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imagery analysis report

New MD-Level Command and Control Facility, Transcaucasus MD, USSR (S)

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NEW MD-LEVEL COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY TRANSCAUCASUS MD, USSR (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. A hardened command and control facility (for wartime missions) associated with the Headquarters of the Transcaucasus Military District (HQ TCMD) has been identified in the vicinity of Kodzhori, six nautical miles (nm) west-southwest of the center of Tbilisi. Facilities of this type indicate a continuing Soviet priority for providing hardened, and probably redundant, command and control facilities from which MD authority can direct essential services and wartime functions such as civilian and military mobilization, area defense, and rescue and recovery operations. This facility, Tbilisi/Kodzhori Probable MD CP/Bnk [redacted] Figures 1 and 2), is on the southern side of a ridgeline in a hilly, heavily

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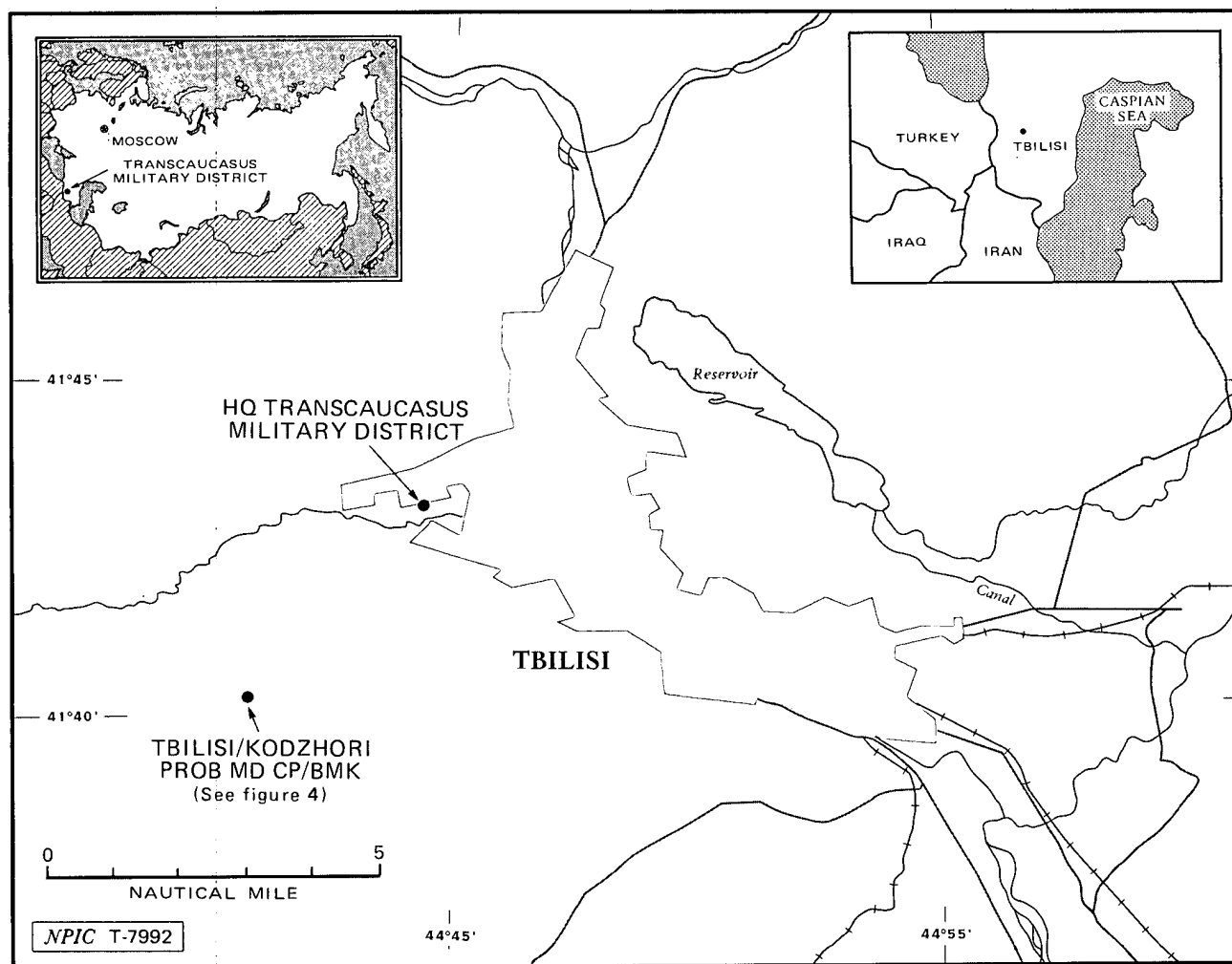


