



Washington, D.C. 20505

19 December 2019

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.
27305 W. Live Oak Road
Suite #1203
Castaic, CA 91384

Reference: EOM-2019-00290

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your correspondence of 24 January 2019, submitted on behalf of The Black Vault, requesting an Executive Order 13526 mandatory declassification review of the following:

Deleted (On One Evening in Late Summer 1973, Source Observed an Unidentified Document Number (FOIA)/ESDN (CREST): 0000015262

We have completed a thorough search of our records and determined that the document may be released in sanitized form. We have deleted material that must remain classified on the basis of Section 3.3(b)(1) of the Order. Additional information must be withheld because withholding is authorized and warranted under applicable law as provided by Section 6.2(d) of the Order. Enclosed is a copy showing our deletions and citing our exemptions.

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel in my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Should you choose to do this, please include the basis of your appeal.

To contact **CIA** directly or to appeal the CIA's response to the **Agency Release Panel**:

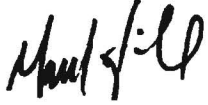
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(202) 741-5769 (Fax)
ogis@nara.gov

Please note, contacting CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lilly". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mark Lilly
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosure

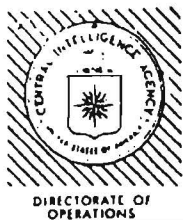
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Intelligence Information Report

WARNING NOTICE
SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED
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PAGE 1 OF 1

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

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REPORT NO. RIK K-311/01638-00

DATE DISTR. 20 December 1977

COUNTRY USSR

DOI

SUBJECT The Sary Shagan Weapons Testing Range

ACQ

SOURCE

3.3(b)(1)

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Summary: This report provides limited information on the Sary Shagan weapons testing range, to include facilities, work areas, security fencing, the regional headquarters (V/Ch 03080), and a warhead checkout unit (V/Ch 03142). Also included is limited information on the following: System-75 [SA-2] and System-300/Aldan [ABM-1 GALOSH] warheads; rumored laser research; and an unidentified aerial phenomenon. End of Summary.

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6.2(d)

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1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. The Sary Shagan regional headquarters (V/Ch 03080), located on a peninsula of Lake Balkash, was frequently referred to as Site 40 (ploshchadka-40). The peninsula itself was known as Area No. 4 (4-ka). (See Figure 1 for layout of Area No. 4 and Site 40.)

4. The unit V/Ch 03142 was commanded by a colonel. The unit consisted of numerous batteries (approximately 100 men each) under the command of senior lieutenants whose job was to test weapons at the range. Each battery was divided into platoons headed by lieutenants. Each platoon had two sections, with approximately five men each, headed by sergeants. The unit also had more than seven (exact number unrecalled) departments/laboratories manned by officers. The 1st Department (otdel), headed by a lieutenant colonel, was involved with telemetry and was tasked with photographing all missile firings.

3.3(b)(1)

The 2nd Department was involved with loading and unloading work (pogruzochnyye i razgruzochnyye raboty) and was headed by a lieutenant colonel or major. The 3rd Department was responsible for servicing missile engines and was headed by a lieutenant colonel. The 4th Department, commanded by a colonel, was responsible for special weapons (spets oruzhiya). The 4th Department consisted of three groups, each commanded by a major who was responsible to the chief engineer, a lieutenant colonel. The 4th Department was

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responsible for checking the missile warheads. [redacted]

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Overall, the unit (V/Ch 03142) had four or five assigned colonels: one served as commander, one was the political affairs officer, one was the chief engineer, and one or two were department chiefs. There were 10 to 15 assigned lieutenant colonels who were main engineers, group leaders and section chiefs. There were numerous majors and captains assigned. [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

There were numerous senior lieutenants and lieutenants assigned as battery and platoon commanders. There were no assigned junior lieutenants. There was only one assigned warrant officer who served as a platoon commander in the 1st Battery. However, one soldier went to an unrecalled school and returned to Sary Shagan as a warrant officer (duty unknown). [redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

5. The warhead checkout unit (V/Ch 03142) was headquartered at a garrison known as Site 7. The garrison also housed an unknown number of Soviet Air Forces personnel assigned to a nearby airfield (no details), plus approximately 1,000 construction troops and an unknown number of communications troops assigned to radar and communications sites in the area. Site 7 was also the operating location for the 1st Department. (See Figure 2 for layout of Site 7.)

