

A  
FILE / SUBJ.  
DATE / SUB-CAT.  
9/70

<p>1. COUNTRY: VS, RVN MR-1, QUANG NAM PROV</p> <p>2. SUBJECT: (U) Logistics Operations of the 260th Trans Regt</p> <p>3. ISC NUMBER: 735.450      780.000 779.000      787.000</p> <p>4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 9 Sep 70</p> <p>5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: CMIC, SAIGON, VS 3 Jan 71</p> <p>6. EVALUATION: SOURCE <u>F</u> INFORMATION <u>6</u></p> <p>7. SOURCE: PW Interrogation</p>	<p>8. REPORT NUMBER: 6 029 0024 71</p> <p>9. DATE OF REPORT: 11 Jan 71</p> <p>10. NO. OF PAGES: 6</p> <p>11. REFERENCES: DIEM: 1G3z, 1M1, 1M2, 1M6 SICH: U-UPE-UL749</p> <p>12. ORIGINATOR: US Element, CMIC, USMACV</p> <p>13. PREPARED BY: ROBERT L. WILLIAMS SP5, USA</p> <p>14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: <i>[Signature]</i> W. H. BEARDSLEY Dir, US Elm, CMIC</p>
--	---

15. SUMMARY:

(C) This report contains limited information concerning the logistics of the 260th Trans Regt, Rear Service Office, MR-5, to include the supply route, means of transportation, supplies transported, time required for movement of supplies, time schedules, security measures, and load capacity. The 260th Trans Regt transported rice and food supplies to unknown rice caches for unknown purposes.

(Leave Blank)

12.15.16

1. (C) Background Information:

a. Name: TRAN XANG (TRAANL, XANGS) aka TRAN VIET (TRAANL, VIEETV), CMIC 3278-70

b. Rank: None (VC)

c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Oarsman; Mil Staff Sect, Hq, 260th Trans Regt, MR-5

d. DPOB: 1940; HOA HAI Village, HOA VANG District, QUANG NAM Province, RVN

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR      17. DOWNGRADING DATA      18. ATTACHMENT DATA

e. Parents' Names: Father, TRAN NGHIEM (TRAANL, NGHIEMV), deceased; Mother, LUONG THI QUANG (LUOWNG, THIV QANG), deceased

f. Circumstances of Capture. On 9 Sep 70, Source was captured by an unknown US unit in BINH KIEU Village, HIEP DUC District, QUANG TIN Province. Source claimed that he was on his way to rally to the GVN at the time of his capture; he carried no weapons or documents and was captured alone.

g. Significant Activities. After previously serving with the ARVN, Source was drafted by the ARVN in Mar 65; he deserted in Jul 65, and remained at home until Nov 66, at which time the VC drafted Source as a civilian laborer for the QUANG DA Province Unit. Later, Source was assigned to the BAC HAI Group (aka BAC HAI Regt); in Sep 69, this unit was incorporated into the 260th Trans Regt, Rear Service Office, Interregion 5 (MR-5). Source was assigned as an oarsman to the Military Staff Section, Hq, 260th Trans Regt. Source's mission, with two other oarsmen in his cell, was to transport the 2d Co, 3d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, across the TRA LINH River (vic AT828238), while this company was transporting food supplies to a nearby cache. Occasionally, Source assisted with the transportation of the supplies to the cache. On 9 Sep 70, Source was captured in a nearby hamlet; he maintained that he was on his way to rally to the GVN at the time.

h. Additional References: CMIC Exploitation Guide; Map: VIETNAM, AMS Series L7014, Sheets 6539 I, 6540 II, 6640 I, 6640 III, and 6640 IV, Edition 2, dtd 1965, Scale 1:50,000

2. (C) Logistics Operations of the 260th Trans Regt:

a. Supply Routes:

(1) 4th and 6th Companies, 2d Bn. The 260th Trans Regt supply route, to the best of Source's knowledge, began in PHU THANH Hamlet (exact loc unk), located approximately one kilometer east of PHU DIEN Hamlet (BT104478), QUE SON District, QUANG NAM Province, RVN. From PHU THANH Hamlet, food supplies and rice were transported by the 4th and 6th Companies to (vic BTO34426), approximately one and a half kilometers northwest of NGHI SON (1) Hamlet. The 4th, 6th, and 7th Companies, and the Hq, 2d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, were stationed at this location. (Interrogator's Note: Because of Source's lack of knowledge concerning this segment of the supply route, it was not possible to map-track him.) Source recalled passing just south of a small hilltop (vic BTO83490), and a railroad track at an unknown location approximately four kilometers southwest of PHU DIEN Hamlet. He also recalled crossing a stream at an unknown location which descended from the XUYEN TRA Mountain (possibly the KHE GIAU Stream). The route entered the mountain (vic BTO42433), approximately one or two kilometers northwest of the 2d Bn, 260th Trans Regt base camp.

