

**A Sourcebook on the
TACKSMAN I and TACKSMAN II
ELINT Bases in Iran**

Version of 2019-07-20

Additional information would be welcome
Please send it to thomsona@flash.net

News code: 179

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CIA in Iran

Eavesdropping and surveillance bases in Iran 1334-1357 AH , 1955-1978 AD

[EXCERPT]

The most important espionage bases of CIA in north of Iran were located in Safi Abad of Behshahr, Kabkan of Khorasan and Pars Abad of Moghan which was equipped with the most advanced spy equipments and information systems of that time. Hashem Berenjian the lieutenant general, who was tried (in a court) after revolution, has said in regard of espionage bases of CIA in Safi Abad of Behshahr and other spy bases of CIA in northern parts of Iran as follows :

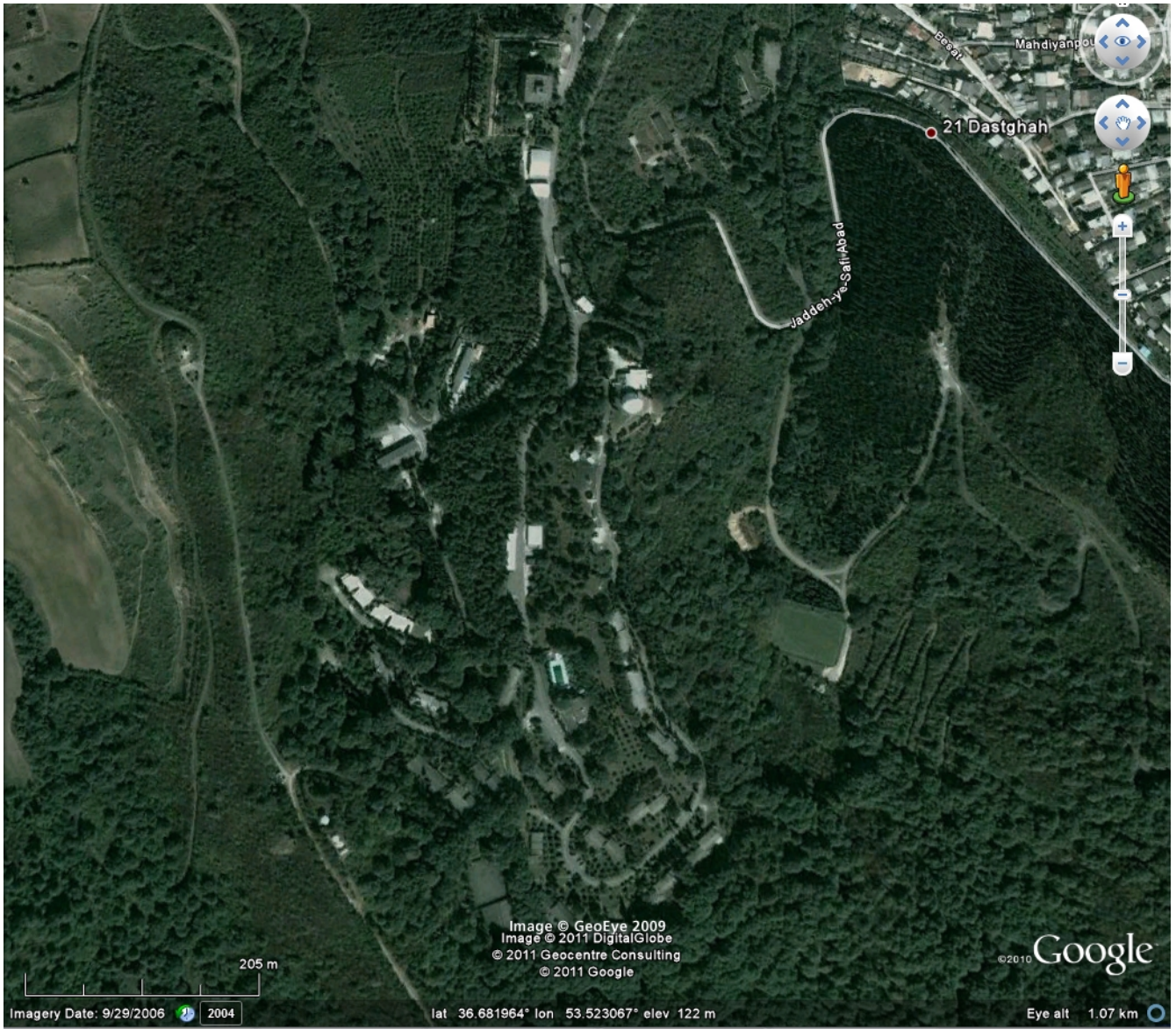
Since getting the right intelligence database of Behshahr and Kabkan after a few years, in that year air force commander came to me and said, Shah (king) has handed his private garden in Safi Abad of Behshahr to the CIA. He called his head of personnel, informed him about this situation and said: as they do their job, air force introduces about 250 students to them yearly, and I will send my reliable officers to protect them in Behshahr. I have done my affairs by sending workers, personnel, services or protective issues during this period. However, they had done their own affairs related to their king and definitely they had got king's permission, because the land of the base (station) was private property of king and did not have to do with air force and no officer had gone there against air counter-intelligence .

