

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL MARKINGS

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2. SUBJECT: (U) MR-5 Signal Organizations	9. DATE OF REPORT: 20 Mar 70 APR 15 1970 W 25187 WASH. OFFICE
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6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u>	13. PREPARED BY: JOSEPH S. MARTINEAU SP5, USA
7. SOURCE: Returnee Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: W. H. BEARDSLEY LTC, USA Dir, US Elm, CMIC

15. SUMMARY: (Leave Blank)

(C) This report contains limited information on signal organizations within MR-5, including MR-5 HQ, 4th Front HQ, Southern Wing HQ, and the HQ of the 3d Dist of DANANG. Included are the organizations, mission and personalities of the signal organizations which supported each command echelon. Also included is a limited list of miscellaneous personalities within MR-5.

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: QUACH VAN KHA (QACHS, VEAN KHAR), CMIC 2885-70

b. Rank: SGT

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Asst Plat Ldr; Sig Plat, 3d Dist Unit (DANANG), Southern Wing, 4th Front

d. DPOB: 1948; LAC PHONG Vil, NHO QUAN Dist, NINH BINH Prov, NVN

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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 1 cy	GROUP 3 DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR INTERVALS NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED THIS DOCUMENT IS RELEASABLE TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND FREE WORLD MILITARY ASSISTANCE FORCES	None
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DD FORM 1396 1 SEP 68

REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61), AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 62.

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e. Parents' Names: Father, QUACH VAN THAN (QACHS, VEAN THAAN), living; Mother, DUONG THI DUOC (ZUOWNG, THIV DUOWCV), deceased

f. Circumstances of Return. Source returned, on 1 Oct 69, to elements of the 1st Bn, 51st ARVN Regt, in DIEN BAN Dist, QUANG NAM Prov, RVN, while returning to his unit from a meeting concerning signal activities within the Southern Wing, 44th Front. The meeting, which was held every three months near DANANG City, was supervised by personnel from the Sig Sect, Military Staff, 44th Front.

g. Significant Activities. From 1948 until 1965, source lived with his parents at his POB, where he also received approx nine years of formal education. He was drafted, on 13 Sep 65, and assigned to the 10th Sqd, 3d Plat, 11th Co, 3d Bn, 205th Sig Tng Regt, subordinate to the Sig Dept, Ministry of Defense, NVN. Source received signal training with this unit until 20 Jun 67, at which time he and 15 other members of his unit began infiltration to the RVN with the 320th Infil Gp. Upon his arrival in TRA MY (VC) Dist, QUANG TIN Prov, RVN, in mid-Dec 67, source was assigned to the 8th Radio Station, External Element, 1st Sig Bn, subordinate to the Sig Sect, MR-5 HQ. From Dec 67 until Jul 68, source received OJT with the External Element in the operation and maintenance of the 102E radio and in the supervision of a radio station. In Jul 68, he was given charge of a special radio station subordinate to the 44th Front HQ which was organized specifically for the purpose of communicating with the 31st Regt during an operation that unit was conducting at the time. Source remained with the 44th Front until Oct 68, when he was assigned as Radio Station Chief and Asst Plat Ldr of the 15-watt Radio Plat, 4th Co, 26th Sig Bn. The 4th Co operated in support of the Southern Wing HQ, 44th Front. Source remained in this position until Aug 69, at which time he was assigned as Radio Station Chief and Asst Plat Ldr of the Sig Plat which supported the 3d Dist Unit of DANANG, Southern Wing. Source remained with this unit until his return on 1 Oct 69.

h. Additional References: CMIC Exploitation Guide, Annex H; previous reports from same source include CMIC IR Nos 6 029 0260 70 and 6 029 0219 70

2.(C) MR-5 Signal Organizations:

a. General. Upon his arrival in the RVN in mid-Dec 67, source was assigned to the 8th Radio Station, External Element, 1st Sig Bn, subordinate to the Sig Sect of MR-5. The 1st Sig Bn was located with MR-5 HQ near TAC LU'WL, TRA MY (VC) Dist, QUANG TIN Prov. Source remained with the 8th Station until Jul 68, during which time he received OJT in the operation and maintenance of the 102E radio and in the supervision of radio stations. This training was designed to prepare source for later assignments as a chief of radio stations. In Jul 68, source was placed in charge of a special radio team attached to 44th Front HQ, which was located in DAI LOC Dist, QUANG NAM Prov (exact location unk). This radio team had the specific mission of maintaining radio contact with the 31st Regt, which was conducting an operation at the time. In Oct 68, the radio team was no longer needed, and source was assigned as Station Chief of the 15-watt radio station which supported the Southern Wing of the 44th Front. This station was located in the HON TAU Mountains, QUE SON (VC) Dist, QUANG TIN Prov,

