

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3, NND PROJECT NUMBER NVND 2.6 7002 BY RB/VSW, DATE 2/16/96

TREATMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
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<p>1. COUNTRY: VS, RVN MR-1, QUANG NAM Province</p>	<p>8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029</p>	<p>05877A N D</p>
<p>2. SUBJECT: (U) Identification of a US Defector</p>	<p>9. DATE OF REPORT: 2 Jun</p>	<p>71 AUG 15 1971 W 30531 W/S.I. OFFICE</p>
<p>3. ISC NUMBER: 723.600</p>	<p>10. NO. OF PAGES: 5</p>	<p>11. REFERENCES: DIRM: 693 SICR: D-7CX-49018 BRIGHT LIGHT</p>
<p>4. DATE OF INFORMATION: Feb 70</p>	<p>12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV</p>	
<p>5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 20 May 71</p>	<p>13. PREPARED BY: GREGORY T. HSU SP5, USA</p>	
<p>6. EVALUATION SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u></p>	<p>14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>Rodney Dickson</i> RODNEY DICKSON LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC</p>	
<p>7. SOURCE: PW Interrogation</p>		
<p>15. SUMMARY:</p> <p>(C) This report contains hearsay information concerning a US PW who ultimately defected to the VC, to include his personal information, the circumstances of his capture, and the unit to which he may have belonged. THIS IS A BRIGHT LIGHT REPORT. MACV FOR JPROC.</p>		<p>(Leave Blank)</p>
<p>1. (C) Background Information:</p> <p>a. Name: TRINH DINH NGHIA (TRINH, DINHL NGHIA), aka NGUYEN VIET THANH (NGUYEENX, VIEETS THANH), CMIC 0176-71</p> <p>b. Rank: None (VC)</p> <p>c. Unit and Position of Assignment: Member; Propaganda Subsection, Troops and Enemy Proselyting Section, QUANG DA (VC) Province Committee, Central Zone 5</p>		
<p>16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:</p> <p>DIA 1 cy DIRNSA 1 cy SAC 1 cy CINCPAC 1 cy CINCPAC AF 2 cys CINCUSARPAC 2 cys COMUSMACVTHAI 1 cy MACJ212-2 2 cys MACJ213-1 1 cy MACJ23 1 cy MACJ231 10 cys</p>	<p>17. DOWNGRADING DATA:</p> <p>GROUP 3 DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED</p> <p>THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASABLE TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND FREE WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORCES</p>	<p>18. ATTACHMENT DATA:</p> <p>None</p>
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REPLACES DA FORM 1045, 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-60), AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 62.

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<p>e. Parents' Names: Father, TRINH SOAN (TRINH, SOANV), living; Mother, DANG THI DUONG (DANG, THIV ZUOWNG), living</p> <p>f. Circumstances of Capture. An unidentified Korean unit captured Source on 24 Nov 70, in DIEN AN Village, DIEN BAN District, QUANG NAM Province. Source was alone and had neither weapons nor documents in his possession. Source was found in the house of a VC guerrilla, PHUNG (FUNG), recuperating from a wound. Source was wounded again at the time of capture, when US helicopters supporting the Korean operation fired on the house in which he was staying.</p> <p>g. Significant Activities:</p> <p>(1) 1956 to Feb 70. From 1956 to 1965, Source attended school in DUY XUYEN District, QUANG NAM Province. From 1965 to 1967, he attended the HOI AN City School in QUANG NAM Province. In Nov 67, Source joined the VC and was assigned to the Propaganda Subsection, Troops and Enemy Proselyting Section, QUANG DA (VC) Province Committee, Central Zone 5, located in LOC SON Village, DAI LOC District, QUANG NAM Province. He received no military training and only a little political training. The mission of the QUANG DA (VC) Province Committee was to engage in propaganda activities and to provide support for VC units in QUANG DA (VC) Province in such matters as training and finance. Source's job in the Propaganda Subsection was to print propaganda leaflets for distribution among Allied units by VC units operating in QUANG DA (VC) Province. In Apr 69, Source was sent to a Korean language school located near a mountain in QUANG NGAI Province (exact location unknown). The school had one instructor, six students, and five staff members to provide such services as cooking and security. When Source's class graduated in Feb 70, after 10 months of language training, the school disbanded. In late 1969, the QUANG DA (VC) Province Committee had moved to SON THUONG Mountain (BT074426), QUE SON District, QUANG NAM Province. (Interrogator's Note: Source explained that SON THUONG Mountain was the VC name for DUONG KIEU Mountain.) Source returned to his unit's new location after graduation.</p> <p>(2) Feb 70 to DOC. In Feb 70, after Source's return to his section, his propaganda activities were directed against the Korean units operating in QUANG DA (VC) Province. On 5 Aug 70, en route to DIEN THANG Village, DIEN BAN District, QUANG NAM Province, on a rice procurement mission, Source and two members of his unit were ambushed by an unidentified Korean unit. Only Source was injured. His companions helped him to escape to the house of a VC guerrilla in DIEN AN Village, DIEN BAN District, to receive treatment and to recuperate. On 24 Nov 70, Korean forces swept through this village and found Source. At this time, Source was wounded again when US helicopters supporting the Korean operation fired upon the house in which he was recuperating.</p> <p>h. Additional References: CMIC PW/Rallier Exploitation Guide; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheet 664G I, Edition 2, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000</p>		<small>(Leave Blank)</small>
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2. (C) Tentative Identification of a US defector, ROBERT GARWOOD, SGT, USMC. The following is in response to SICR D-7CX-49018 (Prisoner of War Intelligence):

