetment consisting of two nearly parallel earthen walls has been constructed just outside the southwest corner of the security fence. Unidentified vehicles, equipment, or crates are stacked opposite one end of this revetment.

Industrial Area; Warehouse Facility; Housing Facility; Electronic Training Area; and Sary-Shagan Airfield

No changes were observed in facilities.

AIRFIELD SOUTHWEST (DIRT STRIP 1)

No changes were observed in facilities.

AIRFIELD SOUTH (DIRT STRIP 2)

No change was observed at this 5,200-meter- (10,500-foot-) long graded-earth runway. No aircraft or equipment have ever been seen here, and it is doubtful if this facility has achieved an operational status.

RAILROAD STATION, YARDS, AND SHOPS; CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT FACILITY

No changes were observed in facilities.

LAUNCH COMPLEX A

25X1D

Both of the SA-2 sites (launch sites 1 and 2) were observed to be occupied during the reporting period. Both of the SA-5 sites (launch sites 3 and 4) were observed to be occupied [redacted]

25X1D

LAUNCH COMPLEX B

25X1

The complex was covered [redacted] during the reporting period [redacted] No change in facilities was observed. GALOSH canisters were in the launcher erectors at positions C-1 and C-2.5

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25X1

25X1
25X1

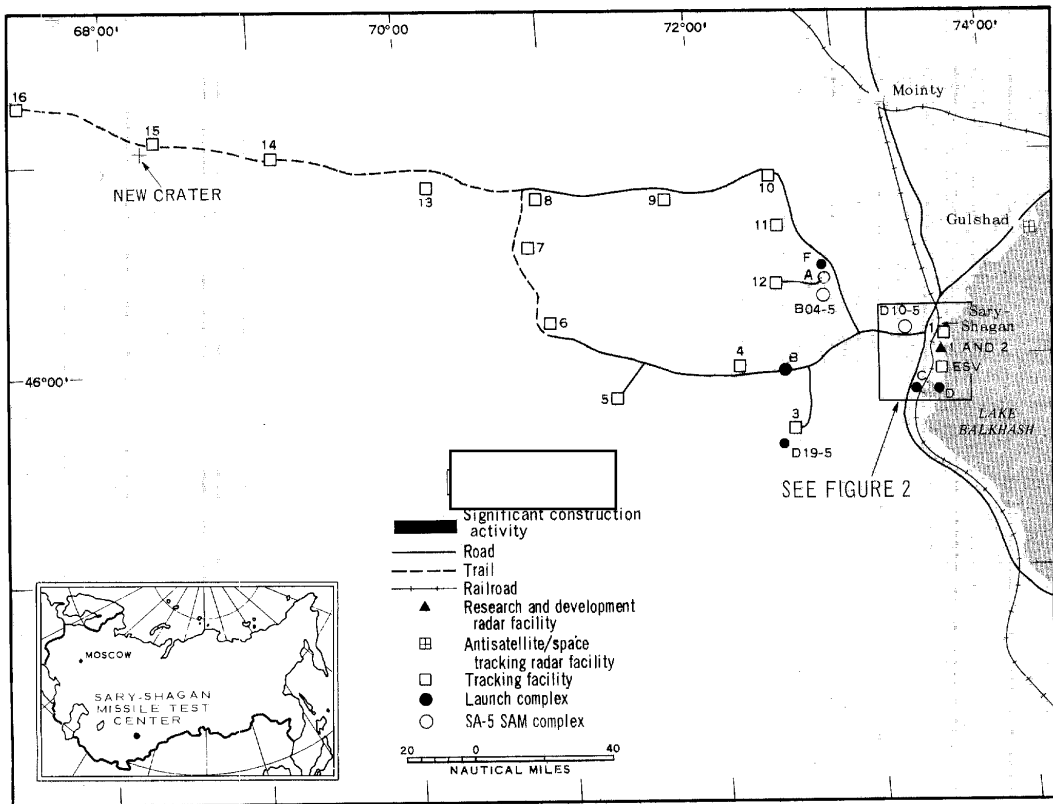


FIGURE 1. SARY-SHAGAN MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

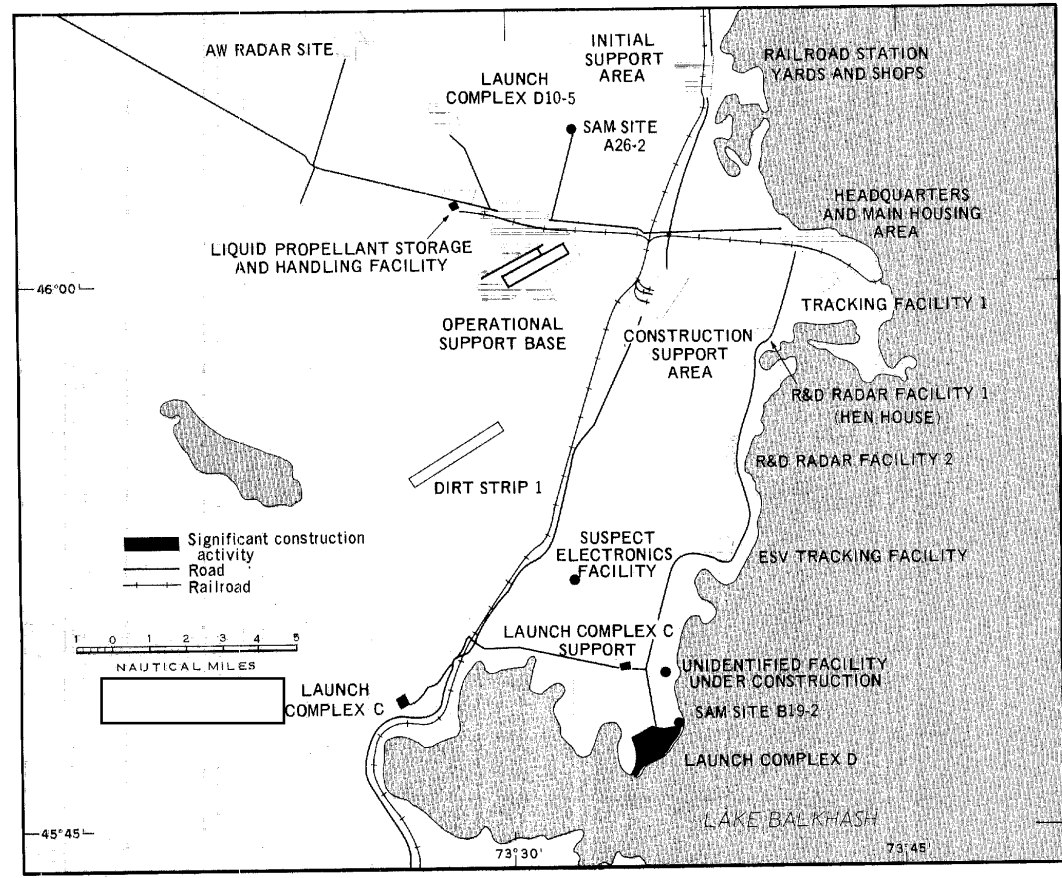
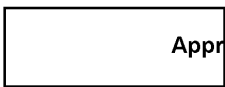


FIGURE 2. RANGEHEAD AREA, SARY-SHAGAN MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

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25X1
25X1

25X1



TOP SECRET



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25X1
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LAUNCH COMPLEX C

25X1D

A second launch pad was constructed in the launch area [redacted] Significant comparisons are made with launch complex H at Kapustin Yar/Vladimirovka Missile Test Center, which is a similar launch complex.⁶

25X1D

LAUNCH COMPLEX D

Significant construction continued at this newest R&D ABM complex. A large nearly circular, flat antenna was installed on a unique probable AZ-EL mount atop TRY ADD building A, two probable GALOSH-type erector launchers were installed in the launch area, and the excavations for the anchor points for a second probable large tower north of the launch area were observed.^{7,8}

LAUNCH COMPLEX BO4-5

25X1D

No changes were observed in facilities. Both launch sites were observed to be occupied [redacted] the only photography during the reporting period.⁹

LAUNCH COMPLEX D19-5

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25X1D
25X1

Construction of the complex continued to progress slowly [redacted] the only significant change was the construction of partial revetments around launch positions C-5 and C-6. [redacted]

25X1D

[redacted] At the air warning facility, three of the four radar mounds were occupied by a small unidentified vehicle or piece of equipment [redacted]

