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POSSIBLE NEW DIVISION ECHELON UNIT IN

HA BAC PROVINCE, NORTH VIETNAM

The formation of a new unit of at least division echelon has been indicated by the North Vietnamese Letter Box Number (LBN) system since early 1967. The unit is served by LBN's in the 16XXX series, which have been noted since February 1967 being addressed at Ha Bac Province, Military Region (MR) Viet Bac. The block of LBN's is unusual since it is the first to appear in the North Vietnamese system containing a digit above five in the second position.

Units currently isolated in the MR Viet Bac LBN system include: one division in Bac Thai Province tentatively identified as the 312th Division; three units of brigade echelon--two in Bac Thai and one, tentatively identified as the 305th Brigade, in Ha Bac Province; four in Vinh Phuc (21-09N 105-35E, WJ 6038); and three units in Yen Bai (21-48N 104-52E, VJ 8799), Phu Tho (21-24N 105-13E, WJ 2366) and Vinh Phuc, all of unknown echelon. The MR Viet Bac LBN system is also used by Workcamp 4 in Yen Bai and at least two other units in Yen Bai which may be workcamps.

Although the unusual LBN block was not accepted as valid until recently, it is now believed that this new block has served a newly formed unit in Ha Bac Province, since at least February 1967 rather than an established unit which had not formerly been isolated in the LBN system.

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