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ARMED REGIMENT

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The source material utilized in the compilation of this document are: COMUSMACV's, "VIETCONG MILITARY ORDER OF BATTLE SOUTH OF THE 17TH PARALLEL", of 31 March 1965; U.S. Army Project No. 5630, "WORLD WIDE ORDER OF BATTLE", of 1 March 1965; and the U.S. Army Pacific Special Report No. 450, "NORTH VIETNAMESE ORDER OF BATTLE", of 15 March 1965.

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VIET CONG MILITARY STRUCTURE

Viet Cong military units fall into three general categories according to the political level to which they are subordinate-regulars, provincial, and militia/guerrilla.

REGULAR UNITS: The best trained and equipped units are those immediately subordinate to the higher VC political echelons. These top category units, properly called regular, go by the Vietnamese term, Chu Luc, literally Main Force. Such units are assigned to the Central Office, South Vietnam (COSVN) and to the five military regions. In general, regular units have a sizeable cadre of PAVN officers and NCO's with the remainder of their strength drawn from local recruiting. In some cases complete units have been sent from the DRV for service in areas with limited recruiting potential. Such units are specially organized, trained, and equipped for Viet Cong service, and are in fact considerably different from a regular PAVN battalion.

PROVINCIAL FORCES: These are the full time forces subordinate to the VC province and district, designated the <u>Dai Phuong</u>, composed of battalions, separate companies and platoons and various other special function units. These units have had a highly instrumental role in the establishment and nurturing of the VC movement in the countryside.

MILITIA/GUERRILLA UNITS: These are composed of part time soldiers of limited training and are subordinate to village and hamlet committees. The militia/guerrilla units are only partially equipped, many of their weapons are rudimentary in nature and are products of their own home work shops. These units provide the backing force to VC political activities at these levels. Such units are responsible for much of the local terrorism, propaganda, and sabotage. Even though not completely armed, these units will support operations conducted by higher echelon VC units in their general area. They usually will not participate in assault operations but will take over many support roles acting as porters, evacuating the wounded and dead, and policing the battlefield for weapons and equipment of value.

VIET CONG FORCE OBJECTIVES

Past VC policy of force structure development has been to build toward the regimental echelon (with organic battalions and support elements) at province level; the company level at district level; the

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platoon level at village level; and toward squad level at hamlet level. In areas of good VC control these objectives have been achieved in either the regular (military region) or the provincial (province and district) category but generally not in both. Under the guidance of COSVN, where the presence of Chinese Communist advisors has frequently been reported, a more ambitious program has been reported. This would provide for a regular division to be directly subordinate to COSVN, two regiments attached to each military region, and a regiment for each province. Such an objective is probably desired by the Viet Cong leadership and certainly is useful for its psychological value alone. This latter structure would double the present hard core VC strength? and it could be achieved by extensive infiltration of PAVN personnel, improved local recruiting and upgrading of local VC units, and the concomitant mass influx of weapons, ammunition and other supplies from out-ofcountry. For the future, it is likely that the Viet Cong will continue at the effective covert level seen in the past rather than implement any crash program. Without more effective curtailment of this Communist military expansion than has been seen to date, even this past tempo of activity will permit the VC to achieve these ambitious force objective levels.





VIET CONG WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT

The VC possess a conglomeration of weapons of varied origin, ranging from the simple but very effective spike board (caltrop) to US and Chinese manufactured 75mm recoilless rifles and 81mm mortars.

The VC appear to be making some progress toward standardization of types of weapons, but not by origin or manufacture, in their Main Force units. Thus, in the VC rifle company, there is almost certain to be found 60mm mortars, light machineguns and automatic rifles. In the heavy weapons companies of the battalions are to be found 81mm mortars and either 57mm or 75mm recoilless rifles. Some heavy weapons companies are equipped with 12.7mm or .50 caliber machineguns. A sample infantry battalion T/E is as follows:

2x81mm Mortars 6x60mm Mortars 3x57mmrRecoiless Rifles 5xLMG's 26x7.62mm Assault Rifles 20xCarbines Unknown number of SMG's

The most poorly armed elements are the guerrillas. They are equipped largely with home-made grenades, knives, daggers, and simple rifles, shotguns and pistols manufactured in home workshops. Lately however, these elements are receiving more sophisticated weapons from the Military Region Logistical Section.

Individual soldiers of the main and local forces are generally armed with a manufactured bolt-action rifle or submachinegun of French, British, US or USSR origin. The VC have captured large numbers of individual and unit weapons of late US manufacture from RVN military and paramilitary units and it can be expected that these weapons will replace many of the less standard weapons presently in VC hands, inasmuch as locally available ammunition will ease the VC ammunition resupply problem.

There has been a recent increase in the capture of Sino-Soviet Bloc weapons, ammunition and explosives from the VC. The majority



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of these have been Chicom submachineguns, 7.62mm ammunition, 57mm recoilless rifles and ammunition and Chicom TNT.