25X1D

LAUNCH COMPLEX D10-5

25X1D

Eleven of the 18 launch positions were observed to be partially revetted [redacted] On the most recent photography [redacted] the complex was occupied. No significant change in facilities was observed.¹⁰

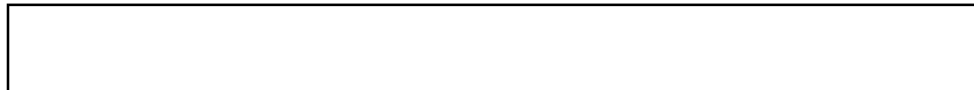
25X1D

LAUNCH COMPLEX F

The northern portion of launch complex A contained an area of activity probably not SAM related but believed to be associated with ABM research and development. This area has now been redesignated launch complex F.^{11,12} It contains the following facilities:

- (1) Two GALOSH-type launch positions, which were formerly designated launch positions 7A and 7B, are now redesignated launch positions 1A and 1B of launch site 1.

25X1D



- (3) Abandoned GRIFFON launch sites 5 and 6 and the associated electronic site C.

SA-2 SAM SITES

25X1D

Of the five SA-2 SAM sites at SSMTIC, one site, B22-2, appears to be nothing more than a star-configured SA-2 ground pattern formed by very light earth grading. It has appeared so on all photography since it was first observed [redacted]

25X1D

A second site, B21-2, has been unoccupied [redacted] It remains unoccupied on the latest photography [redacted]

25X1D

A third site, B19-2, was observed unoccupied on the [redacted] missions covering the site during the reporting period [redacted]

25X1

25X1D

The remaining two sites, A26-2 and E06-2, have been observed occupied during the reporting period.

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SAM TRAINING AREA

This facility has appeared inactive and abandoned [redacted]

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ANTISATELLITE/SPACE TRACKING RADAR FACILITY

The control building for sweptback dual HEN HOUSE E is probably externally complete, and several rows of footings for the antenna buildings have been emplaced and backfilled. No significant changes occurred at dual HEN HOUSES A, B, C, and D or at the support facilities.¹³

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT RADAR FACILITY 1

No changes were observed in facilities.

[redacted]

25X1D

EARTH SATELLITE VEHICLE TRACKING FACILITY

No significant change in facilities occurred during the reporting period. A recent report¹⁵ discusses the most recent status of the facility, including identification of several features made possible on large-scale photography acquired in the past [redacted]

25X1

TRACKING FACILITIES

The most recent NPIC basic report¹⁶ discusses changes at all the Sary-Shagan tracking facilities through photography of [redacted]. The next NPIC basic report covering all the SSMTC tracking facilities is scheduled for publication in the second quarter of fiscal year [redacted]. No significant changes occurred during the reporting period.

25X1

25X1D

25X1D

MICROWAVE FACILITIES AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES

No significant changes were observed in facilities.

SUSPECT ELECTRONIC FACILITY

A second trench was newly observed in the area [redacted] (Figure 3), approximately 579 meters (1,900 feet) south and in-line with the first trench. This second trench is approximately 567 meters (1,860 feet) long. It is open along its entire length with the exception of several narrow probable vehicle crossing points. The first trench now appears to be completely backfilled.

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25X1D

The road leading toward the area from the main lakefront road has not had additional grading [redacted]. The status of the fence line construction cannot be determined on small-scale photography. Only a small segment of the 4,800-acre area was observed to be fenced [redacted]

25X1D

Work has continued in the area of unidentified activity just south of the suspect electronic facility at the intersection of the dog-leg road and the launch complex C launch area access road. Three buildings are externally complete, two buildings are under construction, and three probable building foundations are present. The association of this area with the suspect electronic facility or any other facility cannot be determined.

UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY OPPOSITE LAUNCH COMPLEX C SUPPORT AREA

Unidentified construction activity was first observed in two areas east of the launch complex C support area [redacted] (Figure 4). Neither area of activity was present [redacted]

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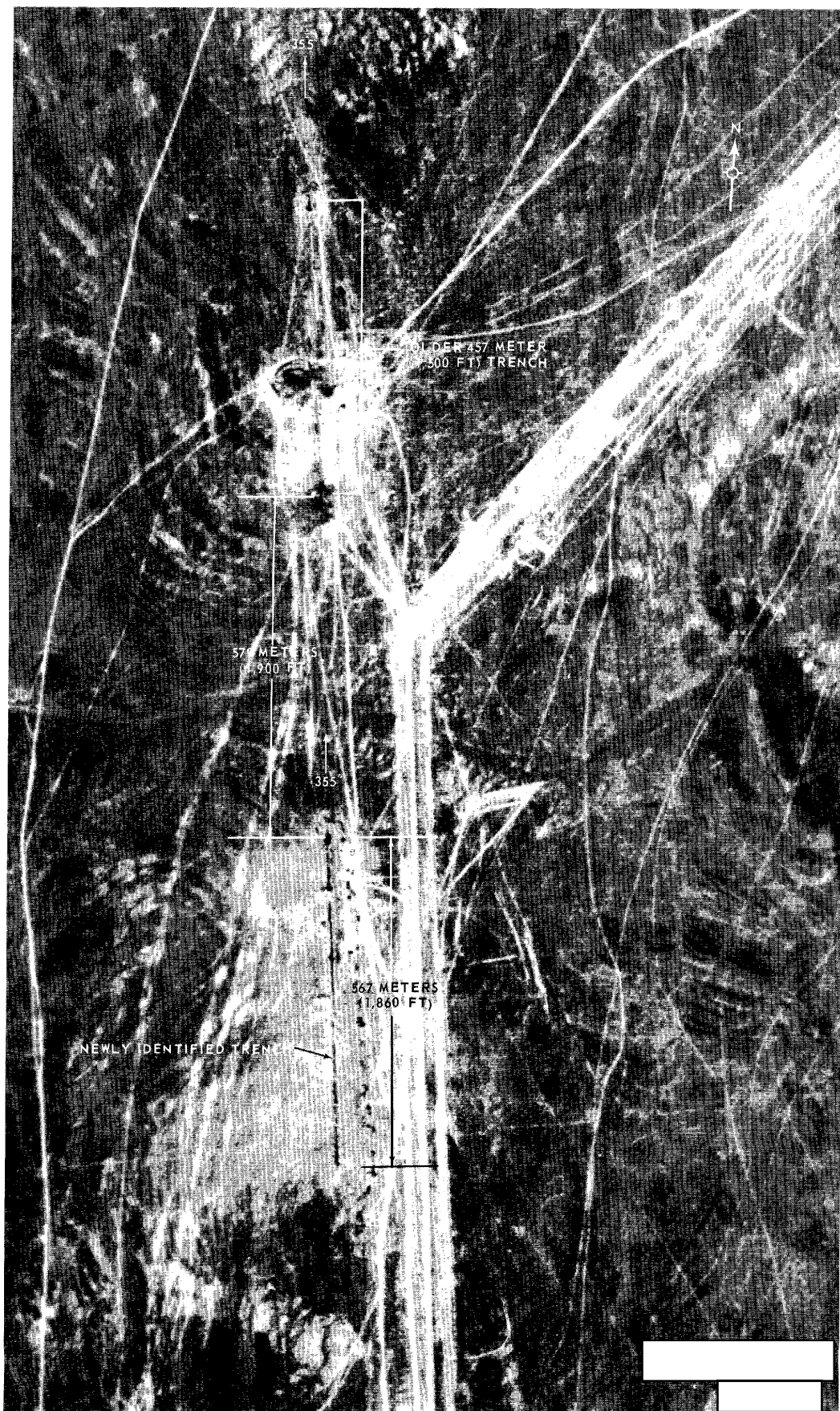
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The area of greater activity is located between the main lakefront road and the shore of Lake Balkhash and is centered around 45-50-10N 073-35-00E. [redacted] this area contained two buildings nearly externally complete, the largest [redacted] two buildings with foundation and wall construction underway, two other building foundations under construction, and

