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REPORT ON PLAF BN 916-B -- Aug 1970

SIGB LF B2

UNCLASSIFIED

COMBINED INTELLIGENCE CENTER, VIETNAM
GROUND ORDER OF BATTLE SECTION

P. 7

MACJ231-6-4

~~SIGB 107 INFANTRY BATTALION~~

20 August 1970

UNIT OB SUMMARY

This Unit OB Summary is a synthesis of available collateral intelligence as of this date. Sources used include prisoner of war interrogation reports, captured documents, Intelligence Summaries, and agent reports. The primary purpose of this document is to provide historical information based on in-depth analysis of the capabilities, vulnerabilities, methods of operation, and organization of the subject unit. This summary is considered a working paper and has been produced with maximum emphasis on timeliness and accuracy rather than on details of format and composition. Changes, supplements or updated versions will be published as significant information becomes available.

Comments are encouraged on all aspects of the Unit OB Summary and should be submitted to: U.S. Director, CICV, ATTN: OB Branch, APO 96307.

CLASSIFIED BY _____
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFY ON: 31 Aug 76

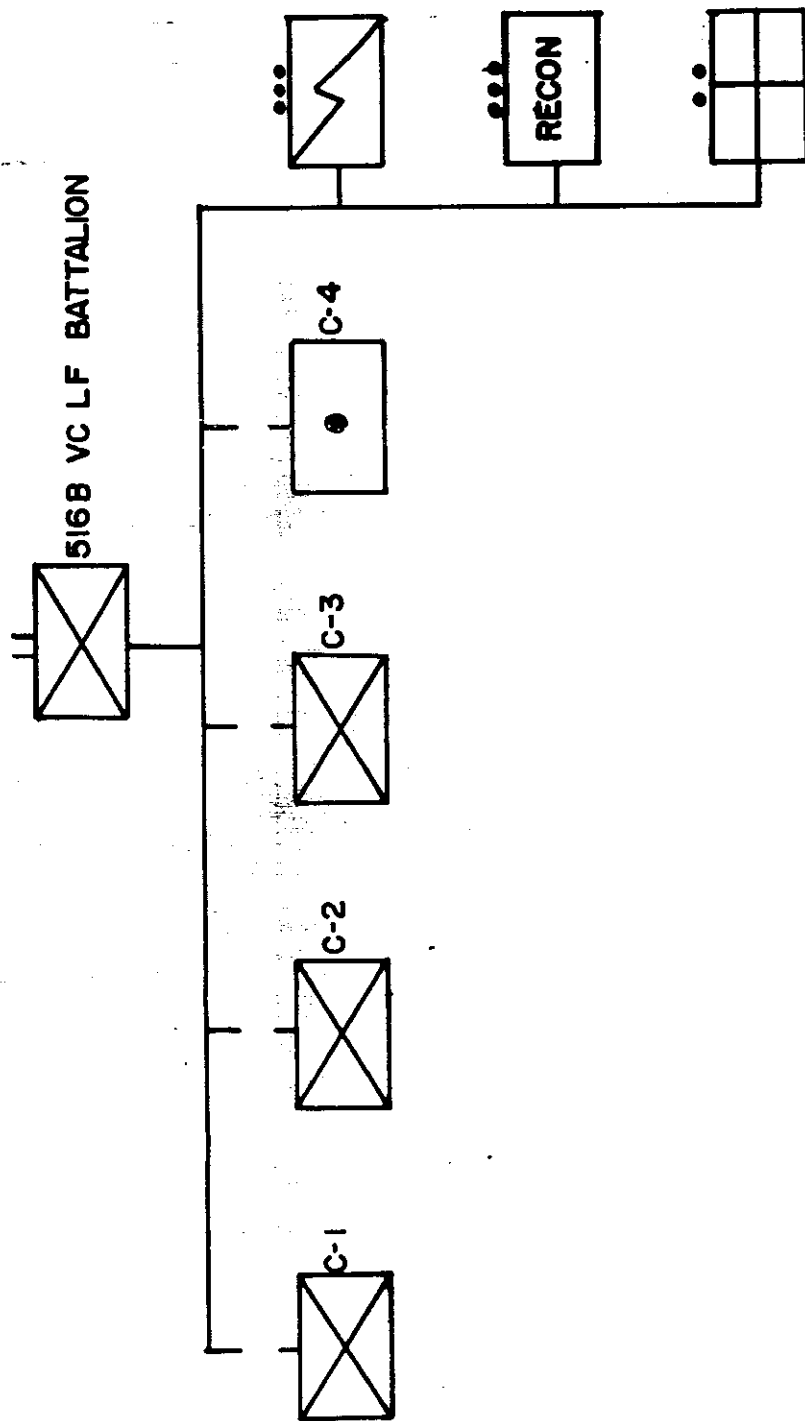
GROUP 4
Downgraded at 3-year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

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Section I: Unit History.