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RVN. In Aug 69, source was assigned as Station Chief of the 15-watt radio station which supported the 3d Dist of DANANG, Southern Wing. The 3d Dist HQ was located in DIEN NAM VII, DIEN BAN Dist, QUANG NAM Prov, RVN. Source remained with this unit until he returned to the GVN on 1 Oct 69.

b. Signal Section, Military Staff, MR-5:

(1) General. The Sig Sect consisted of a Sect Chief, Deputy Chief, and approx 20 signal staff assistants. The Sig Sect supervised all signal activities within MR-5 and was specifically responsible for ensuring that effective communications were maintained by the signal organizations which supported MR-5 HQ. Studies, directives, and other printed materials concerning signal activities were formulated by the Sig Sect and disseminated through signal channels. The signal staff assistants were responsible for drafting the monthly call sign and frequency schedules and SOI used by subordinate units in communications with MR-5 HQ. Correct procedures for setting up radio station (such as types of antennas to use, suitable terrain, and methods of camouflaging bunkers and antennas) were disseminated to signal organizations at lower echelons. The 1st Sig Bn was directly subordinate to the Sig Sect.

(2) 1st Sig Bn:

(a) General. The mission of the 1st Sig Bn was to maintain communications within the MR-5 HQ base camp and to supervise the signal nets between MR-5 HQ and its subordinate units. This mission was accomplished through five subordinate units of the 1st Bn, which included a Maintenance Co, Internal Service Co, Messenger Co, External Radio Communications Element, and Internal Radio Communications Element. (For an organization chart of the 1st Bn, see page 11.) During the period that source remained with MR-5 HQ, he was not allowed access to all of these units, and was therefore able to provide only limited information pertaining to their organization and activities.

(b) Maintenance Co. The Maintenance Co was responsible for repairing all organic signal equipment of MR-5 HQ; repairing equipment of subordinate units of MR-5 which did not have their own signal repair shops; and providing signal supplies, spare parts, and new equipment for subordinate units. Source was unaware of the channels through which signal supplies were procured. The Maint Co operated a repair shop within MR-5 HQ base camp, which was located near the 1st Sig Bn HQ. Signal equipment was delivered by runner to this shop for repair. Also, teams of two or three repairmen visited subordinate units and performed on-the-spot maintenance. Source believed that the Maint Co consisted of approx 100 personnel.

(c) Internal Service Co. The Internal Service Co maintained telephone communications within MR-5 HQ. This company consisted of one Switchboard Platoon and five wire-commo platoons. All major organizations within the MR-5 HQ base camp were connected by wire to the Switchboard Platoon, which was located with the HQ Element of the Internal Service Co. The Switchboard Platoon utilized one 10-hole Chicom switchboard, one 20-hole Chicom switchboard, and one 25-hole Chicom switchboard. The

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five wire-commo platoons were responsible for maintaining all telephone lines used within MR-5 HQ. (For a sketch of the base camp telephone net of MR-5 HQ, see page 14.)

(d) Messenger Co. Personnel of the Messenger Co carried messages between the various organizations within MR-5 HQ and to units located in the area surrounding the base camp. Specific information concerning the activities of the Messenger Co were unk to source, other than the fact that encoded radio messages transmitted by his radio station were carried by messenger to and from the station.

(e) External Radio Communications Element:

1 General. The External Element consisted of a HQ Element (10 personnel) and 15 separate radio stations (15 personnel each). This HQ Element was responsible for maintaining radio contact with COSYS, HANOI, and all major organizations subordinate to MR-5. Due to the fact that all transmissions were encoded, source was unaware of the content of the messages sent. The encoded messages were carried to the station by runner from the Crypto Sect. Each station was equipped with either a 15-watt or 150-watt radio. Source did not know how many of each were used within the External Element. The entire External Element was located in a densely vegetated area approx three hours' walk from the central base camp of MR-5 HQ. The radio stations were located approx 30 minutes' walk apart, and all were connected by telephone to the HQ Element, which utilized one 10-hole Chicom switchboard and two 0743 Chicom telephones. The HQ Element was connected by wire to MR-5 HQ through the Switchboard Platoon of the Internal Service Co. The telephone net was used by each radio station chief to report the day's activities to the personnel of the HQ Element.