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF COMMAND POST, KODZHORI

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- 1 -

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Z-12117/83

IAR-0071/83

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wooded area one nm northwest of the town of Kodzhori. Construction of the facility, started in 1979, is continuing. Tbilisi/Kodzhori Probable MD CP/Bnk includes underground facilities in addition to above-ground support facilities. (S/WN)

2. This report is in response to the Community's high interest in Soviet command and control facilities and associated installations. Two location maps and three annotated photographs are included. (S/WN)

DISCUSSION

3. Information on the subordination of Tbilisi/Kodzhori Probable MD CP/Bnk is based on the observation of equipment, facilities, and communications links indicative of MD association. [REDACTED]

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4. In June 1978, one TWIN PLATE mobile tropospheric scatter communications set was erected in a cleared area approximately 0.7 nm southwest of Tbilisi/Kodzhori hardened command and control facility. In addition to the TWIN PLATE, 50 to 75 trucks/communications vans were in the immediate area and in the nearby surrounding woods. A HIP C utility helicopter was on the ground approximately 0.7 nm further southwest from the TWIN PLATE. The presence of the TWIN PLATE system is ordinarily evidence of a MD-/front-level or above signal unit. The observation of only one TWIN PLATE transmitter/receiver antenna set indicates that the site functions as the terminal point of a radio relay axis. The presence of the HIP C also suggests a high level of organization at the facility in that helicopters are not normally assigned to or used below the MD/front army echelon for command and control. Army-level association of this installation is not a consideration because an army headquarters is not in the Tbilisi area. (S/WN)

5. Prior to late 1979, the Tbilisi/Kodzhori facility had few permanent structures and appeared to be used only for mobile communications field deployments. However, since November 1979, major construction has occurred, transforming this rural area into a substantial headquarters command post installation with extensive above- and underground facilities. Ten months, from November 1979 to September 1980, apparently comprised the initial construction phase, indicating a high priority building program for the large three- and four-story multiwing headquarters building and for the two arch-roofed bunkers. Under normal construction practices, 18 to 24 months would be the normal time required for similar construction. The type of bunkers constructed also suggests that a high priority was placed on this construction. From what has been observed on imagery of one of the arch-roofed bunkers and its clamshell-type opening, the bunker appears to be a prefabricated field fortification-type structure similar to that used by combat commanders. (S/WN)

6. A third [REDACTED] arch-roofed bunker (Figure 3), begun between January and August 1982 and last observed in mid-August 1983, remained uncovered. If the construction pace for the third bunker continues to be slower than that for the 1979 construction, this pace could represent a lower priority and a more normal funding and construction schedule. The construction of the third bunker represents a significant increase in the protected (hardened underground) floorspace available to meet operational requirements. Additionally, an area of approximately 20.0 by 25.0 meters (Figure 3) is surrounded by net fences and is obscured by netting suspended below tree canopies, approximately 5.0 meters off the ground. No activity has been observed within this area, and the reason for its concealment is not known. (S/WN)

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7. Two communications facilities capable of supporting command post requirements are in the vicinity (Figure 4) of the command post. One of these facilities, Kodzhori Radrel Station NW [REDACTED] is a large Ministry of Communications radio relay site approximately .25 nm northeast of the command post; the other, Kodzhori Radrel Station [REDACTED] is a military communications facility 0.8 nm east-southeast of the command post. Kodzhori Radrel Station's military designation is based on

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- 5 -

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Z-12117/83

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the observation of two fixed R-400/-404 microwave antenna masts for point-to-point communications and on the deployment of a TWIN PLATE terminal to the station (Figure 5) in November 1980. While imagery interpretability precluded determining the orientation of the R-400/-404 antenna dishes, the orientation of two R-400/-404 antennas on the roof of the HQ building at Tbilisi HQ Transcaucasus MD AL-25 could provide line-of-sight communication with both Radrel stations. (S/WN)

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REFERENCES



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2. CIA.  *Security Guard Company, 235th Komendatura HQS, Transcaucasus Military District*, 16 Aug 78 (CONFIDENTIAL/WNINTEL)

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