The individual soldier in the main force and local units is normally issued the following items of individual equipment, either brought from the DRV through infiltration channels, procurred locally with funds provided from the DRV, or locally manufactured with materials locally purchased:

2 sets of outer clothing (similar to that worn by the surrounding populance)

- 1 mosquito bar
- 1 hammock
- 1 woolen jacket (for troops in mountainous areas)
- 1 plastic sheet approximately 2.5 meters long (ground cloth or shelter half)
 - 1 plastic sheet approximately 1.5 meters long (rain coat)
 - 1 cap
 - 1 waist belt
 - 1 pair of rubber sandals or sneakers
 - 1 locally produced canteen
 - 1 mess kit

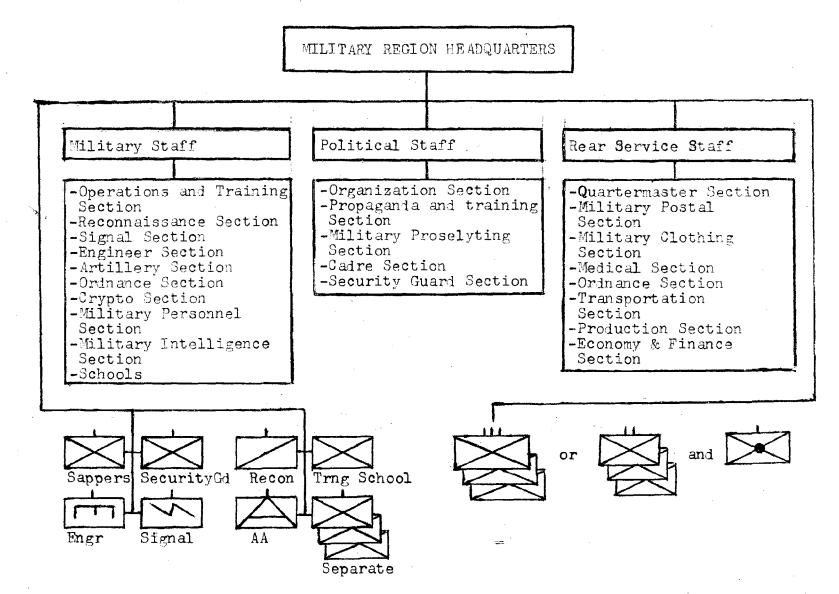
Each VC main force squad is normally equipped with 1 shovel, 1 kitchen knife, 2 kettles and 2 pots.



