

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

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NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY REGION NORTHWEST COMMUNICATIONS--

31 DECEMBER 1967

The manual Morse network serving DRV Military Region Northwest (MR NW) provides communications between MR headquarters, located in the vicinity of Son La at 21-25N 104-00E (UJ 9668), and 27 subordinates--7 located within North Vietnam and the remaining 20 located out-of-country, possibly in Laos. The use of two distinct signal plans on the network suggests the disparate locations of the subordinates. Of the seven internal DRV subscribers, one has been identified--the Hq, possible 316th Infantry Division which has been located in the Moc Chau area (20-40N 104-38E, VJ 5309)--and one located--an unidentified unit in the Dien Bien Phu area (21-26N 103-09E, UJ 0871). The remainder are unidentified and unlocated.

The Letter Box Number (LBN) system indicates that, in addition to the 316th Division, the following units are located in MR NW: the tentative 335th Regiment in the area of Dien Bien Phu (21-22N 102-58E, TJ 9465), and the tentatively identified provincial units and their subordinate district units in Son La, Nghia Lo and Lai Chau Provinces. Although confirmation is lacking, the major units noted in LBN's are probably represented on the MR NW command and administrative network.^a

The Hq, possible 316th Division currently maintains communications with PAVN High Command, Hq, MR NW and two unidentified subordinates which have been active since October 1966. In April 1967 two more subordinates appeared on the group serving the possible 316th Division. One of these disappeared from the division's communications on 29 May and is believed to be associated with the disappearance of a regimental-sized block of LBN's and subsequent collateral reports which indicated that the 174th Regiment had infiltrated into South Vietnam. The second subordinate disappeared from communications on 31 July, but no indications were noted in either LBN's or collateral that this unit was involved in a deployment.^b

a. 3/0/VCJ/RL0-67.

b. 2/0/VCM/RL72-67.

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