Military Intelligence for Terrorists™

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A lamer's guide to retrieving geographical information that could be relevant to planning terrorist attacks (or doing "classical" military intelligence)

About me

- Andreas Krennmair

- Software developer in the "mobile application" area

- Playing with public GIS in my free time, found out a number of interesting things over time

Agenda

- What tools are available?

- What kind of information is available?

- How do we correlate all that?

- Real-life examples (incl. demonstration)

Motivation (1/2)

- The US government is crazy about having "national–security–related" material published

- Yet a lot of interesting material is on the net, waiting to be collected and correlated

- US forbids pilots to fly over nuclear power-plants, while the exact locations are secret

- This is regime criticism, if you want

Motivation (2/2)

- Already published that kind of information in my weblog

- I will never ever travel into the US as I fear to get arrested, interrogated, deported back etc. – I wouldn't even have the right to talk to my country's ambassador!

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Available Tools

- First of all: Google.

- NASA World Wind: excellent GIS front end

- Google Maps: very good map and photo material

- Google Earth: similar to World Wind, accesses Google Maps material

- Misc. free map services on the net

World Wind
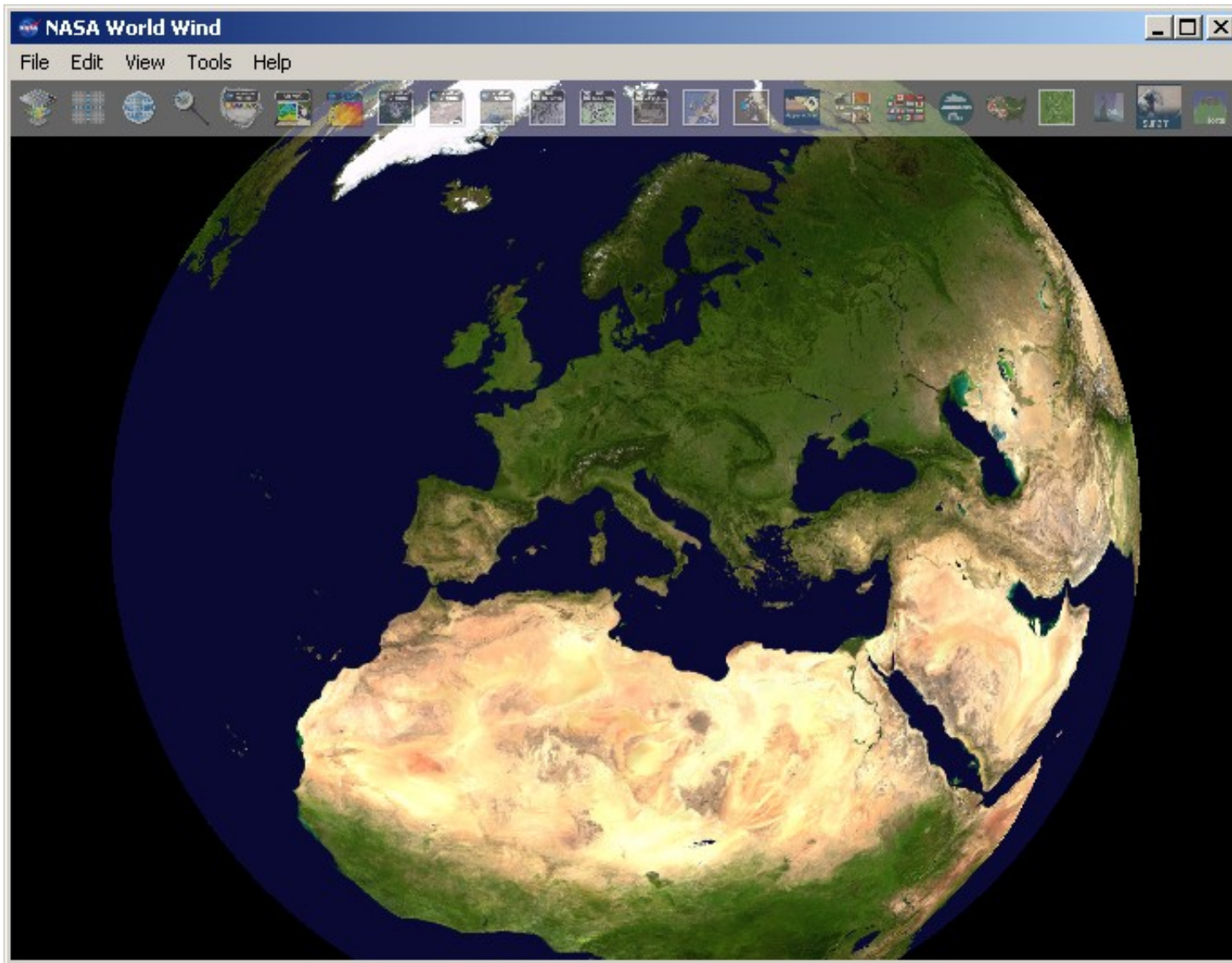
Google Maps/Earth

Available information

- List of nuclear power plants in the US including their rough location

- Photos of important buildings, military bases, ...

- Other interesting stuff

Real-Life Examples

- Washington, D.C.

- Andrews Air Force Base

- Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant

- New York

- Edwards Air Force Base

- ...

Washington D.C.

