


Musudan-ri Missile Test Facility North Korea

February 15, 2002 – March 26, 2009

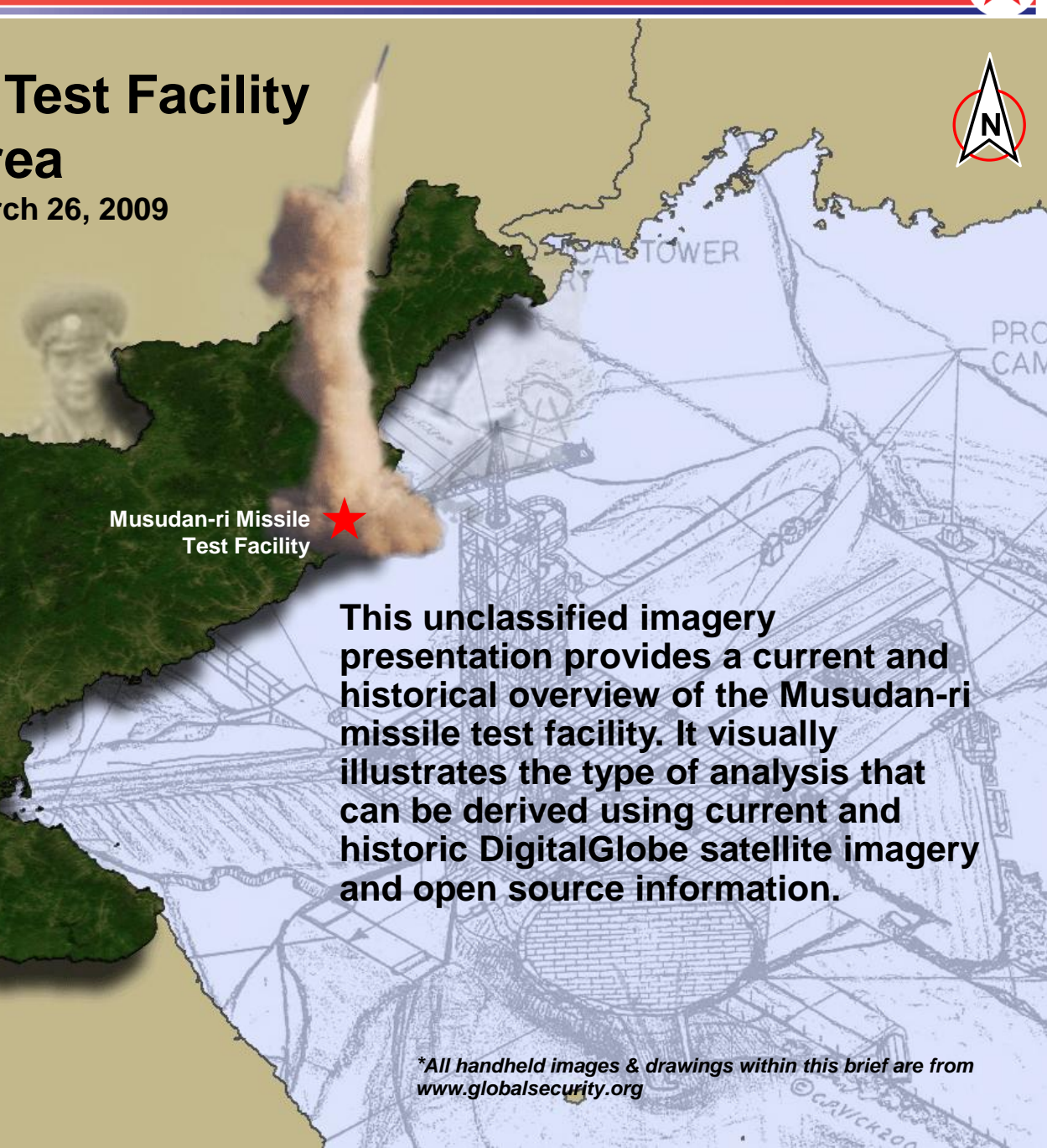


Musudan-ri Missile Test Facility 

North Korea

This unclassified imagery presentation provides a current and historical overview of the Musudan-ri missile test facility. It visually illustrates the type of analysis that can be derived using current and historic DigitalGlobe satellite imagery and open source information.