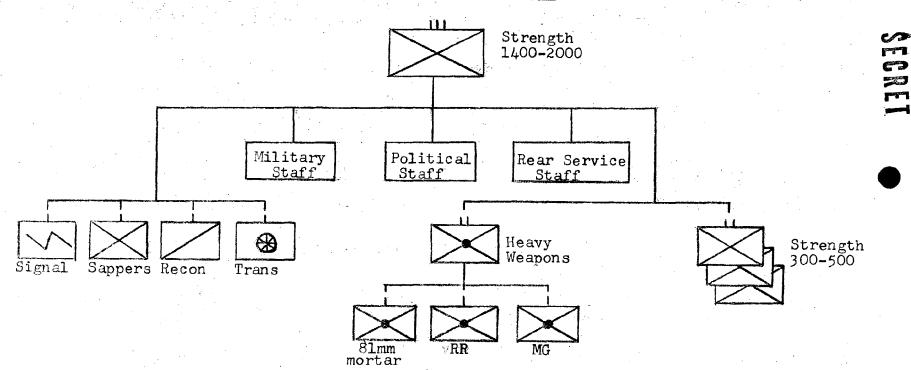
VIET CONG ORGANIZATION MODELS

&

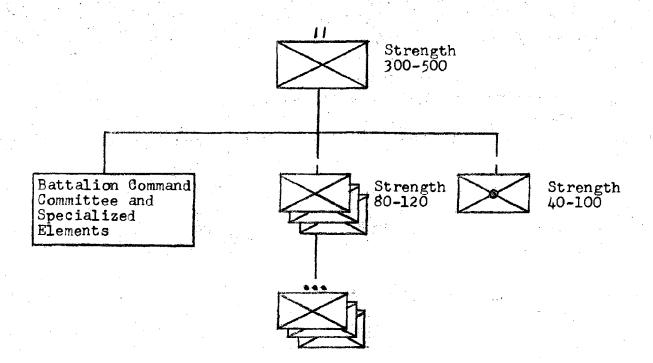
I CORPS ASSIGNED UNITS

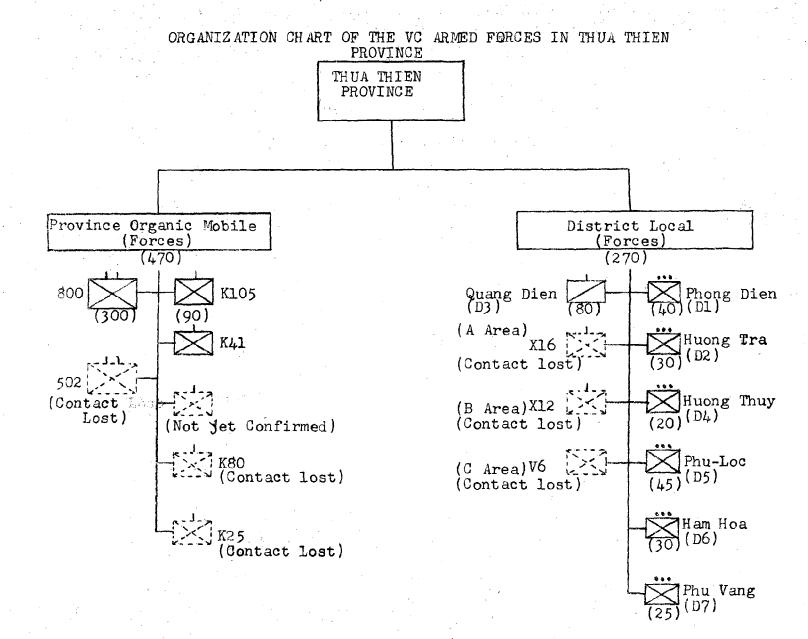


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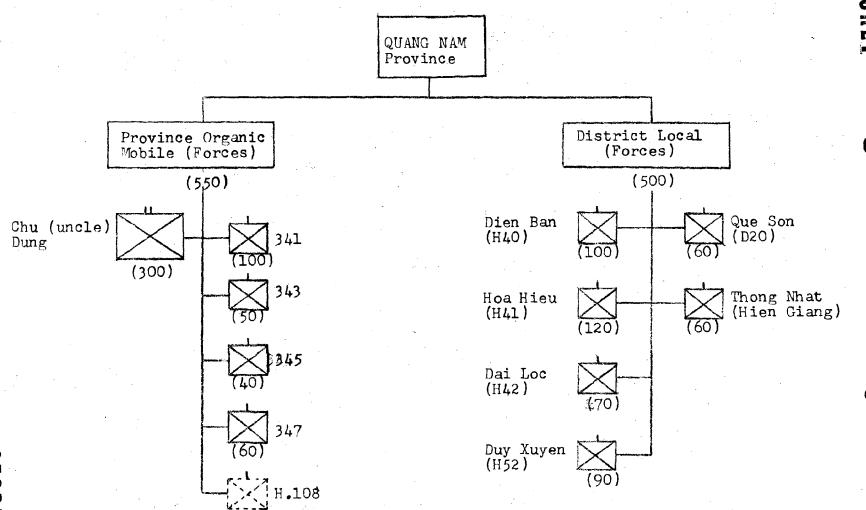