2 8th Radio Station. Personnel of source's station utilized an underground fortification (5m x 3m x 1.5m), over which was constructed a wooden hut. The 102E radio used at source's station was located in the underground fortification in order to provide protection from air strikes and artillery barrages. The wooden hut was used for sleeping and other purposes when the radio personnel were not on duty. Source believed that all of the stations in the External Element used the same type of long wire antenna that was used by his station. This antenna consisted of two 32m sections of wire strung end to end between two poles and fastened together at the center. Each wire was connected to the radio by a lead-in wire. (For additional information pertaining to types of antennas used by source, see CMIC IR No 6 029 0260 70.) Source's radio team consisted of one station chief, an assistant station chief, five radio operators, and eight generator operators, who were normally infantry personnel with no communications training.

(f) Internal Radio Communications Element. Source believed that the Internal Element was organized in approx the same manner as the External Element. However, he was unable to provide any specific details pertaining to its organization and activities. Source could not positively differentiate between the missions of the two elements. He believed that the Internal Element handled most of the radio communications of MR-5 HQ and that the External Element was a reserve unit which would assume the responsibilities of the Internal

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Element, if the latter was destroyed.

c. Signal Section, Mil Staff, 44th Front:

(1) General. The Sig Sect consisted of a Sect Chief and four Sig Staff Assistants. These personnel were responsible for all signal activities within the 44th Front. Specific responsibilities included supervising the signal organizations which supported 44th Front HQ and disseminating monthly SOI schedules used by subordinate units in communications with the 44th Front. The 26th Sig Bn was directly subordinate to the Sig Sect, 44th Front.

(2) 26th Sig Bn:

(a) General. The 26th Sig Bn was responsible for maintaining effective communications within the 44th Front HQ base camp and for directing the various communications nets between 44th Front HQ and its subordinate units. The 26th Bn consisted of a Maintenance Co, Internal Service Co, Radio Co, Messenger Co, and a special 15-watt radio team which provided communications between 44th Front HQ and the 31st Regt. (For an organization chart of the 26th Sig Bn, see page 12.)

(b) Maintenance Co. The Maint Co repaired all organic signal equipment of 44th Front HQ and the equipment of subordinate organizations, such as the Southern Wing HQ, which did not have their own signal repair shops. The repair shop operated by the Maint Co was located within the 44th Front HQ base camp near the 26th Sig Bn HQ. Signal equipment was delivered by runner to this shop for repair. Also, teams of two or three repairmen visited subordinate units to perform maintenance work. The Maint Co also procured new signal equipment and spare parts from MR-5 HQ and other sources and disseminated them to subordinate units of the 44th Front as needed.

(c) Internal Service Co. The Internal Service Co was responsible for maintaining telephone communications within the 44th Front HQ base camp. This company consisted of one Switchboard Platoon and five wire-commo platoons. The Switchboard Platoon operated a 20-hole switchboard, to which were connected all major organizations within the 44th Front HQ base camp. The five wire-commo platoons maintained all telephone wires within the 44th Front HQ. (For a sketch of the base camp telephone net of the 44th Front HQ, see page 15.)

(d) Radio Co. The Radio Co maintained radio contact with all subordinate units of the 44th Front and with MR-5 HQ. This company consisted of a HQ Element and four 15-watt radio stations. The four stations were connected by wire to the HQ Element, which utilized one 10-hole Chicom switchboard. The HQ Element was connected to 44th Front HQ by wire through the Switchboard Platoon of the Internal Service Co. Details pertaining to the layout and activities of these radio stations were unk to source, due to the fact that he did not operate with them.

(e) Messenger Co. Personnel of the Messenger Co carried messages between the various organizations within 44th Front HQ and to subordinate units throughout the 44th Front. Specific information concerning the activities of this company were unk to source.

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(f) 15-watt Radio Team. Source was assigned as Chief of a special 15-watt radio team which was responsible for providing radio communications between 44th Front HQ and the 31st Regt. The operation which the 31st Regt was conducting at the time was directly supervised by the 44th Front. The radio team consisted of a Team Chief, Asst Chief, four radio operators, and eight generator operators. This station utilized one Chicom 102E radio for transmissions, with the same type of long wire antenna (64m) that source used at MR-5 HQ. The radio station consisted of an underground fortification, over which was constructed a wooden hut. This station was located approx 500m from the 44th Front HQ.

d. Signal Section, Military Staff, Southern Wing, 44th Front:

(1) General. The Sig Sect consisted of a Chief and two assistants, who were responsible for supervising all signal activities within the Southern Wing. Specific activities of the Sig Sect were unk to source. The 4th Co, 26th Sig Bn, was directly subordinate to the Sig Sect.

