

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R31-68  
AVC, AVN/OPER-G-H, MTR/D.  
25 JANUARY 1968 1837Z  
DIST: OSCAR/VICTOR KILO  
PLUS USM-604, USN-414,  
WHITE HOUSE  
HCF

PAVN ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN DMZ

I. INTRODUCTION

Continued Communist interest in the general eastern DMZ area is evidenced in SIGINT, in addition to a major buildup of PAVN forces in the western DMZ-Laos vicinity.<sup>1</sup> Evidence of pressure against Allied positions and lines of communications in this area has been observed in tactical communications of the PAVN 803rd Regiment, the PAVN 164th Artillery Regiment and 27th Independent Battalion, as well as elements of the PAVN 270th Independent Regiment--possibly in general combat-and-service support of infantry units. Additionally, SIGINT reflects increased communications activity between the DMZ Front Headquarters and the 270th Regiment, and a southerly move of the Ky Anh Headquarters. Recent SIGINT also reflects a tenuous southeastern move of the Hq, 812th Regiment from the west-central DMZ to a position well south of Route 9. A general recap of PAVN unit activity follows:

II. TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS

A. 803rd Regiment

In early January the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 803rd Regiment, after being ordered to leave the coastal region of the DMZ, regrouped at Vinh Chap (17-06N 106-58E, YD 100908) for training. The 2nd Battalion remained in the general Con Thien area. Subsequently, the 3rd Battalion returned, and in conjunction with elements of the 270th Regiment, has been engaged in planning offensive actions against Allied units at villages numbered "7" and "8" (16-56N 107-10E, YD 301732 and 16-57N 107-10E, YD 295748 respectively). Meanwhile, the 2nd Battalion has been involved in reconnaissance, logistical, and tactical offensive activities in the area surrounding Con Thien. Artillery elements subordinate to the 164th Regiment have been in general support. The 803rd Regiment was last located on 21 January in the vicinity of 16-58N 106-54E (YD 040781) and the 3rd Battalion on 21 January in the vicinity of 16-59N 107-06E (YD 253806). The 2nd Battalion is now unlocated, but believed to be immediately north of Con Thien.

B. 164th Artillery Regiment

Communications serving elements of the PAVN 164th Artillery Regiment reflect indications of combat preparations being made by its 2nd and 4th Battalions, and evidence of coordination between these units and elements of the 803rd Regiment. As a part of these combat preparations, elements of the 164th Regiment were ordered to establish observation posts to observe and report fire adjustments for the artillery, which was to test-fire on targets in the Con Thien area, including the main blockhouse at Con Thien. Messages also reflected reconnaissance in this area.

On 10 January the elements of the 2nd Battalion were ordered to fire upon a delegation of American Congressmen who were reportedly scheduled to land either at Con Thien or Doc Soi, and on 15 January these units were to fire on the enemy whenever they had "ascertained the enemy's strength."<sup>2</sup>

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 3 PAGES

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Hq, 164th Artillery Regiment and the 2nd Battalion are now unlocated; the 4th Battalion was last located on 12 January in the vicinity of 16-56N 106-57E (YD 049723).

C. 27th Battalion

Since 1 January, reports passed from the 5th and 6th Companies of the 27th Battalion to battalion headquarters and to an entity identified as the "front" have reflected detailed reconnaissance of Allied activity and positions in the area east of Route 76. Numerous references to Allied vehicle traffic and construction activities in the Dong Ha area have been observed. The 5th and 6th Companies have received warnings of impending Allied sweep operations on Routes 74, 75, 76 and along Route 9--and of B-52 strikes reportedly scheduled for the period 3-31 January in the eastern DMZ.<sup>3</sup>

During this period, the 5th and 6th Companies have been tasked with planting mines and conducting rocket attacks on Allied traffic along Routes 1 and 9 between Cam Lo, Dong Ha, and Quan Ngang. Their activities have reportedly destroyed several vehicles and claimed numerous American lives.

The 6th Company has reported its ability to intercept an ARVN radio net and has requested a PRC-10 or PRC-25 for possible further exploitation.

Recent SIGINT has disclosed the south-southeasterly movement of Hq, 27th Battalion and the 5th and 6th Companies to positions west of Dong Ha and Quang Tri. In addition, references to the deployment of the 7th and 8th Companies to the area of the 5th and 6th Companies have been observed. The deploying units are reportedly transporting mortars, ammunition, and quantities of food.

D. 270th Regiment

Elements of the 270th Independent Regiment also appear to be making preparations for action and indications of coordination possibly with the 803rd Regiment have also been noted. Messages have reported Allied aircraft activity, and on 3 and 8 January, reports were made of attacks on the enemy by 85mm artillery claiming many Americans killed and several tanks burned.

III. PAVN COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS

PAVN command and control elements reflected in SIGINT in the central and eastern DMZ area consist of the Hq, DMZ Front; the Detached Element of the DMZ Front; Hq, 320th Division; the Ky Anh Headquarters; the 803rd Regiment; and the 270th Independent Regiment.

A. 320th Division

Although the area of operations of the 320th Division cannot be defined through SIGINT, certain communications characteristics tend to confirm its ultimate destination as the DMZ area, and it is believed that its deployment is near completion.<sup>4</sup> The 320th Division now maintains communications with PAVN High Command (HC) through Way Station Bravo and is a subscriber on the HC broadcast net serving infiltrating units. It also communicates with Hq, DMZ Front; the major PAVN Headquarters in Laos; three unidentified and unlocated apparent regimental echelon subordinates; an unidentified terminal associated with the division, which

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also maintains communications with the major PAVN Headquarters, Laos; and three unidentified possibly subordinate terminals. The division headquarters was last located on 22 January in the vicinity of 16-49N 106-54E (YD 033616).

B. Ky Anh Headquarters

The Ky Anh Headquarters now communicates with Hq, DMZ Front and its three unidentified subordinates, one of which is a communications subordinate of the DMZ Front. Through 10 January, this headquarters was located north of the DMZ in the vicinity of 17-10N 106-39E (XD 747978); however, on 11 January there was tenuous evidence of a move that was confirmed on 18 January when the headquarters was located in the general vicinity of 16-52N 106-56E (YD 068652).

C. 270th Regiment

The 270th Regiment has maintained communications with the Hq, DMZ Front, one unidentified subordinate and an unidentified terminal which communicates with both Hq, MR 4 (NVN) and Hq, General Directorate of Rear Services Forward. Most recently the 270th Regiment has been noted in unexplained high message activity with the DMZ Front.

D. 812th Regiment

After engaging in resupply activity in the west-central DMZ through at least 17 January, the regiment has not been observed in tactical communications. While active in these operations, the headquarters was located on 9 January at 16-47N 106-45E (XD 856576). On 20 January, after a period of relatively light communications activity, the regiment was tenuously located south of Route 9 in the vicinity of 16-35N 107-08E (YD 296357). On the same date, HC was noted in communications with the regimental headquarters on a radio net normally associated with infiltrating units.

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1. 2/0/VCM/R20-68.
  2. 2/0/VCM/R05-68.
  3. 3/0/STY/R09-68.
  4. 2/0/VCM/R22-68.

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