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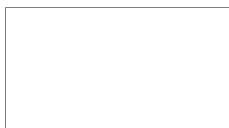
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Imagery analysis report

**Deployment of Soviet Ground Forces in
Afghanistan, [redacted] (S)**

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IAR-0304/80
NOVEMBER 1980
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DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

(S)

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1. (TSR) This report summarizes the Soviet ground forces deployment in Afghanistan, This nearly cloud-free imagery covered approximately 99 percent of Afghanistan. The Wakhan Valley between the Soviet Union, China, and Pakistan was the only area not imaged (Figure 1).

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2. (S/D) Significant activities observed during this period included the identification of at least 14 additional Soviet units and seven new Soviet bivouacks (Table 1 and Figure 1). Nine Soviet battalion-sized units were also identified in either combat operations or transit (Table 1 and Figure 1). In addition, the Soviet tactical POL pipeline was observed in its entirety, extending from its origin in the Soviet Union to its terminus at Pol-E Khomri, Afghanistan (Figure 1).

3. (S/D) The estimated number of Soviet ground forces personnel in Afghanistan (Table 2) is based on the number of personnel per unit.¹ The totals do not reflect the probable presence of a Soviet military advisory group which could number in the thousands.

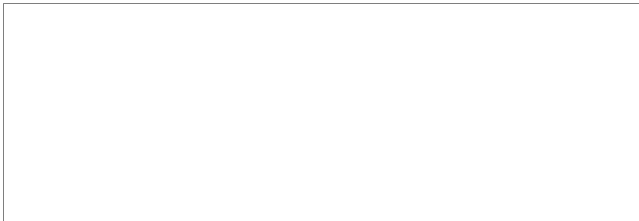


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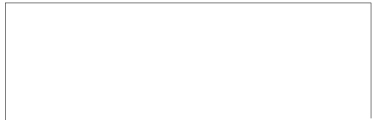
DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DDB-1100-2-79, *Soviet Ground Forces Organizational Guide(U)*, Jan 79 (SECRET

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Table 1.
Soviet Ground Forces Units In Afghanistan,
(Items keyed to Figure 1)

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Item	Location/BE No	Units Present	Remarks
1	Kabul Complex	1 army command post 2 prob division command posts 2 airborne regiments 1 artillery regiment 1 artillery battalion 1 airborne assault gun battalion 1 antiaircraft regiment 1 reconnaissance battalion 1 army-level signal unit 1 army-level early warning unit 1 communications jamming battalion 1 airfield ground support unit 1 motor transport battalion 1 maintenance battalion 1 construction battalion 1 army-level rear services	
2	Bagram Airfield	1 airborne regiment (unit bivouac present) Elements of 1 engineer battalion 1 rear services depot	All 3 airborne battalions absent at Charikar Soviet bivouac Rest of battalion at Bagram Airfield
3	15 nm SW of Bagram Airfield at 34-45-08N/069-05-34E	1 airborne battalion* 1 rocket launcher battery*	Prob from the airborne regiment at Bagram Airfield
4	Charikar Soviet Bivouac	Elements of 1 engineer battalion	Rest of battalion at Bagram Airfield
5	Jabal Os Sarai Soviet Bivouac	Elements of 1 motorized rifle regiment	Only 1 battalion present
6	Salang Pass Search Area	1 motorized rifle battalion*	Providing security for Salang Pass & tunnel
Northeast Afghanistan			
7	Pol-E Khomri Soviet Deployment Area	1 command post Elements of 1 motorized rifle regiment Elements of army rear services & support 1 prob motor transport regiment	Only 1 battalion present
8	Along the Soviet tactical POL pipeline from Pol-E Khomri to Khairabad Tranship Pt	2 motorized rifle battalions* 1 tactical pipeline construction battalion* 1 prob construction battalion* 2 artillery batteries* 1 prob division command post 1 motorized rifle regiment**	Providing security along pipeline 36-23-45N/067-56-45E 35-27-10N/067-49-55E
9	Kunduz Airfield	1 artillery battalion 1 reconnaissance battalion 2 airborne battalions 2 signal battalions 1 chemical defense battalion 1 antiaircraft artillery regiment 1 command/communication post* Elements of 1 artillery regiment Elements of 1 antitank battalion 1 engineer battalion* 1 motor transport battalion* 1 maintenance battalion* 1 tank company*	Only 1 battalion present
10	Kunduz Deployment Area North		

