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• ROUTINE

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138

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1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 96-162

Document # 138

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COUNTRY: LAOS / VIETNAM

DOI: 13 DECEMBER 1967

SUBJECT: LARGE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS AND AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN POSITION SOUTH OF THE MU GIA PASS IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE; BRIDGES CROSSING ROUTE 23 IN THE SAME AREA

ACQ: LAOS, VIENTIANE

SOURCE:

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1. AS OF 13 DECEMBER 1967 NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) TROOPS CONCENTRATIONS WERE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES SOUTH OF THE MU GIA PASS NEAR THE JUNCTIONS OF ROUTES 12/23 AND 1281/23:

- A. 300 TROOPS WERE AT WE 744343.
- B. 1,000 TROOPS WERE AT WE 764344.
- C. 500 TROOPS WERE AT WE 769350.
- D. 600 TROOPS WERE AT WE 789373.

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JUL 10 1997

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(classification) (dissem controls)

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E. 500 TROOPS WERE AT WE 786377.

COMMENT: THE INFANTRY ORDER OF BATTLE OF LAOS AS OF 1 NOVEMBER 1967 CARRIED THE COMMAND POST (CP) OF AN UNIDENTIFIED (U/I) NVA BATTALION WITH 400 MEN, POSSIBLY THE 1ST, AT WE 7639; THE CP OF AN U/I PATHET LAO (PL)/NVA BATTALION WITH 425 TROOPS AT WE 7930 AND THE CP OF AN U/I NVA ENGINEER BATTALION WITH 600 MEN AT WE 7625. THE SUPPLY ROUTE THROUGH THE MU GIA PASS AND OVER ROUTE 23 AND 911 IS OF KEY IMPORTANCE IN MOVING MEN AND MATERIEL TO ENEMY FORCES IN SOUTH LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THE TROOPS DESCRIBED MAY BE NVA UNITS PREPARING TO MOVE DOWN THE CORRIDOR TOWARD SOUTH VIETNAM. INTERPRETATION OF SEVERAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MISSIONS FLOWN BETWEEN 4 OCTOBER AND 1 DECEMBER INDICATED A BIVOUAC IN EACH OF THE AREAS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING ENEMY UNITS OF THE SIZE MENTIONED ABOVE. PHOTOGRAPHY OF 22 NOVEMBER SHOWED THAT THE WE 744343 AREA HAD BEEN BOMBED. LIGHTLY USED FOOT TRAILS RAN FROM A MOTORABLE ROAD AT WE 744340 NORTH TOWARD A KARST HILL. NO CAVE ENTRANCES WERE VISIBLE IN THE KARST; HOWEVER, IT IS POSSIBLE CAVES WERE IN THE KARST. PHOTOGRAPHY OF 13 OCTOBER REVEALED AN INACTIVE BIVOUAC AT WE

1.5(c)
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1.5(c)
3.4(b)(1)

(classification) (dissem controls)

765345 AND A SUSPECT BIVOJAC AT WE 793376.)

2. TWO BRIDGES ON ROUTE 23 OVER THE NAM (RIVER) NGO WERE AT WE 775385 AND WE 745332. AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT (AA) GUN WAS IN THE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGES AT WE 744316.

1.5(c)
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COMMENT: PHOTOGRAPHY OF 1 DECEMBER REVEALED AN IMPROVED FORD AT WE 782391 AND A FOOT BRIDGE AT WE 778395. THE REPORTED BRIDGE AT WE 775391 IS ON A KARST HILL ABOUT 500 METERS WEST OF THE NAM NGO. PHOTOGRAPHY OF 13 OCTOBER REVEALED A FERRY CROSSING AT WE 745332 WITH HEAVY CRATERING NEAR THE APPROACHES TO THE FERRY. PHOTOGRAPHY OF 4 OCTOBER REVEALED AN AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITION AT WE 744326. THE SAME TEAM REPORTED [REDACTED] THAT THE ENEMY HAD MOVED AA GUNS THROUGH THE MU GIA PASS IN EARLY NOVEMBER AND HAD POSITIONED EIGHT AA GUNS IN THE WE 745327 AREA, ABOUT ONE KILOMETER NORTH OF WE 745332.)

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3. [REDACTED] DISSEM: STATE ARMY AIR USMACV 7TH AIR FORCE CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF [REDACTED]

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3.4(b)(1)

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