6. Work done by the 4th Department (special weapons) was performed at Site 4 (obyekt-4), located about five or six kilometers west of Site 7. It encompassed an area approximately 400 x 600 meters and was tightly guarded. (See Figure 3 for layout of Site 4.)

7. Work on missile engines was performed at Site 3 (obyekt-3) which was located about one kilometer east of Site 4. [redacted]

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8. Experimental missiles were usually fired from Site 35 located northwest of Sary Shagan, about 80 to 100 kilometers northwest of Site 4. (See Figure 4 for the location of Site 35 and other sites in the Sary Shagan area.) Due probably to weather conditions, missile firings were normally carried out between the end of May to the end of September. Targets for the missiles were either towed sleeves or radio guided drones. [redacted]

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9. [redacted]

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[Redacted]

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10. Besides the System-75 [SA-2] warheads, Site 4 also checked the warheads for a missile(s) known as the System-300 and/or Aldan.

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

The System-300/Aldan warheads after being checked at Site 4 were taken to Site 35 for launching. According to rumor, the missile was for antimissile defense (protivo raketnaya oborona - PRO).

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

11. The warhead for the System-300/Aldan missile was about two meters long and 80 to 100 centimeters in diameter. The warhead weighed approximately 400 kilograms, and it contained an unrecalled number of black cassettes, 45 x 12 centimeters, which housed an unknown number of metal balls (shariki). Warheads for the System-75 [SA-2] missile had approximately 100 grey cassettes, 30 x 7 centimeters, each of which held about 200 to 300 metal balls, each no more than 1.5 centimeters in diameter.

[Redacted]

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12.

[Redacted]

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13. According to hearsay, experiments involving laser weapons were being conducted at an unknown location at the range. Supposedly, the tests involved powerful antennas (no further details).

14. On one evening in late Summer 1973, Source observed an

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unidentified phenomenon at Site 7. While watching a sport competition between Canada and the USSR on television, he stepped outside for some air and observed an unidentified sharp (bright) green circular object or mass in the sky. The object was situated west of the site at an angle of sighting of approximately 70 degrees. The altitude of the object was undeterminable. (Field Comment: Although there were no clouds in the sky that evening, Source believed that the green mass would have been higher than cloud level. Source could not estimate the diameter of the object.) Within 10 to 15 seconds of observation, the green circle widened and within a brief period of time several green concentric circles formed around the mass. Within minutes the coloring disappeared. There was no sound, such as an explosion, associated with the phenomenon. (Field Comment: Source had no opinion as to what this phenomenon was. There was no resultant rumors. Source could not provide any further details.)

15.

[Redacted]

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16.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

