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AVC,AVN/TCOM/.
8 FEBRUARY 1968 2042Z
DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR KILO
PLUS USM-604, USN-414J
HCO

MILITARY REGION TRI-THIEN-HUE COMMUNICATIONS,

25 JANUARY 1968

I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents a detailed description of the Military Region (MR) Tri-Thien-Hue (TTH) manual Morse radio complex as of 25 January. Included in the report is a diagram (in hard copy only) depicting unit subordination and the most current unit locations. Arbitrary designators have been assigned to the unidentified units to facilitate cross-referencing between the report and the diagram, and will be used in future reports on this subject.

II. DETAILS

A. Hq, MR TTH

Hq, MR TTH maintains direct communications with PAVN High Command (HC); Hq, MR 4 (North Vietnam (NVN)); Hq, MR 5; Hq, DMZ Front; probable Hq, PAVN 559th Transportation Group; and approximately 11 subordinate stations, including the tentative forward element of Hq, MR TTH; the possible Hue Municipal Unit and one of its subordinates (Station A1); the tentative PAVN 4th Regiment; the possible PAVN 9th Regiment; the PAVN 6th Regiment; and five unidentified entities (Stations B4, E1-E4). During late December-early January, the Hq, MR TTH relocated to within 25 km of Hue from the area of 16-25N 107-23E (YD 554171). This relocation, together with a 15 km relocation to within 15 km of Hue by the tentative forward element of Hq, MR TTH, suggests a renewed interest in the Hue city area by Vietnamese Communist elements in MR TTH.¹

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B. Tentative Forward Element, Hq, MR TTH

The emergence of the forward element in MR TTH during late 1967 has been augmented by an increase in the number of communications subordinates of this headquarters, as well as the addition of watch and broadcast facilities. The forward element was possibly activated in July 1967 as a communications subordinate of both Hq, MR TTH and HC. During September-October 1967, it ceased communications with Hq, MR TTH and initiated communications with three terminals that had been subordinates of only Hq, MR TTH-- the possible Hue Municipal Unit and two unidentified entities (Stations E1 and E4). Also during October 1967, the forward element instituted its own watch facility through which communications were established with HC; Hq, MR 4 (NVN); and one unidentified station. During this period, the forward element used the radio facilities of the possible PAVN 9th Regiment to communicate with Hq, MR TTH. However, the Hq, PAVN 9th Regiment first appeared subordinate to the forward element on the watch facility during November 1967, thus indicating that the forward element was no longer utilizing the communications facilities of the Hq, 9th Regiment. The isolation of communications between the forward element and Hq, MR TTH together with an increasing number of stations appearing subordinate to the forward element, indicated that this headquarters was serving a forward element function.

In January 1968 the forward element initiated broadcast communications and relocated from its former operating area near the possible Hq, PAVN 9th Regiment (16-33N 107-09E, YD 300320) to an area near 16-24N 107-26E (YD 615143) approximately 15 km southwest of Hue.

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The current communications subordinates of the forward element include the possible Hue Municipal Unit and one of its subordinates (Station A1), the tentative PAVN 4th Regiment, the possible PAVN 9th Regiment, the PAVN 6th Regiment, and five unidentified entities (Stations E1-E4, and F1, which communicates only with the forward element). All of the forward element's subordinates--except F1--communicate directly with Hq, MR TTH. Two of the unidentified entities (Stations E1 and E4) have communicated with the forward element since September or October 1967. The latest location of one (Station E1) on 24 January 1968 in west-central Thua Thien Province near 16-13N 107-17E (YC 452946) represents a relocation of approximately 12 km from its December operating area, near 16-16N 107-12E (YD 350000). Two subordinates (Stations E2 and E3) appeared on the MR TTH communications complex on 27 November 1967 and 1 January 1968, respectively. These stations are either in the process of relocating, or have relocated within MR TTH: Station E2 was initially located on 2 December 1967 near 16-15N 107-25E (YC 591989) and SIGINT indicates that this station is now in the process of relocating;² Station E3, initially located in SIGINT on 11 January 1968 near 16-15N 107-15E (YC 408970), has been moving in a southeasterly direction, and is currently located near 16-11N 107-32E (YC 729900). F1, first observed in communications on 16 January 1968, is currently located near 16-18N 107-19E (YD 472037) as of 20 January 1968. However, tenuous SIGINT indicates that this entity initiated communications with Hq, MR TTH and the forward element as early as November 1967, utilizing the watch facility. The forward element also maintains communications with HC via both the watch and command media, and with Hq, MR 4 (NVN); Hq, DMZ Front; and several unidentified stations on the watch communications net.

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C. Possible Hue Municipal Unit

The current communications posture of the Hue Municipal Unit includes the headquarters and two subordinates, one of which is the tentative 804th Battalion. The second (Station A1) is an unidentified entity formerly a subscriber on the Hq, MR TTH net used for communicating with subordinates of the PAVN 6th Regiment. The Hue Municipal Unit and its unidentified subordinate (Station A1) also maintain communications with Hq, MR TTH and the forward element.