VIET CONG INFANTRY BATTALION

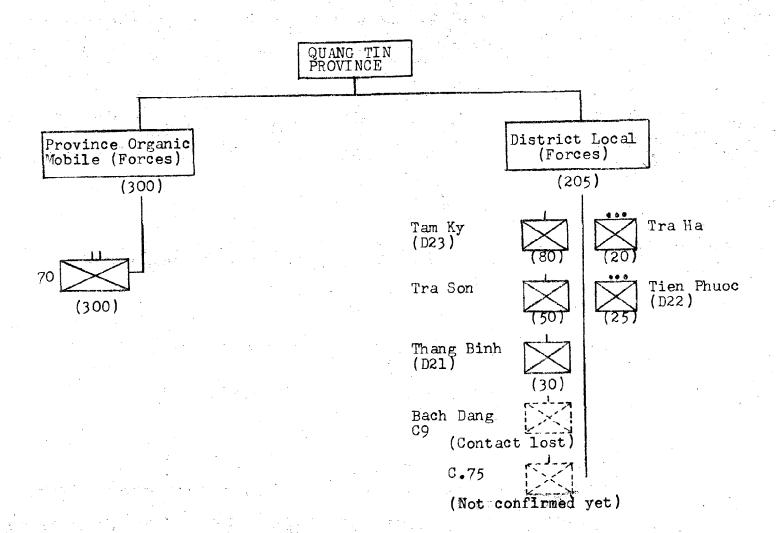


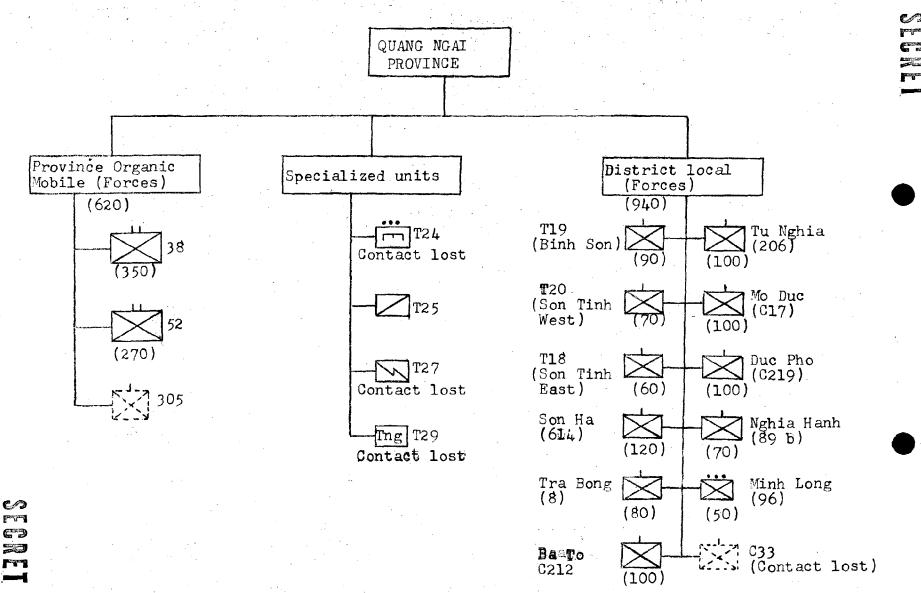


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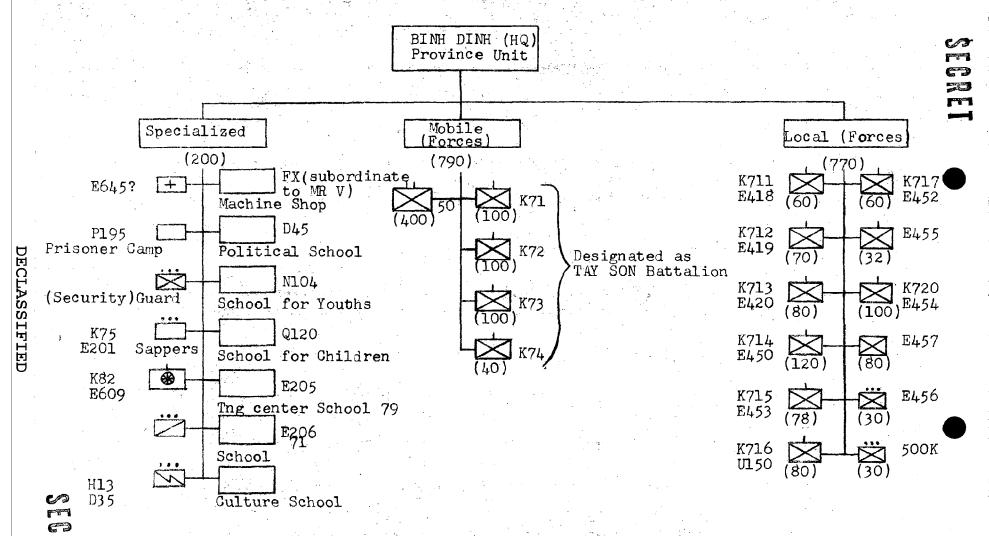


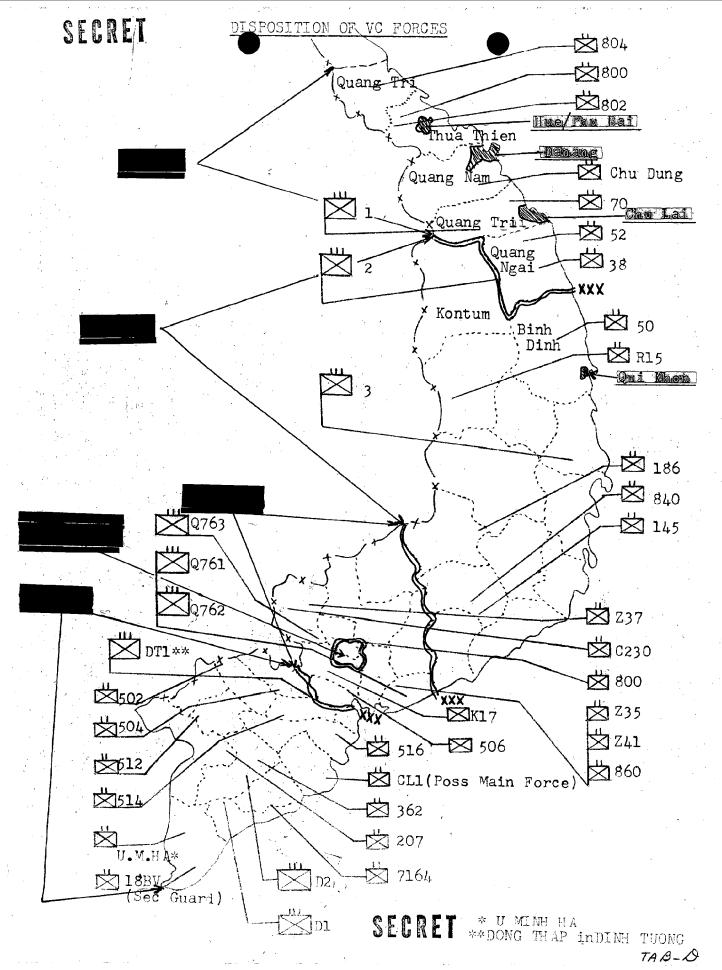
TAB-6





ORGANIZATION CHART OF VC ARMED FORCES IN BINH DINH PROVINCE





In Corps

II Cerps

III Corps

Capital Mil.

IV Corps

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NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY

The North Vietnamese Army (PAVN) is a well trained combat effective force capable of coordinated division-level offensive and defensive conventional operations as well as sustained guerrilla campaigns. The PAVN is capable of maintaining internal security, repelling aggression by neighboring countries, with the exception of Communist China, and invading and defeating military forces of other Southeast Asian countries. Its combat trained personnel, inured to physical hardships, are capable of high-level guerrilla warfare and paramilitary activity in Laos and South Vietnam. PAVN leadership is dedicated and capable, resulting in a disciplined organization whose loyalty is assured through tight party control. The principal limitations of the North Vietnamese Army are; deficiencies in advanced weapons and heavy equipment, an underdeveloped and vulnerable transportation system, a relatively low level of education and a lack of technical skills.