(2) 7th Co, 2d Bn. Food supplies and rice were then transported by the 7th Co, 2d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, to the base camp

(vic AT992387) of the 5th Co, 3d Bn, 260th Trans Regt. This route followed a line in the mountain jungles approximately one kilometer northwest of the lowland rice paddies.

(3) 5th Co, 3d Bn. The 5th Co, 3d Bn, carried food supplies and rice to the base camp of the 1st Co, 3d Bn, 260th Trans Regt (vic AT964369) on the SON KHANH Mountain.

(4) 1st Co, 3d Bn. The 1st Co, 3d Bn, then transported the food supplies and rice to the base camp (vic AT8933) of the 2d Co, 3d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, located approximately one or two kilometers northwest of SON PHUC Mountain (NFI). This route followed the DEO LE Road westward from a location near the SON KHANH Mountain until the road entered the lowland rice paddies at THON (1) Hamlet, SON PHUC (VC) Village. The route continued westward across the rice paddies for approximately two or three kilometers, then entered the mountain jungles and continued to the southwest to the base camp of the 2d Co, 3d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, and the dispensary (designation unknown) near the base camp, subordinate to the 260th Trans Regt. By this time, the rice was completely depleted; the food supplies were carried on from this point by the 2d Co, 3d Bn.

(5) 2d Co, 3d Bn. The 2d Co, 3d Bn, transported the supplies through the mountain jungles in a southwest direction to NHON TRACH Hamlet (vic AT818262), then followed a jungle path on the western bank of the THU BON River. Source and two other oarsmen rowed the men across the river from a point near (AT829239) and took them to Source's hut (vic AT828238). From here, the supply route followed a trail into the jungle in a southwesterly direction for approximately four kilometers and entered a cache located in the grid square (AT8022). Source did not know if any unit retrieved the supplies from this cache.

b. Means of Transportation. The only means of transportation utilized by any of the units subordinate to the 260th Trans Regt was by human porters. Sampans were used at only the river crossing for which Source was responsible.

c. Supplies Transported. Two types of rice were transported; white and brown. The food supplies consisted of the following: salt, sweet powder, canned milk (369g cans, RVN), canned fish (approximately 200g cans, JAPAN), sugar, and rice noodles. No other supplies were transported.

d. Time Distances of Each Leg:

(1) 4th and 6th Companies, 2d Bn. The 4th and 6th Companies, 2d Bn, 260th Trans Regt, left their base camp every evening at 1800 hours and arrived at PHU THANH Hamlet at 2000 hours. After collecting the supplies at the hamlet, the companies returned to the edge of the jungle. If the group arrived by 2230 hours, it continued back to the base camp and arrived around midnight. Otherwise, the group waited just inside the jungle until about 0430 hours when the sky began to lighten, then continued the trip back, arriving about 0600 hours.

(2) 7th Co, 2d Bn. Every morning, the 7th Co set out toward the 5th Co base camp at 0600 hours with the rice and food supplies brought in that morning or the night before by the 4th and 6th Companies. Only half of the supplies were carried by the 7th Co; the rest were stored in caches (NFI) or consumed by the 2d Bn. The 7th Co usually arrived at the 5th Co base camp at about 1000 hours, then immediately began the return trip, arriving back at the base camp at 1230 or 1300 hours.

(3) 5th Co, 3d Bn. Each day, the 5th Co left its base camp at 0600 to carry the supplies (brought the day before by the 7th Co) to the 1st Co. This unit usually arrived at the 1st Co base camp by 0930 and returned by 1200 hours.

(4) 1st Co, 3d Bn. Every second day, the 1st Co left its base camp around 1600 hours with one day's supply of rice and food supplies to be transported to the 2d Co. (One day's supply was left behind at caches.) The 1st Co arrived at THON (1) Hamlet, SON PHUC Village, at 2100 hours and rested at villagers' huts until morning. At 0530 or 0600 hours, the company left the hamlet; the unit arrived at the 2d Co base camp at 0930 or 1000 hours and left the supplies there and also at the small dispensary, subordinate to the 260th Regt, which was located near the 2d Co. The 1st Co rested for a few hours, then began the return trip at 1500 hours. The unit arrived at the THON (1) Hamlet, SON PHUC Village, around 1800 hours and continued on to its base camp, where the company arrived at 2100 hours.