The Capitol

The White House

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The Pentagon

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Andrews AFB

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Andrews AFB

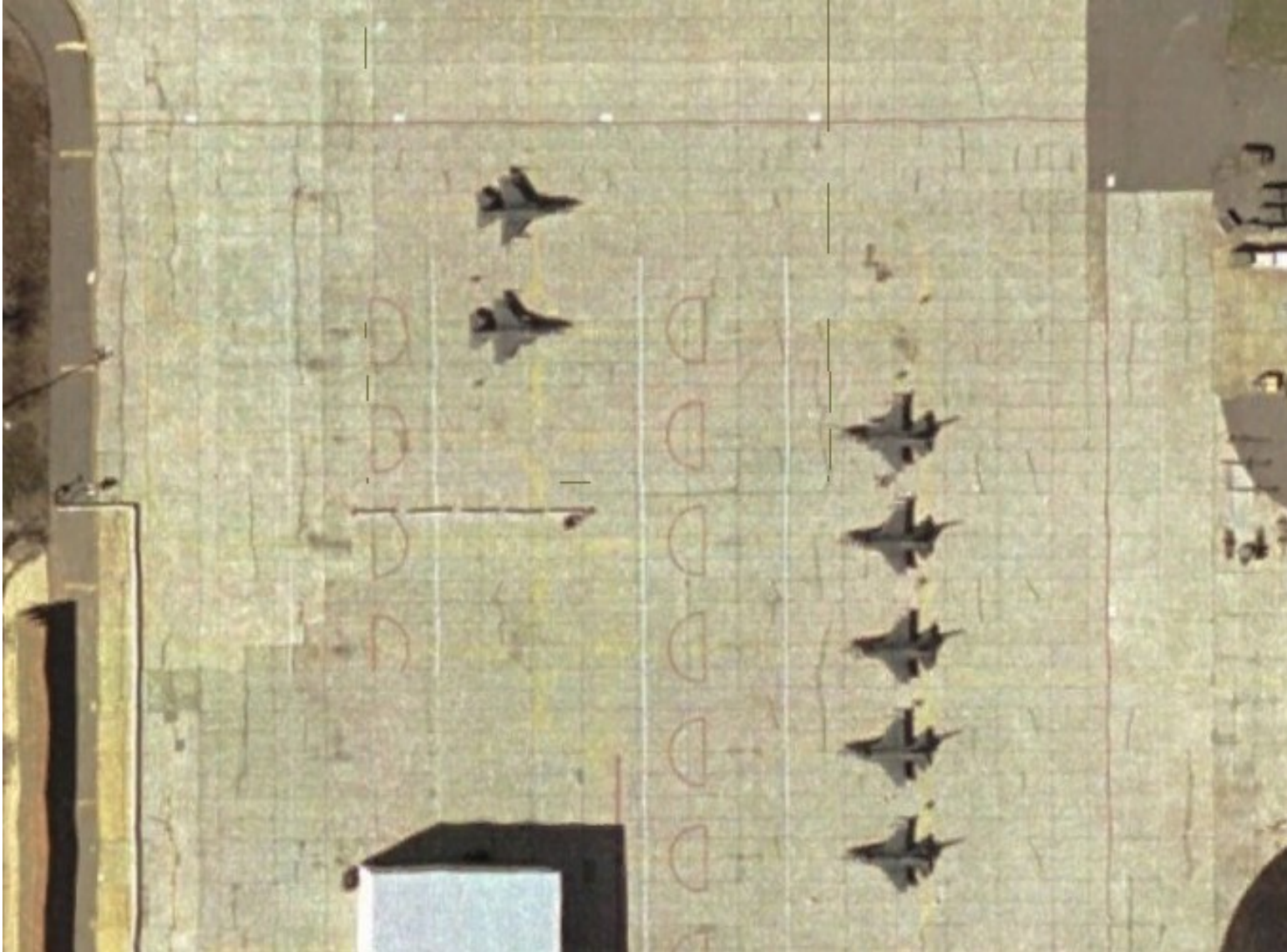Military Intellicence for Terrorists™

Andrews AFB

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Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant

Latitude: 39.81449°
Longitude: -74.20621°
Heading: 0.59284°
Tilt: 0.00000°
Altitude: 855m
Distance: 855m
FOV: 45.00000°
Terrain Elevation: 14.00 meters

Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant

- List of nuclear reactors:
  `http://www.insc.anl.gov/pwrmaps/map/united_states.html`

- Selected Oyster Creek, N.J.:

  – the oldest working nuclear power plant in the US

  – certain kinds of fish are attracted by the warm water output, well-known to fishers

Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant

