

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



**Secret**

25X1

**imagery analysis report**

# **Soviet Deployment at Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield, Afghanistan (S)**

**Secret**

*WNINTEL*

**Z-20048/80  
IAR-0158/80  
AUGUST 1980  
Copy 167**

**Warning Notice**  
**Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved**  
**(WNINTEL)**

**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**  
**Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions**



25X1

**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>NOFORN-</b>	<b>Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals</b>
<b>NOCONTRACT-</b>	<b>Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants</b>
<b>PROPIN-</b>	<b>Caution-Proprietary Information Involved</b>
<b>USIBONLY-</b>	<b>USIB Departments Only</b>
<b>ORCON-</b>	<b>Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator</b>
<b>REL . . .</b>	<b>This Information has been Authorized for Release to . . .</b>

**SECRET**

25X1

**SOVIET DEPLOYMENT AT KUNDUZ (QONDUZ) AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN (S)**

1. (S/D) The deployment area at Kunduz (Qonduz) Airfield [ ] is the headquarters for Soviet operations in northeast Afghanistan (Figure 1). This airfield is approximately 4 nautical miles (nm) southeast of Kunduz and 35 nm south of the Soviet border. 25X1
2. (S/D) Kunduz Airfield is a base for a Soviet combat assault helicopter regiment which is used in support of ground units operating in this region of Afghanistan.
3. (S/D) Soviet ground force units were initially observed at the Kunduz Airfield deployment area [ ] when elements of a motorized rifle regiment (MRR) were identified. Since that time, a major Soviet base has been developed in this deployment area. The deployment area presently consists of the following: an MRR, an early warning radar site, a probable signal battalion, a reconnaissance battalion, a field hospital, a chemical defense battalion, a command post, a radio communication (radcom) station, an airborne regiment with an airborne howitzer battalion, and a deployed antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment. 25X1
4. (S/D) The MRR bivouac area is in the southern portion of the deployment area and is trench and berm secured. This bivouac is divided into two separate areas: a personnel housing area containing approximately 66 large tents and 59 small and medium tents and a food services area. The vehicle parking area contains the armored personnel carriers (APCs), armor, artillery (122mm self-propelled—SP—howitzers), and engineer equipment for the MRR. This is the first location in Afghanistan where the 122mm SP howitzer M-1973 has been observed.
5. (S/D) The early warning radar site adjacent to the MRR was first observed [ ] Two net-covered FLAT FACE radars are operationally deployed within a trench- and berm-secured bivouac area. Additional equipment observed included a possible R-409 CATS PAW van truck and three probable BTR-60P APCs (two were net covered). Five cargo trucks and seven net-covered tents are also within the bivouac area. 25X1
6. (S/D) The probable signal battalion bivouac area is adjacent to the MRR area. This bivouac contains a personnel housing area with 15 large tents and at least 14 small tents. The radio equipment of this battalion is net covered and deployed in three adjacent fence-secured areas.
7. (S/D) The reconnaissance battalion area, also in the southern portion of this deployment area, contains three probable SPIKE SQUARE and nine probable TURN SERIES vans, six UAZ-69 jeeps, four BMP APCs, and one probable BTR-70 APC. Housing for this battalion consists of ten large tents and approximately 40 small and medium tents.
8. (S/D) The field hospital was first observed [ ] in the northeast portion of the deployment area. The hospital contains 19 large tents and 15 medium tents with at least one operating room. A new hospital location was being prepared [ ] in the southeast portion of the deployment area. The field hospital had been moved to this new location [ ] 25X1
9. (S/D) The chemical defense battalion is currently in the northeast corner of the deployment area. This unit has relocated several times since its initial identification [ ] Major decontamination vehicles observed include two TMS-65 and one DDA-66 trucks. 25X1
10. (S/D) The command post is on the north side of the deployment area. Nondivisional equipment includes two deployed R-410 TWIN PLATE troposcatter sets with the screens oriented toward Termez in the Soviet Union.
11. (S/D) The radcom station is collocated with the command post. This station consists of five ground-mounted lattice towers and was present prior to the Soviet occupation of this area.
12. (S/D) The airborne regiment bivouac is on the north side of the deployment area. Two BMD APC-equipped airborne battalions, an airborne signal unit, and a 122mm D-30-equipped airborne howitzer battalion (normally a divisional asset) are within the bivouac area. One battery of GAZ-MRLs (multiple rocket launchers) is attached to the howitzer battalion. No security is discernible around the airborne bivouac perimeter; however, each battalion area is separately berm secured.
13. (S/D) Security for the deployment area is provided by perimeter trenching with personnel firing positions. Major elements of a tank battalion and a 122mm D-30 howitzer battery are deployed in defensive positions around the perimeter. In addition, at least six GAZ-MRLs, one GAZ-mortar battery, and one 122mm SP howitzer M-1974 are being used in a perimeter defense role.
14. (S/D) Air defense is being provided by an AAA regiment consisting of four deployed 57mm AA sites. In addition, one self-propelled antiaircraft (SPAA) battery consisting of four ZSU-23/4s and four MT-LB SAMs are deployed adjacent to the MRR bivouac area.
15. (S/D) At least five support units, including logistical and construction elements, are also within this deployment area.
16. (S/D) The construction of permanent buildings, initially observed [ ] is continuing. Approximately ten structures are in various stages of construction in this deployment area. 25X1

25X1

- 1 -

WNINTEL  
Z-20048/80**SECRET**

IAR-0158/80

**Page Denied**

**Secret**

**Secret**