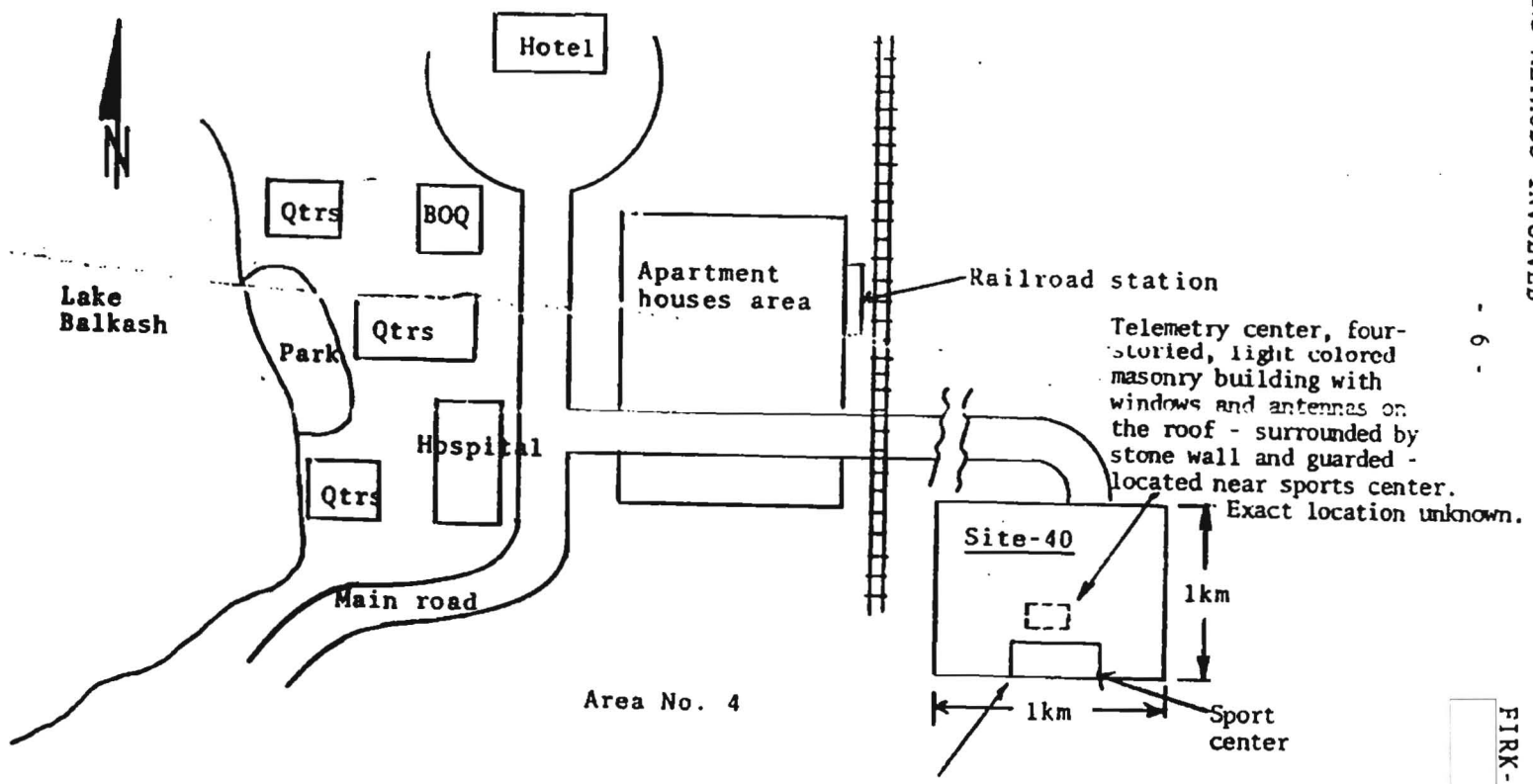
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Figure 1
Area No. 4 and Site 40 at Sary Shagan

