

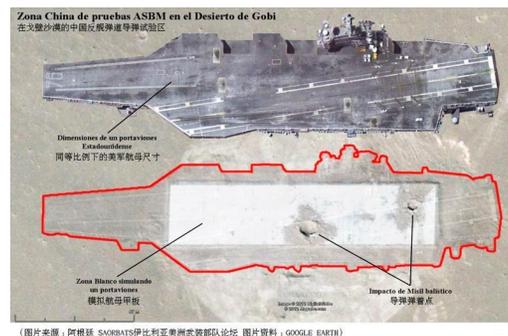
Appearance of Apparent Antiship Missile Targets in Gobi Test Areas during 2013



Area A



Area B



Area C

Summary: In the course of a search for possible target areas for the failed Chinese hypersonic glide vehicle test of 2014-08-07 (*), it came to light that two and possibly three areas which appear intended to test antiship weapons recently became identifiable in an area of China previously known to have weapons targets. Although no connection could be made with the hypersonic test, the areas, arbitrarily designated A, B and C, seem to have intrinsic interest and are documented here.

Any further information concerning them would be greatly appreciated. Please email it to thomsona@flash.net and indicate whether the sender wishes to be acknowledged in possible future versions of this document.

(*) <http://lewis.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/7443/crashing-glider-hidden-hotspring>

Area A
40.466 N, 93.521 E



Area A, 2013-11-04

The three shapes at lower left seem clearly meant to represent ships. The dark chevron around them may represent piers. The objects above them and to the right are unidentified, but might represent shore facilities.



Warships in Su-ao Harbor, Taiwan

The picture scale is almost the same as in the above image of Area A. Both the pair of actual ships at center and the presumed ship targets are about 170 meters long, closely matching the dimensions of Ticonderoga-class cruisers and Kee Lung-class (ex-Kidd) destroyers.



Area A, 2013-08-01

Construction of the ship targets is almost complete.



Area A, 2013-07-13

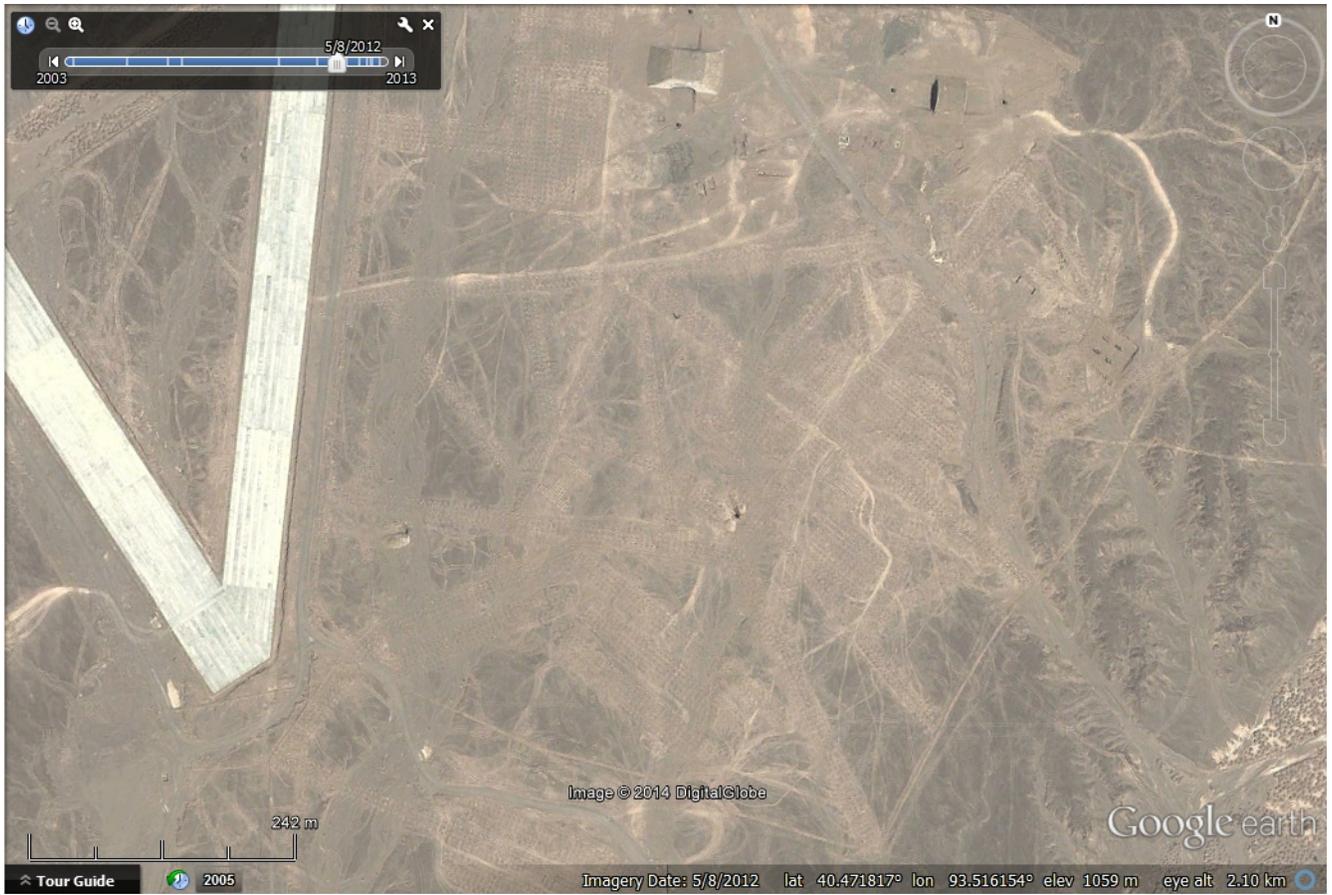
**Initial stages of ship targets.
Note in bottom center that one was begun but subsequently dismantled.**



