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Imagery analysis report

Soviet Mobile Water Filtration Stations in Afghanistan (S)

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SOVIET MOBILE WATER FILTRATION STATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN (S)

1. (S/D) Mobile filtration stations for the recovery and purification of water have been identified with the Soviet ground forces in Afghanistan. Although this equipment was previously observed with units in the USSR, it was not until it was seen operationally deployed in Afghanistan that its function could be determined.

2. (S/D) The mobile filtration stations have been observed at eight major Soviet deployment areas in Afghanistan, including Kandahar (Qandahar), Shindand, and Kunduz (Qonduz). Each mobile filtration station consists of a mobile filter/pump vehicle (van truck), a support trailer, and storage and settling tanks. When operationally deployed, as at Kandahar (Qandahar), the sides of the truck are expanded, the storage and settling tanks are inflated, and the truck, tanks, the support trailer, and a water supply point are connected by hoses (Figure 1).

3. (S/D) The water to be treated is pumped from the water supply point by the mobile filter/pump vehicle into the rubber settling tanks, where it is allowed to clarify (Figure 2). From these settling tanks it is pumped into the filtration portion of the mobile filter/pump vehicle, where it is filtered and treated with the chemicals being supplied by the support trailer. After treatment, the water is pumped into rubber storage tanks or directly into a water storage truck or trailer for use. The most elaborate facility is at the Shindand Deployment Area  which serves as the divisional headquarters and logistical support base for the Soviet forces in western and southern Afghanistan (Figure 3). At least three stations are within a fence-secured area south of the main deployment area.

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4. (S/D) Wells have been drilled at various locations in Afghanistan, such as Kunduz (Qonduz), where surface water is not readily available (Figure 4).



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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied

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