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FIGURE 3. SUSPECT ELECTRONICS FACILITY, SSMTC

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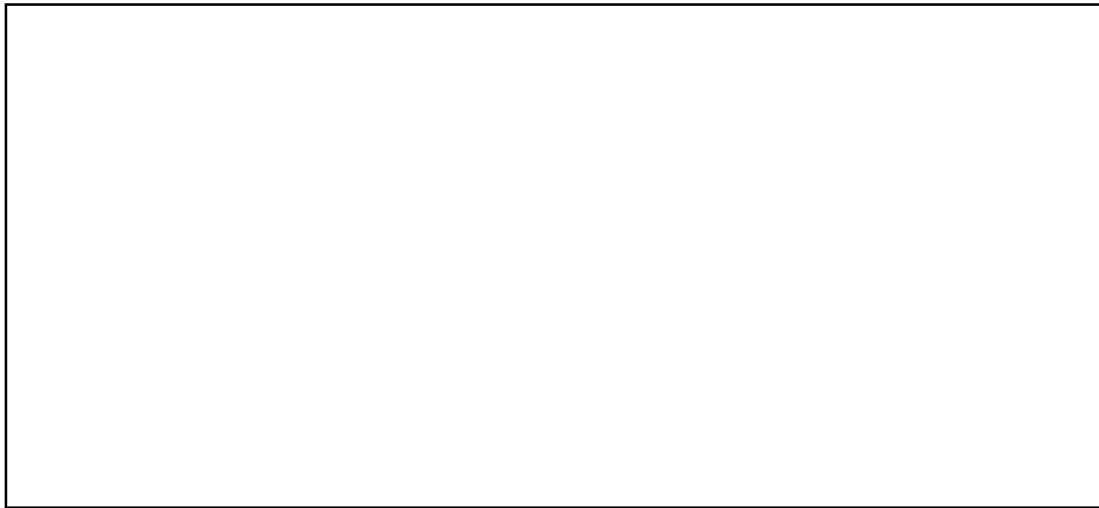
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two probable buried tanks. The main road into the area has been graded, including a section of loop road around the probable buried tanks.

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The second area of activity is located between the launch complex C support area and the main lakefront road. It contains a building foundation approximately [redacted] and a second possible building foundation. A rectangular scar around this area indicates that a fenceline is probably planned to secure the area.

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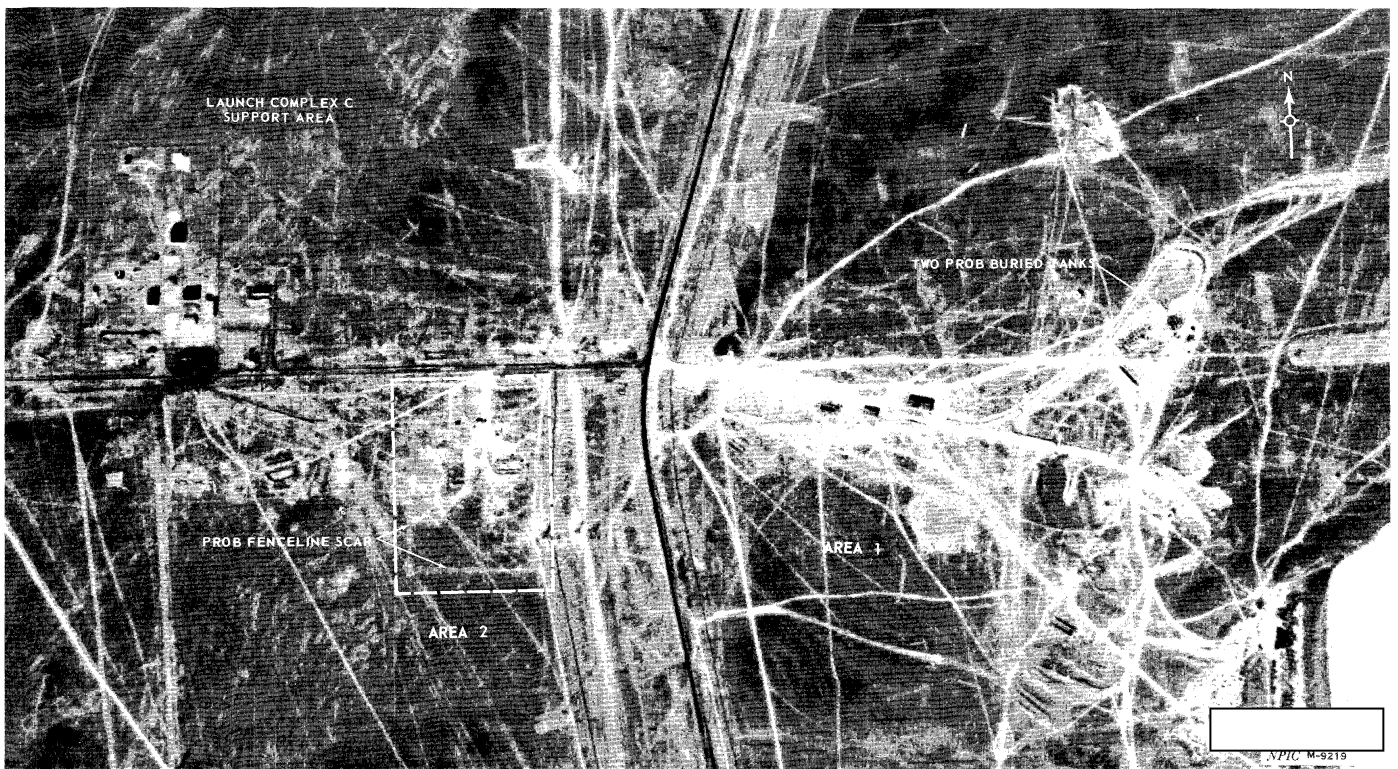


