

~~SECRET SAVIN~~

2/0/VCM/R50-68
 SPOT REPORT
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 HCF

MAJOR PAVN HEADQUARTERS NORTHWEST OF KHE SANHIDENTIFIED AS A FRONT

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Communications serving the new major PAVN Headquarters in Laos have evolved into a structure indicative of a front organization. The headquarters, located proximate to 16-53N 106-25E (XD 509665), appears to serve as the immediate senior authority over PAVN forces in the Khe Sanh area and in Laos, immediately west of Huong Hoa District of Quang Tri Province, including elements of the PAVN 304th Infantry and possible 325C Division.

The headquarters, arbitrarily designated the Khe Sanh Area Front (KSAF), appeared on a watch facility serving PAVN High Command (HC) on 18 November 1967. Subsequently, the headquarters began communicating on the watch facilities of Hq, DMZ Front; probable Hq, 559th Transportation Group; and the General Directorate of Rear Services (GDRS) Forward, on 30 November, 2 and 20 December 1967, respectively. Traffic-passing communications with HC; GDRS Forward; and Hq, 559th Transportation Group were established on 30 November, 21 December and 13 January, respectively, thus confirming its status as a major headquarters.

The first SIGINT indication of subordinates of the front headquarters occurred when it was noted in communications with the detached element of Hq, 325C Division on 16 and 25 December. On 8 January, the headquarters' watch facility was activated, followed by establishment of traffic-passing communications with various units.

These units, with the activation date of the traffic-passing links and latest locations, are:

<u>Date of Activation</u>	<u>Identification</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
9 Jan	Hq, possible 325C Division	16-36N 106-39E (XD 758359)	30 Jan
8 Jan	U/I Regiment, 304th Division	16-34N 106-44E (XD 860327)	26 Jan
20 Jan	U/I Regiment, 304th Division	16-40N 106-33E (XD 651434)	29 Jan
18 Jan	U/I	16-32N 106-32E (XD 631276)	28 Jan
19 Jan	U/I	Unlocated	
20 Jan	U/I	16-44N 106-32E (XD 638490)	26 Jan
25 Jan	U/I	16-29N 106-39E (XD 765280)	29 Jan
23 Jan	U/I	16-40N 106-35E (XD 694410)	29 Jan

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS 2 PAGES

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2/0/VCM/R50-68

(The latter entity, which also communicates with Hq, DMZ Front, initially attempted communications on 19 January.)

Additionally, entities which have been observed only on the front's watch facility are (initial observation date given):

8 Jan	Hq, MR 4 (North Vietnam)		
9 Jan	Detached Element, Hq, DMZ Front		
18 Jan	Detached Element, Hq, 304th Division		
20 Jan	U/I regimental- echelon subordinate 304th Division	16-34N 106-51E (XD 987320)	27 Jan
9 Jan	U/I, possibly subordinate to 320th Division	16-52N 106-55E (YD 042652)	17 Jan
28 Jan	95C Regiment, 325C Division	16-41N 106-40E (XD 772456)	27 Jan

Hq, 320th Division attempted unsuccessfully to communicate at least four times in January, and there is tenuous evidence of attempts by Hq, 803rd and 90th Regiments and an unidentified entity.

The complete communications posture of the arbitrarily designated KSAF has not been revealed; thus, an estimate of the scope of its ultimate authority cannot be made at this time.

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