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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

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[redacted]

basic imagery interpretation report

Balaklava Missile Test Center (S)

MISSILE RANGES: NAVAL LAUNCHED FACILITIES
BE: Various
USSR

Top Secret

[redacted]

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RCA-17[redacted]/BD
AUGUST 1980
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INSTALLATION OR ACTIVITY NAME					O. NO.
Balaklava Missile Test Center					UR
TEST COORDINATES	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CATEGORY	BE NO	COVER CNO	SHEET NO
NA	44-30-14N 033-31-22E				

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MAP REFERENCE

SAC, USATC, Series 200, Sheet 0250-25, scale 1:200,000

LATEST IMAGERY SEE	NEGATIVE DATE (If available)
	NA

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ABSTRACT

1. (TSR) This report describes activity at the Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR, from May 1979 through April 1980 and updates NPIC report [redacted] 25X1

2. [redacted] Major activity occurred during the reporting period at both the test center and at the Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard [redacted] Activity at the submarine base consisted of the removal of the missile tubes from the new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) popup barge (platform 8); the continued dismantlement of the old twin-tube SLBM popup barge (platform 5); and the probable continued use of the Golf V fleet ballistic missile submarine (SSB) in a popup test program. There also were indications at both the submarine base and the test center missile storage area of the continued use of the cruise missile popup barge (platform 7) in a continuing or a new popup test program. Activity at the test center included the testing of the engine for the SS-N-2 missile system and probable related firings of the SS-N-2C missile from the Balaklava area. Other activity at the test center included the movement of missile-related equipment in support of missile system testing and construction in the base support area, the missile storage area, instrumentation site 2, and possibly the propellant service area. 25X1 25X1

3. (U) This report contains a location map and six annotated photographs.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. (TSR) The Balaklava Missile Test Center (MTC; Figures 1 and 2) consists of several areas—a missile storage area; a liquid-propellant service area; Balaklava Coastal Defense Test Site Cruise Missile Tactical Short Range (CM TSR; [redacted] a missile handling area; a base support area; three instrumentation sites; a submerged-launch test facility (operations test area); and the popup barge mooring positions at the Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard.[1] 25X1

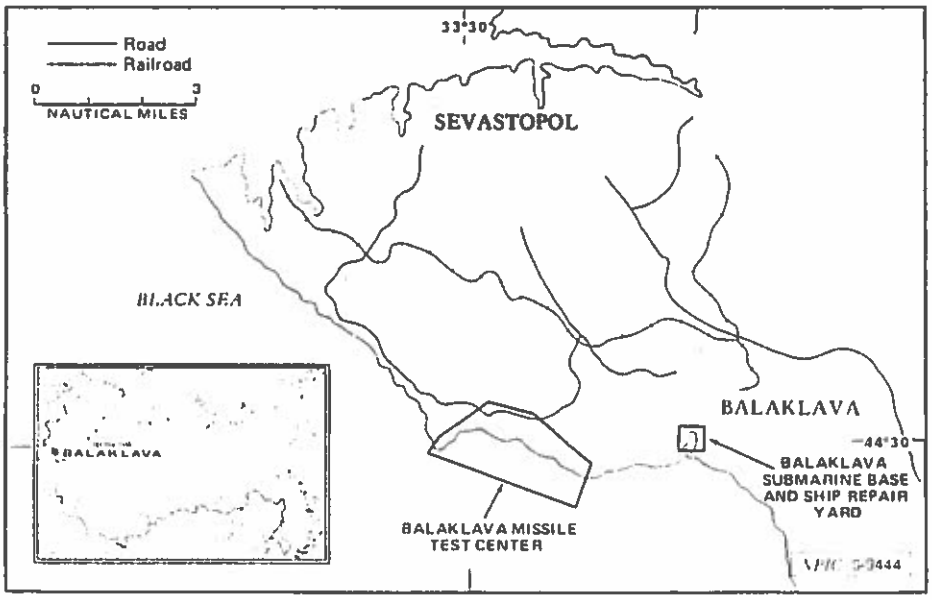

FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP, BALAKLAVA MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

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Missile-Related Activity

Balaklava Submarine Base and Ship Repair Yard

5. (TSR) Missile-related activity at the submarine base during the reporting period involved the removal of the missile tubes from the new SLBM popup barge (platform 8); the probable continued use of the Golf V SSB in an SLBM popup test program; the renewed or continued use of the cruise missile popup barge (platform 7) in a continuing or a new popup test program; and the continuing dismantlement of the old twin-tube SLBM popup barge (platform 5).

