

1577

Future Soviet Threat to US Airbreathing Reconnaissance Platforms (U)

A Special Defense Intelligence Estimate



Defense Intelligence Agency

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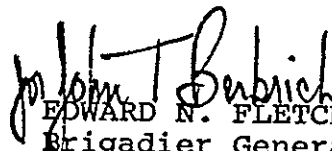
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[REDACTED]

SPECIAL DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE
FUTURE SOVIET THREAT TO US AIRBREATHING
RECONNAISSANCE PLATFORMS (U)

1. (U) This Special Defense Intelligence Estimate has been coordinated with the Service Intelligence Chiefs. All concur with the estimate as written.
 2. (U) This estimate forecasts the Soviet threat to US airborne reconnaissance systems detailing various aspects of the physical threat as well as those measures which will degrade the effectiveness of reconnaissance operations. The estimate is intended to aid in planning for future US reconnaissance capabilities and force structure and serves as a companion to DDE-1420-5-84-SAO, "Soviet Threats to US Reconnaissance Systems to the Year 2000" which is concerned with the threat to space-based collection systems. Information as of mid-March 1986 was considered in the preparation of this document.
- [REDACTED]

APPROVED BY:


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DDE-2623-1-86

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FUTURE SOVIET THREAT TO US AIRBREATHING
RECONNAISSANCE PLATFORMS (U)

KEY JUDGMENTS

[REDACTED] The Soviets are embarked on a program of systematic air defense improvements [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] -The Soviet threat to reconnaissance systems encompasses two courses of action:

-- destruction [REDACTED]

-- degradation [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] By the mid-1990s, Soviet air defenses will be bound together by a sophisticated battle management system [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In addition to these weapons systems for destruction of reconnaissance platforms, Soviet planning includes provisions for:

-- Jamming [REDACTED]

-- Concealing [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DISCUSSION

1. (U) The US presently employs over ten different aircraft types configured for reconnaissance and equipped with numerous sensor systems providing multi-spectral surveillance data. The future threat to these aerodynamic systems is the focus of this estimate. It is intended to aid in reconnaissance force planning for the next decade and beyond.*

2. [REDACTED] The threat capabilities shown in this document are a projection of present Soviet technology and estimated development programs.

[REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] Soviet doctrine calls for nullifying all hostile reconnaissance efforts while sustaining their own surveillance capabilities. They have initiated programs in both areas.

[REDACTED]

Surface-to-Air Missiles and Antiaircraft Artillery

4. [REDACTED] Future Warsaw Pact air defense assets will consist of strategic and tactical surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), antiaircraft artillery (AAA), fighter-interceptor aircraft, and

* [REDACTED] To establish the operational environment and to avoid scenario dependence, we are using a Soviet invasion of Western Europe on D-Day, H-Hour as our reference point in time. Both NATO and Warsaw Pact forces are on full alert; however, hostilities have not as yet occurred.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

laser air defense weapons. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] The primary emphasis in ground-based air defense will be to improve the engagement capability against low-altitude, small radar cross section (RCS) targets. Of equal importance, the Soviets will stress system mobility, survivability, resistance to hostile countermeasures and improved capability against standoff platforms. The new SA-10 SAM embodies these trends. The SA-10 is deployed in both transportable and road-mobile versions. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interceptor Aircraft

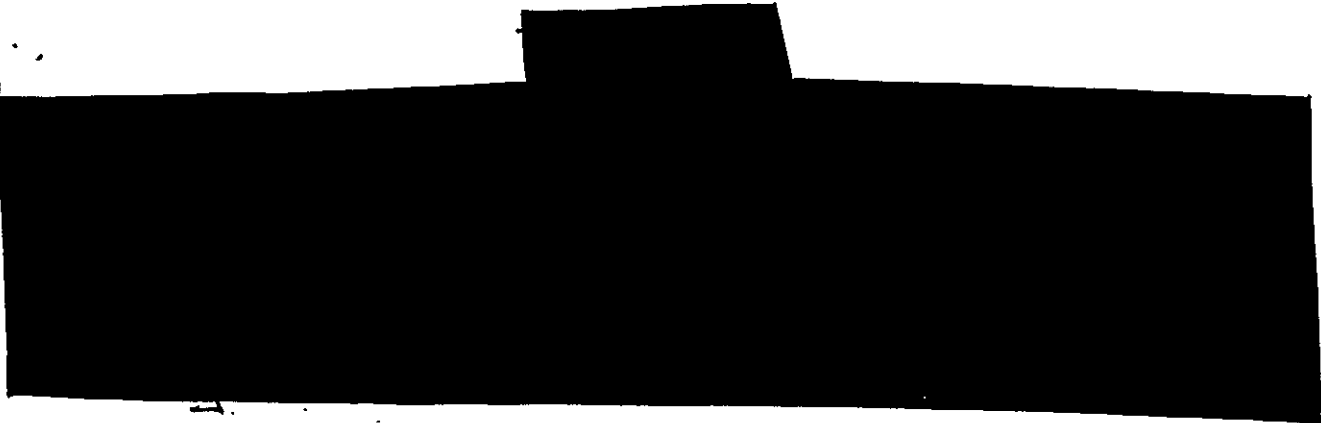
6... [REDACTED] By the turn of the century, the Soviets will introduce three new interceptor aircraft: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


