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LOCATIONS OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES UNITS IN AFGHANISTAN AND TURKESTAN
MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR, AS OF 26 FEBRUARY 1980 (TSR)

1. [] This is the first in a projected series of imagery-derived reports on the locations of Soviet ground force units and Soviet communications facilities in Afghanistan and in the Turkestan Military District on the USSR-Afghanistan border. These reports will be published as significant changes occur in the area. 25X1

AFGHANISTAN

2. [] The Soviets have deployed three motorized rifle divisions (MRD), one airborne division, and major elements of a fourth MRD in Afghanistan. 25X1

3. [] Major units in the Kabul/Bagram area include the Front-level command post; two BMD (airborne armored personnel carrier-APC)-equipped regiments; one assault gun battalion; one MRD, consisting of three motorized rifle regiments (MRR); and one antiaircraft regiment. One BMD-equipped airborne regiment was also at Bagram Airfield [] 25X1

4. [] In northeastern Afghanistan, two MRRs were headquartered at Pol-e Khomri, and two MRRs, one FROG-7 battalion, and one airborne/airmobile battalion were headquartered at Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield [] Elements of these four regiments have probably been deployed to the Feyzabad, Taloqan, and Nahrin areas, where a tank-reinforced motorized rifle battalion has been identified in each location. 25X1

5. [] In western and southern Afghanistan, one MRD was headquartered at Shindand Airfield [] Units observed include one tank regiment, one MRR, one artillery regiment, one FROG 3/5 battalion, one BM-21 equipped multiple-rocket launcher battalion, one chemical defense battalion, and three batteries of a deployed SA-8 regiment. The remainder of the Shindand division was deployed in the vicinity of Herat and Qandahar. One MRR was at Herat Airfield [] and one MRR, along with two batteries of the deployed SA-8 regiment and one BMD-equipped airborne battalion, was at Kandahar (Qandahar) Airfield International [] 25X1

6. [] Non-divisional signal equipment (R-410/R-412M TWIN PLATE troposcatter sets) was deployed with the Front-level command post in Kabul and at Pol-e Khomri, Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield [], Herat Airfield (BE [] and Shindand Airfield [] 25X1

USSR, TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT

7. [] One MRD, elements of a second possible MRD, and tactical SAM units were on the USSR-Afghanistan border in the Turkestan Military District. These units were within two major complexes, in the Takhta Bazar/Kushka area and in the Termez area. The majority of the MRD elements were in the Takhta Bazar/Kushka area. 25X1

Takhta Bazar/Kushka Area

8. [] One MRD and elements of another possible MRD were observed in this area. The majority of the equipment was bivouacked in the Takhta Bazar Bivouac Area []. The units observed in this area include a BMP-equipped MRR, a probable truck-equipped MRR, one tank regiment, a FROG-7 battalion, a multiple-rocket launcher battalion, an artillery regiment, and an antiaircraft regiment. A BTR-60-equipped MRR was in Takhta Bazar Army Barracks West AL-1 []. A tactical POL storage area and an R-410 TWIN PLATE communications station were deployed adjacent to Kushka Army Barracks AL-1/Headquarters MRD []. Elements of an MRR were parked within the same installation. 25X1

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- 1 -

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Termez Area

9. [] Units observed in the Termez area include an SA-3 battalion deployed approximately 2 nautical miles (nm) east of the complex and an SA-4 brigade and R-410 TWIN PLATE communications station deployed 6 nm to the north-east. An unidentified unit consisting of 40 tracked vehicles and 135 vehicles/pieces of equipment was parked in Termez Army Barracks AL-1/Headquarters MRD [] 25X1

[] Two tactical POL storage areas were deployed in the Termez area--one was to the northwest and adjacent to Termez Ammunition Depot DA 1 [] 25X1

[] and the other area was northeast of Termez. A deployed PMP ponton bridge spans the Amu Darya (river) at Termez and serves as one of the crossing points for Soviet ground forces units entering/exiting Afghanistan. 25X1

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the following persons in the Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC.



