

SRV / AF  
FILE / SUBJ.  
DATE / SUB-CAT.  
4/80

THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF THE PAVN 479 FRONT IN

1. IN EARLY JUNE 1980, THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICE (MIO) (PHONG QUAN BAO) OF PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) FRONT 479 RE-LOCATED FROM SIEM REAP CITY, WHERE IT HAD BEEN COLOCATED WITH THE

HEADQUARTERS OF FRONT 479, TO PHNUM RUMOUOL (NEAR UA178045). (FIELD COMMENT: SEE FTB-25,243, TDFIRDB-314/01739-80, FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON RELOCATION OF ELEMENTS OF FRONT 479, INCLUDING THE 23RD SIGNAL REGIMENT.) THE FRONT 479 MIO CONSISTED OF A TECHNICAL SECTION, AN ENEMY PROSELYTIZING SECTION, A "K" SECTION AND THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION. (FIELD COMMENT: THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHER FRONT 479 MIO ELEMENTS OF WHICH SOURCE WAS NOT AWARE.) THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION RELOCATED ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM ITS FORMER BASE, LOCATED 100 METERS NORTH OF THE SIEM REAP BRIDGE ON THE WEST BANK OF SIEM REAP RIVER, TO PHUM RUMDUOL (NEAR UA178045) WHERE IT COLOCATED WITH FRONT 479 HEADQUARTERS. THE 1ST, 3RD AND 4TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANIES HEADQUARTERS ALSO RELOCATED FROM BASES IN SIEM REAP CITY TO PHUM RUMOUOL, PHUM LIEP (NEAR UA224029) AND THE THREE WAY INTERSECTION ON HIGHWAY 6 IN KRALANH VILLAGE (NEAR UA293025).

2. THE COMMAND STAFF OF FRONT 479 MIO AND ITS SUBORDINATE SECTIONS AND BATTALIONS HAD A STRENGTH OF APPROXIMATELY 165 PEOPLE'S ARMY OF VIETNAM (PAVN) OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS. ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THAT STAFF WERE PAVN OFFICERS FROM THE RANKS OF ASPIRANT TO COLONEL AND THE OTHER 50 PERCENT WERE PAVN ENLISTED MEN. ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE FRONT 479 MIO STAFF WAS FROM THE NORTHERN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV). THE TECHNICAL SECTION (BAN KY THUAT) WITH A TOTAL OF 40 MEN, CONSISTED OF A SIGNAL SUBSECTION AND A MAP SUBSECTION. THE SIGNAL SUBSECTION RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED MESSAGES BETWEEN FRONT 479 MIO AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE/RECONNAISSANCE CELLS OPERATING WITH THE PAVN 75TH, 72ND AND 59TH DIVISIONS. THE MAP SUBSECTION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR PLOTTING THE LOCATIONS OF THAI MILITARY, NON-COMMUNIST KHMER RESISTANCE AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEAN (DK) FORCES IN THE BORDER AREA. THE "ENEMY" PROSELYTIZING SECTION, WITH A STRENGTH OF ABOUT 20 MEN, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECRUITING PENETRATIONS OF THE THAI MILITARY, DK AND OTHER KHMER RESISTANCE FORCES AND FOR ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE MEMBERS OF THOSE FORCES TO DEFECT TO THE PAVN. THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ENEMY PROSELYTIZING SECTION WAS (FNU) T U A N, BORN CIRCA 1942 IN THE SOUTHERN SRV. THE KAMPUCHEA SECTION, WHICH THE FRONT 479 MIO CALLED THE "K" SECTION, HAD A STRENGTH OF 20 MEN. SENIOR CAPTAIN HAI V U, BORN CIRCA 1938 IN THE SOUTHERN SRV, A 1954 REGROUPEE, WAS COMMANDER OF "K" SECTION. THE MISSION OF THE "K" SECTION WAS TO RECRUIT AGENTS AS PENETRATIONS OF PEOPLE'S

REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA (PRK) MILITARY FORCES. THE PRK PENETRATION AGENTS WERE TO MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF PRK UNITS AND PERSONNEL IN THE BORDER AREA. THIS SECTION ALSO PERFORMED UNIDENTIFIED PUBLIC SECURITY MISSIONS IN FRONT 479 OPERATIONS AREAS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF STRENGTH AND CAPABILITY OF PRK/SRV PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES NEAR THE BORDER.

3. THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION WAS DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE

TO THE FRONT 479 MID. THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF THIS BATTALION WAS APPROXIMATELY 30 OFFICERS AND 70 ENLISTED MEN. ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THE PERSONNEL IN THE 47TH BATTALION WERE FROM THE NORTHERN SRV AND ABOUT 20 PERCENT FROM THE SOUTH. THE OFFICERS' RANKS RANGED FROM ASPIRANT TO SENIOR CAPTAIN. THE COMMANDER OF THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION WAS SENIOR CAPTAIN (FNU) T H A N H, BORN CIRCA 1944 IN THE NORTHERN SRV. THE BATTALION EXECUTIVE OFFICER WAS A CAPTAIN (FNU) H O A, BORN CIRCA 1945 IN THE NORTHERN SRV. (FIELD COMMENT: THE STAFF OF THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION INCLUDED ABOUT 10 OTHER PAVN CADRE WHOSE NAMES, RANKS AND POSITIONS WERE UNKNOWN TO THE CORPORAL.) THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION WAS EQUIPPED WITH AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY OF TYPE 54 HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, TYPE 56 LIGHT MACHINE GUNS, M-60 MACHINE GUNS, 57MM AND 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLES, FOLDING STOCK AK-47 RIFLES AND A VARIETY OF U.S. AND CHINESE MANUFACTURED HAND GRENADES.

4. THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION INCLUDED THREE SUBORDINATE COMPANIES, DESIGNATED THE 1ST, 3RD AND 4TH COMPANIES; THE STRENGTH OF EACH OF THESE COMPANIES WAS ABOUT 90 TO 100 OFFICERS AND MEN. APPROXIMATELY 20 MAY 1980, THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION REORGANIZED ALL OF ITS OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL, I.E., THE MEN ASSIGNED TO THE 1ST, 3RD AND 4TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANIES INTO 24 RECONNAISSANCE/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION CELLS. WHILE MEMBERS OF THESE CELLS REMAINED UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPANIES, THESE CELLS WERE DETAILED TO THE 75TH, 72ND AND 59TH PAVN DIVISIONS.

5. THE MISSIONS OF THE RECONNAISSANCE/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CELLS ASSIGNED TO THE PAVN DIVISIONS WERE TO PENETRATE THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE DK AND THE NON-COMMUNIST KHMER RESISTANCE FORCES ALONG THE THAI/KAMPUCHEAN BORDER AND TO CONDUCT CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THAI MILITARY UNITS. THE

FRONT 479 MID ASSIGNED ONE PAVN OFFICER AS LEADER OF EACH RECONNAISSANCE/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CELL. THAT OFFICER ALSO FUNCTIONED AS COSM CLERK AND CELL COMMUNICATOR. THE CELL LEADERS WERE TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED IN RECONNAISSANCE, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS (DAC CONG). EACH CELL WAS EQUIPPED WITH ONE CHINESE-MADE MODEL-81 CONTINUOUS WAVE (CW) TRANSCEIVER FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION AND FRONT 479 MID. THE 75TH, 72ND AND 59TH PAVN DIVISIONS PROVIDED FOOD AND PHYSICAL SECURITY TO THE RECONNAISSANCE/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CELLS WHILE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF OPERATIONS. THOSE DIVISIONS WERE ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE CELLS WITH TACTICAL SITUATION REPORTS ON ALL THE MILITARY FORCES IN THEIR AREAS OF OPERATION AND TO FACILITATE THE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION.

6. PRIOR TO LAUNCHING AN OPERATION, THE RECONNAISSANCE/MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CELLS SET UP TEMPORARY BASES USED AS OPERATIONAL SPRING BOARDS. THE SPRING BOARDS, USUALLY LOCATED IN A SECURE AREA, SERVED AS A TEMPORARY BASE WHERE OPERATIONAL PLANS WERE PREPARED, SUPPLIES WERE RECEIVED AND MESSAGES WERE TRANSMITTED/RECEIVED. NORMALLY THE CELL LEADER REMAINED AT THE SPRINGBOARD DURING OPERATIONS WHICH USUALLY LASTED FROM THREE TO FIVE DAYS. CELL MEMBERS WERE ARMED WITH FOLDING STOCK AK-47 RIFLES AND HAND GRENADES AND USUALLY WORE UNIFORMS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF HOSTILE SOLDIERS IN THE TARGET AREA. THE CELLS MOVED ONLY DURING THE NIGHT AND RESTED IN DAYTIME. THEY CUT FRESH JUNGLE TRAILS DURING EACH MISSION TO AVOID HOSTILE AMBUSHES IN THEIR OPERATIONS AREAS AND WERE UNDER ORDERS TO WITHDRAW QUICKLY FROM ALL MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE "ENEMY." ALL MEMBERS OF THESE CELLS WERE TRAINED AND CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING SPECIAL OPERATIONS AGAINST "ENEMY" TARGETS, BUT WERE ONLY AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT SUCH ATTACKS BY DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE FRONT 479 MID HEADQUARTERS.

7. AT THE CONCLUSION OF EACH MISSION THE CELL LEADER WAS REQUIRED TO REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BY CW TRANSMISSION, THE RESULTS OF THE OPERATION TO FRONT 479 MID HEADQUARTERS. THE OPERATIONAL REPORTS CONCENTRATED ON THE STRENGTH AND DEPLOYMENT OF "ENEMY" UNITS, AND THEIR ACTIVITIES AND MOVEMENTS.

8. ACCORDING TO PAVN PRIVATE (FNU) T H O N G, ASSIGNED TO A RECONNAISSANCE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CELL BASED IN THE SISOPHON AREA, ALL CELL MEMBERS OF THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION RECEIVED FROM SIX TO 12 MONTHS RECONNAISSANCE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING AT THE DONG BAN SPECIAL OPERATIONS RECONNAISSANCE SCHOOL (TRUONG TRINH SAT DAC CONG DONG BAN) IN THE TAN BIEN DISTRICT, TAY NINH PROVINCE SRV. THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THESE UNITS WERE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF PAST RECORDS, FAMILY BIOGRAPHIC DATA, LOYALTY TO THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND HIGH COMBAT SPIRIT. (SOURCE COMMENT: SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE 47TH RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION SAID THAT THONG WAS THE SON OF PAVN MAJOR GENERAL BA T R A N, A HIGH RANKING CADRE OF THE PAVN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.)