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REFERENCE:




ATTACHMENT TO L-1210
14 JULY 1966
PAGE 1

REMOVABLE VEHICULAR CABLE BRIDGE
ROUTE 15, NORTH VIETNAM
1757N 10548E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE USE BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE OF A DECEPTION TECHNIQUE WHEREBY AN APPARENTLY UNSERVICEABLE BRIDGE IS MADE SERVICEABLE BY THE USE OF CABLES AND REMOVABLE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE DECKING. THE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE DECKING ARE PLACED ON CABLES STRUNG ACROSS THE UNSERVICEABLE PORTION OF THE BRIDGE. THESE SECTIONS ARE REMOVED DURING THE DAY (WHEN PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE IS NORMALLY CONDUCTED), THEREBY RENDERING THE BRIDGE UNSERVICEABLE, AND REPLACED ON THE CABLES AT NIGHT TO ACCOMMODATE LIGHT VEHICULAR TRAFFIC. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THIS TECHNIQUE HAS BEEN OBSERVED IN NORTH VIETNAM.

2. BACKGROUND:

THE XOM CA TRANG AREA WAS STRUCK TWICE IN APRIL 1965, WHEN THE XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RAO CAI  WAS DESTROYED. THE XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE NAM QUAT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AT THE SAME TIME.

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ATTACHMENT TO L-1210
14 JULY 1966
PAGE 2

3. MISSION READOUT:

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REVEALS FOUR HEAVY DUTY
CABLES STRUNG BETWEEN TWO PIERS ON THE UNSERVICEABLE
XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RAO CAI (RIVER).
REMOVABLE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE DECKING ARE OBSERVED ON THE
BRIDGE APPROACH. THE XOM CA TRANG HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER
THE NAM QUAT (RIVER) IS BEING RECONSTRUCTED WITH FOUR
CABLES STRUNG BETWEEN THE ABUTMENTS. PORTABLE DECKING
IS OBSERVED ON THE APPROACHES.

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY  REVEALS
THAT THE PORTABLE SECTIONS OF BRIDGE DECKING ON THE
HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RAO CAI ARE IN PLACE ON THE
CABLES, RENDERING THE BRIDGE SERVICEABLE TO LIGHT
VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.

2

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REVEALS THAT THE BRIDGE
DECKING ON THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE RAO CAI IS ONCE
AGAIN REMOVED AND PLACED ATOP THE ADJACENT SOUTHERN
SPAN, GIVING THE BRIDGE AN UNSERVICEABLE APPEARANCE.
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER THE NAM
QUAT APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING. TWO SERVICEABLE AND ONE
UNSERVICEABLE FORDS ARE OBSERVED IN THE AREA.

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ATTACHMENT TO L-1210
14 JULY 1966
PAGE 3

25X1



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