Whenever it was necessary, one civilian came and talked about the need of bases with me then I reflected it to authorities in different positions, then they left. These civilians were being changed every two or three years and I was just an intermediary between command of air force and these stations and I had no direct relation with Americans, besides there were no advisors next to me for consulting.

Therefore, my relation with them was this, and no more. But what is certain is that Americans in Behshahr and Kabkan had such huge databases where could be seen from twelve miles. It is natural that these types of getting information were not related to inside , and every professional knew it.

TACKSMAN I

**Grounds of the Safi Abad Palace
Behshahr, Iran
36.685 N, 53.528 E**



Safi Abad site in Google Earth

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/52206805>



Iran - Mazandaran -behshahr Safi Abad

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/7956771>



Safiabad Palace from the rear

Comments (18) [*Accessed 2011-09-18*]

[*EDITED*]

Eric77584, on July 30, 2008, said:

As a child in the 1970's I spent several years living at Safiabad Air Force Base. Most of the base in the satellite photos seems to be pretty much the same as I remember and seems to be maintained. Does anyone know what the base is used for today?

kim77573, on April 30, 2009, said:

As a child, I also lived at Safiabad from '70-'72. We probably know each other. These photos really bring back memories. Would love to talk to anyone else who lived there.

stanky, on May 29, 2009, said:

I lived there from 64-67. It was CIA. Iranian Air Force were trained there in electronics. After school we would sneak past the barbed wire and have adventures.

Eric77584, on September 24, 2009, said:

Interesting conversation that has been started by this pictures. I haven't been back to this site since I posted the original comment. I was on base from '70-'72 as well. I was 8-10 years old at the time. I lived above the BOQ on the road that went to the T-site. House #9, I think.

IOR-, on October 18, 2009, said:

Probably we lived in the next to last home just before the T-site. Those were two home units and the cadet instructor and his wife, a school teacher, lived in the unit just before T-site. We kept in contact for many years after leaving the place, through children etc. It sounds like you lived in one of the two houses above the first VOQ.

legreer102, on October 13, 2010, said:

I was there from 76 till the people were evaced out in 79. I lived in the first single person house. Also was the Bendix people.

<https://commondatastorage.googleapis.com/static.panoramio.com/photos/original/6001252.jpg>



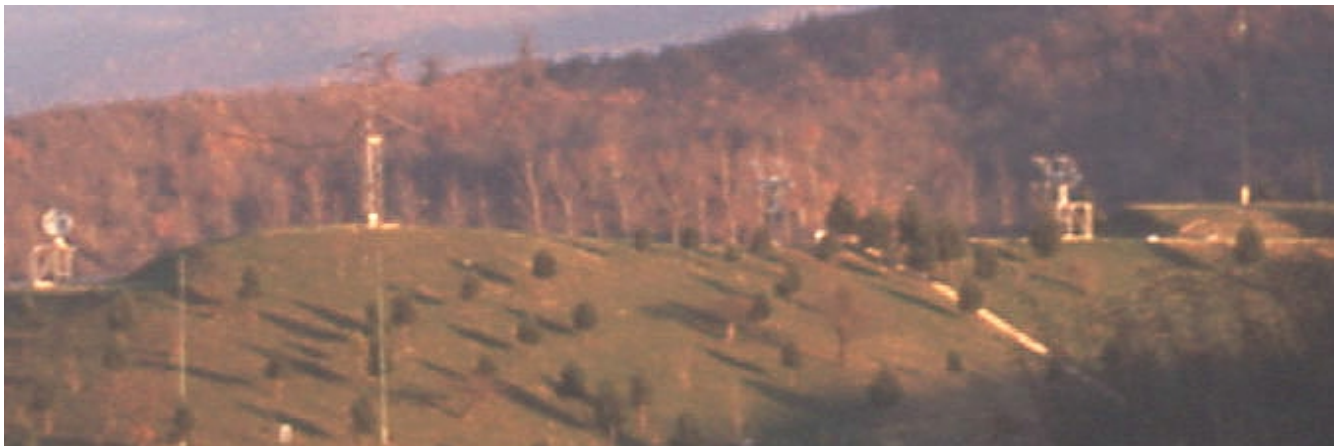
Note square mesh antenna(?) to left of palace.