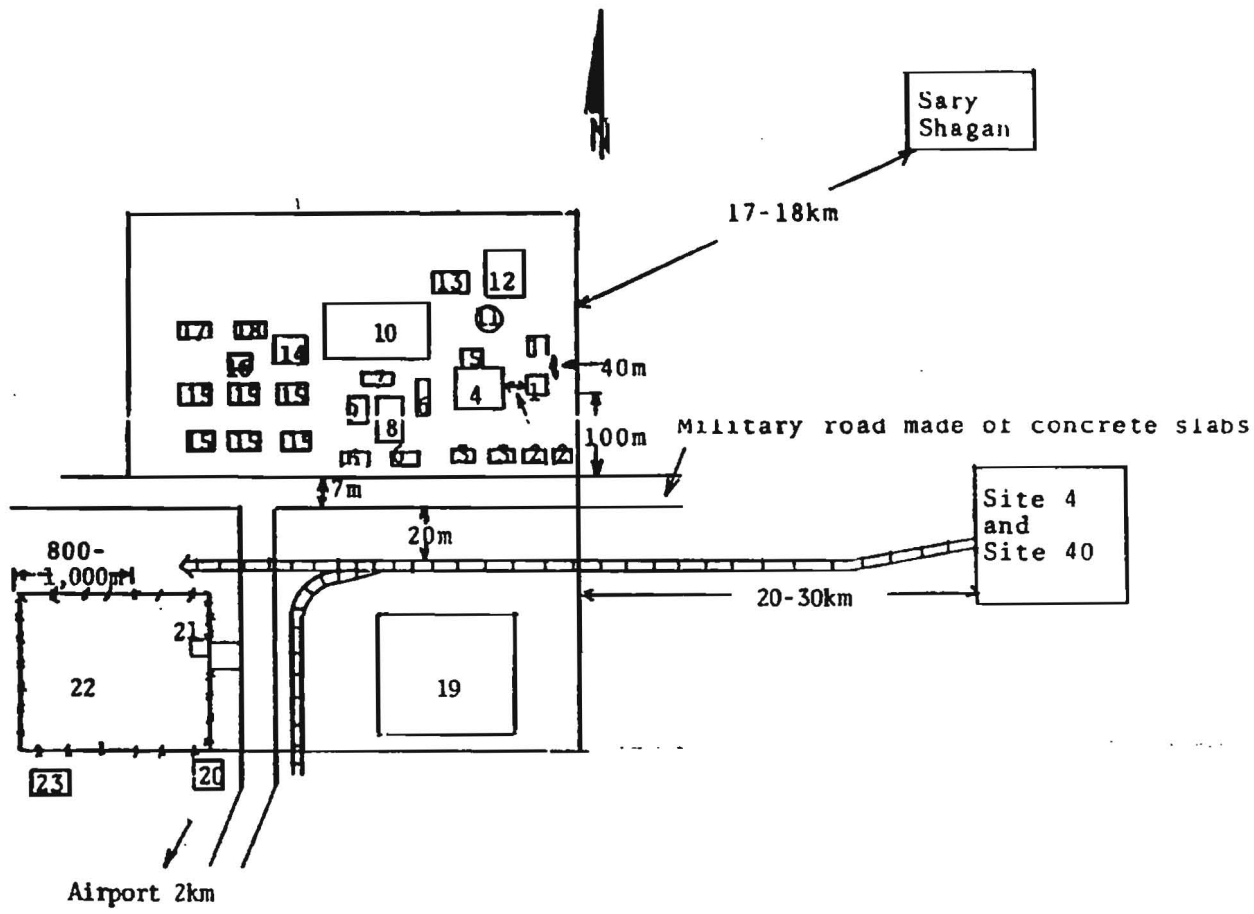


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Figure 2
Layout of Site 7 at Sary Shagan



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[REDACTED]

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Legend to Figure 2:

1. Permanent radar sites. One site contained a van with an antenna sail approximately six to seven meters wide and about two meters tall. The van was located on top of a hill or bunker, and it appeared to be able to turn a full 360 degrees (no details). The other antenna appeared to be a height finder. [REDACTED]

3.3(b)(1)

2. Three-story brick barracks, each about 80 x 30 meters, providing housing for about 600 communications specialists.

3. Barracks (same construction as item 2) for men in V/Ch 03142.

4. Asphalt square, about 80 x 50 meters.

5. One-story brick messhall which could seat approximately 800 men.

6. Barracks for Air Forces personnel assigned to a nearby airfield.

7. Messhall for Air Forces enlisted personnel.

8. Square for Air Forces personnel.

9. Headquarters for V/Ch 03142, three-storied, building of grey brick construction. The building was approximately 40 x 20 meters.

10. Foodstuffs and clothing warehouse area, approximately 100 x 200 meters.

11. Water tower, approximately 12 meters tall. The water storage area was seven meters in diameter and four meters in height.

12. Sports field.

13. Club for enlisted personnel.

14. Officers club.

15. Officer family housing, each building was four storied and 50 x 20 meters.

16. Flightcrew messhall.

17. Cafeteria.

18. Store.

19. Open warehouse storage area for building materials.

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Legend to Figure 2 (Cont'd):

20. Heating plant known as "Aurora". The facility had a 25 to 30 meter tall smoke stack.

21. Controlled access point.

22. Technological zone (zona tekhnologii), approximately 800 x 800 meters belonging to V/Ch 03142. This area contained many concrete hangars, each about 100 meters long and 50 meters wide. Possibly approximately 20 buildings inside the area (no details). The zone was surrounded by a barbed wire security fence.