*Indicates new unit/bivouac identification.
 **Indicates full complement not observed.

Table 2.
Estimated Soviet Ground Forces Personnel in Afghanistan,

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Unit	Number	Total Personnel*	Remarks
Division Combat Troops			
Motorized Rifle Division	3	35,000**	
Motorized Rifle Regiment	3	6,750	Independent/unsubordinated
Airborne Division	1	7,300	
Airborne Regiment	1	1,800	
Airborne Battalion	1	400	Unsubordinated
Army-Level Units			
Command Post	1	1,250	
Signal Units		3,150	Includes all commo, radar, & jamming units
Rocket Launcher Regiment	1	1,100	
Rear Services/Logistics		8,250	Includes all construction, maint motor transport, and bridging units
Total		65,000	

*Unit strengths are rounded off to the nearest 50.

**This total represents the three motorized rifle divisions less two subordinate tank regiments and three FROG battalions (totaling 2,500 personnel, which have either withdrawn from or never deployed to Afghanistan).

Item	Location/BE No	Units Present	Remarks
11	Faizabad Airfield	2 motorized rifle battalions	
12	Jorn/Faizabad Search Area	2 motorized rifle battalions*	1 battalion at 37-00-00N/070-53-30E/town of Mazar; 1 battalion 12 nm SE of Mazar at 36-55-57N/071-02-42E
13	Eshkashem Search Area Afghan A474	1 motorized rifle battalion	
14	Nahrin Barracks Division Regiment & Battalion Headquarters	1 motorized rifle battalion	
15	Talijan Airfield	1 battalion-size task force*	
16	Khwaja Ghar Area Search	1 motorized rifle battalion*	Unit was in transit
	at 37-03-02N/069-25-35E		
Eastern Afghanistan and the Konar Valley			
17	Jalalabad Soviet Bivouac 3	1 motorized rifle regiment** 1 airborne battalion**	2 battalions present on 1 company present
18	Jalalabad Airfield	1 motorized rifle company	
19	Ghazni Military Camp SE	1 motorized rifle regiment**	3 battalions absent 2 battalions absent
20	Gardez Airfield	1 motorized rifle company	
21	Ghazni Sov Mil Ops Search Area	1 prob motorized rifle battalion*	Conducting operations/in transit
22	32-46-50N/068-28-15E Chagasary Complex	1 motorized rifle battalion	In Konar Valley
Central Afghanistan			
23	Panjab Area Search 34-23-30N/067-00-45E	1 battalionsized task force*	
24	Nayak Airfield	1 motorized rifle battalion*	
Western and Southern Afghanistan Area			
25	Shindand Deployment Area	1 division command post 1 tank regiment** 1 motorized rifle regiment 1 artillery regiment 1 antitank battalion 1 multiple rocket launcher battalion 1 reconnaissance battalion 1 SA-8 regiment (3 batteries) 1 chemical defense battalion 1 motor transport battalion 1 maintenance battalion 1 multiple rocket launcher regiment (nondivisional) 1 motorized rifle regiment**	1 battalion present
26	Herat Soviet Deployment Area		Tank battalion absent
27	Herat/Kushka Road Search Area	1 tank battalion*	Providing security along highway at various checkpoints
28	Adreskan at 33-38-15N/062-15-30E	Elements of 1 engineer battalion*	
29	Kandahar Soviet MRR Bivouac	1 motorized rifle regiment 1 airborne battalion 1 construction unit	