The 516B VC LF Infantry Battalion was formed in November 1968 as a local force battalion of Kien Hoa Province (VC Ben Tre Province). It was formed by combining the Thanh Phu LF Company, the Cho Lach LF Company, and 40 men from the 5th Heavy Weapons Company of the 514A VC MF Battalion. Other members from district and province units were added to these units when the battalion was created. The 516B Battalion is composed of three infantry companies, one weapons company, and three support platoons. It was formerly called the 560th Battalion, but was redesignated the 516B Battalion in January or February 1969.

The first confirmed contact with the 516B Battalion occurred on 23 December 1968 when it was contacted by elements of the US 9th Division.

The battalion was contacted on 25 April 1969 by RF/PF elements. On 23 March 1970 it was again contacted and suffered 18 KIA. A 1 June 1970 B-52 airstrike inflicted 6 KIA and 17 WIA.

The 516B Battalion consists of many personnel who are teenagers or women (the battalion has a strength of 135 men). The battalion also has a history of heavy combat losses whenever it is contacted.

As a local force battalion of Kien Hoa Province, it can operate anywhere in the province; however, it normally operates in Mo Cay, Don Nhon, and Huong My Districts.

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Section II: Tactics, Training, and Mission.

A. Tactics: Unknown.

B. Training: Unknown.

C. Mission. The mission of the 516B VC LF Infantry Battalion is to support local guerrillas, discourage the populace from participating in GVN activities, and provide tactical instruction to local units. In addition, the battalion is tasked with providing the Province Party Committee with military proselyting personnel who work among the populace.

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Section III: Area of Operations, Movements, and Contacts.

A. Area of Operations: As a local force battalion of (GVN) Kien Hoa Province, the 516B Battalion can operate anywhere in the province. Its normal area of operation, however, is Mo Cay, Don Nhon, and Huong My Districts in Kien Hoa Province.

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B. Movements:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
24 Dec 68	XS 380280
20 Feb 69	XS 525364
6 Mar 69	XS 550130
14 Mar 69	XS 545354
28 Mar 69	XS 450390
5 Apr 69	XS 780350
15 Apr 69	XS 530170
22 Apr 69	XS 583256
8 May 69	XS 470120
17 May 69	XS 511160
3 Jun 69	XS 512256
22 Jun 69	XS 480130
5 Jul 69	XS 520180
19 Jul 69	XS 510180
26 Jul 69	XS 420140
2 Aug 69	XS 510180
9 Aug 69	XS 490200
16 Aug 69	XS 440390
23 Aug 69	XS 430160
30 Aug 69	XS 500190
6 Sep 69	XS 500200
13 Sep 69	XS 450180

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B. Movements (cont.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
27 Sep 69	XS 440280
4 Oct 69	XS 430160
11 Oct 69	XS 450140
18 Oct 69	XS 570210
25 Oct 69	XS 570260
1 Nov 69	XS 590260
8 Nov 69	XS 560210
26 Nov 69	XS 584228
13 Dec 69	XS 480180
22 Dec 69	XS 575247
3 Jan 70	XS 570247
10 Jan 70	XS 580180
17 Jan 70	XS 520160
24 Jan 70	XS 570180
31 Jan 70	XS 520220
7 Feb 70	XS 580210
14 Feb 70	XS 590240
21 Feb 70	XS 490220
28 Feb 70	XS 580240
7 Mar 70	XS 570180
14 Mar 70	XS 580240
21 Mar 70	XS 620230
28 Mar 70	XS 500210

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B. Movements (cont.)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
4 Apr 70	XS 440250
11 Apr 70	XS 490190
18 Apr 70	XS 430280
25 Apr 70	XS 500210
2 May 70	XS 491225
9 May 70	XS 500220
23 May 70	XS 499206
30 May 70	XS 500200
6 Jun 70	XS 510200
13 Jun 70	XS 500200
20 Jun 70	XS 500200
27 Jun 70	XS 510210
4 Jul 70	XS 510180
11 Jul 70	XS 500200
25 Jul 70	XS 500200