23. Area for construction troops. Commander of the troops was possibly a major (no details).

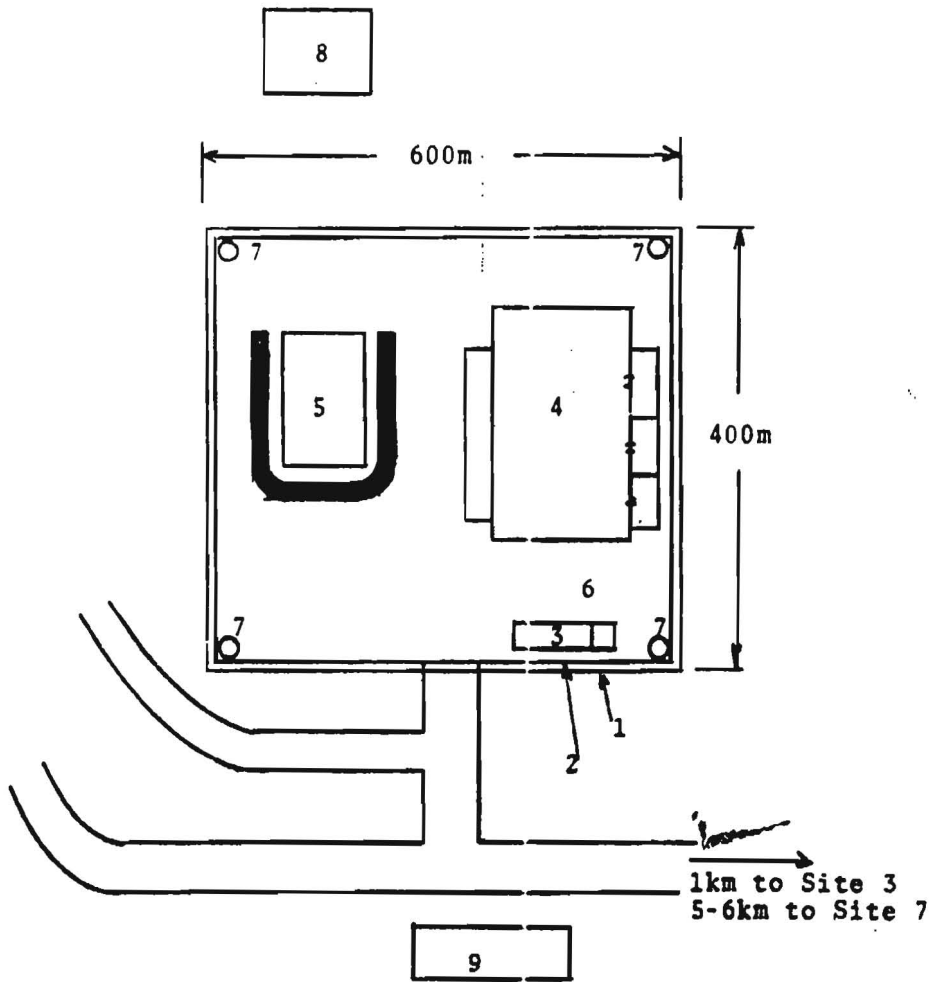
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Figure 3
Site 4 at Sary Shagan



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Legend to Figure 3:

1. Barbed wire security fence about two meters tall, with 20 x 20 centimeter concrete posts positioned about four or five meters apart.
2. Sosna security fence (see Figure 5).
3. Guard building (karpom), one story, five by eight meters, constructed of grey brick.
4. Main building, approximately 40 x 80 x 12 to 13 meters, reinforced concrete construction. Along the sides of the building were laboratories and shops, each about three meters tall and three meters wide. About 10 enlisted troops and up to 20 officers worked in the building. Their work involved missile systems (no details).
5. Warehouse for warheads, approximately 15 to 20 x 10 to 12 x 6 to 7 meters. The building was partially surrounded by an earthen revetment made of tamped yellowish clay covered by a layer of sod. The revetment was about 2.5 meters thick. There were up to 20 warheads for the System-75 and System-300/Aldan missiles stored in the building.
6. System-75 missile checkout area.
7. Wooden unmanned watch towers.
8. Operational surface-to-air missile site known as System-200 [SA-5].
9. Fueling area built in late 1973 (no details).