TYPES OF TACTICAL UNITS

- a. <u>Infantry Division</u>: The infantry division normally has a headquarters; three infantry regiments; three field artillery or mortar battalions; and antiaircraft artillery battalion; engineer, medical, and signal battalions; and company-size service units. Estimated actual strength of the division is 12,500. The field artillery and mortar battalions are grouped under an artillery regimental headquarters.
- b. <u>351st Artillery Division</u>: The 351st Artillery Division, which appears to include a headquarters and up to 6 artillery regiments, probably provides tactical support to the Tonkin Delta infantry units. The designation "351", however, seems to encompass a wider range of activities, to include an artillery headquarters in Hanoi and an artillery training center at Son Tay. In the same way, the 367th AAA Division, besides commanding the AAA guns deployed throughout the country, probably serves as a AAA Command Headquarters.
- c. <u>Infantry Brigade:</u> The infantry brigade which has emerged since 1958 probably contains three infantry battalions, but may have up to five. Its artillery comprises a battalion of field guns and one of AA guns. Brigade troops, after the pattern of the infantry division, provide appropriate service and combat support units. Estimated actual strength is 5,000.



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- d. <u>Infantry Regiment</u> (Divisional): The divisional infantry regiment consists of a headquarters, three infantry battalions, one heavy weapons battalion, and service units. Estimated actual strength of the divisional infantry regiment is 3,080. The separate infantry regiments are similarly organized.
- e. <u>Infantry Battalion</u>: The infantry battalion consists of a battalion headquarters, a heavy weapons company and three rifle companies. Its heavy weapons company includes 7.62 HMG's, 82 MM mortars and 57MM recoilless rifles. Estimated battalion strength is 700.
- f. <u>Infantry Company:</u> The infantry company consists of a company headquarters, a heavy weapons platoon and three infantry platoons. The heavy weapons platoon consists of 7.62MM HMG's, 60MM mortars and 90MM rocket launchers. Estimated company strength is 160.

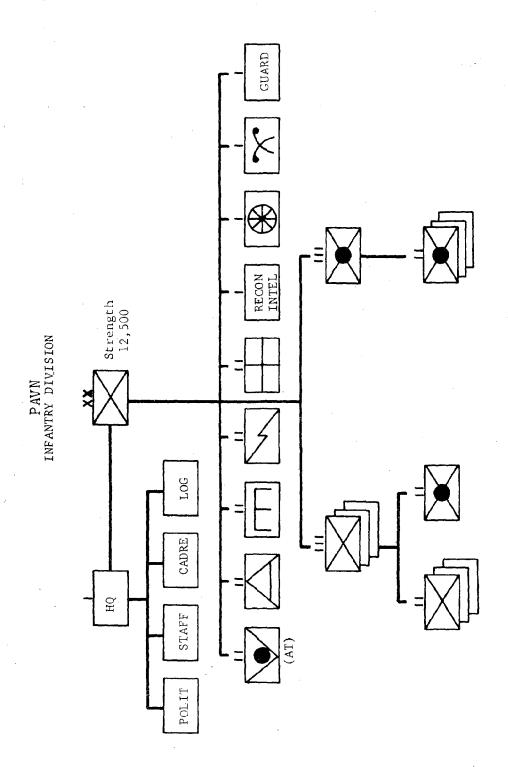
SUMMARY OF REGULAR ARMY COMBAT UNITS

- **6** Infantry Divisions
- 1 Artillery Division
- 1 Antiaircraft Artillery Division
- **8** Infantry Brigades
- 8 🕽 Infantry Regiments
 - 1 Armored Regiment

Total Army Personnel Strength: 226,600

PAVN ORGANIZATION MODELS

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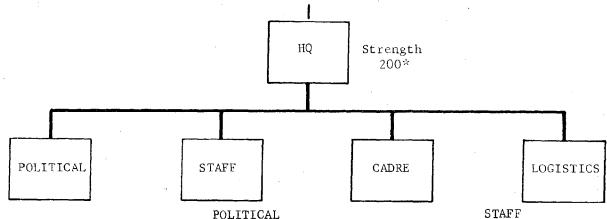
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PAVN HEADQUARTERS COMPANY/INFANTRY DIVISION



PERSONNEL

10% Officers 190* EM

WEAPONS

7.62mm Pistol 20* 7.62mm Carbine) 150* 7.62mm Rifle

7.62mm LMG

7.62mm HMG

VEHICLES

Cargo 4x4 or 6x6 Utility 1/4 ton

SIGNAL

*Unconfirmed

POLITICAL

Party Organization Propaganda & Training of Military Mass Civil Propaganda Party Records Social & Cultural Activities Counter-Subversion

CADRE

Personnel Records Administration Replacement & Training School

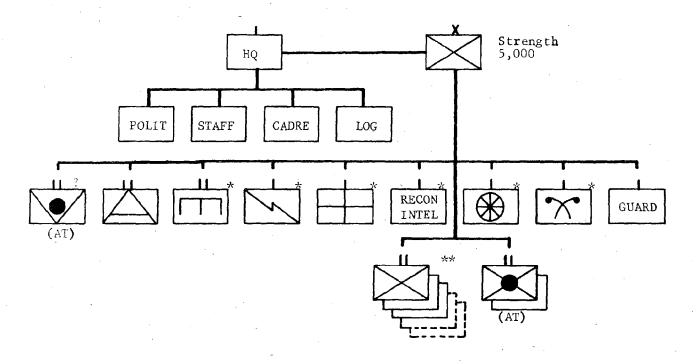
Operations Training Intelligence Reconnaissance Tactics & Strategy Security Signal Engineer