**All handheld images & drawings within this brief are from www.globalsecurity.org*





Musudan-ri Missile Test Facility Overview

N Hamgyong Province, North Korea
40-51-21N 129-39-55E



Range Control Building

Launch Tower & Pad

Rocket Engine Test Stand

Missile Assembly Building

The Musudan-ri missile test facility has been the test site for a variety of North Korean missiles. Major facility components consist of a missile assembly building, engine test stand, range control building, tracking facilities and a launch pad. The roads within and around the facility are not paved. The facility is located within the North Hamgyong Province, approx 19 miles southeast of the town of Kilchu & 28 miles northeast of port city of Kimchaek.

Musudan-ri Missile Test Facility Overview



Missile Assembly Building



Launch Tower and Pad



Rocket Engine Test Stand



Musudan-ri Rocket Engine Test Stand Overview



The Musudan-ri engine test stand was created for the development & thrust measurement of long range ballistic missile engines. The stand is capable of holding the boosters in an upright position during the entire firing sequence.

Security Entry
Control Checkpoint
w/ Guard shack

Static Test
Tower

Test Control
Building

Possible
Communications
Building

Offices /
Barracks



Musudan-ri Engine Test Stand: Recent & Historical Activity



February 15, 2002



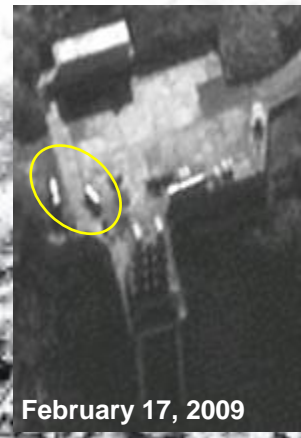
June 6, 2006



December 14, 2007



February 8, 2009



February 17, 2009

Tanker trucks and cylindrical objects present.

Tanker trucks and cylindrical objects removed.

Grain being dried on the concrete appears orange in color.

Cylindrical objects present.

More cylindrical tanks present along with personnel & support vehicle.

A review of the rocket engine test stand on DigitalGlobe imagery coverage from February 15, 2002 to February 26, 2009 revealed a variety of activity, including: drying grain on the concrete, the presence of cylindrical storage tanks and the arrival/departure of multiple support vehicles and personnel.



February 25, 2009

An additional support vehicle and personnel present.



February 26, 2009

Support vehicle and personnel not present.

STATIC TEST TOWER

Musudan-ri Missile Assembly Building Overview



The Musudan-ri missile assembly building is (according to globalsecurity.org) capable of handling two Taepodong-2 class three stage launch vehicles, in addition to several vertical test cells in the high bay portion.

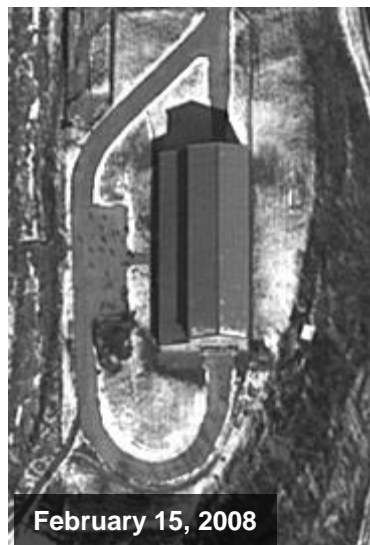
Probable
Officer / Guard
Quarters

Horizontal
Assembly Building

Security Entry
Control Checkpoint
(Complete w/ Guardshack)