Area A, 2013-06-04



Area A, 2013-03-02



Area A, 2012-05-08



Overview of Area A, 2013-09-01

Area B
39.150 N, 88.616 E



Area B, 2013-05-15

**The white rectangle where the aircraft are parked measures 255 x 60 meters.
The aircraft have the dimensions of F-35s, 11 x 16 meters.
The tower at the lower left presumably holds instrumentation for monitoring tests.**



US aircraft carrier at pier side in Newport News, Virginia to the same scale as the above image of Area B. The yellow line running the length of the deck is the same length as the long axis of the white rectangle at Area B.



Aircraft parked on carrier flight deck.



Area B, 2012-10-24

Various weapons tests were conducted at Area B subsequent to its construction in 2003-2004. While the dimensions of the two rectangles are consistent with those of an aircraft carrier deck, no explicitly recognizable indication of that can be seen prior to the image of 2013-05-15.



Area B, 2012-09-16



Area B, 2012-09-09



Area B, 2011-11-18

The elongated marks may represent the effects of some special-purpose weapon.



Area B, 2010-04-28



Area B, 2006-10-20



Area B, 2003-10-02

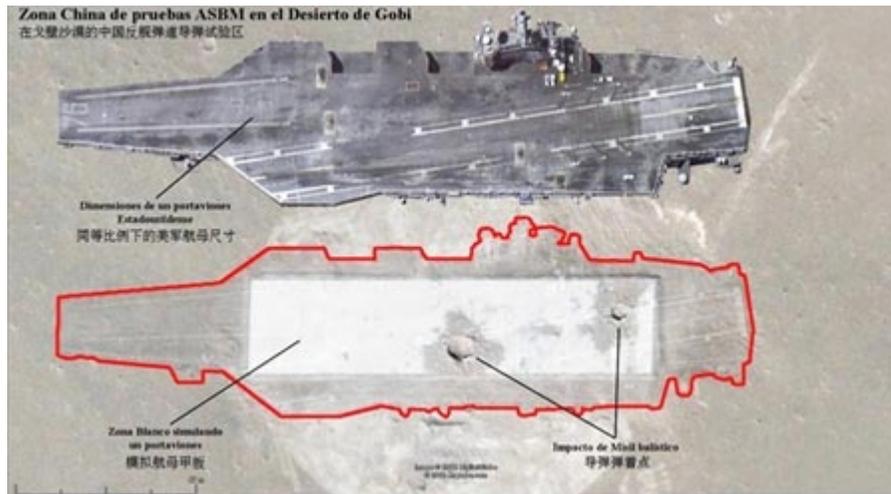
Initial construction at Area B.

Area C
40.371 N, 99.859 E

Area C has been known only from very indirect reports, apparently all originating from one picture carried on SAORBATS, an Argentine Web site. Google Earth searches have located a 2007 image of Area C showing the target rectangle and craters, but not the lines to either side of the rectangle corresponding to markings on the decks of US aircraft carriers shown in the picture. At this point, the interpretation of Area C as representing a carrier is plausible based on dimensions, but not positively supported by other available evidence, including other Google Earth images of the site.

Area C is in a heavily cratered area just to the east of the Dingxin airbase which contains other targets. Although its use as a target for long-range missiles cannot be excluded, it seems at least as likely that it is used for training the crews of the fighter-bomber aircraft based at Dingxin.

<http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20130123000112>



PLA 'sinks' US carrier in DF-21D missile test in Gobi

Staff Reporter
2013-01-23
16:54 (GMT+8)

Hit! According to the satellite image, China has sunk your battleship. (Internet photo)

The People's Liberation Army has successfully sunk a US aircraft carrier, according to a satellite photo provided by Google Earth, reports our sister paper Want Daily — though the strike was a war game, the carrier a mock-up platform and the "sinking" occurred on dry land in a remote part of western China.