- Nuclear Power Plant is easily spotted on topo maps where it is marked as "Powerplant".

- Bingo!

- We got information not even pilots get due to "security reasons":
  `http://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2005/03/the_sillin`

Edwards AFB

- Well-known AFB in California

- about 100 km north of LA

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwards_AFB

- Lots of cool aircraft there, just have a look:

Edwards AFB

Edwards AFB

Pointer 34°54'11.95" N 117°52'28.97" W elev 2283 ft   Streaming ||||||||| 100%   Eye alt 3662 ft

Edwards AFB

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Thailand

- "Thai military upset by Google satellite pictures"

- http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181

- After some search I found interesting stuff south of Nakhon Ratchasima:

Nakhon Ratchasima

Nakhon Ratchasima

Serbia

- Serbia fought a few wars in the last 15 years

- There's a military air strip north-west of Belgrad, near Nova Pazova
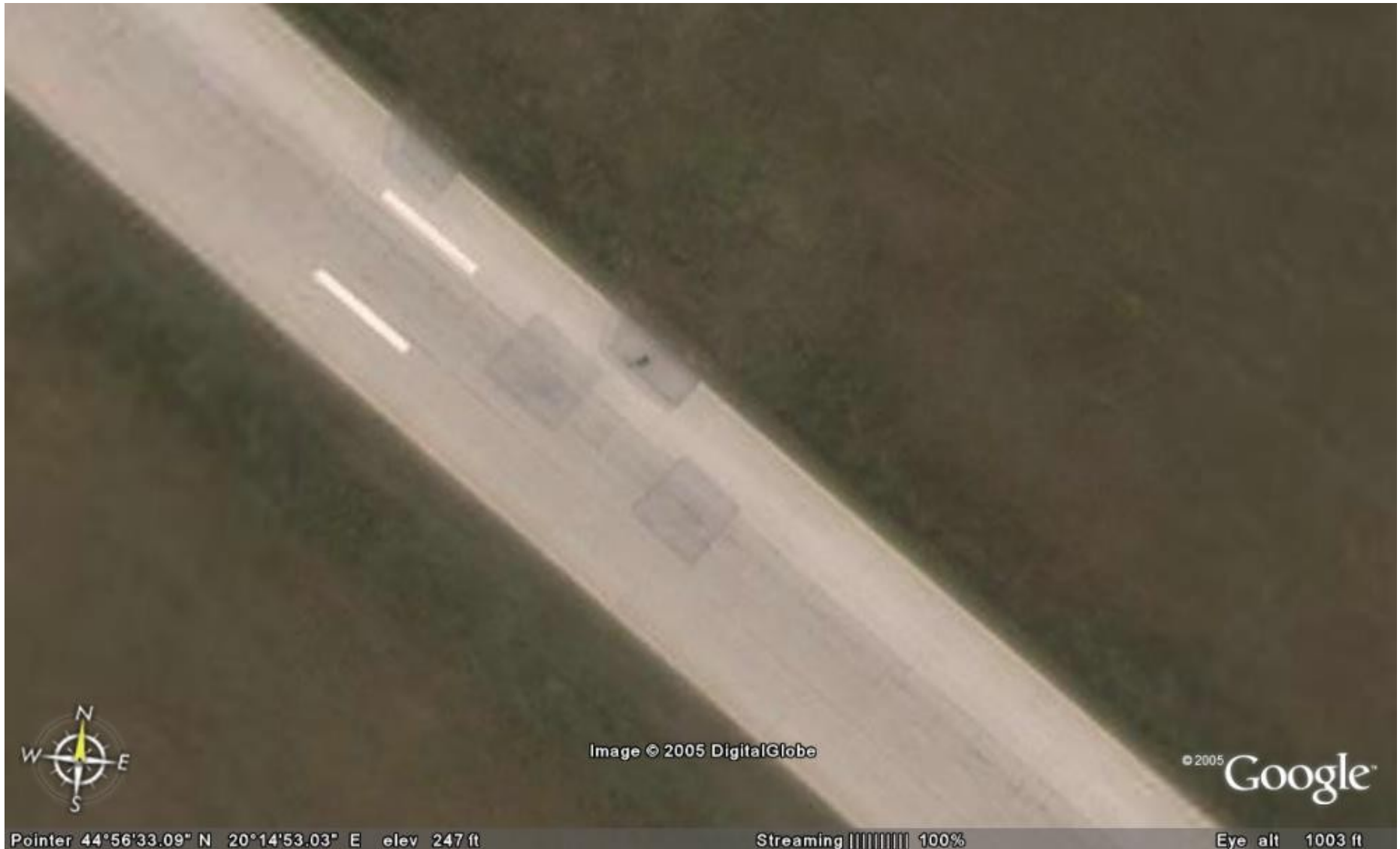
Nova Pazova