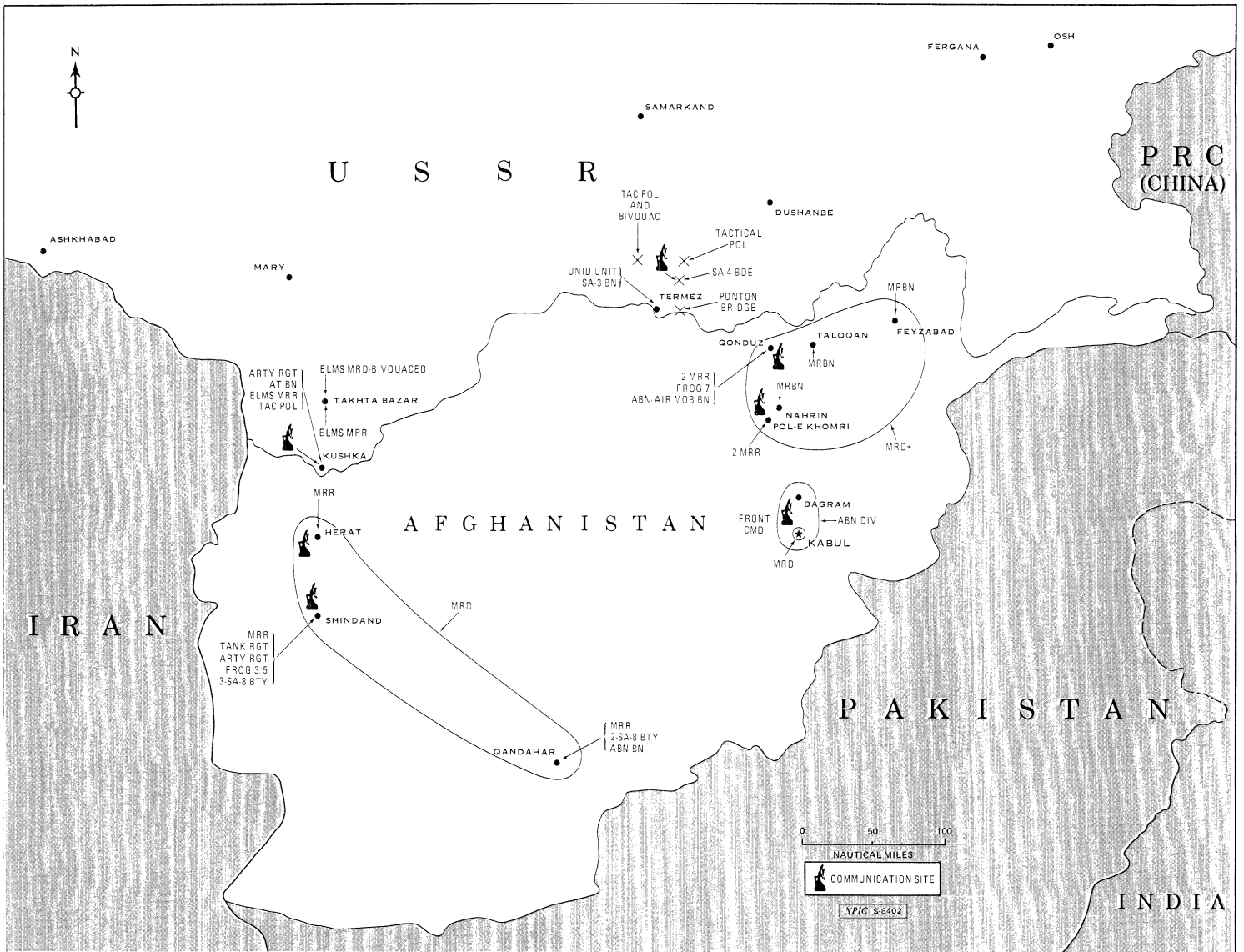
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LOCATION MAP