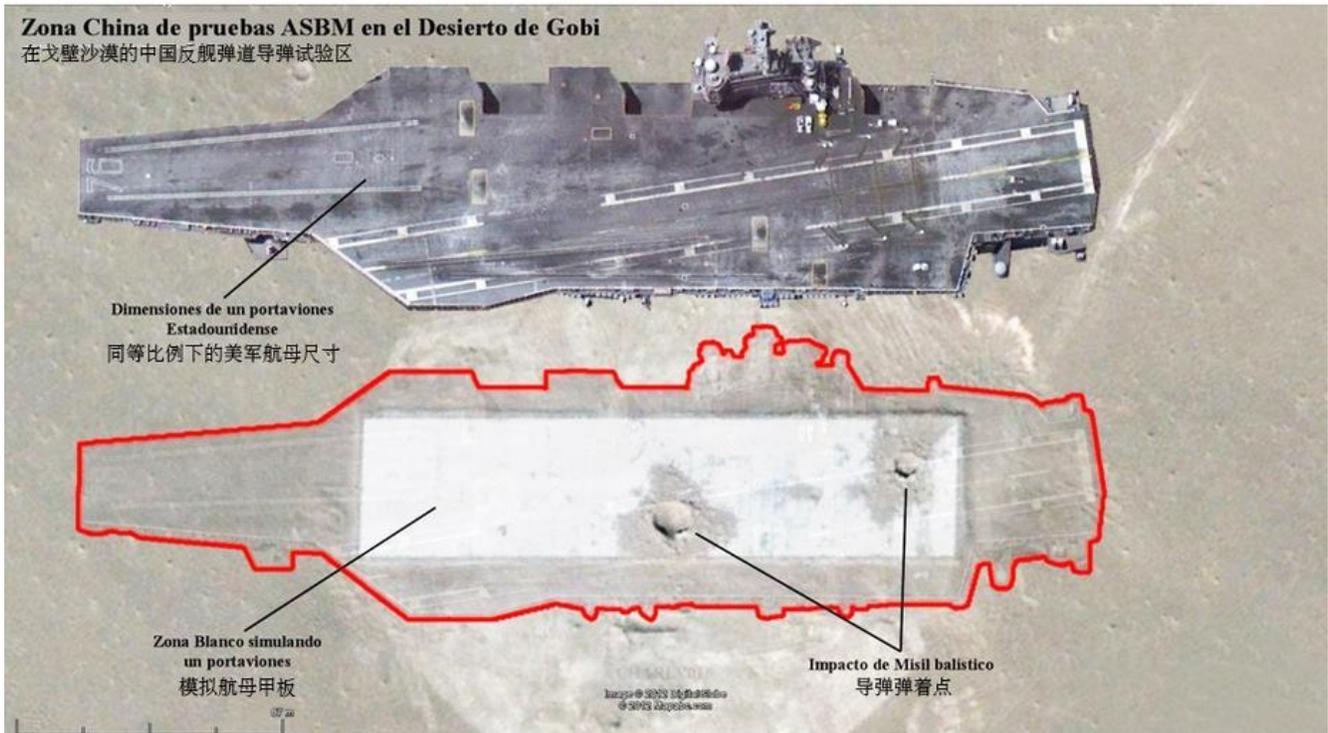
A satellite image reveals two large craters on a 200-meter-long white platform in the Gobi desert used to simulate the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. The photo was first posted on SAORBATS, an internet forum based in Argentina. Military analysts believed the craters would have been created by China's DF-21D anti-ship missile, dubbed the "carrier killer."

[deletia]

[https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-](https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-Owz4U0NSIhg/UeZeNNmwIRI/AAAAAAAAABFA/cUflzKEtFAw/s1600/chinese+aircraft+carrier.jpg)

[Owz4U0NSIhg/UeZeNNmwIRI/AAAAAAAAABFA/cUflzKEtFAw/s1600/chinese+aircraft+carrier.jpg](https://3.bp.blogspot.com/-Owz4U0NSIhg/UeZeNNmwIRI/AAAAAAAAABFA/cUflzKEtFAw/s1600/chinese+aircraft+carrier.jpg)

Is China tests a ASBM (Anti Ship Ballistic Missile) in Gobi desert? Look at the picture precisely and think what it means, its, the shape is just like an American aircraft carrier, may be Nimitz class or some other classes. The photo is taken by Google Earth. Published in a Chinese Site.



(图片来源：阿根廷 SAORBATS伊比利亚美洲武装部队论坛 图片资料：GOOGLE EARTH)

Area C.

This is a higher resolution version of the picture and more clearly shows lines to the left and right of the central white rectangle which are obviously meant to duplicate those on an aircraft carrier. Those lines appear to have photoshopped, as they do not appear on the actual Google Earth Image. The fit of the rectangle to the carrier deck appears accurate.



**Google Earth image of 2007-03-17
The rectangle measures 200 x 45 meters.**



Vicinity of Area C showing other targets and craters.



Proximity of Area C to Dingxin Airbase