Nova Pazova

Pointer 44°55'53.46" N 20°14'55.43" E elev 246 ft   Streaming |||||||| 100%   Eye alt 1674 ft

Nova Pazova

Nova Pazova

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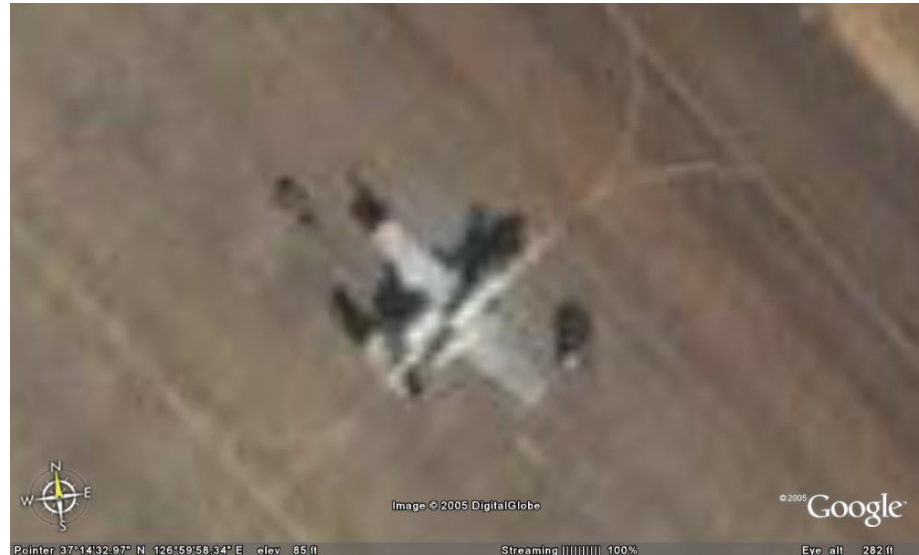
Suwon – South Korea

What are these – drones?

- Drone/UAV like the one on the right?

- Would make sense, North Korea isn't far away

- But let's look closer...

A closer look

- Two engines, not one like the Global Hawk

- Shadow of vertical tails is typical for another plane

It's The "Good Old" A–10

Suwon Revisited (1)

Suwon Revisited (2)

Bombed Buildings – Najaf, Iraq

Closer Look at Buildings

Some Airbase in Iraq (1)

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Some Airbase in Iraq (2)
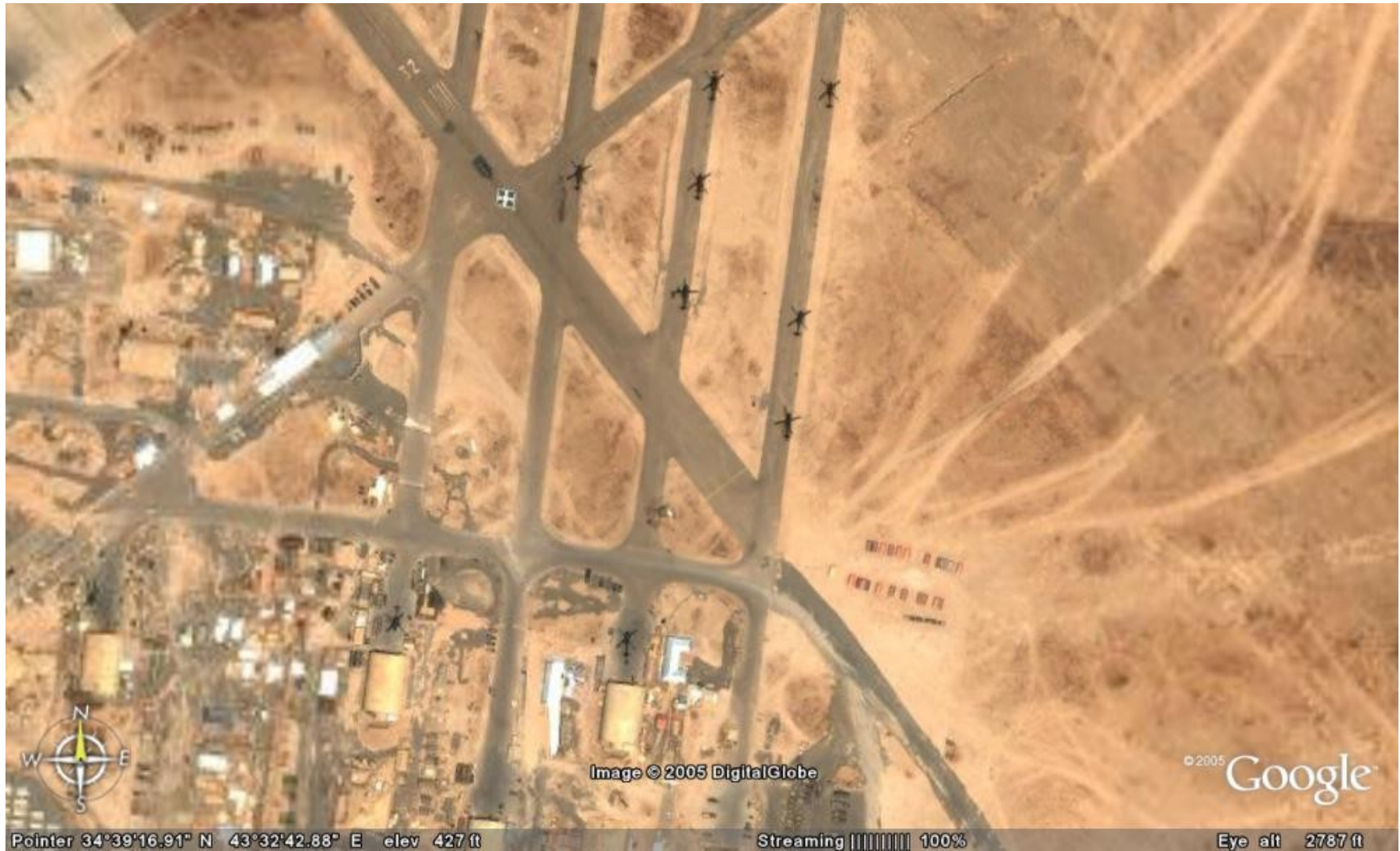
BTW, you are here:

Some interesting links

- Google "Black Helicopter" competition:
  http://tinyurl.com/bob4c

- Google Earth Hacks:
  http://www.googleearthhacks.com/

- Various lecture-related bookmarks:
  http://del.icio.us/ak/22c3

Thanks for listening! Questions?

And now for some live demo + experiment...
Grab the microphone, tell me some place and I will try to locate some (more or less) interesting stuff. I cannot guarantee success. ;-)
Or just ask questions, if you have any.