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imagery analysis report

Probable Radar Cross-Section Test
Site, China (S)

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Z-12058/83

IAR-0037/83

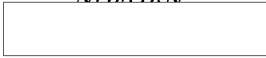
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PROBABLE RADAR CROSS-SECTION TEST SITE, CHINA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. A probable radar cross-section test site was identified for the first time in China on imagery of [redacted]. The test site is part of Su-Tsun Probable Electronics Research and Development (R&D) Facility [redacted] which is approximately 100 nautical miles (nm) west of Shanghai in the Nanjing Military Region. Radar cross-section testing is used to evaluate the apparent size of a target through analysis of its projected size, range, aspect, shape, and material composition.¹ China may use this facility to test indigenous radars or to evaluate projected enemy radar images of Chinese aircraft. (S/WN)

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SECRET**DESCRIPTION**

2. Su-Tsun Probable Electronics R & D Facility is approximately 2 nm east of Su-Tsun, at 30-53-10N 110-12-10E. Dispersed over a relatively isolated region approximately 1 nm square, it consists of an electronics test area, an equipment storage/support area, and a barracks/support area (Figure 1). (S/WN)

3. The probable radar cross-section test site and an unidentified electronics test site are in the electronics test area (Figure 2). The probable radar cross-section site (Figure 3) consists of two lattice towers (one guyed and one self-supporting), a concrete test pad between the towers, and a smaller rail-mounted lattice tower on the test pad. A cable, suspended between the tops of the two larger towers, passes directly over the concrete test pad. An LA-17 drone and an unidentified structure/piece of equipment were on the test pad (Figure 3) on [REDACTED]. The unidentified electronics test site consists of a small electronics test pad and two probable calibration buildings. Four probable auxiliary electronics test pads are on a small hill overlooking the electronics test area. Numerous storage/support buildings are nearby. (S/WN)

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4. The equipment storage/support area, west of the test area, consists of five barracks, one probable administration building, one equipment storage building, one messhall, and seven support buildings. (S/WN)

5. The barracks/support area, north of the test area, consists of eight barracks, two messhalls, and three support buildings. Trenches were observed across the main road from this area. (S/WN)

6. The Su-Tsun facility was originally identified as a radio communications station when the guyed tower was first observed in 1964. It was expanded into an electronics test site between April 1971 and July 1972, with the addition of the self-supporting tower and the four test pads on the hill. By March 1978, a circular concrete test pad had been constructed between the two lattice towers, an indication that radar cross-section testing had probably begun. By [REDACTED] a cable had been suspended between the tops of the towers, and the test pad area had been expanded to include a small rail-mounted lattice tower. (S/WN)

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Imagery Analyst's Comments

7. Because of its configuration, the possibility also existed that the Su-Tsun facility was involved in electromagnetic pulse (EMP) research and development. EMP simulator sites in general, [REDACTED] are typically equipped with a pulser between the towers to provide electromagnetic transmissions. Further research subsequently revealed that Su-Tsun Probable Electronics R & D Facility was more similar in dimension and layout to several Soviet radar cross-section test sites. Comparison of the Su-Tsun facility to a Soviet radar cross-section test site at Belousovo Probable Electronics Test/Training Facility² [REDACTED] (Figure 5), just south of Moscow, confirmed their similarities—the pad and suspended cable between the towers and the height and distance of the towers. The lack of a pulser and the presence of the drone, the rail-mounted tower, two probable calibration buildings, and four auxiliary test pads further suggested the function of Su-Tsun as a radar cross-section testing facility. (S/WN)

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

All applicable satellite imagery acquired from July 1964 through January 1983 was used in the preparation of this report. (S/WN)

DOCUMENTS

1. Gunston, Bill. (ed.) *Jane's Aerospace Dictionary*, Jane's Publishing Incorporated, New York, 80. (U)
2. NPIC. Z-14639/82, RCA-20/0001/82. *Radar Cross-Section Test Facilities, USSR* (S) Dec 82

Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] East Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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