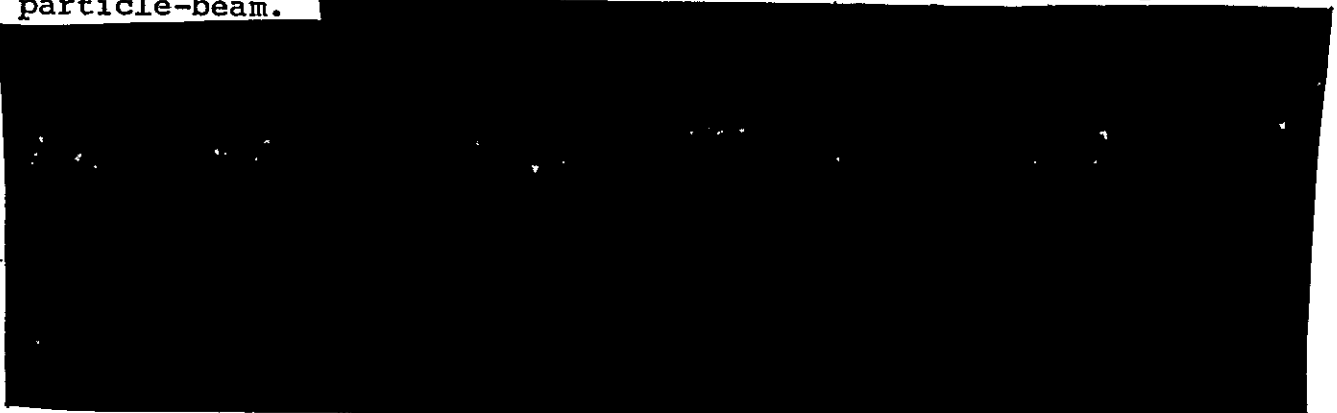
Air Surveillance and Control

7. [REDACTED] The Soviets will significantly improve their air surveillance and control capabilities with the MAINSTAY AWACS and the fielding of next generation land-based radars. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]



Directed-Energy Weapons


8.  - For air defense, there are three fundamental types of directed-energy technologies which have varying degrees of weapons application--laser, radiofrequency, and particle-beam. 

