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FAR EAST

5. North Korean air unit engages in possible night-bombing exercise: On two occasions between 16 June and 15 July, groups of North Korean-piloted aircraft were observed in night training, possibly bombing, exercises. The first group on 9 July numbered 7 aircraft and the second on 10 July numbered 25 planes.

It is probable that the aircraft used in these exercises are conventional YAK-18 trainers based at Sinuiju, since the Chinese navigational net reported these aircraft active on the nights when the training missions were flown. (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, AP 263, 25 Aug 52)

Comment: The North Korean Air Force possesses no conventional bombers. In the past, however, obsolescent PO-2 biplanes have been referred to as "bombers" during night harassing sorties over the UN lines. It is possible that these YAK-18's will be used in a similar role.

6. Maneuvers held by North Korean east coast defense units: A 20 August message on a net associated with the North Korean 7th Division in the Wonsan area states that "since . . . there will be a coordinated command reconnaissance of number A and B stations from 21 to 23 August . . . make the coordination preparations and arrive at Changim-ni by 20 August." The "division chief of staff" is mentioned. (CANOE 330th Comm Recon Co Korea, ALT-839, 21 Aug 52)

Comment: The North Korean 7th Division, along with other VII Corps units, completed a coastal defense maneuver in the Wonsan area less than two months ago. The current training exercise lends doubt to the thesis that the North Korean VII Corps is to relieve one of the combat corps at the front in the near future.

7. Chinese aircraft over Korea use "combat callsigns": Analysis of Chinese Communist air communications on the combat GCI net in Korea and elsewhere by a US Air Force field unit reveals that there are two categories of callsigns used by pilots in the Chinese Communist Air Force.

When heard in combat over Korea on the GCI net or on patrols in the Korea-Manchuria area, Chinese pilots are apparently assigned callsigns falling within a so-called

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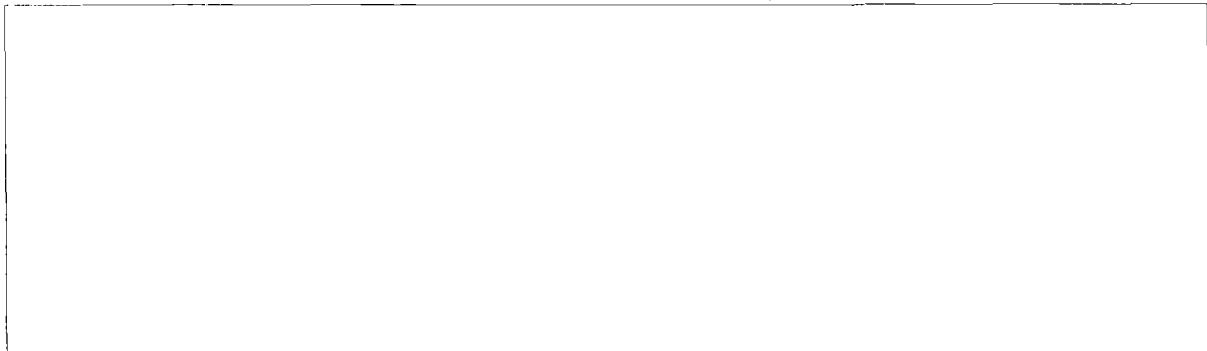
"combat bloc." Pilots elsewhere in China use different callsigns, which in some cases duplicate those found in the "combat bloc." (CANOE 6920 Security Grp Johnson AFB Japan, AP 603, 22 Aug 52)

Comment: Soviet pilots engaged in the Korean air war are assigned callsigns on a similar arbitrary pattern and Soviet callsigns heard in Korea have been duplicated by those heard in tactical units in the Soviet Union.

While probably designed to facilitate combat operations, the establishment of an arbitrary Chinese "combat" callsign bloc also suggests that pilots heard over Korea are under a different command structure than pilots elsewhere in China. Chinese air units in combat over Korea are identified on the Chinese navigational net, not on the combat air defense net.

8. North Korean east coast commander alerted in early June for UN landing: Pang Ho San, highly competent North Korean V Corps commander and chief of east coast defenses, instructed his division commanders on 15 June to "increase the defense and observation mission," because "a message from Supreme Headquarters" stated that the US 1st Cavalry Division was receiving amphibious training in Hokkaido, Japan. (CANOE ASAPAC Japan Spot 3824A, 22 Aug 52)

Comment: This message indicates that the pervading fear in the North Korean military of another successful UN amphibious operation extends up to Supreme Headquarters. Over 50 percent of effective North Korean combat units are presently assigned to direct or indirect coastal security missions.



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