(2) 4th Co, 26th Sig Bn:

(a) General. The 4th Co consisted of a Radio Platoon, Courier and Liaison Platoon, and five commo-liaison stations. Telephones were not used within the Southern Wing HQ because it was a mobile organization with no permanent base camp. (For an organization chart of the 4th Co, see page 13 .)

(b) Radio Platoon. The Radio Platoon was responsible for providing 15-watt radio communications between 44th Front HQ and Southern Wing HQ and between the Southern Wing and its subordinate units. Normally, the Radio Platoon consisted of two radio stations, each of which was operated by approx 15 personnel. However, while source was assigned to the Southern Wing, the Radio Platoon consisted of only 20 personnel and one radio station. If operational necessity should require it, personnel from the 4th Co HQ and the Courier and Liaison Platoon would be assigned to the Radio Platoon to make up the other radio team. However, this did not occur during the time that source was assigned to the Radio Platoon. The platoon was equipped with two 102E radios, one of which was used by source's station and the other was held in reserve. A short wire antenna (32m) was used due to the fact that the station was not required to transmit over extremely great distances.

(c) Courier and Liaison Platoon. The Courier and Liaison Platoon consisted of two 2-watt radio squads and two messenger squads. The radio squads were equipped with an approx total of ten 2-watt radios, including US PRC-25, K-63, and 71B radios. These were used to contact the five commo-liaison stations and any subordinate units of the Southern Wing which operated close enough to the Southern Wing HQ base camp to permit 2-watt communications. The two messenger squads carried messages between the Southern Wing HQ and its subordinate units.

(d) Commo-liaison Station. These five commo-liaison stations were located within DUY XUYEN and DIEN BAN Districts, QUANG NAM Prov, and were responsible for providing guides for VC/NVA personnel within those

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two districts. Each station was equipped with one US PRC-25 radio, which was used to contact the other liaison stations and the 2-watt radio station at the Southern Wing HQ. Each station consisted of approx 10 personnel.

e. Signal Platoon, Military Staff, 3d District of DANANG:

(1) General. The Signal Platoon which supported the 3d Dist of DANANG consisted of a HQ Element, one 15-watt Radio Squad and one Messenger Squad. Its mission was to maintain communications with the Southern Wing and with subordinate units of the 3d Dist. These subordinate units were the 1st Infantry Bn and a Ground and Naval Sapper Co, whose code name was NGUYEN HUU THONG (NGUYEENX, HUWUR THONG). The 1st Inf Bn was supported by a 15-watt radio team which communicated with the radio station of the 3d Dist HQ. However, the Sapper Co was not supported by any radio personnel, and all communications had to be maintained by runner. Source was unaware of how many personnel were assigned to the Messenger Squad. The HQ Element consisted of approx 18 personnel, and the Radio Squad consisted of approx 15 personnel.

(2) 15-watt Radio Squad. The Radio Squad consisted of a station chief (source), an asst station chief, five radio operators, and eight generator operators. The squad was equipped with one 102E radio which was powered by a D-81 battery pack and a Chicom 641 hand-cranked generator. The short wire antenna (32m) was used by the squad. The radio station consisted of an underground fortification (5m x 3m x 1.5m), over which was constructed a wooden hut. Steel supports were used in making the roof of the underground bunker. These supports were obtained in DANANG by Rear Service personnel of the 3d Dist. There was no need to camouflage the bunker as it was constructed in dense vegetation. Radio personnel used the bunker for operating the radio and the hut for living purposes.

f. Signal Personalities:

(1) MR-5:

(a) Sig Sect:

Chief: LTC NGUYEN MINH SON (NGUYEENX, MINH SOWN)

Asst Chief: MAJ HUYNH TUU (HUYNHL, TUWUV); concurrently the Chief of the Sig Sect, 44th Front

Staff Assistant: DIEN (DIEENV)

Staff Assistant: LUU (LUWUV)

(b) 1st Sig Bn:

1 HQ Element:

CO: Sr CPT HO XUAN CANH (HOOL, XUAAN CANHR)

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Asst PO: CPT CHI (CHIX)

CofS: CPT CHAU (CHAAU)

2 Internal Element:

CO: Sr LT HIEN (HIEEN)

3 External Element:

CO: Sr LT HONG (HOONGL)

XO: LT VO HONG CHAU (VOR, HOONGL CHAAU)

Asst PO: LT NO (NOWX)

(c) Crypto Sect:

Chief: Sr CPT BONG (BOONGR)

(2) With Front:

(a) Sig Sect:

