

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R26-68  
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NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY REGION VIET BAC COMMUNICATIONS--31 DECEMBER 1967

The North Vietnamese Military Region Viet Bac (MR VB) manual Morse network provides communications between Hq, MR VB, which is located in the area of Thai Nguyen (21-30N 106-25E, XJ 4778), and 15 subordinates. Only 2 of the 15 have been isolated--Hq, possible 305th (Airborne) Brigade and one of the 3 subordinates of the brigade.

Eight of the 13 unidentified subordinates of Hq, MR VB have been located as follows:

- a. 21-25N 105-45E (WJ 7868), Northeast of Vinh Yen
- b. 20-55N 105-38E (WJ 6513), South-southeast of Son Tay
- c. 21-40N 106-35E (XJ 6598), Southwest of Lang Son
- d. 21-27N 106-24E (XJ 4571), Northeast of Kep
- e. 21-15N 105-38E (WJ 6650), Southwest of Phuc Yen
- f. 21-12N 105-48E (WJ 8244), Southeast of Phuc Yen
- g. 21-25N 105-55E (WJ 9568), East of Bac Ninh
- h. 21-25N 105-35E (WJ 6168), North of Vinh Yen

In addition to maintaining communications with Hq, MR VB, 4 of the 13 unidentified subordinates (a, b, and c in the above listing, plus one which is unlocated) also communicate with PAVN High Command. The remaining five subordinates are unlocated.

In early November 1967 two new communications groups appeared on the MR VB network. One group, first noted on 6 November, is comprised of a headquarters of unknown echelon and three subordinates, all of which are unlocated. The other group was first noted on 19 November and is believed to represent a link between two of the subordinates of MR VB.

Hq, possible 305th Brigade, located in the Bac Giang area (21-16N 106-11E, XJ 2251), maintains direct communications with High Command and three subordinates, as well as with Hq, MR VB.<sup>a</sup> Two of the subordinates have been tentatively located in the vicinity of 21-16N 106-12E (XJ 2452) in Bac Giang. The third subordinate, although unlocated, is believed to have moved to Bac Thai Province from Ha Bac Province in late September or early October 1967 during a communications silence. During this period, a span of Letter Box Numbers (LBN's) (91515 - 91533) tentatively identified as part of the block serving the possible 305th (Airborne) Brigade was noted being addressed at the Bac Thai Provincial Post Office, rather than at the post office in Ha Bac Province, as in the past. On 26 October this same unidentified subordinate established communications with Hq, MR VB. Since regular communications between this subordinate of the possible 305th Brigade and Hq, MR VB continued to be observed, the unit may be in the process of being elevated in the PAVN command echelon, possibly to an independent status.<sup>b</sup>

The LBN system has also revealed the possible formation of a new unidentified division-echelon unit in Ha Bac Province as early as February 1967.<sup>c</sup>

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In early October LBN usage indicated that an unidentified artillery regiment represented by LBN block 54130 - 54154 was in the process of deploying from Phu Tho to Quang Binh Province.<sup>d</sup> The deployment of that regiment has since been completed, according to SIGINT. Other units isolated in the MR VB 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; six units of regimental echelon--one in Bac Thai, one in Ha Bac, and four in Vinh Phuc; and three units in Yen Bai, Phu Tho, and Vinh Phuc of unknown echelon. In addition, the MR VB LBN system is used by Workcamp 4 in Yen Bai and by at least two other units in Yen Bai which may be workcamps.<sup>e</sup>

Although SIGINT confirmation is not available, the units identified in the MR VB LBN system are probably represented by the 16 subordinates on the MR VB command and administrative network.

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- a. 2/0/VCM/R170-67.
  - b. 3/0/STY/R264-67.
  - c. 2/0/VCM/R18-68.
  - d. 2/0/VCM/R208-67.
  - e. 3/0/VCY/R10-67.