

Vital Records

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

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**YOSHKAR-OLA
ICBM COMPLEX
USSR**

TCS-80505/67
SEPTEMBER 1967
COPY **116**
6 PAGES

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PREFACE

This report, prepared in response to CIA requirements C-DI5-82,972 and C-DI7-84,251 requesting detailed line drawings, to scale, of elements of the complex, updates and supersedes TCS-80898/66, Yoshkar-Ola ICBM Complex, USSR. 1/ The information contained herein is based on KEYHOLE photography through [REDACTED] Individual reports will be updated periodically to reflect changes observed on subsequent photography.

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YOSHKAR-OLA ICBM COMPLEX, USSR

The Yoshkar-Ola ICBM Complex (Figure 1) is in the southeastern part of the Forest Zone, in the European USSR. The complex support facility is 6.0 nm southeast of the city of Yoshkar-Ola, capital of the Mariyskaya ASSR, and a manufacturing and agricultural-processing center about 400 nm east-northeast of Moskva. The complex is small, containing only 6 soft sites, 3 Type IIB and 3 Type IID. The sites are laid out along both sides of the complex main road which runs east and west. The complex support facility is at the west end, with the transfer point slightly over 1.0 nm to the east on the south side of the complex main road. The launch sites extend about 15 nm to the east.

The complex is deployed in a heavily forested area in flat terrain with relatively few drains. A small river flows through the center of the complex in a general southerly direction toward the Volga river. The complex is about 450 feet above sea level, with less than 100 feet differential over the entire complex. Relative relief in the area of the launch sites is inconsequential. The numerous small villages scattered throughout the area are probably dependent on logging and agriculture for their livelihood.

Weather in this region is generally gloomy. Precipitation usually falls every second or third day in all seasons. Winters are cold, with frequent snowfall, and summers are moderately warm, with light breezes, recurrent cold spells, and frequent fogs. Temperature extremes for the 12-month period vary from 96° to -39° F. Persistent snow cover usually begins about mid-October and remains until about mid-April. Cloud cover varies from a high of 75 percent during late fall and early winter to about 20 percent in the summer months. During the spring thaw, the flat terrain prevents a quick run-off of water, causing the region to become a sea of mud with unsurfaced roads impassable.

The complex support facility and rail-to-road transfer point are both served by a spur from the single-track rail line that runs from Zelenodolsk on the Volga, through the city of Yoshkar-Ola, to a large ammunition storage area northwest of the city. Towns and villages in the region are joined by a network of local roads but few, if any, have all-weather capabilities. Within the complex, the well-engineered complex main road system was constructed concurrent with the launch sites.

The Yoshkar-Ola Complex was one of the first ICBM complexes to be identified in the Soviet Union; however, its starting date was subsequent to several other complexes that were identified at later dates. It was first ob-

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served in [REDACTED] when the complex support facility and a Type IIB launch site were under construction. Initial grading and layout of the complex support facility had apparently been completed when it was first observed. The roads and rail spurs were in use but few buildings were present. Construction for the facility had probably been initiated about [REDACTED]. At the launch site, grading for roads, pads, and buildings appeared complete but poor interpretability prevented a more detailed analysis. Construction for the site probably started about [REDACTED].

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A second Type IIB launch site was initiated in [REDACTED] 4 more launch sites were started, another Type IIB site in [REDACTED] and 3 Type IID sites during [REDACTED]. All 6 sites were complete by [REDACTED] and there have been no significant changes since that time. The complex has always shown a steady level of activity. Missiles and missile exercises are frequently observed at the various launch sites, and vehicular traffic is usually apparent along the roads.

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This complex will, no doubt, remain active for at least 2 or 3 more years. After that, its position in the pattern of Soviet ICBM complexes would be hard to predict. To date, there has never been any large-scale dismantling of complex facilities. Some buildings have been removed but others have been built. There is ample space for additional site deployment around the complex. The outlay for the support facilities and the permanent appearance of these facilities infer that they were built with a view to long-term service. This would indicate that this complex will remain active in the foreseeable future and could support a follow-on missile system.

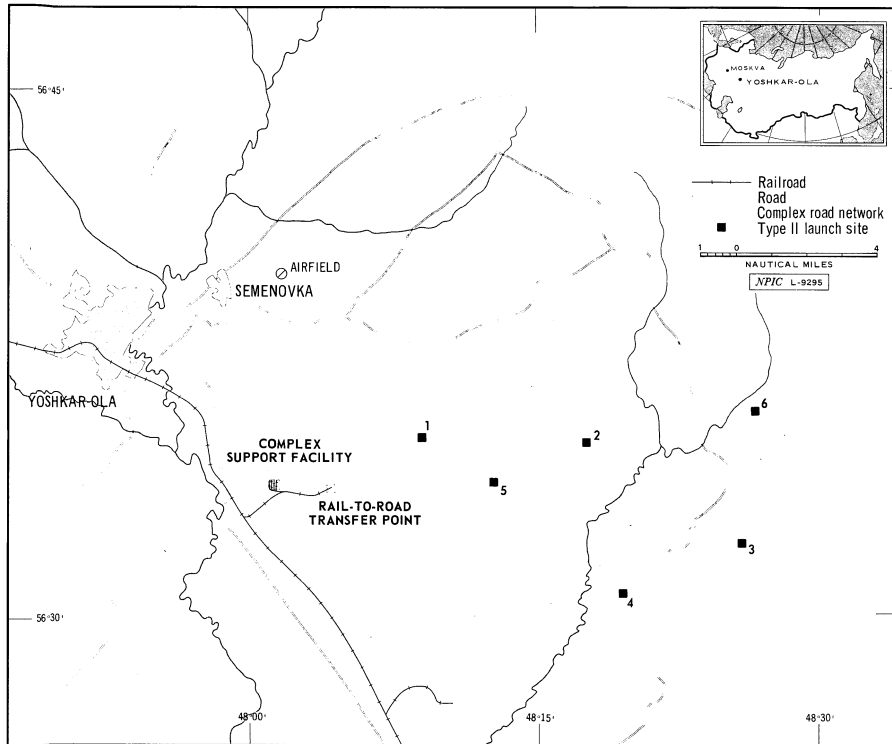


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF YOSHKAR-OLA ICBM COMPLEX.

Component	Type	Geographic Coordinates
Complex Support Facility	--	56-33N 48-01E
Launch Site 1	IIB	56-35N 48-09E
Launch Site 2	IIB	56-34N 48-17E
Launch Site 3	IIB	56-31N 48-27E
Launch Site 4	IID	56-30N 48-19E
Launch Site 5	IID	56-33N 48-12E
Launch Site 6	IID	56-36N 48-28E

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REFERENCES

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DOCUMENTS

NPIC. TCS-80898/66, *Yoshkar-Ola ICBM Complex, USSR*, Sep 66 (TOP SECRET RUFF)

REQUIREMENTS

CIA. C-DI5-82,972

CIA. C-DI7-84,251

NPIC PROJECT

11210/66 (partial answer)

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