LOGISTICS

Quartermaster Military Equipment Accounting & Management Procurement Ordnance Transportation Medical Chemical

PAVN

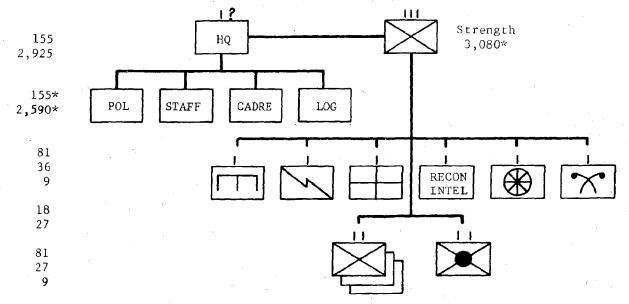
INFANTRY BRIGADE



^{*} Echelon & type confirmed (Composition probably the same as similar element in an infantry regiment).

 $[\]star\star$ A brigade may have from three to five battalions.

PAVN
INFANTRY REGIMENT/INFANTRY DIVISION



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VEHICLES*

Cargo 6x6 or 4x4 15
Utility 1/4 ton 11
Motorcycle

SIGNAL

PERSONNEL*

Officers

7.62mm Pistol

7.62mm Rifle 7.62mm SMG 7.62mm LMG

7.62mm HMG

12.7mm HMG

14.5mm HMG 60mm Mortar

82mm Mortar

120mm Mortar RPG-2 RL (AT)

57mm RR

75mm RR

7.62mm Carbine

EM

WEAPONS

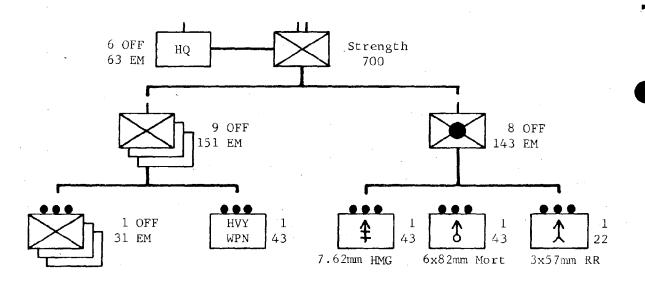
702 Handi-talkie 718 Walkie-talkie 102E 103

ENGINEER EQUIPMENT

*Unconfirmed

TAB-F

PAVN INFANTRY BATTALION / INFANTRY REGIMENT

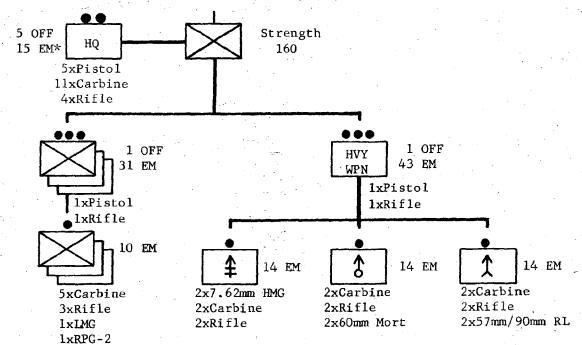


Officers	41
EM	659
WEAPONS	
7.62mm Pistol	41
7.62mm Carbine	244
7.62mm Rifl e	138
7.62mm LMG	27
7.62mm HMG	12
60mm Mortar	6
82mm Mortar	6
RPG-2 RL (AT)	27
57mm RR - ,	9

VEHICLES
Cargo 4x4 or 6x6
Utility 1/4 ton

SIGNAL 702 Handi-talkie 71B Walkie-talkie

PAVN INFANTRY COMPANY / INFANTRY BATTALION / INFANTRY REGIMENT



PERSONNEL	*
Officers	9
EM	151

WEAPONS	
7.62mm Pistol	
7.62mm Carbine	62
7.62mm Rifle	4]
7.62mm LMG	. 9
7.62mm HMG	2
60mm Mortar	2
90mm RL	
RPG-2 RL (AT)	9
5.7mm R.R	2