Asst Chief of the Sig Sect, MR-5
Chief: MAJ HUYNH TUU (HUYNHL, TUVUV); concurrently theconcurrently the Chief of the Sig Sect, Southern Wing
Staff Assistant: Sr CPT NGO TAN PHUOC (NGOO, TAANS FUOWCS);

Staff Assistant: Sr CPT LE (LEER)

Staff Assistant: CPT NHUONG (NHUONGV)

Staff Assistant: Sr LT CHU HUNG (CHU, HUNGL)

(b) 26th Sig Bn:

1 HQ Element:

CO: Sr CPT VIEN (VIEEN)

XO: CPT PHONG (FONG)

XO: CPT SU (SUWV); concurrently an assistant of the
Sig Sect, Southern Wing

Asst PO: CPT QUANG (QANG)

2 Radio Co:

CO: Sr LT VANH (VANH)

XO: LT TRUNG (TRUNG)

PO: Sr LT PHUNG (FUNGV)

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Asst PO: LT HOI (HOOIV)

(3) Southern Wing:

(a) Sig Sect:

Chief: Sr CPT NGO TAN PHUOC (NGOO, TAANS FUOWCS);
 concurrently a Staff Assistant of the Sig Sect, 44th Front

Asst: CPT SU (SUWV), concurrently the XO of the
 26th Sig Bn

Asst: Sr LT CHU HUNG (CHU, HUNGL)

(b) 44th Sig Co:

CO: Sr LT DIEM (DIEEMR)

PO: Sr LT DIEN (ZIEENV)

XO: LT LIU (LIWU)

Asst PO: LT QUE (QEES)

g. Miscellaneous Personalities:

(1) MR-5:

CO: LG CHU HUY MAN (CHU, HUY MAAN), aka CHAU (CHAAU)

CofS: Sr COL LIEN (LIEEN)

(2) 44th Front:

CO: MG TRINH PHAM BINH (TRINH, FAAMR BINHL), aka NGUYEN
 CHANH (NGUYEENK, CHANHL)

PO: MG TU THUAN (TOW, THUAANV)

1st XO: Sr COL GIAP VAN KHUONG (JAPS, VAAN KHUONG), aka
 TRUC (TRUWCV); concurrently the CofS of the 44th Front

2d XO: Sr COL THANH (THANH), aka PHUONG (FUOWNG); concurrently
 the CO of the Southern Wing, 44th Front

(3) Southern Wing, 44th Front:

CO: Sr COL THANH (THANH), aka PHUONG (FUOWNG); concurrently
 the 2d XO of the 44th Front

PO: COL MAI (MAI)

XO: COL CHAU (CHAAU)

CofS: LTC HA (HAL)

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(4) 3d Dist of DANANG:

CO: Sr CPT BON THONG (BOONS, THOONG)

PO: MAJ LANG (LANG)

XO: CPT NGUYEN CHAU (NGUYEENX, CHAAU)

CofS: CPT CHIN (CHINL), aka SON (SOWN)

(C) COMMENTS: Source was cooperative throughout the interrogation. He was attentive and often volunteered information before being asked. However, on occasion, source fabricated information when he was unsure of the answer to a question. Several discrepancies were noted by the interrogator, which source attributed to the amount of time which had passed since his assignments to these units. Source knew a great deal of general information on signal organizations within MR-5, due to his varied assignments. However, he was unable to provide detailed information on these organizations.

