

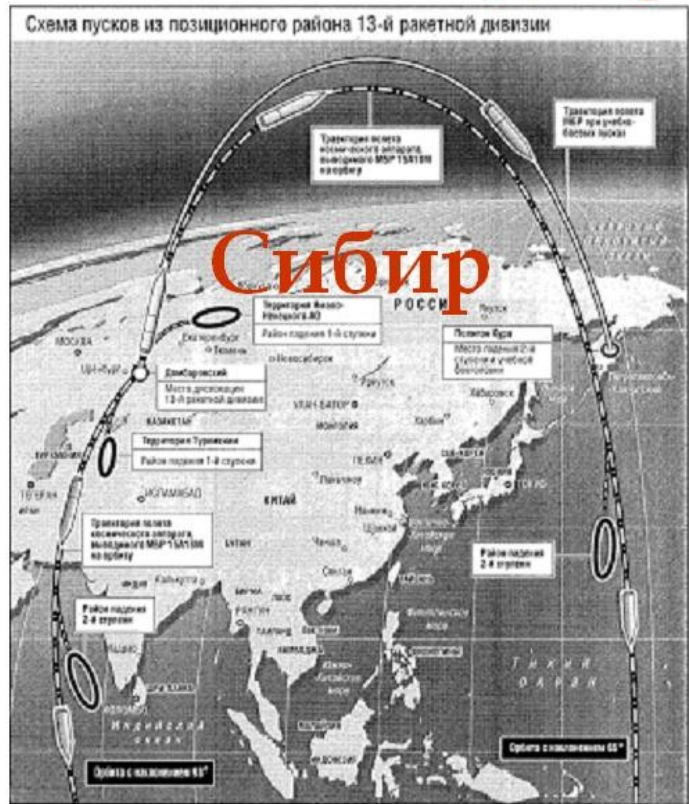
# 'Yasniy' -- world's newest satellite launch facility

**ЯСНЫЙ**

**Днепр**



**Домбаровский**



*Copyright Seiji Yoshimoto, NPO InterCoS*



Looks like a PR photo -- but is a fairly representative view of a well-off community with a strong economic base

# “On the economy”



Escorted visits to local stores are occasionally allowed for long-term foreign workers preparing their payloads, plus visits to local movie theatre

Another ‘Kosmotras’-allowed photo -- but I saw the same scenes. The town administration is VERY much pro-space-commercialization. At the compound, there has been NO pilferage in either campaign.



All images Copyright Seiji Yoshimoto, NPO InterCoS



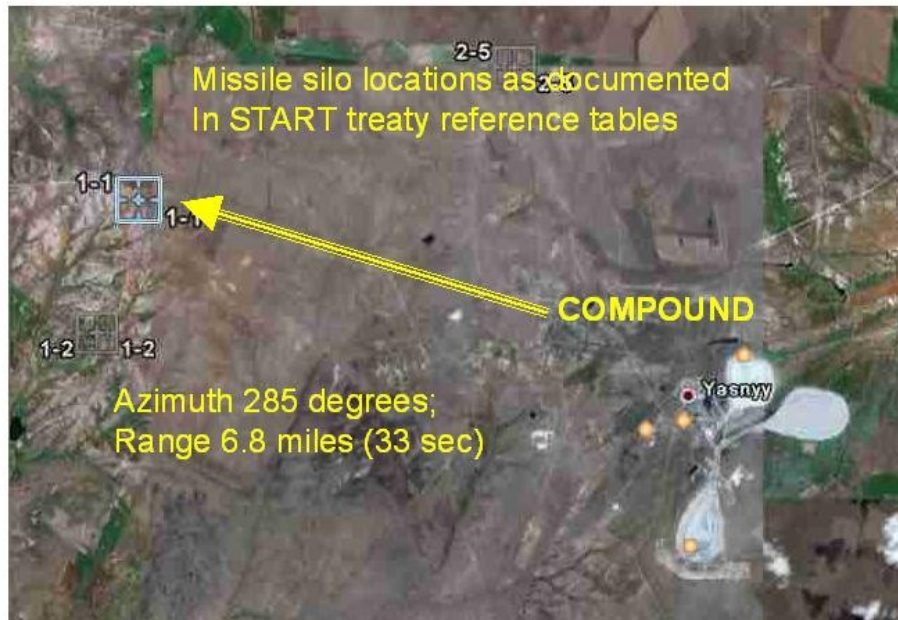
# Hotel



Very clean and comfortable facilities – but you still need to brush your teeth with imported bottled water



