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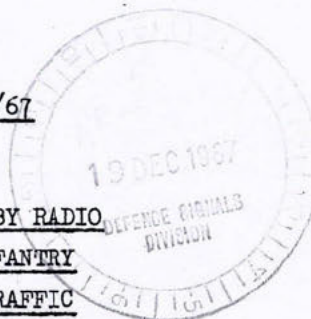
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DSD VC WORKING AID NO. 5/67

ANALYSIS OF TYPE OF REPORTING BY RADIO

STATIONS OF VC 5TH LIGHT INFANTRY

DIVISION PASSING READABLE TRAFFIC



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DISTRIBUTION:

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ANALYSIS OF TYPE OF REPORTING BY RADIO STATIONS
OF VC 5TH LIGHT INFANTRY DIVISION
PASSING READABLE TRAFFIC

I. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this research project was to analyse the type of reporting by radio stations of the VC 5th LID passing readable traffic.

II. GENERAL

2. A total of 573 readable messages intercepted between October 1966 and August 1967 were examined. These messages were passed on 15 links, two of which were so-called Military Affairs or Command links and a third was a link on the Watch Net. The remaining 12 links served unidentified tactical Military Intelligence elements of the VC 5th LID.

3. The majority of messages contained the type of reporting to be expected from field-unit observation posts. These dealt with reports on "enemy" road convoys, aircraft activity, coastal shipping, reports of troop deployments and movements, and post-action reports on contacts with the "enemy". Some of the reports on convoys and shipping were very detailed, listing vehicle loads and ships' cargoes. Some of their information apparently came from the local "District Committee" or "Agent Network", within which some of the MIE's had contacts. An obvious concern over the use of chemicals by the Allies was reflected in some messages. One such message reported that the "enemy" was "spraying poisonous chemicals". The remainder of the traffic dealt with routine administrative matters, such as personnel movements, resupply and other "house-keeping" affairs.

4. It is felt that some of the MIE's may be not more than just observation posts or standing patrols, the tasks of which are to occupy suitably concealed positions and report upon enemy activity without risking exposure.

5. The average strength of these MIE's appears to be at least eight to ten men. One of the MIE's was reduced to four men, but reported that because of this, it could not carry out its assigned tasks. The personnel comprising an MIE do not always remain in one group, but are sent out on reconnaissance in smaller groups or even individually.

6. Examination of traffic passed on the link between 303A and 303B in the period October 1966 to December 1966 tends to disprove the identification of 303B as a TMIE. Messages mention, inter-alia, ammunition delivery and training (both political and military). The

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context of the messages implies that the station was being initially deployed. It could be commented that it seems unlikely that a small TMIE would require delivery of ammunition, but would rather carry its own limited requirements on the man. Furthermore, it is thought that training would hardly be carried out once the MIE was deployed. Between 28th October 1966 and 1st May 1967, their link was inactive. When it was re-activated, all names and cover designators used in the earlier period were replaced by new ones. Reporting was of the normal MIE style concerning enemy activity. The link has been inactive since 19th May 1967, when 303 B was ordered to "completely withdraw".

7. A link by link description of the types of reporting by radio stations passing readable traffic is appended to this report as Annex A.

III. CONCLUSIONS

8. The types of reporting by subscribers studied in this report tends to confirm their roles, with the possible exception of 303B.

9. Evidence against the identification of 303B as a TMIE is very scant and may be the result of different shades of meaning being imposed by translation from Vietnamese.

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LINK	PERIOD	TOTAL MSGS.	SUBJECT OF REPORTS/COMMENTS
303A-303B MIS HQ 54D- U/I MIE [i]	19 Oct-31 Dec 66	14	Admin msgs dealing with rice and med sups, sig arrangements, ammo delivery, political and other training and recce. Reference made to a "new base". One msg to 303 B was addressed to an "Arty Gp". Comments: The exchange of tfc of this nature indicates the probable initial deployment of the entity served by station 303 B.
" "	1 Apr-31 May 67	9	Reports on "enemy" activity incl on 1 May 67, "70 M113's ^[ii] which transported two puppet companies ... (to XUYEN MOC)". Comments: [i] This link was inactive from 28 Oct 66 to 1 May 67. When it was reactivated, all names and cover designators used in the earlier period were replaced by different cover. The link has not been active since 19 May 67 when 303 B was ordered to "completely withdraw". [ii] 70 M113's could move approx. 1½ battalions.
303A-303C MIS HQ 5 LID U/I MIE	19 Oct-31 Dec 66	28	Reports on spotter aircraft and subsequent arty fire tasks. Airstrikes and recce by f-105's mentioned. Other msgs concerned "enemy" convoys along Highway 1 and troop activities. On 1 Dec 66, 303C was warned "Pay attention to [1U] and C123's which are releasing chemicals. If they are released, report immediately in accord with the SOI of the watch facility". (T1352) Comment: This concern about the use of "chemicals" by the "enemy" is reflected in later messages also.
" "	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	2	303C was ordered to report on aircraft working from REN LA [not located].
" "	1 Apr-31 May 67	27	On 15 May 67, the team was ordered to "closely observe the road between BINHGIA [YS4077] and XUAN SON [YS5677]" (T875). During this period it reported mainly on road movement and artillery action.