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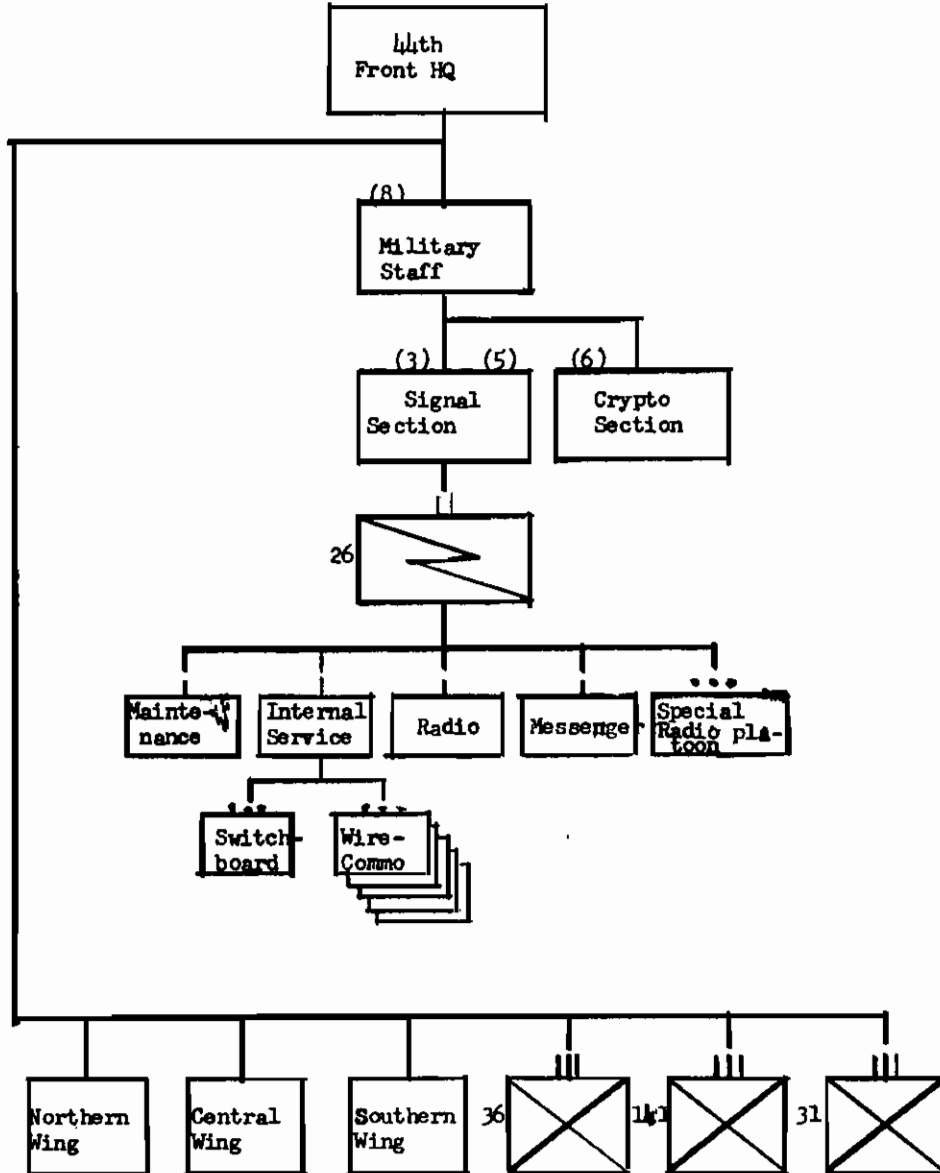
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Organization chart of the Sig Sect, Military Staff, 44th Front HQ, as provided by returnee, QUACH VAN KHA, CMIC 2885-70 (DOI: Oct 68)

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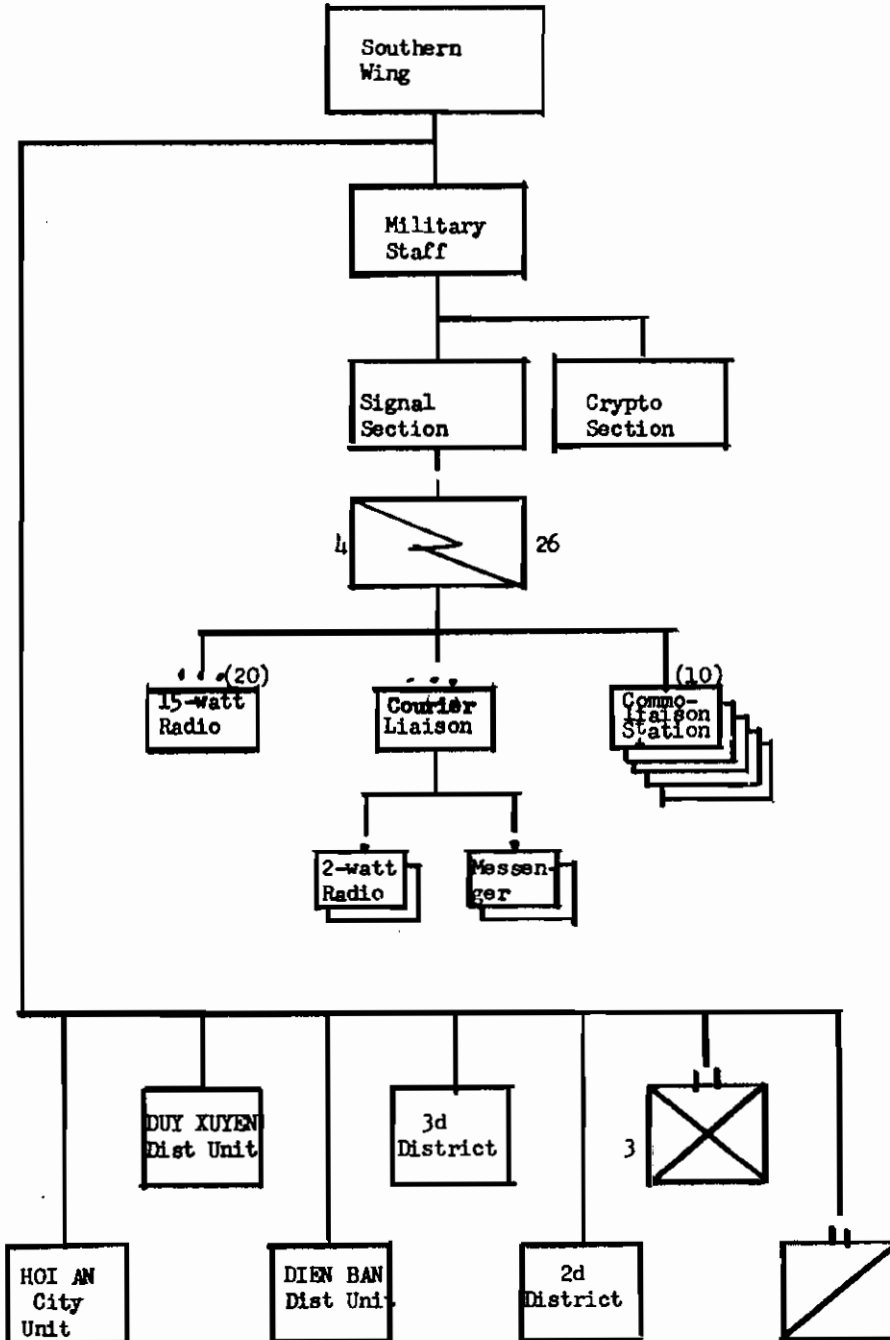
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Organization chart of the Sig Sect, Military Staff, Southern Wing, 4th Front, as provided by returnee, QUACH VAN KHA, CMIC 2885-70 (DOI: Aug 69)