6. (TSR) Platform 8 is believed to have been used in the popup test program for the NE-04 SLBM, which began flight testing earlier this year.[2] The flight tests have taken place from Nenoksa Naval Missile Test Center (NMTC) Launch Facility D [redacted] 25X1

7. (TSR) On [redacted] platform 8 had been turned around at its mooring position since it was observed on previous coverage. On [redacted] the missile tube doors of the barge were open, and a floating crane had been positioned next to the barge. By [redacted] one missile tube had been removed from the barge and placed on the quay (Figure 3). By [redacted] the second missile tube had been removed from the barge and placed beside the first one on the quay (Figure 4). The removal of the missile tubes from platform 8 indicates a cessation of the barge's involvement in the NE-04 popup test program, which began some time in late 1977 after the barge had arrived at Balaklava Submarine Base. The barge could also be adapted or modified for possible involvement in future SLBM popup test programs. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

8. (TSR) No activity was observed around the barge or the removed missile tubes until March 1980, when the tubes were moved toward the fenceline at the rear of the quay, and a possible work platform was observed over the vacant missile tube area on the barge.

9. (TSR) The Golf V SSB, which is believed to have been brought down to Balaklava in October 1978 for additional or supplemental popup testing of the NE-04, may still be involved in its phase of the test program. This is suggested by activity at the submarine base and the subsequent absence of the Golf V from its usual mooring position. Probable missile railcars were at the terminal of the rail line at the submarine base on [redacted] the railcars had left, and the Golf V had departed the base. The Golf V was also absent from the submarine base on at least two other occasions, [redacted] 25X1 25X1 25X1

10. (TSR) Activity involving a cruise missile test program was evident at the submarine base and at the test center missile storage area. This activity is probably related to the cruise missile system(s) currently undergoing flight testing at Launch Facility A [redacted] Nenoksa NMTC. 25X1

11. [redacted] Platform 7 (cruise missile popup barge; Figures 3 and 4) has been associated with launchers A1 and A2, which are believed to be the land-based flight test platforms for the FAD 706/SS-NX-19 test program(s) at Nenoksa NMTC.[3] Also, two crates [redacted] that have been seen in the missile storage area (Figure 5) have been associated with the SS-NX-19 missile system. 25X1 25X1

12. (TSR) In April 1979, three of the [redacted] crates and one [redacted] crate were in the missile storage area. Platform 7 was observed at this time to have been moved from its usual mooring position alongside platform 5 to just forward of the checkout/maintenance (C/M) building, with its bow facing the quay. A crane had been positioned nearby on the quay. By June, one of the [redacted] crates and the [redacted] meter crate were in the storage area. Platform 7 was again moved forward of the C/M building, but this time parallel to the quay. In early July, the [redacted] crate was removed from the storage area but had been returned by the end of the month. In September, platform 7 was again moved forward of the C/M building, and in November, another [redacted] crate was seen in the storage area. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

14. (TSR) Platform 5 continued to undergo dismantlement at the submarine base during the reporting period. In late May or early June 1979, a [redacted] tube section was removed from the center of the barge and placed on the quay (Figure 3). On [redacted] of June, two holes approximately [redacted] in diameter were seen on the deck of the barge. By [redacted] the belowdeck section of the twin-tube structure had been removed and placed on the quay alongside platform 5. On [redacted] a crane and a flatbed trailer were near the section (Figure 3). On [redacted] the section was on the flatbed trailer and was later removed from the area. Two holes or openings, [redacted] in diameter, were evident in the section. These openings and those observed earlier on the deck of the barge indicate that two missile tubes of different diameters were on the barge. It is believed that platform 5 was used in the popup test program for the SS-NX-17 and possibly the SS-N-18 SLBMs.[4] Whether or not the barge will be completely dismantled at Balaklava is uncertain; however, it has been undergoing dismantlement since September 1978. As of September 1979, platform 5 and platform 8 have been void of missile tubes (Figure 4) and could possibly be modified for any future SLBM popup test programs. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

