

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R271-67
AVC,ALS/OPER-G-H/I.
21 DECEMBER 1967 2138Z
DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR KILO
PLUS WHITE HOUSE

PROBABLE PAVN 304TH AND 320TH DIVISIONS--21 DECEMBER 1967

SIGINT has continued to provide evidence of the deployment of elements of both the probable PAVN 304th and 320th Infantry Divisions from North Vietnam, initially indicated by the disappearance in early November of all normal "internal" communications associated with these two divisions. This report summarizes the activity of the various PAVN radio groups which reflect the deployment southward of the two divisions, as of 21 December.

Since early November the following communications developments have been associated with the movements of the 304th and 320th:

1. The appearance on 9 November of a new High Command-controlled communications group believed to be serving elements of the deploying divisions^a and the later identification of these High Command subordinates as fixed "way stations," which temporarily service deploying elements of both divisions;^b
2. An increase of seven subscribers since early November on the High Command-controlled broadcast group which serves groups of replacement personnel and main force units infiltrating into South Vietnam, and the receipt by these subscribers of messages encrypted in a system associated with PAVN units in North Vietnam and/or committed to the DMZ area^c (five of the seven new subscribers are believed to be units of the two divisions.);
3. The appearance of two new possibly major Vietnamese Communist headquarters on 29 November and 16 December on the radio group linking High Command with major headquarters in or associated with South Vietnam.^d The exact identification of the two new subscribers is not presently known.

The communications posture assumed by the probable 304th Division in early November remains unchanged.^e The probable Hq, PAVN 559th Transportation Group watch net has acquired, since 14 December, three new subscribers which are using a signal plan unique to elements associated with the 320th and/or the 304th Divisions.^f Normal communications associated with the 304th Division were terminated on 11 November. The communications group which was established on 12 November continues to be observed and provides contact between the Hq, 304th Division and five subordinates.^g The division headquarters also instituted a broadcast group on 13 November which parallels the other group and continues to be observed to date.

Communications on the PAVN High Command group comprised of five, possibly six, "way stations"--four in North Vietnam, one east of Tchepone, Laos, and one unlocated--have provided general locations for deploying elements of both the 304th and 320th Divisions. While SIGINT last located the Hq, 304th Division on 19 December in the area of 16-50N 105-40E (WD 7260), the station located in the Tchepone area (arbitrarily labelled ECHO) receipted for a message originated by Hq, 304th Division, suggesting that the division headquarters may be destined for the same area of Laos. SIGINT indicates that two subordinates of the 304th Division have transited the area east of Tchepone where Station ECHO is located.

The most recent locations of the deploying PAVN 304th Division elements as reflected in SIGINT are:

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 3 PAGES

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Suspect Infantry Regiment	17-35N 106-35E (XE 6645)	12 December
Suspect Infantry Regiment	18-35N 105-35E (WF 6255)	16 December
Unidentified Regimental- echelon subordinate	17-10N 106-05E (XD 1697)	12 December
Unidentified Regimental- echelon subordinate	16-28N 106-48E (XD 9222) served by Station ECHO as late as 21 December	
Suspect Artillery Regiment	17-30N 106-05E (XE 1535)	15 December

Additionally, messages originated by an unidentified entity associated with the 304th Division have also been passed by Station ECHO as late as 15 December, indicating that this entity was located in the area of 16-42N 106-19E (XD 425467).^b

Messages originated by Hq, 320th Division have also been passed by Station ECHO from 11 to as late as 21 December, indicating that at least an element of the division headquarters has been located east of Tchepone, Laos.^h SIGINT has been unable to provide locations for the subordinates of the 320th Division. Communications on the group instituted by the division on 8 November to contact its subordinates have been sporadically observed since that date.ⁱ Internal DRV communications between Hq, 320th Division and High Command ceased to be observed on 18 November. Communications between an element of the division headquarters, possibly left behind in the garrison area, and Hq, Military Region 3 North continue to be noted. Activity on the "way station" complex indicates that 320th Division subordinates are moving south. Messages from a suspect infantry regiment of the 320th Division have been passed by Station CHARLIE as late as 18 December.