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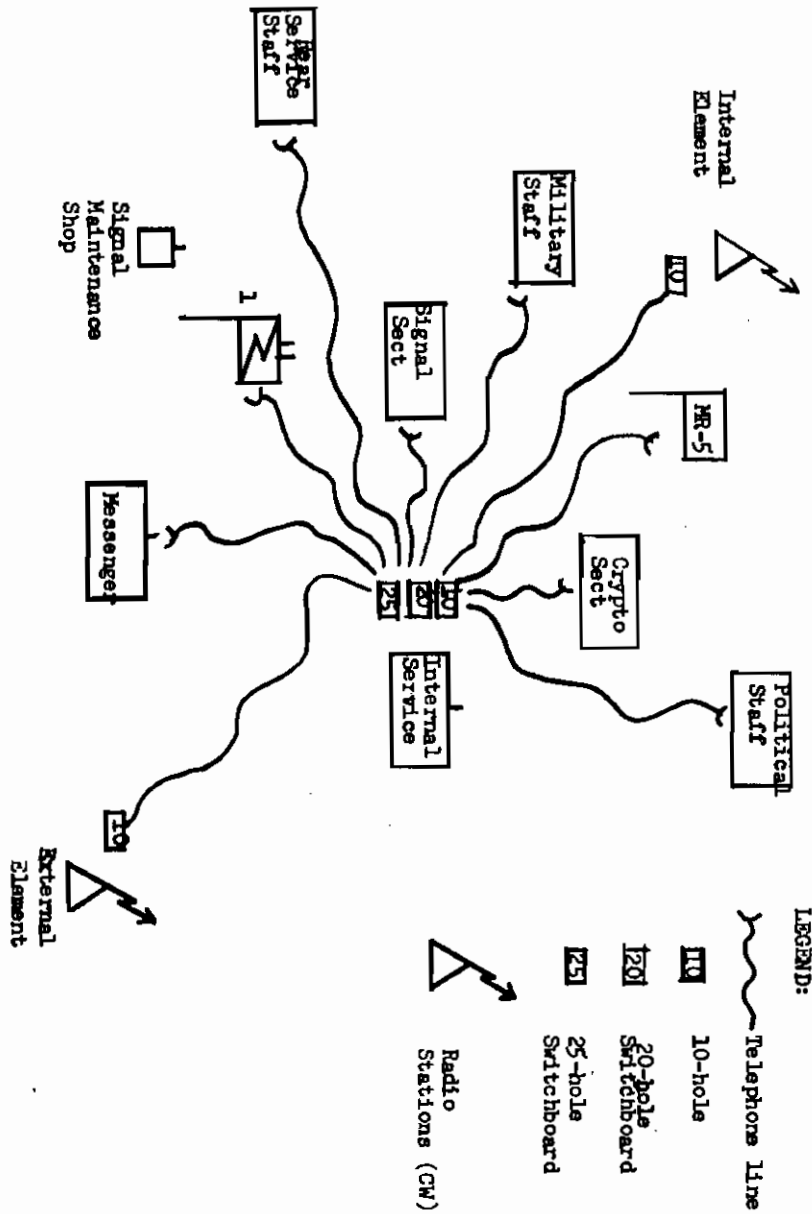
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Base camp telephone net of MR-5 HQ, as provided by returnee, QUACH VAN KHA, CMIC 2885-70. (DOI: Jul 68)