15. [redacted] Other missile activity involving the SS-N-2 missile system was observed in several areas of the test center. SS-N-2 crates have usually been present at the missile storage area of the test center (Figure 5). In early May 1979, however, two possible SS-N-2 crates were brought to instrumentation site 2, probably for storage purposes. On [redacted] an SS-N-2 crate was at the probable jet engine test building in the missile handling area, where it remained until [redacted] five additional SS-N-2 25X1 25X1 25X1

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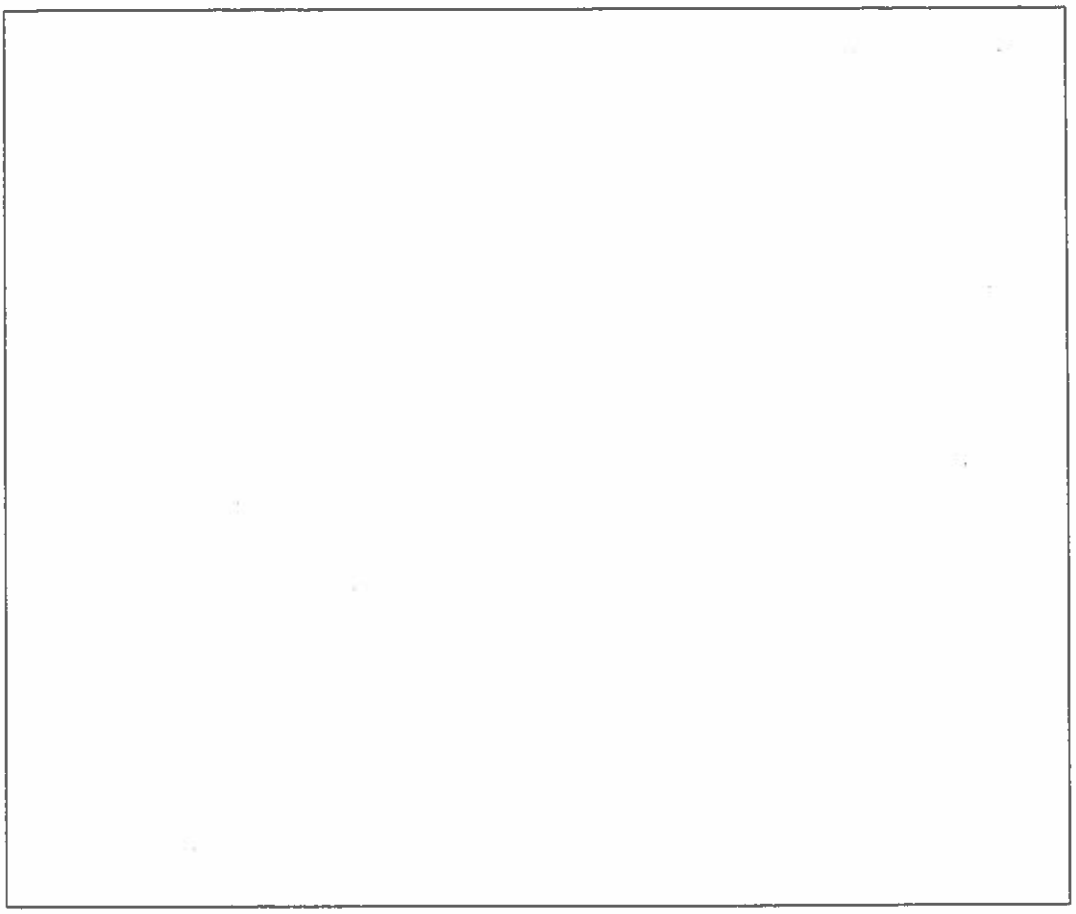

crates were brought into the missile storage area. These five crates were then moved by [redacted] to the probable jet engine test building (Figure 6), where they remained for the remainder of the reporting period. This activity at the missile test center involving the SS-N-2 missile system may have been in connection with or in preparation for two SS-N-2C missile launches that occurred in the Balaklava area on [redacted] Both of the launches were believed to have been from a land-based rather than sea-based launcher. There was no evidence of the possible firing platform for the SS-N-2C on coverage just prior to the day of the launches. The possible canister transporter/launcher was at the facility in October 1976 and was believed to have been connected with launches from the Balaklava area in late 1976 and early 1977."

