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imagery analysis report

Soviet Military Transport Aviation Summary (S)

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SOVIET MILITARY TRANSPORT AVIATION SUMMARY (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. This report provides imagery-derived information on noteworthy trends and developments in Soviet military transport aviation (VTA) that have occurred since April 1982. The VTA air order-of-battle was derived from the most recent, clear satellite imagery acquired through [redacted] (Figure 1 and associated table). (S/WN) 25X1

2. The Soviets continue to upgrade their VTA forces with CANDID aircraft. This trend includes the replacement of CUB aircraft with CANDIDs at Kedainiai and Zaporozhye East Airfields and the initiation of a similar replacement at Krivoy Rog Airfield East. In addition, CUB regiments at Chervono-Glinskoye and Zavitinsk Northeast Airfields were redeployed in May 1983 to facilitate airfield renovation; renovation and construction is continuing at Krivoy Rog East, Fergana, Seshcha, and Nikolayevskoye Airfields; and newly produced CANDIDs have replaced some older CANDIDs at Tartu Airfield and Zaporozhye Airfield East. (S/WN)

BASIC DESCRIPTION

3. The CUB-to-CANDID upgrading at Kedainiai was completed by [redacted] when 23 CANDIDs were present. This upgrading had begun by [redacted] when eight CANDIDs were present. (S/WN) 25X1
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4. Upgrading of VTA forces in the southwestern USSR continued with the completion of the upgrading to CANDIDs at Zaporozhye East Airfield and the initial upgrading to CANDIDs at Krivoy Rog Airfield East. A high count of 26 CANDIDs (Figure 2 shows many of them) was at Zaporozhye East on [redacted] [redacted] completing the upgrading (a normal CANDID VTA regiment has 24 to 28 aircraft). Upgrading was first identified in January 1982, when one CANDID was present and CANDID revetment construction was underway. On [redacted] 13 of the 25 CANDIDs present (eight shown in Figure 3) were new CANDIDs with [redacted]. Some of the older CANDIDs from Zaporozhye East may have been redeployed to Krivoy Rog Airfield East in the Kiev Military District (MD), where three CANDIDs were first observed in January and eight were seen on imagery of [redacted] (Figure 4). [redacted] Preparations for CANDID deployment to Krivoy Rog East were first observed on imagery of [redacted] [redacted] when ground scarring for blastwall construction was underway along the main parking apron at the south end of the airfield. By [redacted] 11 CANDID parking positions had been completed and at least 14 more were in the early stage of construction. A similar pattern of deployment and construction was observed at Zaporozhye East. (S/WN) 25X1
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5. The CUB regiments from Chervono-Glinskoye and Zavitinsk Northeast Airfields have recently redeployed, and indications of extensive airfield renovation have been observed at both airfields. On [redacted] [redacted] 17 CUBs from Chervono-Glinskoye were at Bolgrad Airfield Southeast (Figure 5). Bolgrad is a departure field for the 98th Guards Airborne Division in the Odessa MD, and normally only an airborne detachment of COLT aircraft is here. One of the three FLAGON dispersal areas at Chervono-Glinskoye, which houses a FLAGON A/D regiment, has been undergoing renovation since September 1982, but this renovation did not necessitate the redeployment of the CUB and FLAGON regiments. However, by [redacted] [redacted] only four CUBs were at Chervono-Glinskoye, and renovation activities were underway on the parallel taxiway, end-connecting taxiway, connecting taxiway, and at the north end of the runway. The FLAGON regiment probably deployed to Tiraspol Airfield [redacted] where a FLAGON regiment was present on [redacted] (S/WN) 25X1
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6. The CUB regiment normally housed at Zavitinsk Airfield Northeast, in the Far East MD, deployed to Fergana Airfield in the Turkestan MD between [redacted] to facilitate impending airfield renovation at Zavitinsk Northeast. Only 20 of the normal complement of 30 CUBs were at Zavitinsk Northeast on [redacted] and only three were present on [redacted]. Correspondingly, 27 CUBs and three CANDIDs (the latter probably providing logistics support for the deployment) were at Fergana on [redacted] (Figure 6). Although small numbers of paving blocks were at Zavitinsk Northeast in February, full-scale preparations for the renovation were not seen until [redacted] when at least 100 paving blocks were at the airfield and many more were in a rail yard 2.5 nm to the south. On [redacted] construction equipment was present, and the northwest end of the runway was being refurbished. Significant numbers of the BADGER air-to-surface missile regiment (25 aircraft), normally housed at Zavitinsk Northeast, deployed to Ukraina Airfield [redacted] (S/WN) 25X1
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7. At Fergana, a probable new aircraft repair facility is under construction. This facility is approximately 200 meters northeast of the CUB repair facility. A large concrete hardstand has been completed, and the steel framework for a large building/hangar has been erected. In addition, another building is under construction adjacent to the civil terminal. (S/WN) 25X1