Missile Assembly Building Renovation & Expansion



February 15, 2008

22 personnel present outside the building



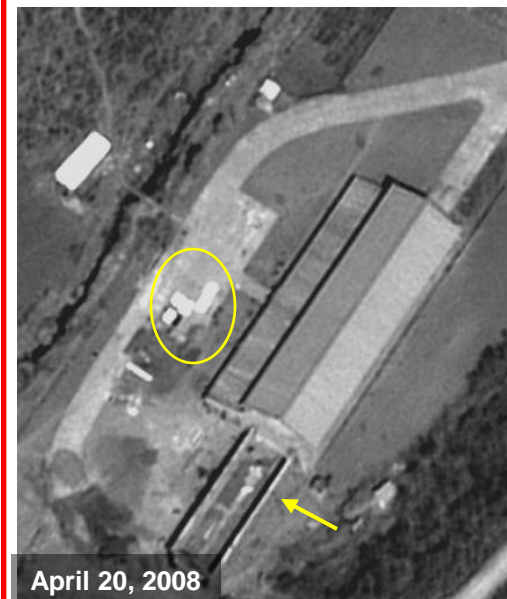
March 8, 2008

South end of access road removed in preparation for new addition. Buildings' new foundation identified.



April 3, 2008

Walls in place on the new addition. One person identified at the construction site.



April 20, 2008

Construction continues. Supplies identified on the hardstand.