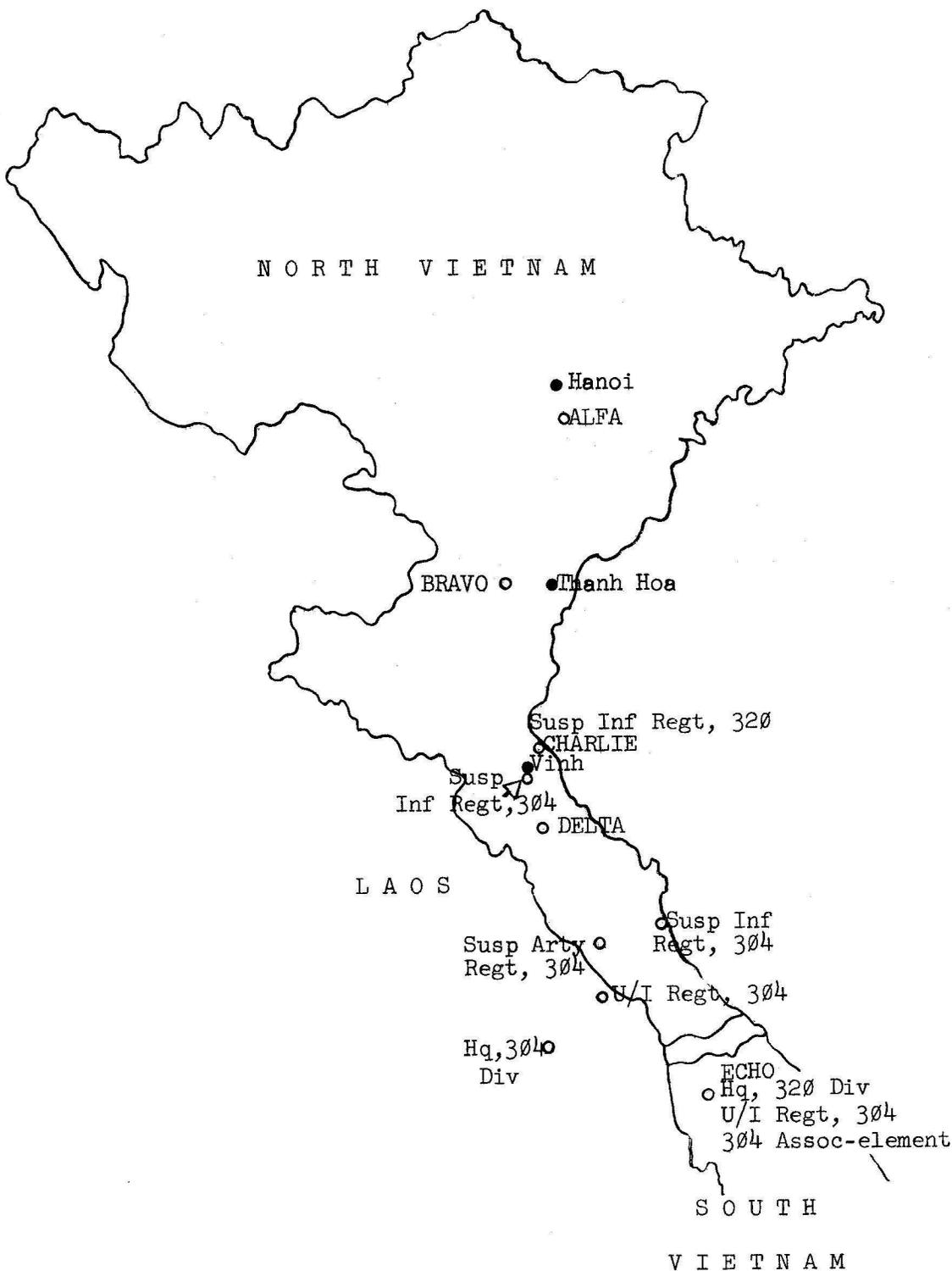
In summary, the communications which have reflected the deploying elements of the 304th and 320th Divisions include: the two groups serving the Hq, PAVN 304th Division in communications with its subordinates; one group serving the Hq, 320th Division in communications with its subordinates, which is noted only sporadically; the broadcast group controlled from High Command serving groups/units infiltrating into South Vietnam; and the High Command group consisting of five, and possibly six, subordinates believed to be "way stations" located in Laos and North Vietnam. (The locations of the deploying elements of the two divisions and the five way stations are depicted on a map to be included in the hard copy follow-up to this report.)

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- a. 2/0/VCM/R250-67.
 - b. 2/0/VCM/R262-67.
 - c. 2/0/VCM/R252-67 and Supplements 1 and 2.
 - d. 2/0/VCM/R243-67, R263-67.
 - e. 2/0/VCM/R232-67.
 - f. 2/0/VCM/R264-67, R265-67, R266-67.
 - g. 2/0/VCM/R231-67.
 - h. 3/0/STY/R303-67.
 - i. 2/0/VCM/R241-67.

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