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Other Activity

Instrumentation Sites

16. (TSR) **Instrumentation Site 1.** Two telemetry vans and one van-mounted SHIP WHEEL antenna were at the site from [redacted] when the two vans were probably moved to the missile handling area. By [redacted] three vans had been moved from the missile handling area to instrumentation site 1, probably in support of the Golf V, which was absent from the submarine base on that day. By 3 September, the vans had been moved back to the handling facility; however, they were later moved back to instrumentation site 1 or 2.

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17. (TSR) **Instrumentation Site 2.** Two probable SS-N-2 crates, probably for storage, were seen in early May. The number of telemetry vans at the site fluctuated during the reporting period. The vans numbered from 10 in May to eight in August and possibly up to 12 in November 1979.

18. (TSR) **Instrumentation Site 3.** There was no change in the site (Figure 5) during the reporting period. However, on [redacted] (two days prior to the SS-N-2C launches), a van was at a nearby bunker.

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Missile Handling Area

19. (TSR) The two probable new SLBM transporters were at their usual positions in the missile handling and checkout area (Figure 6) during most of the reporting period. On [redacted] one of the probable transporters was seen at the end of the checkout building.

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Construction Activity

20. (TSR) Construction was evident in the base support area (Figure 7), the missile storage area (Figure 5), instrumentation site 2, and possibly in the liquid propellant service area.

21. (TSR) Framing for a new vehicle shed in the base support area was erected in May 1979. By August the SEPAL translaunchers and other vehicles had been moved into the incomplete shed. A roof had been partially constructed on the shed by April 1980. In August 1979, a small arch-roofed building near the vehicle park was dismantled. The arched sections were moved to the central part of the support area, where they were reassembled in September. Also in September, the vehicle park was resurfaced, and in October, a large cleared area near the static display area was being resurfaced. The area appeared to be complete by March 1980. By early 1980, other areas near the newly relocated arch-roofed building and the vehicle park were being cleared.

22. (TSR) At the missile storage area a drive-through bunker (Figure 5) had been under construction since November 1979, when the area was first being cleared. By April 1980, the building had been completed.

23. (TSR) Construction of a probable new building at instrumentation site 2 was first observed in late March and early April, when concrete blocks and other building materials were observed near the fenceline at the site.

24. (TSR) On imagery of March 1980, two to four holes were observed in one of the hardstands in the liquid propellant service area. The purpose of these holes or openings is unknown.

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired through [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report. 25X1

MAPS OR CHARTS

SAC, US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0250-25, scale 1:200,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC, [redacted] RCA-17/0002/79, *Balaklava Missile Test Center*, Sep 79 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1
2. DIESMAC, S/DQ/45-80, *New SLBM Launched from Nenoksa on 28 January 1980 (S)*, 29 Jan 80 (SECRET)
3. NIAC, [redacted] SI SIMR 79-010JX, *Some Implications of the New Soviet NF-3 Naval Cruise Missile Programs*, 31 Oct 79 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1 25X1
4. NPIC, [redacted] SR-045/78, *Puntus Test Activity at Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR (TSR)*, Jun 78 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1 25X1
5. DIESMAC, K/DQ/1321-79, *Two SS-N-02C Naval Cruise Missiles Launched in the Black Sea Area on* [redacted] 20 Nov 79 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1 25X1
6. NPIC, [redacted] SR-037/78, *Possible Firing Platform for the SS-N-2C (Styx Variant) Missile in the USSR (TS* [redacted] 25X1 25X1

RELATED DOCUMENTS

NPIC, [redacted] RCA-17/0002/77, *Balaklava Missile Test Center, January 1976 – May 1977*, Jul 77 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1 25X1

NPIC, [redacted] SR-054/77, *Possible New Missile Transporter at Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR (S)*, Aug 77 (TOP SECRET [redacted] 25X1 25X1

REQUIREMENT

COMIREX ROI
Project 2000016DR

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, [redacted] 25X1 25X1