FIGURE 4. UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY OPPOSITE LAUNCH COMPLEX C SUPPORT AREA, SSMIC

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

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REFERENCES



25X1D

MAPS OR CHARTS

25X1C

SAC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0245-1HL, 4th ed, Oct 65, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem [redacted])

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0245-2AL, 2d ed, May 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0245-3AL, 2d ed, May 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0245-7AL, 2d ed, May 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0245-8AL, 2d ed, May 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

25X1C

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0245-9HL, 4th ed, Nov 66, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem [redacted])

25X1C

SAC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0245-10HL, 3d ed, Jun 65, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem [redacted])

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0245-13AL, 2d ed, May 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0245-14HL, 5th ed, Nov 66, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem [redacted])

25X1C

ACIC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet M0245-15HL, 3d ed, Apr 66, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET/No Foreign Dissem [redacted])

SAC. US Air Target 200, Sheet 0245-19AL, 1st ed, Mar 60, scale 1:200,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

SAC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0244-1AL, 1st ed, Jun 59, scale 1:200,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

SAC. US Air Target Chart 200, Sheet 0237-16AL, 1st ed, Apr 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

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DOCUMENTS

25X1
25X1
25X1

1. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0024/69, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Aug 69 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

2. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0008/70, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Jan 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

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3. NPIC. [redacted] PIM-017/70, SA-5 Missile Firing Launch Complex A, Sary-Shagan MTC, USSR, Mar 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

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4. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0005/70, Sary-Shagan AMM Complex Zone A, USSR, Apr 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

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5. NPIC. [redacted] BCA-19/0008/70, Sary-Shagan AMM Complex Zone B, USSR, Mar 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

6. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0017/70, Sary-Shagan Launch Complex C, USSR, Apr 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

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7. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0013/69, Launch Complex D, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Feb 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

8. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0004/70, Launch Complex D, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Apr 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

9. NPIC. [redacted] BCA-19/0005/70, Sary-Shagan SAM Complex BO4-5, USSR, Mar 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

10. NPIC. [redacted] BCA-19/0006/70, Sary-Shagan SAM Complex D10-5, USSR, Mar 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

11. NPIC. [redacted] PIR-011/70, Major Expansion Activity Launch Complex A, Sary-Shagan MTC, USSR, Feb 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

12. NPIC. [redacted] PIN-028/70, Launch Complex F, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Apr 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

13. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-03/0036/70, Sary-Shagan Antisatellite/Space Tracking Radar, USSR, Nov 69 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1
Foreign Dissem [redacted]

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14. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-03/0037/70, Sary-Shagan Research and Development Radar Facility 2, USSR, Jan 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

15. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-03/0033/70, Sary-Shagan ESV Tracking Facility USSR, Apr 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

25X1

16. NPIC. [redacted] RCA-19/0007/70, Tracking Facilities, Sary-Shagan Missile Test Center, USSR, Jan 70 (TOP SECRET [redacted]) 25X1

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REQUIREMENT

COMIREX T05
NPIC Project 220668AA

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