a. Source of Knowledge. Source had only hearsay information on the defector. He derived part of his information from a conversation with DANG NGOC TOA (DEANGV, NGOCV TOAL), CMIC 2891-70, who visited Source's unit once. (Interrogator's Note: See CMIC IR 6 029 1220 70 for a description of a sighting of ROBERT GARWOOD by DANG NGOC TOA.) Source derived most of his information on the defector from listening to frequent conversations about the defector among members of the Troops and Enemy Proselyting Section and members of other units located on SON THUONG Mountain. Most of those who talked about the defector had seen him personally. The defector belonged to the Troops and Enemy Proselyting Section, PLEIKU Province Committee, MR-5, and had occasion to make frequent visits to the various units of the QUANG DA (VC) Province Committee.

b. Description of the Defector:

(1) Identification:

(a) Name: Unknown

(b) Rank and Branch of Service: SGT, USMC

(c) Nationality: US

(d) Physical Description. Source had never seen the defector. From hearsay, Source assumed he was medium in stature, had dark brown hair, was Caucasian, did not wear glasses, and was about 25 years old.

(2) Clothing Worn. The defector wore the standard VC green or black pajamas, and black rubber sandals (NFI).

(3) Physical Condition. The defector was not injured when captured and had not been injured thereafter. In Dec 69, the defector developed stomach pains, and by Feb 70, had to be evacuated to HANOI, NVN, for treatment. The defector was taken up the HO CHI MINH Trail by truck. He remained in NVN and did not return to the RVN. The cause of the defector's illness was the scarcity of meat in his diet (sic). He could not get along on the standard fare of a VC soldier; it was very difficult to buy meat.

(4) Personal Information:

(a) Nickname. The defector's nickname was Bobby. In Aug 67, the defector gave himself a Vietnamese name to facilitate being called. This name was NGUYEN CHIEN DAU (NGUYENX, CHIEENS DAUS).

(b) Wife's Name. The defector was single.

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(c) Number and Names of Children. The defector had no children.

(d) Number and Names of Brothers and Sisters. The defector had no brothers or sisters.

(e) Other Relatives. Both the defector's parents were living. The members of the defector's family each operated one family-owned taxicab.

(f) Birthplace: Unknown

(g) Distinctive Habits. The defector was bought a pack of **RUHY QUEEN** cigarettes every two days by his unit. This was considered a great luxury.

(h) Foreign Language Capability. The defector spoke and wrote fluent Vietnamese. In addition, he spoke the language of the THUONG, an ethnic minority living in the mountains of PLEIKU Province. The defector was reputed to speak this second language better than a Vietnamese individual (sic). The THUONG people were fond of the defector and often gave him chicken and pork.

## (5) Capture Data:

(a) Circumstances of Capture. The defector belonged to an intelligence unit located in a US Marine Corps base camp known as the CON KHE Garrison, in DIEN BAN District, QUANG NAM Province. During the morning of an off-duty day, the defector drove a jeep to explore the seashore. By late morning, he was lost; he drove along the beach until he arrived at CAM HAI Village (BT105632), DIEN BAN District, QUANG NAM Province, where he stopped to ask for directions. He parked the jeep by the edge of the village, loaded his Colt-12 with one magazine (sic), and walked into the village. About 100 meters from the jeep, the defector was attacked by a VC guerrilla. A struggle ensued in which the defector tried unsuccessfully to get the attacker off his back. He fired all his rounds at the attacker but failed to hit him. Then, with the attacker still on his back, the defector ran towards the parked jeep. At this time, three more VC guerrillas attacked, overpowered, and bound him. Then they set the jeep on fire (NFI). They kept him at the village for two days (reason unknown) before escorting him to LOC SON Mountain, DAI LOC District, QUANG NAM Province. This mountain was supposed to be located 30 kilometers west of CAM HAI Village, DIEN BAN District, QUANG NAM Province.

(b) Detention. LOC SON Mountain was the site of a PW camp for ARVN officers and enlisted men. The camp held no more than 100 prisoners. The defector was held there with two other US PWs (NFI). During this period, they received political indoctrination from Professor HO AN (HOOL, AN), a former high school English teacher in DA NANG City. (Interrogator's Note: HO AN was about 50 years old and the VC political chief of the DA NANG City Unit as of the date of Source's capture, Aug 70 (NFI).) In Jun 67, the defector made his first anti-US propaganda tape recording.

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The tape asked the US fighting men to stop fighting and go home. At the end of 1967, the three US PWs and HO AN were escorted by a 10-man squad to a US PW camp in PLEIKU Province. This PW camp held all US PWs captured in all the provinces between and including KHANH HOA and DARLAC Provinces, and QUANG NAM Province. It was located in a mountainous region near a village inhabited by the THUONG (NFI). Upon arrival at the PLEIKU camp, the defector was freed and assigned to work in the Troops and Enemy Proselyting Section, PLEIKU Province Committee, MR-5. He received a SONY radio which received Radio HANOI and Voice of America broadcasts (NFI).

(6) Photo Identification. Source was not shown the US PW Photo Album because he never saw the defector.

(U) COMMENTS: Source was administered the Cross-Cultural IQ Test and scored High (35). He was lucid and cooperative during the interrogation. Source did not appear to have fabricated information. Nevertheless, the fact remains that his information is entirely hearsay. This report partially satisfies the collection requirements of SIGR D-7CX-49018. Collection action continues.

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