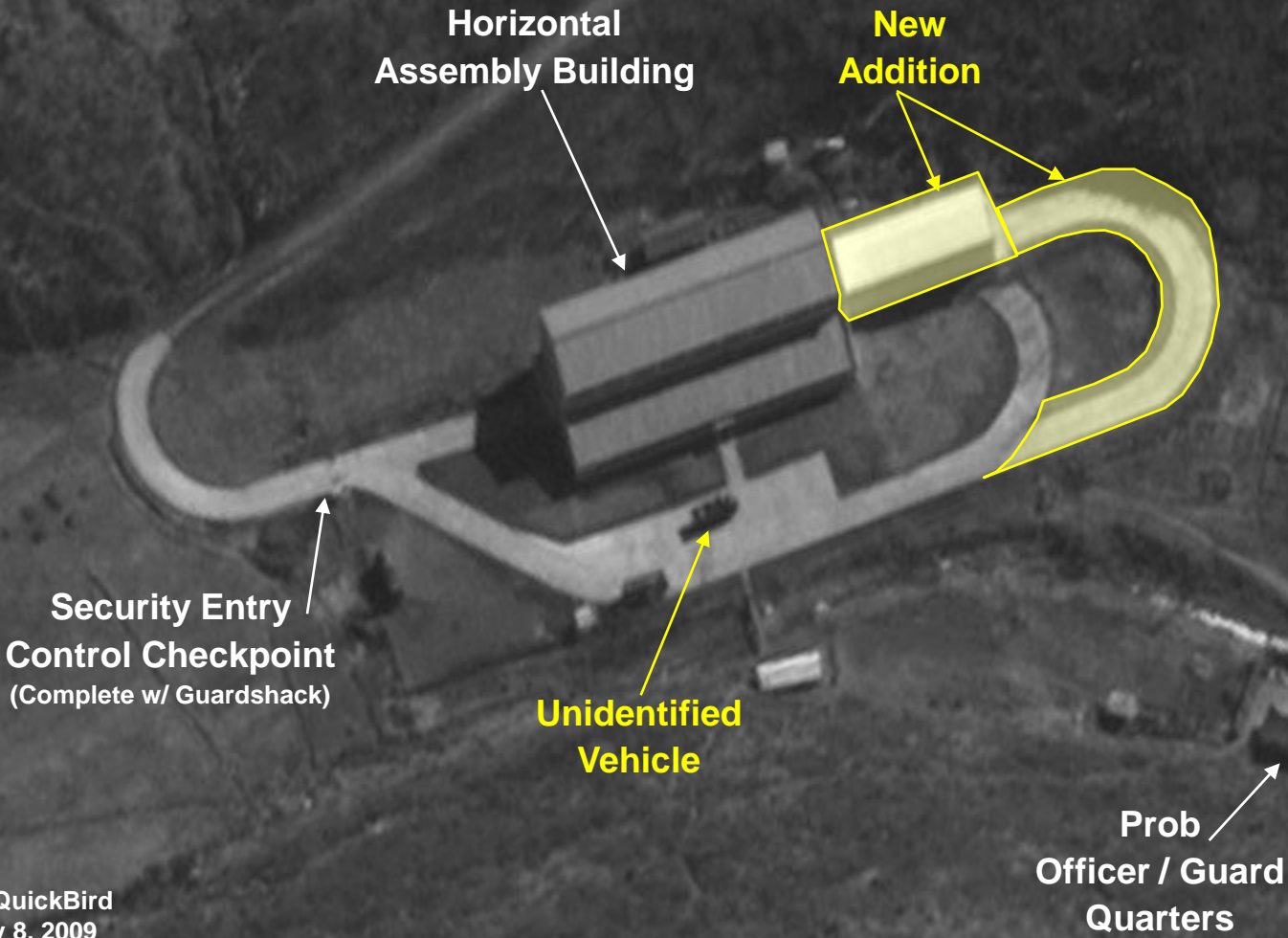


February 8, 2009

A historical review of DigitalGlobe imagery beginning in February 2008 revealed that the missile assembly building was extended by an additional 28 meters on its southern side and the ringed access road expanded. According to Janes Defence Weekly, both changes allow for the assembly of larger missile systems.



Missile Assembly Facility



★ Musudan-ri Missile Assembly Building: Recent Activity



February 8, 2009

Support vehicle present on hardstand



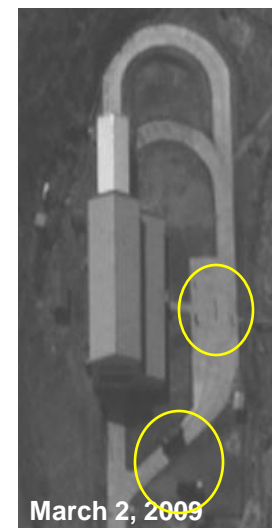
February 17, 2009

Support vehicle and 18 personnel present on hardstand



February 25, 2009

Two support vehicles present. 30 troops observed in military formation at the south end of the driveway



March 2, 2009

Two support vehicle & four personnel present.



March 25, 2009

Four support vehicles present



Possible Missile Transport Vehicles



Support Vehicles & Personnel



Musudan-ri Launch Tower & Pad

The Musudan-ri Ballistic Missile Launch pad consists of a 30-meter umbilical tower with a top-mounted gantry crane, a flame blast bucket, a launch blockhouse with a connecting access tunnel, two semi-buried liquid fuel storage buildings, a concrete apron/pad and multiple small support buildings.

This high-resolution 3D model of the launch pad was built by AEGis Technologies in partnership with DigitalGlobe to visually simulate the launch tower and the surrounding terrain.



Musudan-ri Launch Tower & Pad Overview



Security Entry
Control Checkpoint
Complete w/ Guardshack

Blast
Bucket

Launch
Blockhouse

Gantry crane clearly
visible within the
shadow

Prob Original
TEL Launch Pad

Combined Umbilical
Tower / Gantry Crane



DigitalGlobe's QuickBird
Image May 24, 2006

DigitalGlobe's QuickBird
Image December 14, 2007



Recent Musudan-ri Launch Tower & Pad Activity



Six personnel seen standing at base of the launch tower



Environmental shrouds have been placed at the top and bottom of the gantry. Support vehicles present.



Musudan-ri Launch Pad Activity: March 26, 2009



Probable
Canopy/Environmental
Shroud



Support
Equipment & Personnel



Support
Vehicles & Personnel



Four vehicles
identified near
missile assembly
building on March
25th then seen near
launch tower on
March 26th.




March 25, 2009



Previous Musudan-ri Launch Pad Activity: 2006

An imagery review of the launch complex from previous DigitalGlobe imagery during late June, 2006 revealed similar activity at the launch pad and missile assembly building prior to the July 5, 2006 Paektusan/TaepoDong-2 missile launch.

According to Janes Defence Weekly, in 2006 the Paektusan-2 sat on the launch pad (within the launch tower) for approximately 20 days before being launched.



Support vehicles at base of tower in preparation for launch

An arrow points from this text box to a cluster of vehicles at the base of the launch tower in the main image.