(5) 2d Co, 3d Bn. The 2d Co began its three-day trek every third day at 0600 hours to transport the food supplies to a cache. The men traveled until 1500 hours at which time they arrived at a location in the mountains approximately two kilometers from the THU BON River. The group rested at this place for two hours, then continued on to the THU BON riverbank, where it arrived at 1800 or 1900 hours. By that hour, it was sufficiently dark for the men to cross the river. The river crossing usually took only 20 minutes. The men slept in Source's hut that night, and started out to the cache the next morning at 0600. The men arrived at the cache around 1000 and returned immediately, arriving at Source's hut at 1200 hours. The men then rested all day and night at Source's hut, leaving the next morning to cross the river at 0500 hours. The unit returned to their base camp about 1500 or 1600 hours.

e. Most Frequent Use. The supply route was used most frequently during the dry season; during the rainy season, sometimes it was very difficult to travel through the jungle. In lowland rice paddy areas, the units of the regiment traveled at night to avoid detection. In the jungle, however, it was too difficult to move during the night, so most travel was done during the morning hours.

f. Security. The 1st and 5th Companies, 3d Bn, and the 4th and 6th Companies, 2d Bn, each had about 30 porters during each

supply run and five guards. The guards marched 50 to 100 meters in advance of the porters; each guard was equipped with a modified AK-47 (basic load 90 rounds). Source did not know if the guards were assigned to their respective units. The 7th Co, 2d Bn, had about 25 porters and three or four guards; the 2d Co, 3d Bn had 15 porters and three guards.

g. Load Capacity. For the short treks by the 4th, 6th, and 7th Companies, 2d Bn, and 5th Co, 3d Bn, each individual carried from 25 to 50 (sic) kilograms of supplies, depending upon the individual's strength and health. For the longer marches by the 1st and 2d Companies, 3d Bn, each individual carried from 20 to 40 (sic) kilograms. Source's boat had the capacity to transport 15 men, each with an average of 30 kilograms of supplies.

h. Way Stations. There were no way stations on the supply route. The unit rested at miscellaneous places along the supply route.

i. Base Camps:

(1) 2d Co, 3d Bn. At the base camp of the 2d Co, 3d Bn, there were five or six thatched leaf huts supported by wooden posts. The huts were located from five to 10 meters apart. The smallest of these huts measured approximately (8m x 2m x 3m); the largest measured approximately (10m x 3m x 3m). The huts accommodated from five to 15 men each; these men slept in their individual hammocks. Underneath each hut was an underground shelter covered by tree branches filled in with dirt. The smallest shelter measured approximately (3m x 1m x 1m); the largest measured approximately (5m x 1m x 1.5m). These shelters accommodated from five to 15 men each. Each shelter had a hatchway (inside the hut) which was covered by a board. Inside of each hut at the 2d Co there were one table and one chair. There was also a kitchen hut at the 2d Co; this hut measured approximately (6 or 7m x 2.5m x 3m) and was constructed in the same way as the quarters huts. The HOANG CAM cooking system was utilized. There was no furniture in the kitchen; cooking equipment and supplies were hung on the wooden posts or stored on the ground. There was also a dining hut at the 2d Co which measured approximately (8 or 9m x 3m x 3m). Inside this hut were three dining tables, each with two benches. At the 2d Co was a small stream for water supply. There was also one small latrine pit covered by branches filled in with dirt. There were an unknown number of rice caches at this site (hearsay) (NFI).

(2) 1st Co, 3d Bn. At the base camp of the 1st Co, 3d Bn, all the men slept in rock caves with dirt floors. There were a total of approximately 15 or 20 caves used as quarters; each cave accommodated from two to 10 men. OD green canvas strips were used as siding for the caves, which were very shallow and therefore subject to bad weather. Each cave had wooden posts from which individual hammocks were strung. No furniture was prevalent. One of the caves was utilized as a kitchen; the men dined in their caves. In the kitchen was a HOANG CAM stove. There were also a stream and a latrine pit at the 1st Co base camp.

There were an unknown number of caves located in the vicinity of the 1st Co base camp which stored an unknown quantity of rice (hearsay) (NFI).

(3) Other Units of 260th Trans Bn. All the other base camps of units subordinate to the 260th Trans Regt, except the production area (hearsay) and dispensary, were located in rock caves like the 1st Co. The production area was located in the BA XA area (NFI).

(C) COMMENTS: Source was administered the Cross-Cultural IQ Test and scored Low (7). He was extremely cooperative and appeared to be telling the truth throughout the interrogation. This report partially satisfies requirements of SICR U-UPE-UL749. Collection action continues.