# Yasniy and the launch site

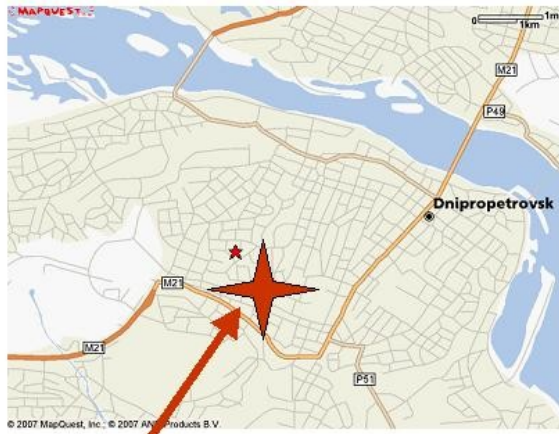


Observed bearing and distance precisely overlaid documented SS-18 pad designated "1-1" in START (based on compass and launch observations)



# “Dnipropetrovsk”

- Plant location said to be near 48.4348 N, 34.9824 E (below) but Google-Earth images are of very poor resolution and don't even show individual buildings



Plant located in SW suburbs of city



# The Rocket Plant Close-Up

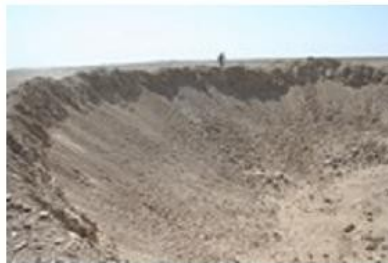
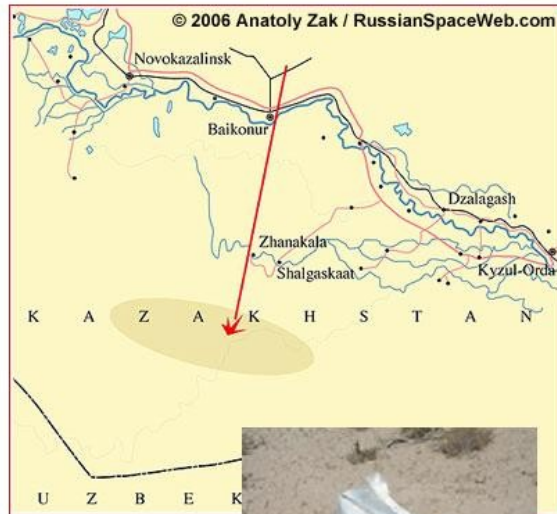


**SS18 and Yuzhnoye Head Office, Dnepropetrovsk  
2004-06, (C) Yuzhnoye State Design Office  
via Seiji Yoshimoto, NPO InterCoS**

# Mid-2006 – the big ‘oops’

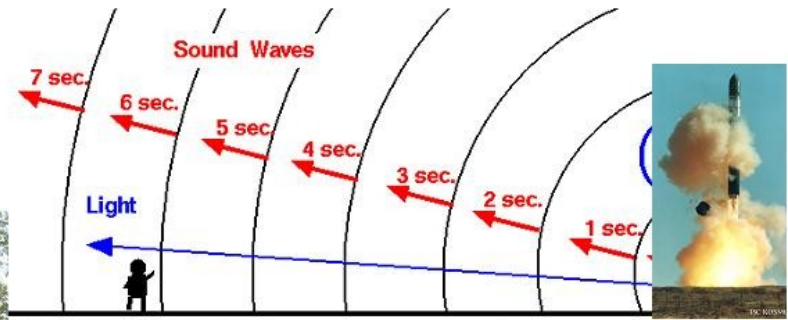
A Dnepr launching southward into a ‘sun-synchronous orbit’ suffers early engine shutdown and impacts in remote pastureland -- no destruct system, so intact (half-fuelled) impact and massive crater.

**Booster grounded half a year.**





# Waiting for the thunder...



No pictures allowed looking west during launch, but images weren't on my acquisition list -- a precise time of flash to roar delay WAS. I audio and video-taped the sequence for later analysis.

## Celebrations -- after a comm drop-out scare



Kosmotras official Solovey hugs and lifts Bigelow Aerospace counsel Mike Gold, who then miraculously overcomes Earth gravity to hug and lift Solovey in turn.

“Morning after” – and return to Moscow  
by a new route right across “Area-1” of the base



Unmarked entry onto missile base  
(no visible fences or guards)

БАЗА = "BASE"



Typical RS-20 ICBM silos in hi-res regions of Dombrovskiy area; "Pad 1-1" is in lower res area but looks much like these, with fences, plus the recent radio tower.

