



Activities Continue at North Korea's Punggye-ri Test Site

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Digital Globe high resolution commercial satellite imagery from Tuesday, April 29, 2014 shows that activities continue at North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site (figure 1). In particular, activities are occurring at the South Portal and additional activities have occurred at the West Portal.

In a previous [ISIS Imagery Brief](#) dated April 25, 2014, ISIS confirmed media reports of heightened activity at the test site, in particular at the South Portal of the site and in the main support area using commercial satellite images dated April 23 and April 25, 2014, which are included here as figures 2 and 3.

In this new image, three possible black vehicles and a lighter-colored truck appear on the small road leading directly to the South Portal tunnel entrance. The possible camouflage netting previously identified remains (see figure 1). Containers in earlier images near the South Portal are no longer at this location.

The large white truck previously located on the road, on April 23rd, and parked on April 25th, close to the South Portal now appears to be parked at the West Portal. The truck is parked close to what looks like a black line in the image, and this line leads to a West Portal tunnel entrance. Whether this line is a trench, track, or shadow could not be determined from the image.

What the activity at the West Portal means is not readily apparent. Could North Korea be using the West Portal to assemble a nuclear device for detonation in the South Portal, preparing the West Portal for an explosion either individually or in conjunction with one in the South Portal, or carrying out some other type of activity there?

All these activities are consistent with the view that a test will occur soon, as has been reported in South Korean media.¹ However, the timing of a test is difficult to construe from the new activity.

¹ The following is a list of South Korean media reporting on changes at North Korea's test site:

http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_national/634351.html,
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2014/04/23/2014042300570.html,
http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_northkorea/634014.html,
<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2014/04/22/85/0401000000AEN20140422004551315F.html>,
<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/search1/2603000000.html?cid=AEN20140423007700325>,
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2014/04/23/2014042300570.html,
<http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2014042690318>.

Image Credit: Digital Globe-ISIS
Image Date: April 29, 2014
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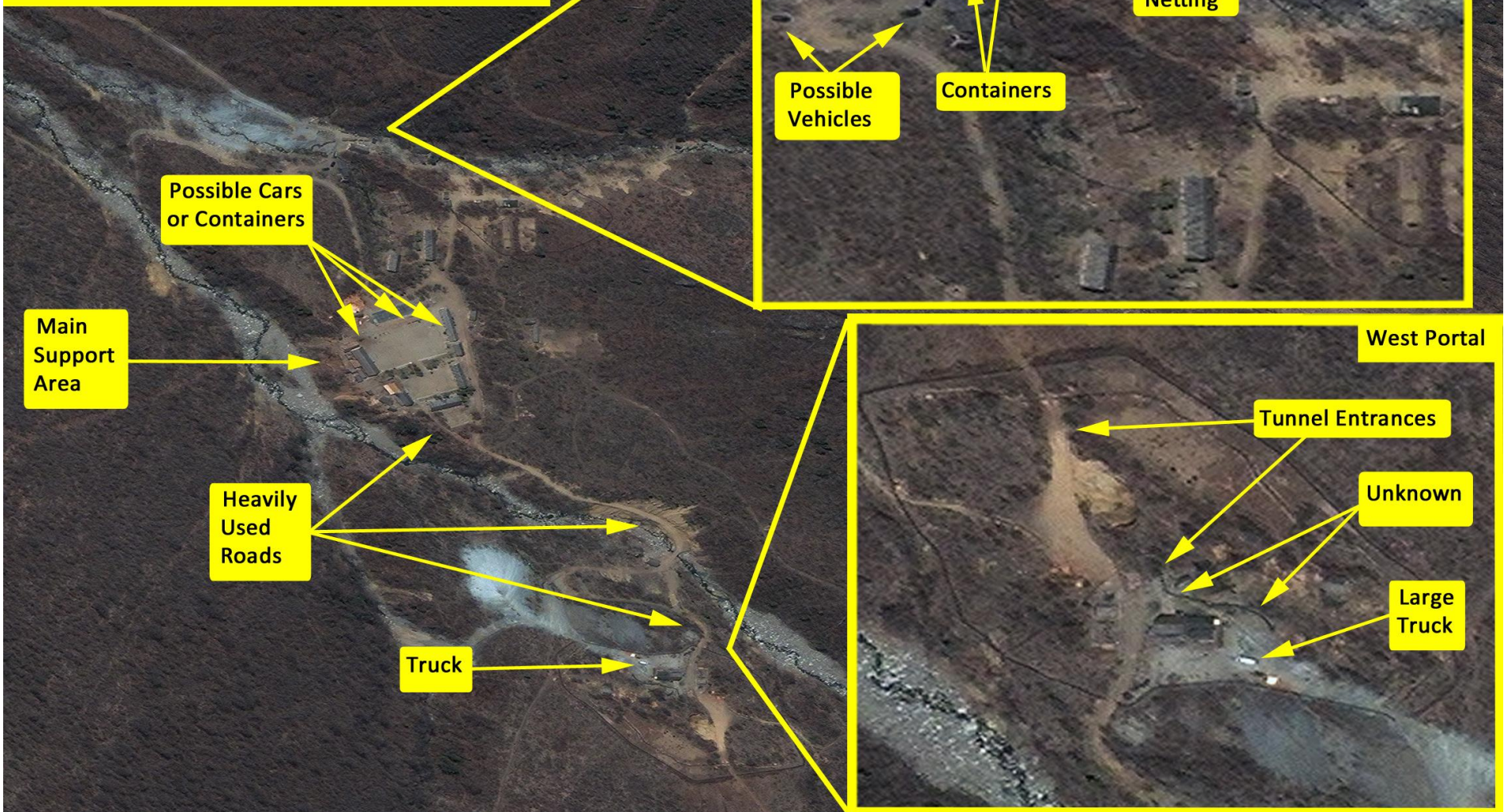


Figure 1. Digital Globe imagery showing North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site on April 29, 2014.

Image Credit: Digital Globe-ISIS
Image Date: April 25, 2014
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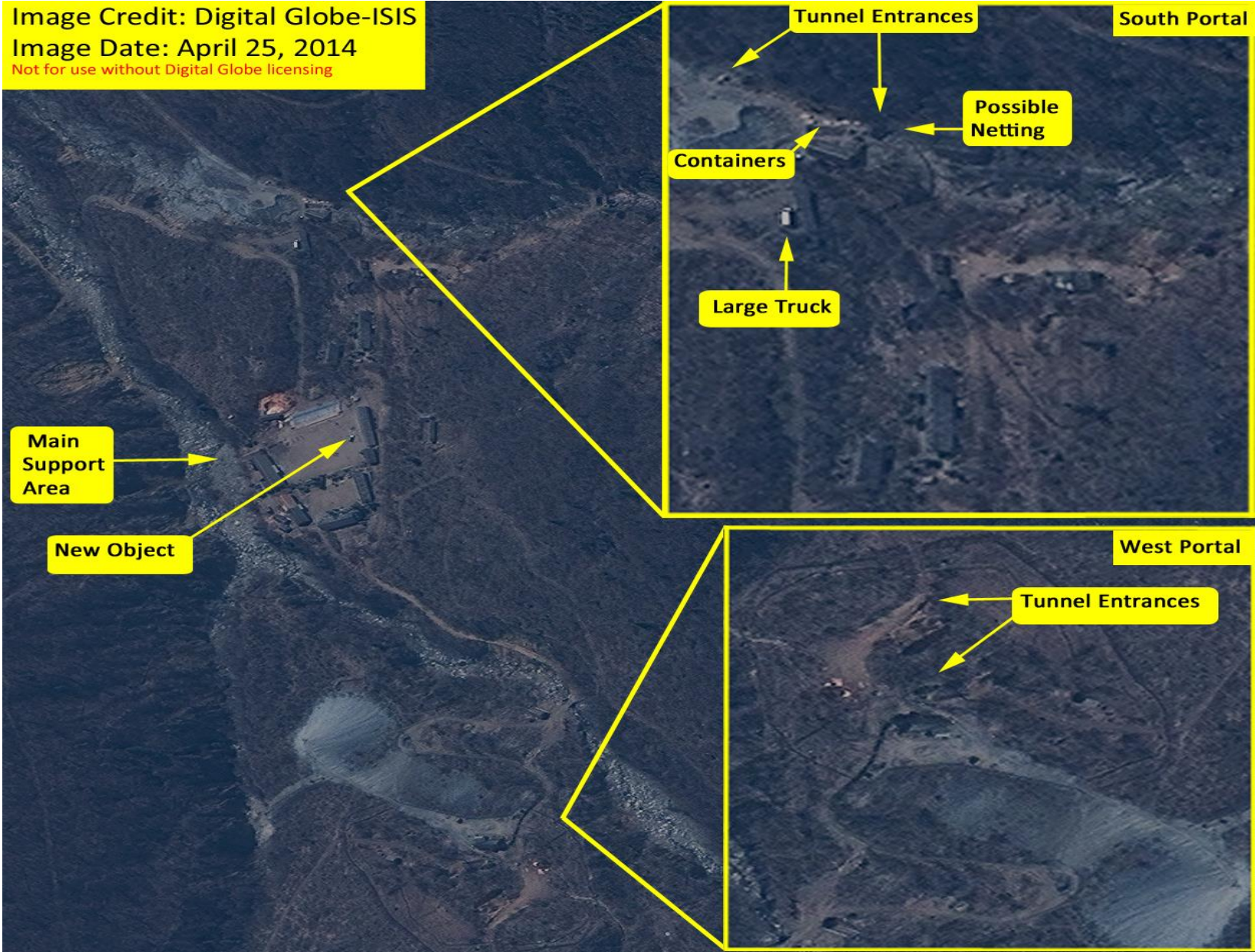


Figure 2. Digital Globe imagery showing North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site on April 25, 2014.

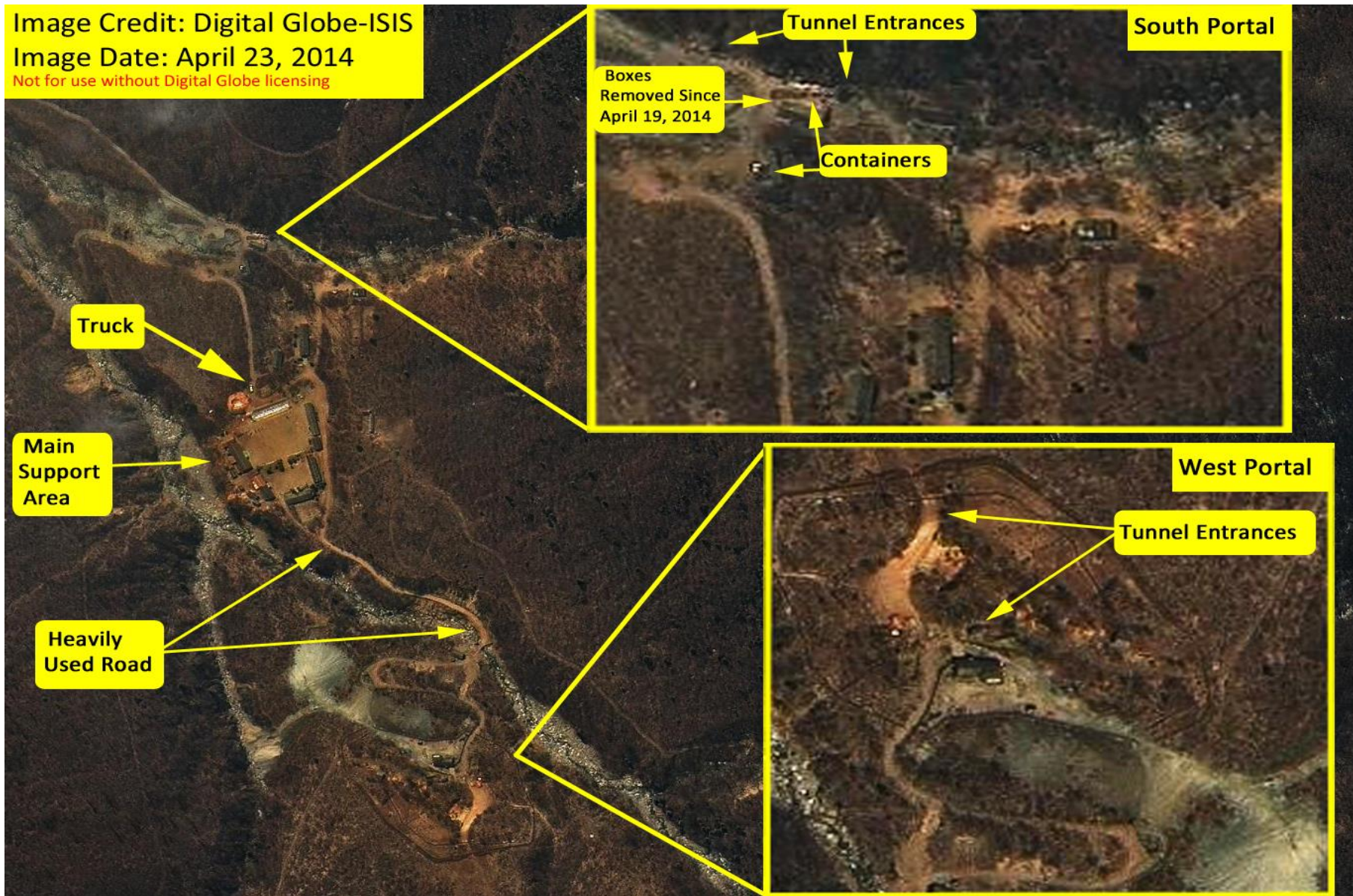


Figure 3. Digital Globe imagery showing North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site on April 23, 2014.