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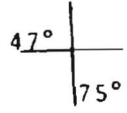
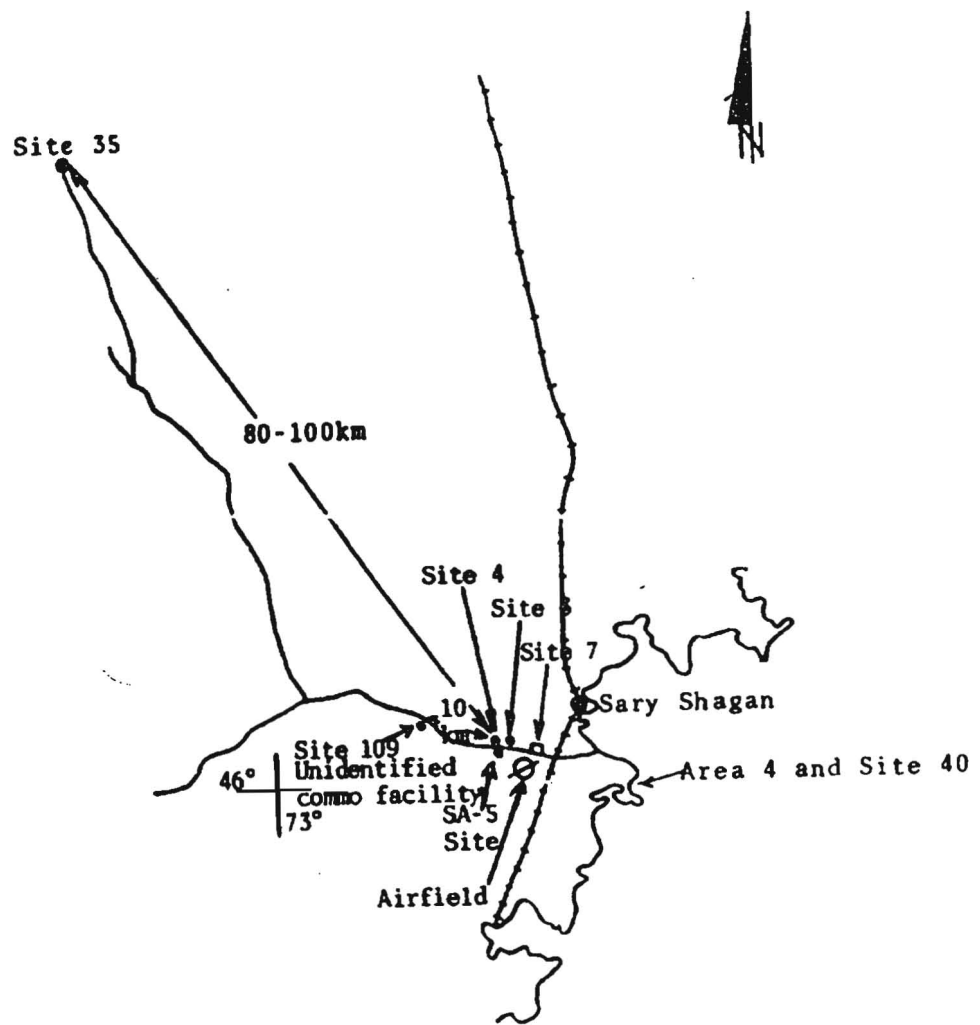


Figure 4
Locations of Facilities at Sary Shagan
(Map Keyed to Chart ONC F-6)



ONC F-6 1,000,000: 1
June 72. Edition 3