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/7956911>



Safiabad Operations





<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/8686133>



10-70 Safiabad from Ridge [*Presumably 10-70 means October, 1970*]

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/7956800>



Safiabad Palace and Support Buildings

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/8685664>



Pano of Safiabad from the Ridge road 1970

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/8685664>



Pano of Safiabad from the Ridge road 1970

Auto color corrected in GIMP

Note that the buildings are single-floor and behind a ridge that conceals them from the surrounding plain.

<http://my.opera.com/Iorwearth/albums/showpic.dml?album=470141&picture=6504991>



Palace from housing. The roof is my house

<http://my.opera.com/Iorwearth/albums/showpic.dml?album=470141&picture=12503730>



My house

<http://www.panoramio.com/photo/7956783>



Safiabad from Behshahr [*Dasht-e Naz??*] Airport



TACKSMAN II

**Near Kabkan, Iran
37.295 N, 58.915 E**



• Khademanlu
Kapkan, Gappi, Iran

TACKSMAN II

• Arrak

5.30 km

Image © GeoEye 2009
Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2011 GeoEye

© 2011 Google

Imagery Date: 10/28/2009

lat 37.295945° lon 58.916226° elev 1931 m



TACKSMAN II

Image © GeoEye 2009

Image © 2011 GeoEye

© 2011 Google

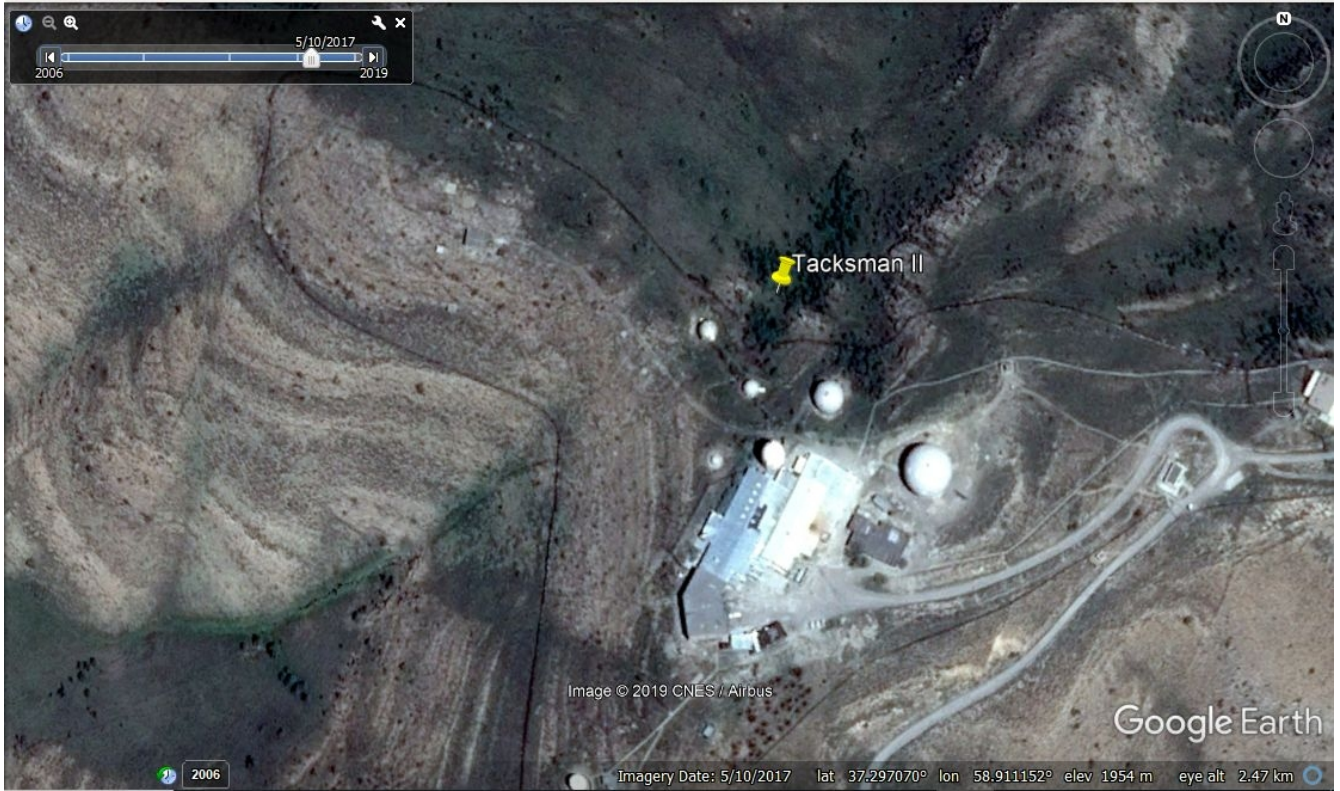
© 2010

168 m

Imagery Date: 10/28/2009 2006

lat 37.295251° lon 58.915005° elev 1991 m

E



New Construction at TACKSMAN II June 2019



TACKSMAN II is located on the highest peak in the area