VEHICLES

Cargo 4x4 or 6x6

Utility 1/4 ton

SIGNAL

^{*}Estimated Strength

EQUIPMENT SUMMARY	(1) # (2) (3) 10	AAA Bn, Inf Engr Bn, Inf Sig Bn, Inf	(8) (6) (8) (7) Wed 8h, Int Div (11) (61) (62) (7 Trans to, Int Div (11) Guard Co., Int Oiv (11) Guard Co., Int Oiv (11) 014	(3 per Div) Hg Co. Inf R Engr Co. Inf		(3) (52) (52) (17) (17) (18) (19) (19) (19) (19) (19) (19) (19) (19	ARTY REGT. INF DIV. (27) (52) (42) (42) (42) (42) (42) (42) (42) (4	(3 per Al
FERSONNEL Officers: Enlisted: TOTAL:		222 380 238 2	20 10 8 5 8 33 150 142 95 116 50 160 150 100 124		65	11 9 8 59 151 143 00 160 151 450	104 1,056 1,160	
SMALL ARMS 7.62mm Pistol (Soviet M-1933/Chicom Type 51) 7.62mm Carbine (Soviet SKS/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm Assault Rifle (Soviet AK-47/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm SMG (Soviet PPSh-41/Chicom Type 50) 7.62mm LMG (Soviet RPD/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm HMG (Soviet SG-43 Goryunov/Chicom Type 53) 12.7mm HMG (Soviet DShX/Chicom Type 54)	20 20 150 X X 180 X X	20 4 300 200 I X X 18	4 4 4 150 X 100 75 X 130 X	155 2,590 X X B B 36 9	13		960	
MORTARS 50mm Mort (Chicom Type 31) 92mm Mort (Soviet M-1987/Chicom copy) 120mm Mort (Soviet M-1943/Chicom copy)	54 81 12			18 27		6 2 6 6 9 X	12	X
ARTILLERY 57mm Gun (Soviet M-1943/Chicom Type 55) 75mm Gun (German PAK-40) 75mm How (US MIA!) 76.2mm Gun (Soviet M-1942/Chicom Type 54) 55mm Field Gun (Soviet D-44/Chicom copy) 105mm How (US M2) 122mm How (Soviet M-1938/Chicom copy) 122mm Gun (Soviet M-1937) or 452mm Gun (Soviet M-1937 (ML 20) POSSIBLE))	X X X 12 12 12 X X 12 X						12 12 X	X X X
RECOILLESS RPG-2 RL (AT) (Soviet RPG-2/Chicom copy) SCmm RL (Chicom Type 51, copy of US 3.5") 57mm RR (Chicom Type 36, copy of US) 75mm RR (Chicom Type 52, copy of US)	81 27			8i. 27		27 9 X 9 2 3		
ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY 14 - 5mm HMG (Soviet ZPU-4) 37mm AA Gun (Soviet M-1939/Chroom Type 55) 57mm AA Gun (Soviet S-60) 85mm AA Gun (Soviet M-1939) '87mm Gun (German M-18, M-36, M-37) 100mm AA Gun (Soviet KS-19)	X 16	16						
YEHICLES 642 51 (4 x 2) 642 63 (4 x 4) 642 678 (4 x 4) 642 678 (4 x 4) 642 46 (4 x 4) (Amphibious) 211 150 (4 x 2) 711 150 (4 x 2) 211 157 (6 x 6) 211 457 (6 x 6) Autorcycle (2 Wheel)	x x 6 2 x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x	2 X X 5 5 X X X X	X X X 2 2 2 X X 10	X 11 11 1 X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X			X 50 X	X 2 X X 15 X
Metercycle (3 Wheel) Labulance LemoRED YEHICLES STR-40 Armored Personnel Carrier SM-76 Support Gun (76mm) PI-75 Amphiblous Tank T-34 Tank (85mm)				***				
SISAAL 702 Handi-Talkie 713 Walkie-Talkie 1002 (Radio) 1003 (Radio) Excar (Fire Control) Excar (EW/SCI) Exchar (Height Finder)								

LESS NO: - Obsolete
X - Equipment types interchangeable and/or mixed

EQUIPMENT SUMMARY		INF BDE per Bde). , INF BDE 8de)?	
	Hy Co. AT Bh. AT Bh. Bh. Bh. Bh. Bh. Bh. Co. Sig Co. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch. Ch	(25) (3 to 5) (43) ARTY BN	
PERSONNEL Officers: Enlisted: TOTAL:	303 8 20 14 15 7 15 10 5 8 8 4 597 192 210 222 331 82 160 150 145 92 116	49 23 802 295 851 318	
SMALL ARMS 7.62mm Pistol (Soviet M-1933/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm Carbing (Soviet SKS/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm Assault Rifle (Soviet AK-47/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm SMG (Soviet PPSh-41/Chicom Type 50) 7.62mm LMG (Soviet RPD/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm LMG (Soviet RPJ/Chicom Type 56) 12.7mm LMG (Soviet SG-43 Goryunov/Chicom Type 53) 12.7mm LMG (Soviet DShK/Chicom Type 54)	81-130* 18-30* X	49 23.	
MORTARS *60mm Mort (Chicom Type 31) 82mm Mort (Soviet M-1937/Chicom copy) 120mm Mort (Soviet M-1943/Chicom copy)	[8-30° [8-30°]	6	
ARTILLERY 57mm Gun (Soviet M-1943/Chicom Type 55) 75mm Gun (German PAK-40) 75mm How (US MIAI) 76.2mm Gun (Soviet M-1942/Chicom Type 54) 85mm Field Gun (Soviet D-44/Chicom copy) 105mm How (US M2) 122mm How (Soviet M-1938/Chicom copy) 122mm Gun (Soviet M-1938/Chicom copy)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	#	
(Soviet M-1937 (ML 20) POSSIBLE)) RECOILLESS RPG-2 RL (AT) (Soviet RPG-2/Chicom.copy) 90mm RL (Chicom Type 51, copy of US 3.5") 57mm RR (Chicom Type 36, copy of US) 75mm RR (Chicom Type, 52, copy of US)	8i = 130° 18-30° 18-30°	27 6 6	
ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY- 14.5mm HMG (Soviet ZPL-4) 37mm AA Gun (Soviet M-1939/Chicom Type 55) 57mm AA Gun (Soviet 8-60) 85mm AA Gun (Soviet 18-1939) - 88mm Gun (German M-18, M-36, M-37) 100mm AA Gun (Soviet KS-19)	X X 16 16		
YEHICLES GAZ 51 (4 x 2) GAZ 63 (4 x 4) GAZ 678 (4 x 4) GAZ 69 (4 x 4) GAZ 69 (4 x 4) GAZ 46 (4 x 4)	2 2 2 30 30 30 30	8.5	
ZIL 150 (4 x 2) ZIL 164 (4 x 2) ZIL 161 (6 x 6) ZIL 157 (6 x 6) ZIL 485 (6 x 6)(Amphibious) Motorcycle (2 Wheel)			
Motorcycle (3 Wheel) Ambulance ARMOREO VEHICLES BTR-UO Armored Personnel Carrier SU-76 Support Gun (76mm.) PI-75 Amphibious Yank			
T-34 [ank (85mm) SIGNAL 702 Mandi-Talkie 719 Walkie-Talkie 1072 (Radio) 103 (Padio)			
Radar (Fire Control) Radar (EW/GCI) Radar (Height Finder) LEGEND: - Upsolete	SPORET OF BRIDE		A E A