D. Tentative PAVN 4th Regiment

PAVN 4th Regiment communications consist of the regimental headquarters, which maintains communications with Hq, MR TTH; the forward element, and three subordinates, two of which (Stations B1 and B2) were first observed during the latter part of 1967; the third (Station B3) was first observed during January 1968. This 4th Regiment was formerly identified as serving the possible Thua Thien Provincial Unit; however, the current communications posture and area of operations, supported by collateral, permitted the tentative identification of this unit as the PAVN 4th Regiment.³

E. Possible PAVN 9th Regiment

Hq, PAVN 9th Regiment currently communicates with Hq, MR TTH, the forward element, and one unidentified subordinate (Station C1). Communications emanating from the regimental headquarters during December 1967 tenuously indicated that one, possibly two, other subordinates were in existence; this evidence however, remains unconfirmed.

F. Hq, PAVN 6th Regiment

The Hq, PAVN 6th Regiment communicates with one unidentified battalion (Station D1). In addition, the possible 802nd Battalion and an unidentified, possible battalion were also communications

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subordinates of the PAVN 6th Regiment during late 1967, but SIGINT cannot confirm the subordination of these battalions to the 6th Regiment. Hq, PAVN 6th Regiment maintains direct communications with both Hq, MR TTH and the forward element.

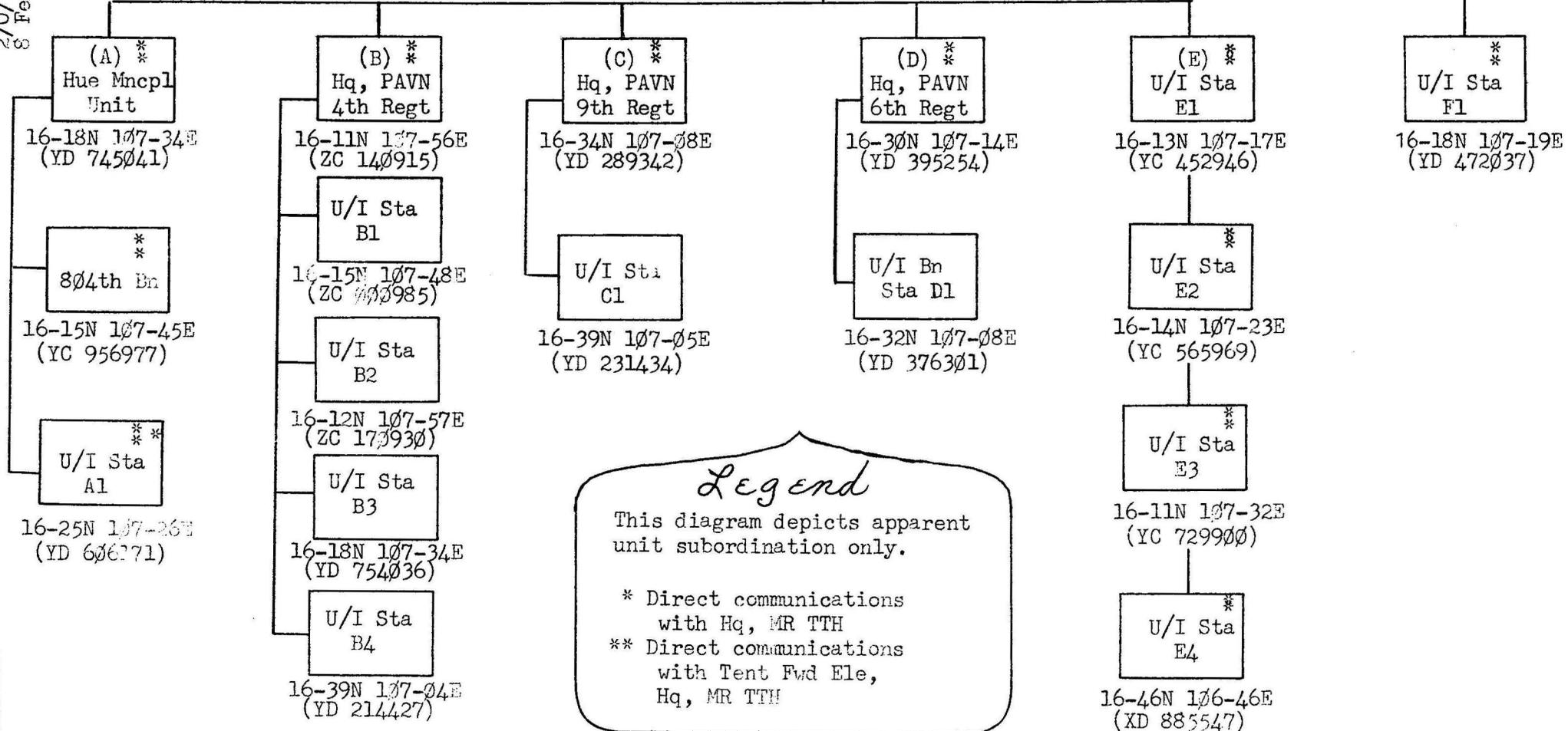
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1. 3/0/STY/R20-68.
 2. 2/C11/VCM/R164-68.
 3. 2/0/VCM/R16-68.

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16-25N 107-20E
(YD 510150)

Tent Fwd Ele (F)
Hq, MR TTH
16-24N 107-26E
(YD 615143)

2/O/VCM/R74-68
8 February 1968



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