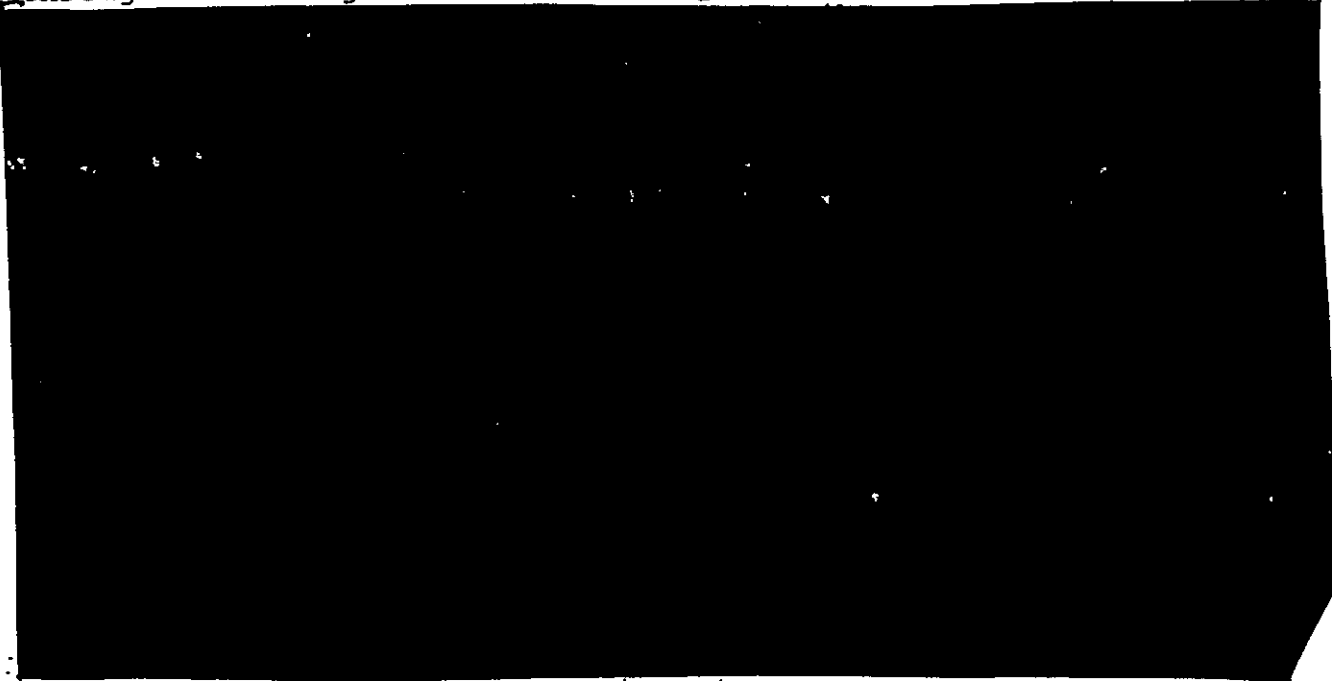
The Soviet Air Defense Environment

9.  Soviet air defense weapons will continue to evolve, modernize and become more threatening. The significant trend is toward weapon integration. We stress that no one force, SAMs for example, will continue to operate as an autonomous weapons class. 




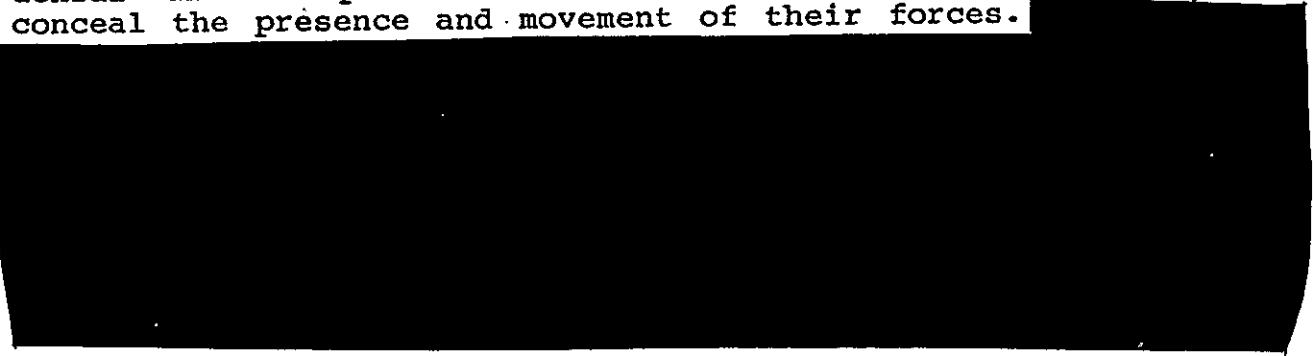
Electronic Warfare (EW)

10.  Consistent with their doctrine of radioelectronic combat, the Soviets will systematically disrupt enemy electronic systems through the integrated use of firepower, jamming, and deception.



MASKIROVKA

11.  The Soviets will continue to use passive techniques-- denial and deception under their doctrine of MASKIROVKA--to conceal the presence and movement of their forces.



[REDACTED]

Implications for the United States and NATO

12. [REDACTED] Future Western airborne reconnaissance operations against the Warsaw Pact face an increasingly complex threat to either penetration or standoff surveillance missions. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED] The Soviet capabilities outlined here will present an ever increasing challenge to the reconnaissance planner. [REDACTED]