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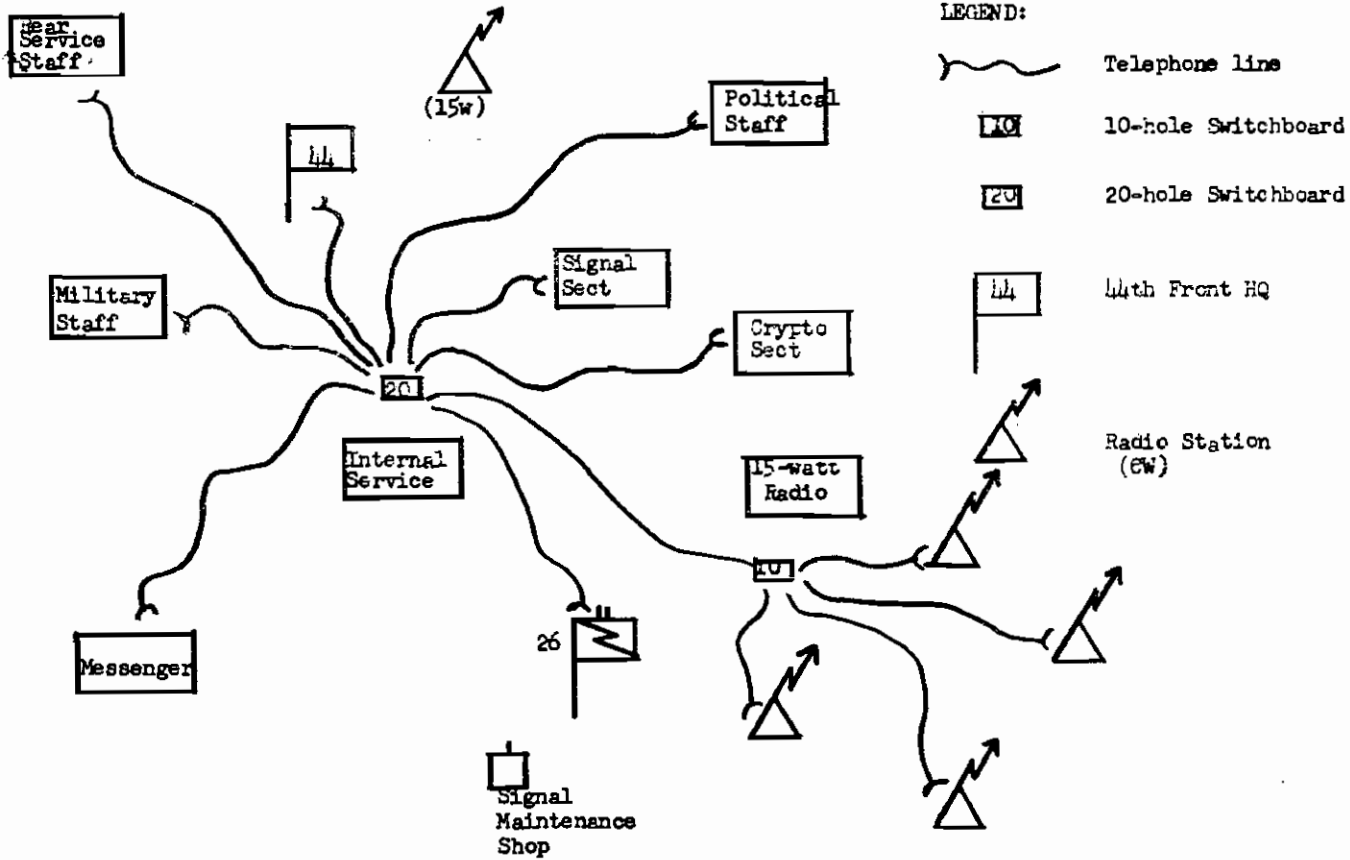
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