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MUCUSSO MILITARY CAMP

NEWLY IDENTIFIED IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA

MUCUSSO MILITARY CAMP

MUCUSSO AIRFIELD

ANGOLA

NAMIBIA

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Z-15769 NPIC/IEG (7/82)

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15 JULY 1982

MUCUSSO MILITARY CAMP  
NEWLY IDENTIFIED IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA



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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: A NEW MILITARY CAMP, PROBABLY SERVING AS A SUPPORT BASE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN ASSISTANCE TO UNITA, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED NEAR THE NAMIBIAN BORDER.

2. (S/D) REMARKS: MUCUSSO MILITARY CAMP, A LARGE LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT FACILITY, WAS NEWLY IDENTIFIED ON IMAGERY [REDACTED] APPROXIMATELY 2 NM NORTH OF THE NAMIBIA BORDER IN CUANDO CUBANGO PROVINCE IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA. WHILE A SMALL PROBABLE MILITARY CAMP HAS BEEN PRESENT JUST NORTHWEST OF THE NEARBY MUCUSSO AIRFIELD [REDACTED] SINCE AT LEAST JUNE 1979, THIS NEW, LARGER CAMP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED SINCE APRIL 1981. THE CAMP, DISPERSED IN A FORESTED AREA, CONSISTS OF AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF HUTS, TENTS, AND STORAGE BUILDINGS, A LARGE CLEARED AREA, AND A VEHICLE PARKING AREA THAT CONTAINS AT LEAST 25 CARGO TRUCKS. THERE WERE NO DISCERNIBLE DEFENSIVE MEASURES SUCH AS PERSONNEL TRENCHES OR ANTI-AIRCRAFT SITES. EXTENSIVE VEHICLE TRACKAGE WAS PRESENT IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE CAMP AND LEADING TO THE NAMIBIA BORDER. IN ADDITION, A NATURAL-SURFACED ROAD THAT EXTENDS FROM THE BORDER TO THE MAIN EAST/WEST HIGHWAY IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA, A DISTANCE OF APPROXIMATELY 10 NM, HAS BEEN WIDENED AND GRADED SINCE AUGUST 1981.

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(S/D) CUANDO CUBANGO PROVINCE HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLD OF UNITA, AN INSURGENT GROUP THAT OPPOSES THE ANGOLAN (MPLA) GOVERNMENT. THE ONLY KNOWN ANGOLAN/CUBAN PRESENCE IN THIS PROVINCE IS LIMITED TO A FEW GARRISON TOWNS SUCH AS MENONGUE AND CUITO CUANAVALA. THE PROXIMITY OF THE NEW CAMP TO THE NAMIBIA BORDER AND THE CORRESPONDING NEARBY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SUGGEST A PROBABLE SOUTH AFRICAN-UNITA CONNECTION. THE CAMP MAY SERVE AS A TRANSFER POINT/STORAGE AREA FOR EQUIPMENT BEING FURNISHED TO UNITA BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS. THE REMOTENESS OF THE CAMP FROM ANGOLAN AND CUBAN FORCES ALSO PROVIDES AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE TRAINING OF RECRUITS FOR THE UNITA MOVEMENT.

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(S/D) THERE ARE TWO SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE ADJACENT WESTERN CAPRIVI REGION IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA. ONE INFANTRY COMPANY IS HOUSED AT BAGANI MILITARY CAMP [REDACTED] ON THE EASTERN BANK OF THE OKAVANGO RIVER, APPROXIMATELY 10 NM SOUTHEAST OF THE NEW CAMP. A SECOND INSTALLATION, THIPAPO MILITARY CAMP A/BN HQS [REDACTED] WHICH IS ALSO KNOWN AS BUFFALO BASE OR CAMP BUFFALO, IS APPROXIMATELY 17 NM SOUTHEAST OF MUCUSSO. THIPAPO IS THE HOME BASE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE'S 32ND BATTALION, A COUNTER-INSURGENCY UNIT THAT IS EXTENSIVELY USED IN CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS AGAINST SWAPO IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 17-59-50S 021-25-10E.

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