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LINK	PERIOD	TOTAL MSGS.	SUBJECT OF REPORTS/COMMENTS
303A-303C (Cont'd.)	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	34	Continued to report on road convoys, air movement and "enemy" activities. It watched and reported on coastal shipping.
303A-303D MIS HQ 5 LID U/I MIE	19 Oct-31 Dec 66	32	This link was used predominantly to report on coastal shipping. It also reported on convoys and air activity in the VUNG TAU/HAM TAN area. The outstation was ordered to "get in touch with the district[i] to confirm what the boats were carrying". (T1332). In a similar msg it was warned to "take precautions against chemicals. If chemicals are released, take action" (T1356). On 22 Nov 66, 303D sent a msg complaining that the "element is not capable of carrying out the mission with 4 people up here. Suggest send additional people for guard duty" (T1347). Comment: [i] Probably the District Committee.
" "	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	78	Continued to report mainly on shipping. Reference to Allied sweep ops on 22 Jan 67. On 25 Jan 67 "3 Dakotas were spraying poisonous chemicals along the coast from HEP HOA [YS 8873] to the HO LINH mountains [YS 8873]". (T235). 303D also reported on aircraft activity around HAMTAN [YS 9884], and on the construction of some buildings by the Americans.
" "	1 Apr-31 May 67	68	Continued to report on sea and air activity. On 19 May 67 it was ordered to move the "whole cell back to the road". (T920).
" "	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	32	Road convoys along Highway 2 troop movements and air activity were reported on. Also reports of clashes. On 28 Jun 67, 303D reported that his "station is continually being cut off at the bridge here". Comment: Possible reference to land line comms.

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LINK	PERIOD	TOTAL MSGs.	SUBJECT OF REPORTS/COMMENTS
303A-303E MIS HQ 5 LID U/I MIE	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	47	Reporting on activity along Highway 1 and Provincial Route 333. A message disclosed that the strength of this MIE at about 14 Jan 67 was 8 men. As four of these had "gone back", "there is nobody to cover the enemy situation at VO DAT [YT 7433], TAN LINH [YT 9326] and the ONG DON intersection [YT 6303]". (T0126). Reports also disclosed problems in carrying rice, a sweep up by U.S., Aust., and ARVN troops in the DUC THANH area [YS 4680] on 26 Mar 67. The team was told to report in detail on standard operating procedures of convoys, e.g., spacing of vehicles, escorts, flank protection.
" "	1 Apr-31 May 67	68	Continued reporting on convoys, movement of personnel, clashes and reports of construction by U.S. troops. On 15 May 67 there was a report that "one of our cadre at MAY TAU Mountain [YS 7491] went over to the CHIEU HOI" (T876).
" "	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	24	Reported on enemy activity, road convoys and air movements.
303A-303G MIS HQ 5 LID U/I MIE	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	16	Reported on convoys along Highway 2 and on troop activity. A report on 23 Jul 67 mentioned that a sweep up by Aust and Korean troops was taking place in the possible area of "Slope 30" [YS 4680].
136A-136C MAS HQ 5 LID MAS 275 Regt	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	1	Message dealt with an unsuccessful radio sked.
136A-136D MAS HQ 5 LID - MAS 274 Regt	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	6	Detailed reports of convoys in the XUAN LOC area [YT 4009] and a msg detailing targets and the plans to attack them.

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LINK	PERIOD	TOTAL MSGs.	SUBJECT OF REPORTS/COMMENTS
199A-1990 HQ 5 LID - U/I Ele- ment on Watch Net	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	1	A msg from NAM TAN ^[i] to HIEU ^[2] at HQ 5 LID stating; "as of 1 Mar... it seems the final phase will be completed by 5 Mar. On or about 7 Mar we will return to HQ ..." Comments: [i] Collateral holds as Chief of Staff, HQ 5 LID. [ii] Previously assoc with MIS 5 LID.
309A-309B MIS 275 Regt Sub MIE	1 Jan-31 Mar 67	5	Situation reports on the "enemy" in the area of AI BI [YS 4382], DUC THANH [YS 4680] and SOU RAM [YS 4498]. Administrative traffic.
" "	1 Apr-31 May 67	2	Dealing with movement of cadre.
" "	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	3	Reports disclosed illness [malaria] and lack of rice at 309B.
4178A-4178B Poss HQ 275 Regt - Poss U/I subordin- ate 275 Regt	1 Apr-31 May 67	2	A msg for 4178A on 15 May 67 stated that "command of the company had been handed over to you". The other stated that "all is well" (at 4178B)
4191A-4191B HQ 274 Regt HQ 3 Bn 274 Regt.	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	1	Request for ammo and weapons.
4191A-4191D HQ 274 Regt HQ 2 Bn 274 Regt.	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	7	Sitreps and reports on clashes with t. "enemy". Several reflections of Allied sweep ops.
137A-137U/I MIS 274 Regt U/I Sub MIE	1 Jun-31 Aug 67	7	Reporting on clashes and allied ops including on 15 Jul 67 a landing by 2 bns and an arty unity at CAM MY [YS 4766]. A msg on 2 Jul 67 from 137A stated that "the observation station is to withdraw" ... "when withdrawing ... fill in all trenches and destroy all traces (of your presence)". (T1048).

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