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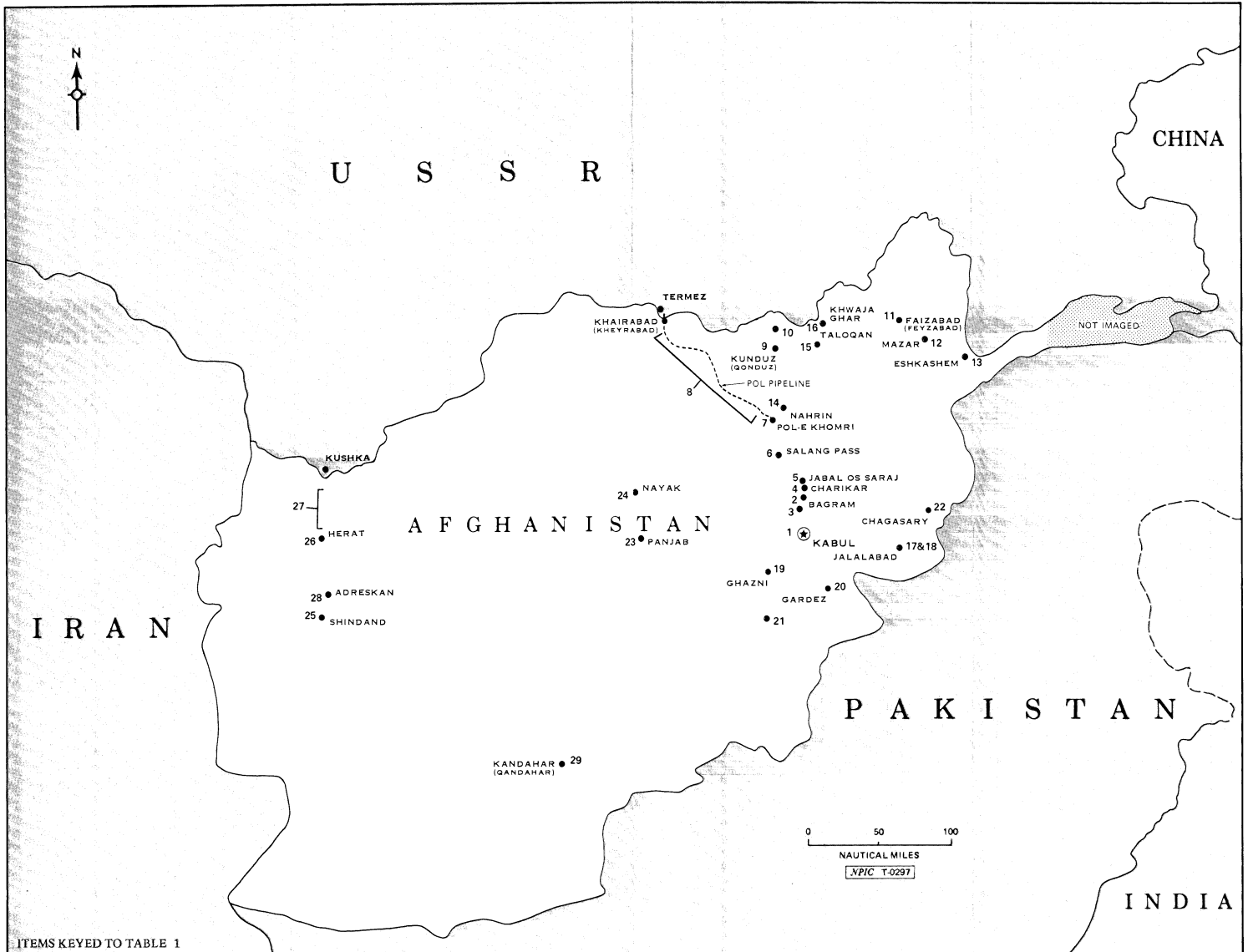


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN

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