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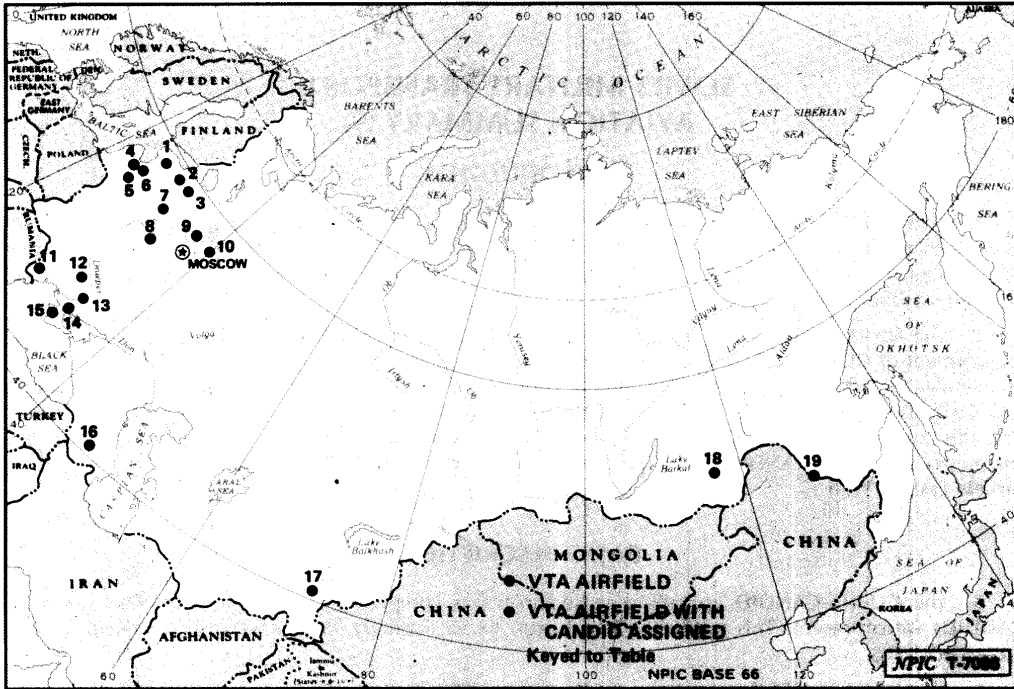


FIGURE 1. MILITARY TRANSPORT (VTA) AIRFIELDS IN THE USSR

Table
 Status of Soviet Military Transport Aviation as of
 (Keyed to Figure 1)

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Item	Airfield and BE No	Date of Imagery	Air Order-of-Battle (AOB)	No of CANDID Revetments/ Blastwalls	Remarks
1	Tartu <input type="text"/>		18 CANDIDs, 1 CUB	27	
2	Pskov <input type="text"/>		27 CANDIDs	28	
3	Krechevitsy <input type="text"/>		24 CANDIDs	28	
4	Siauliai <input type="text"/>		29 CUBs		
5	Kedainiai <input type="text"/>		22 CANDIDs, 1 CUB	28	
6	Panevezys <input type="text"/>		18 CANDIDs	28	
7	Vitebsk Northeast <input type="text"/>		24 CANDIDs, 6 CUBs	26	
8	Seshcha <input type="text"/>		15 COCKs, 4 CUBs, 7 CANDIDs		CANDID were from Vitebsk Northeast where renovations were underway
9	Kalinin <input type="text"/>		19 COCKs, 7 CUBs		
10	Ivanovo North <input type="text"/>		17 COCKs, 14 CANDIDs, 18 CUBs	21	
11	Chervono-Glinskoye <input type="text"/>		No AOB		Airfield renovation underway; CUB regiment deployed to Bolgrad Airfield Southeast

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Table (Continued)

Item	Airfield and BE No	Date of Imagery	Air Order-of-Battle (AOB)	No of CANDID Revetments/Blastwalls	Remarks	
12	Krivoy Rog East [redacted]	[redacted]	8 CANDIDs, 27 CUBs	11	14 additional hardstands were under construction	25X1 25X1
13	Zaporozhye East [redacted]		26 CANDIDs, 2 CUBs	28		25X1
14	Melitopol [redacted]		50 CUBs			25X1
15	Dzhankoy [redacted]		28 CUBs			25X1
16	Kirovabad [redacted]		26 CUBs			25X1
17	Fergana [redacted]		2 CANDIDs, 55 CUBs		27 CUBs are from Zavitinsk Airfield Northeast	25X1
18	Nikolayevskoye [redacted]		19 CUBs			25X1
19	Zavitinsk Northeast [redacted]		3 CUBs, 15 BADGERS		Airfield renovation underway; CUB regiment deployed to Fergana Airfield; BADGER regiment deployed to Ukraine Airfield	25X1

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Imagery Analyst's Comments

11. Fourteen of the 19 newly deployed CANDIDs were identified between January and March 1983 at Tashkent Airframe Plant B Chkalov 84 [redacted] the CANDID production facility. The delivery of newly produced CANDIDs to Tartu and Zaporozhye East coincided with a redeployment of other CANDIDs previously assigned to these airfields. These events suggest that CANDID aircraft may be routinely transferring from what have been their normal home bases to other VTA airfields. [redacted]

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12. VTA upgradings to CANDID have followed a consistent pattern: no more than two CUB units have been upgraded at any one time, and a new upgrading has been initiated just before the previous one has been completed. The upgrading at Zaporozhye East and Krivoy Rog East typified this pattern. If this pattern continues, another VTA airfield could be upgraded by the latter part of this year. Renovation and construction at Chervono-Glinskoye and the location of this airfield in the southwestern USSR suggest that it may be the next VTA airfield to be upgraded with CANDID. (S/WN)

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. (S/WN)

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

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