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C. Contacts:

DATE

- 23 Dec 68 - Elements of the US 9th Division contacted the 516B VC LF Battalion, vicinity XS 400260. Results: Enemy - 30 VC KIA; Friendly - negative.
- 25 Apr 69 - RF and PF elements contacted the 516B VC LF Battalion 18 kilometers west-northwest of Ben Tre City in Kien Hoa Province (vicinity XS 337361). Results: Enemy - 19 VC KIA; Friendly - 29 KIA, 55 WIA, 37 individual and 1 crew-served, and 6 radios lost.
- 18 Jul 69 - Friendly forces engaged elements of the 516B Battalion (vicinity XS 550130). Results: Enemy - unknown; Friendly - negative.
- 23 Feb 70 - A VNMC Battalion made contact with the 516B VC Battalion (vicinity XS 610190). Results: Enemy - 30 KIA; Friendly - negative.
- 26 Mar 70 - An ARVN operation conducted in an area 8 kilometers northeast of Mo Cay District Town (vicinity XS 480270) made contact with the 516B VC Battalion. Results: Enemy - 4 KIA; Friendly - negative.
- 1 Apr 70 - Friendly forces made contact with the 516B VC Battalion (vicinity XS 5112). Results: Enemy - 18 KIA; Friendly - negative.
- 4 May 70 - During a friendly operation conducted in an area 5 kilometers north of Huong My District Town contact was made

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C. Contacts (cont.)

DATE

with the 516B VC LF Battalion. Results: Enemy - unknown;
Friendly - negative.

1 Jun 70 - A US B-52 strike contacted elements of the 516B VC LF In-
fantry Battalion (vicinity XS 5625). Results: Enemy -
6 KIA and 17 WIA; Friendly - negative.

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Section IV: Personnel Strength, Weapons and Equipment.

A. Personnel Strength:

Battalion	135
1st Company	Unk
2nd Company	Unk
3rd Company	Unk
4th Company	Unk
Percent NVA:	3%
Probable Full TO&E:	400

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B. Weapons:

1st Company

6 X RPD MG

2 X B-40

2 X 60mm Mortar

Unk X AK-47

2nd Company

5 X RPD MG

3 X B-40

Unk X AK-47

3rd Company

6 X RPD MG

3 X B-40

Unk X AK-47

4th Company

1 X 82mm Mortar

2 X Kuryon MG

C. Equipment:

2 X CHICOM Radio

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Section V: Combat Effectiveness and Morale.

A. Combat Effectiveness: The 516B VC LF Battalion has many personnel who are less than 17 and many who are women. It is possible that the battalion has received recruits, upgraded from local guerrilla units. They have suffered many casualties in recent contacts and are presently operating at a low level of combat effectiveness.

B. Morale: The men of the battalion are afraid of dying and their morale is low at this time due to frequent airstrikes and the rigors of constant hardships.

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Section VI: Personalities:

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOI</u>
516B VC LF Infantry Battalion			
CO	Nam Thanh	Unk	8 Jun 70
XO	Ba Bung	Unk	8 Jun 70
PO	Tu Kien	Unk	8 Jun 70
COS	Tu Cong	Unk	8 Jun 70
MO	Dan Viet	Unk	8 Jun 70
1st Company			
CO	Muoi Tiet	Unk	8 Jun 70
XO	Sau Vinh	Unk	8 Jun 70
PO	Tan Hung	Unk	8 Jun 70
2nd Company			
CO	Chin Cuong	Unk	8 Jun 70
XO	Minh Viet	Unk	8 Jun 70
PO	Doan Hung	Unk	8 Jun 70
3rd Company			
CO	Thanh Cong	Unk	8 Jun 70
XO	Tan	Unk	8 Jun 70
PO	Hong Dao	Unk	8 Jun 70
4th Company			
CO	Chin Ta	Unk	8 Jun 70
XO	Sau Van	Unk	8 Jun 70
PO	Tu Bao	Unk	8 Jun 70

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Section VI: Personalities (cont.)

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOI</u>
Signal Platoon Leader	Ba Tam	Unk	25 Jun 69
Recon Platoon Leader	Phong	Unk	25 Jun 69
Medical Section Leader	Van Viet	Unk	25 Jun 69

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Section VII: AKA's and LBN's.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LBN</u>	<u>AKA</u>
516B VC LF Infantry Battalion	Unk	D3 D6 560 Z50 D520 D516B 16th 6th