^{): -} opsolete x - Equipment types interchangeable and/or mixed SECRET.

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EQUIPMENT SUMMARY	后 ARMORED REGT	Armored Bn	6)	(68) (68) (68) (68) (69) (69) (69) (69) (69) (69) (69) (69	ARTY REGT	Hq Co. Arty	(E ARTY BH, ARTY REGT.	(95) (85) (86) (86) (86) (86) (86) (86) (86) (86	7.50 484 5.00 0000 57 (57)	Guard Co. AAA	65 AAA REGT, AAA DIN	O AAA BH, (HOM) AAA I	9 AAA BH, (Lt) AAA D	(39) (12 TRANS GP	(5 Scty Bn (Coastal)	(9) Sety Bn (APSF)	5 E 5 E (56) (67)	
PERSONNEL Officers: Enlisted: TOTAL:	925	. 21 . 2 250 . 25 271 . 27	0	350 4,150 4,500	1.0	104 096 200		400 5,100 5,500					405	420 5	38 34 62 466 500 500		87 25 1,663 475 1,750 500	
SHALL ARMS 7.62mm Pistol (Soviet M-1933/Chicom Type 51) 7.62mm Pistol (Soviet SKS/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm Assault Rifle (Soviet AK-47/Chicom Type 56) 7.62mm SMG (Soviet PPSh-41/Chicom Type 50) 7.62mm LMG (Soviet PPSh-41/Chicom Type 50) 7.62mm HMG (Soviet SG-43 Goryunov/Chicom Type 53) 12.7mm HMG (Soviet DShK/Chicom Type 54)																		
MORTARS 60mm Mort (Chicom Type 31) 82mm Mort (Soviet M-1937/Chicom copy) 120mm Mort (Soviet M-1943/Chicom copy)												14.						
ARTILLERY 57mm Gun (Soviet M-1943/Chicom Type 55) '75mm Gun (German PAK-40) '75mm How (US MIAI) 76.2mm Gun (Soviet M-1942/Chicom Type 54) 85mm Field Gun (Soviet D-44/Chicom copy) 105mm How (US M2) 122mm How (Soviet M-1948/Chicom copy) 122mm Gun (Soviet M-1938/Chicom copy) 122mm Gun (Soviet M-1937 (MI 20) POSSIBLE))						36 X												
RECOILLESS RPG-2 RL (AT) (Soviet RPG-2/Chicom.copy) 90mm RL (Chicom Type 51, copy of US 3.5") 57mm RR (Chicom Type 36, copy of US) 75mm RR (Chicom Type 52, copy of US)																		
ANTIAIRCRAFI ARTILLERY 14.5mm HMG (Soviet ZPI-4) 37mm AA Gun (Soviet M-1939/Chicom Type 55) 57mm AA Gun (Soviet S-60) 85mm AA Gun (Soviet M-1939) 28mm Gun (German M-18, M-35, M-37) 100mm AA Gun (Soviet KS-19)								X 160 X X			X 32 X X	X 16 X X	X 18					
YEHICLES GAZ 51' (4 x 2) GAZ 63 (4 x 4) GAZ 678 (4 x 4) GAZ 69 (4 x 4) GAZ 46 (4 x 4)(Amphibious) ZIL 150 (4 x 2) ZIL 151 (6 x 6) ZIL 157 (6 x 6) ZIL 155 (6 x 6) ZIL 185 (6 x 6)(Amphibious)									· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					5 X 140				
Motorcycle (2 Wheel) Motorcycle (3 Wheel) Ambulance ARMORED YEHICLES BTR-40 Armored Personnel Carrier SU-76 Support Gun (76mm) PT-76 Amphibious Tank T-34 Tank (85mm)	10 20 60		10 20															
SIGNAL 702 Handi-Talkie 718 Walkie-Talkie 1026 (Radio) 103 (Radio) Radar (Fire Control) Radar (EW/OC!) Radar (Height Finder)																		

⁻ Obsolete X - Equipment types interchangeable and/or mixed: