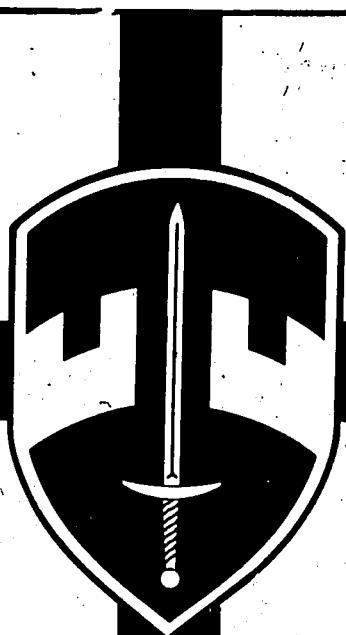


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VCI  
NEWSLETTER II

**VCI FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT DESCRIPTION**

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MACJ233

27 FEB 1969

SUBJECT: Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI) Newsletter 11

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1. Forwarded for your information is the eleventh newsletter concerning the VC political infrastructure. Its purpose is to provide the intelligence community with the latest trends, capabilities, and vulnerabilities of the VCI. The ultimate goal is more effective and timely identification and neutralization of the enemy's infrastructure.
2. This issue supplements the GVN version of Annex F to the BIG MACK Intelligence Collection Program, which is to be promulgated. It provides mission statements and descriptions of each VCI functional element as listed in the Vietnamese version.
3. Subsequent newsletters will be published as new information, trends, and developments warrant. Comments and additional information pertaining to the newsletters should be submitted to HQ MACV J2, ATTN: MACJ233.

1 Incl  
as

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Assistant Chief of Staff, J2

MACJ233

SUBJECT: VCI Newsletter #11, VCI Functional Element Description

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BRIEF

THIS NEWSLETTER SPECIFICALLY DEFINES THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE. ALTHOUGH THE DEFINITIONS OF SOME OF THESE ELEMENTS HAVE APPEARED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS, I.E., CICV NEWSLETTERS #1 AND #10, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS STUDY PARALLELS THAT WHICH IS FOUND IN THE VIETNAMESE VERSION OF ANNEX F TO THE BIG MACK INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION PROGRAM. THIS STUDY IS INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR THE FIELD ELEMENTS AT THE PROVINCE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS COORDINATING CENTER (PIOCC) AND DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS COORDINATING CENTER (DIOCC) LEVELS.

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VCI NEWSLETTER #11: VCI FUNCTIONAL ELEMENT DESCRIPTION

I. PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP).

A. PRP Echelon Executive Committee.

1. The Party Executive Committee is the principal Party management organ. It is responsible for all VC military and political activity at every echelon. The committee is composed of a secretary, deputy secretary (or secretaries), and members who are usually chiefs of important functional sections. The committee secretary is normally the senior member of the Current Affairs Committee at his echelon. The province-level Committee Secretary also serves as a member of the Region Party Committee. The deputy secretary may be the chairman of the NLF Committee if one exists at his echelon.

2. The Central Executive Committee (so-called at COSVN) meets periodically to make broad policy decisions. The Region Party Committee interprets the broad COSVN policy decisions in terms of regional differences or special requirements, passing a somewhat modified or mission-type directive to provinces for action. The Province Committee formulates specific directives for implementing COSVN policies. The District Committee translates these directives into specific actions; thus, it is the indispensable link between COSVN, the Region and Province Committees, and the villages. The Village Committee executes orders received from the District Committee, and exercises final authority over use of village guerrillas. The Village Committee Secretary usually attends Military Affairs Section meetings, and he may concurrently serve as Chief of the Forward Supply Council. All Party Executive Committees report to the Party Executive Committee at the next higher echelon.

B. Current Affairs Committee. This committee conducts the day-to-day business of the Party. It is composed of the elite of the Party Executive Committee and is usually headed by the secretary of the committee. The Current Affairs Committee is usually a small group. At district level and below, it consists of about three members. At province and region levels it usually has five to nine members, and the COSVN Current Affairs Committee has 11 members.

C. Security Section.

1. This section performs intelligence collection, counterintelligence, internal security, and police and judiciary functions. To carry out its responsibilities, it has an extensive network of agents both within and outside of VC-controlled areas. In VC-controlled areas it has a secret informer in each hamlet, and in GVN-controlled or contested areas it maintains resident agents and other clandestine operatives. At district level, this section

investigates enemy intelligence activities and prepares dossiers on GVN civil servants, military personnel, and "reactionary" residents. It also maintains files on district residents who work for the GVN outside of the district, and in liberated areas it maintains jails. The court and detention system administered by this section in VC-controlled areas meets the essential police needs of a community. However, in practice the court and detention system concerns itself mostly with the suppression of opposition and political deviation rather than with resolving civil disputes. This section reports directly to the Security Section at the next higher echelon. Although it generally coordinates its activities with the Party Committee at the same echelon, the Security Section is the only organizational element which may by-pass the local Party Committee in reporting to higher echelons. At COSVN level the following functional subsections have been reported:

- a. The Administration Subsection provides administrative support.
- b. The Internal Security (Political Protection) Subsection performs counterintelligence functions. It has two subordinate elements: the Reconnaissance Element, which is responsible for countering Allied "raids" into VC-controlled areas, primarily by developing and disseminating intelligence about the raiding forces so that other VC units can take action against them; and the Judicial Element (People's Courts), which administers permanent courts in VC-controlled areas.
- c. The Research (Espionage/Intelligence) Subsection prepares forged documentation for individuals. It also prepares documents containing false and misleading information which are intended for discovery by Allied intelligence agencies.
- d. The School Subsection at COSVN and Region level conducts internal security and intelligence training for the Security Section.
- e. The Commo/Liaison Subsection provides the Security Section with its own transportation, message transmission, and interpersonnel contact capability.
- f. The Interrogation/Detention (PW Camps/Jails) Subsection exploits prisoners and administers jails and PW camps.
- g. The Guard (Public Order) Unit provides security for high-level security sections.
- h. The Organic Mobile Unit (Border Defense Public Security Unit) provides border surveillance for the COSVN Security Section.
- i. The Logistics Subsection and Production Subsection provide logistical support for the Security Section.

2. At region level and below, the Security Section may consist of only four major subsections.

a. The Administrative Subsection may include an office staff, a guard element, a training element, a communications element, and a commo-liaison element.

b. The Political Protection Subsection may include an investigation element, an internal security element, and a reconnaissance element.

c. The Espionage Subsection may include a research element, a commo-liaison element, an intelligence element, a secret security element, and an armed reconnaissance element. The armed reconnaissance element is responsible for kidnapping or assassinating Security Section targets in GVN-controlled areas, for capturing documents, and for performing acts of sabotage against GVN and Allied intelligence and security installations.

d. The Legal Affairs Subsection may include an interrogation element, a jail element, and a guard element.

D. Investigation Section. This section is responsible for investigating Party members who have been accused of deviating from Party ideology.

E. Civilian Proselyting Section (AKA Front Section).

1. This section is responsible for creating, and inducing people to join, the mass NFLSVN-affiliated associations which are organized along common-interest lines (occupation, religion, ethnic group). Even after an association has been created, and nominally comes under the authority of the NFLSVN, the Civilian Proselyting Section continues to recruit members for it. It also recruits personnel for enemy military forces. This section is sometimes referred to as the "Front Section" because of its involvement in creating Front associations.

2. This section has nine subsections at COSVN level. As with all other sections, subsections decrease in number and specialization as the echelons descend. The Message Subsection, sometimes referred to as the Headquarters or Correspondence Subsection, handles the administrative functions. There are eight subsections for proselyting among the various exploitable groups: the Religious, Workers', Chinese, Women's, Farmers', Youth, Ethnic Groups, and Intellectual/Miscellaneous Proselyting Subsections.

3. The Civilian Proselyting Section is responsible to the Party Executive Committee at the same echelon and to the Civilian Proselyting Section at the next higher echelon.

F. Military Proselyting Section. The mission of this section is to induce Vietnamese and Allied troops and GVN officials to defect. The optimum aim is to win over an ARVN soldier or GVN official and recruit him in place as an agent to provide information to the Party. Members of this section make direct approaches to ARVN personnel and GVN officials through family arrangements; or attempt to have the family influence the defection. This section attempts to infiltrate intelligence agents into the military and civilian agencies. It also indoctrinates PWs and defectors. It reports to the Party Executive Committee at the same echelon and to the Military Proselyting Section at the next higher level. At COSVN level, this section is composed of seven subsections.

1. The Propaganda Subsection provides technical support to the section. It has five elements: Photo, Press, Information, Leaflet, and Book Elements.

2. The Training Subsection provides training aids and other instructional services for the section. It has two elements: the School Element and the Documents Element.

3. The Prisoner of War Subsection is charged with indoctrinating and winning the support of GVN and Allied PWs. It supervises such activities as inducing prisoners to make self-incriminating statements, to publicly denounce counterinsurgency operations as crimes against the people, and to participate in other types of propaganda activities.

4. The Administration Subsection provides administrative and logistical support. The following eight elements are subordinate to this subsection: Secretarial, Finance, Liaison, Transportation, Mess, Cadre Protection, Medical, and Security.

5. The Fifth Column Subsection supervises the recruiting of fifth columnists of VC supporters within GVN-controlled areas. The Urban Element, Rural Element, and Enemy Installations Element are subordinate to this subsection.

6. The Research Subsection analyzes performance and plans operations for the Military Proselyting Section. The three elements of this subsection are Reports and Analysis, Enemy Installations, and Directive Writing.

7. The Organization Subsection is responsible for maintaining the personnel records of Party members serving in the section and providing a "Party" line of control which parallels the administrative line of control within the section.

G. Propaganda/Indoctrination/Culture Section.

1. The mission of this section is to develop and disseminate highly refined propaganda. In addition to the direct propaganda, it provides for civilian schools in VC-controlled territory to include teachers and textbooks and conducts cultural improvement programs. It also conducts entertainment, both movies and live shows, and forms clubs. This section's activities, particularly the schools and entertainment, are viewed as a normal part of community services usually provided by a civil government. The section produces leaflets and posters and distributes books. The Propaganda/Indoctrination/Culture (PIC) Section is subordinate to the PRP Committee at its echelon and the PIC Section at the next higher echelon.

2. At COSVN level there are 16 subsections subordinate to this section. Logistical and technical support is provided by the Administration Subsection, the Power Plant Element, the Medical Subsection, the Security Squad, and the Communications Subsection. The Liberation Radio Station broadcasts propaganda. The Propaganda (People/Culture) Subsection plans propaganda campaigns around cultural improvement programs. It specializes in indirect, subtle forms of propaganda rather than the direct approach. The Foreign Relations Subsection, at COSVN level, handles propaganda designed to influence foreign opinion. The Psywar/Entertainment Subsection plans the content of, produces, and presents entertainment to both military units and civilian residents of villages and hamlets. The Indoctrination (Training) Subsection plans and manages direct propaganda efforts, such as speeches, village meetings, and the like. The Political (Party) School conducts classes in Marxism-Leninism, Maoism, and revolutionary ideology for Party members, candidates, and prospective members. The Newspaper Subsection is responsible for gathering news items pertaining to local, national, and international Communist affairs and editing or rewriting them as required to conform to VC policy. The subsection publishes bulletins and small newspapers for local consumption. The Motion Picture Subsection travels from place to place with the Psywar/Entertainment Subsection to show movies of US PWs, of VC victories, and similar subjects. The Press (Information) Agency is found only at COSVN level and in some of the regions. It disseminates information on VC victories for national and international consumption and for use at the Paris peace talks. The Printing Subsection responds to needs of the Psywar/Entertainment, Propaganda, and Newspaper Subsections for leaflets, bulletins, and layout work. The Printshop Element and Photo-Offset Printing Element are subordinate to this subsection. The Education Subsection provides administrative and technical support for the VC school system. The subsection obtains textbooks, teachers, and school room space and forces all of the school-age children in VC-controlled villages to attend classes.

H. Finance and Economy Section. This section prepares the annual budget for approval by the Executive Committee. At region level it determines the tax rate; at province level it levies tax quotas on the districts, which in turn determine the amount to be collected from each village. The district

and village levels supervise tax collection. In addition to collecting money and food, this section supervises the allocation of food and war materiel. Bond programs, fund drives, and borrowing schemes are managed by this section. It may also manage local VC business establishments. It operates small war materiel manufacturing centers and food production units. This section reports to the Party Committee at the same echelon and to the Finance and Economy Section at the next higher echelon. There are eight subsections in this section at COSVN level.

1. The Administrative Subsection performs the office management and secretarial functions for the section.

2. The Finance and Statistics Subsection provides the accounting expertise.

3. The Currency Subsection, at COSVN level, is responsible for foreign currency transactions, including acquisition and distribution.

4. The Food Supply and Storage Subsection is responsible for storing food and for creating and assuring the safety of the caches. This subsection is often under the operational control of the Forward Supply Council.

5. The Trade (Commerce) Subsection oversees commercial trade in its area. It selects sites for tax collection points and regulates the flow of goods into and out of VC-controlled areas.

6. The Production Subsection produces food and materiel for use by Local Forces, guerrillas, and members of the VCI organizations.

7. The Transportation Subsection is responsible for the movement of goods. It plans the routes and schedules the time for moves. Porters, who are used to move the goods, are usually supplied by other agencies, such as the Forward Supply Council and the Liberation Youth Association.

8. The School Subsection conducts training in the special business and mechanical skills required by Finance - Economy personnel.

I. Medical (Public Health) Section. This section establishes and maintains hospitals, dispensaries, and medical service teams at all echelons. As part of the "VC governmental organization," it is responsible for providing a semblance of public medical service in each VC-controlled hamlet. This section spends much time treating military casualties. There are eight subsections in the Medical Section at COSVN level.

1. The Administration Subsection keeps medical records and charts, logs patients in and out of hospitals, maintains supply levels, and assures an adequate level of medical personnel.

2. The Hospital and Dispensary Subsection is responsible for physical and technical support of medical plant facilities. It obtains proper sites, builds shelters, issues supplies, and performs routine hospital administrative duties.

3. The Pharmaceutical Subsection obtains drugs and medical supplies through production or via the black market for distribution by the section.

4. The Medical Education Subsection provides printed information and oral lectures to aidmen, technicians, and nurses. It also provides general backup for the military and civil health subsections.

5. The Military Health Subsection insures that hygiene and sanitation programs are initiated and followed within the armed forces.

6. The Civil Health Subsection specializes in preventative medicine and sanitation programs in VC-controlled areas.

7. The Printing Subsection produces printed material on medical topics for use by the populace under VC control as well as by members of the VC military and political organizations.

8. The Protection Subsection provides physical security for the Medical Section.

J. Organization Section. This section keeps detailed records of all VC personnel, especially Party members, in each echelon; it is the only place where lists of all organizations and personnel are kept. It is also aware of who holds what position. Because it is a Communist Party organization, it has the additional responsibility of maintaining Party discipline. It prepares efficiency reports and makes recommendations to the Current Affairs Committee regarding manpower needs and cadre qualifications. It is responsible for developing new Party chapters, and when a Liberation Committee is to be created, this section judges the candidates' credentials by Party standards. There are five subordinate subsections normally found only at COSVN level.

1. The Correspondence Subsection receives reports and handles administrative functions and correspondence.

2. The Personal Affairs Subsection provides food, supplies, allowances, and clothing for personnel within the section.

3. The Plans and Policies Subsection drafts policies concerning political cadre. It includes assignment, promotion, and reward policies.

4. The Party Construction Subsection is tasked with creating and expanding Party chapters.

5. The Cadre Administration Subsection maintains records and statistics on cadre strengths at all echelons and recommends specific promotions and disciplinary actions.

K. Forward Support and Reinforcement Section, Forward Supply Council. This section mobilizes all material resources (food, weapons, and ammunition) and manpower in its area of responsibility. It coordinates activities of Finance and Economy and Military Rear Service Sections which deal with the supplying of military units. It manages civilian laborers, who are frequently obtained through the efforts of Front associations to serve as porters and litter bearers. It manages entry and exit points where supplies are purchased on the open market, then cached for future distribution. The council is staffed jointly by civilian personnel from the Finance/Economy Section and the Security Section and by military personnel from the Rear Service Section. The council reports to the Party Committee at the same echelon and to the Forward Supply Council at the next higher echelon. Two subsections are normally subordinate to the council.

1. The Assault Youth Subsection organizes Assault (or Vanguard) Youth Groups in support of military operations. They usually serve as porters and litter bearers.

2. The Civilian Labor Subsection organizes construction of spike pits, trenches, tunnels, and other combat fortifications.

L. City Affairs Section, Special Action Unit. This section organizes propaganda, proselyting, intelligence collection, and terrorist activities within major cities. It exists where a complete infrastructure organization has not been or cannot be developed.

M. Administrative (Party Office) Section. This section provides administrative support to the Current Affairs Committee. It receives and reviews reports from subordinate echelon agencies and distributes them to the appropriate people. It has two subsections.

1. The Credentials Subsection produces Party ID membership cards.

2. The Correspondence and Radio Communications Subsection receives and transmits messages for the COSVN Administrative Section.

N. Base Area Protection Element (70th Guard Regiment). This element provides protection for COSVN Headquarters.

O. Base Section (Worksite or Production Section). This section grows food to support VC cadre and produces or maintains weapons and ammunition.

P. Political Struggle Section. This section incites and leads "spontaneous" anti-GVN and anti-US demonstrations. At the village level, this section coordinates with the proselyting sections, propaganda and training sections, and mass associations.

### II. NFLSVN AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS OTHER THAN THE PRP.

A. NFLSVN (National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam.) The NFLSVN is the VC organizational contact with the popular masses, both in-country and world-wide. Thus, though there is some representation in the form of a central committee at each echelon, the Front has operational units only at village/hamlet and the national levels, where its contacts are made. Designed to put every Vietnamese citizen in touch with the "true revolution of the oppressed masses," the Front organizes associations for all categories of people; thus, it creates the impression that it represents "the people." Actually, the Front has absolutely no authority independent of the PRP. It merely acts in the Party's name in an attempt to maintain an aura of legality for the Party's activities.

1. The Front Central Committee. The NFLSVN is represented at each echelon by a Front Committee. At COCVN level, this committee actively solicits world favor by endorsing propaganda in its name and by providing representation at "progressive" international gatherings and at the Paris peace talks. At the village/hamlet level, the masses come into daily contact with the Front and are rarely aware that other than "Front" members are involved in the "revolutionary struggle." At all levels, tax receipts, execution orders, proclamations, and any other Party documents for public consumption are always signed and sealed by the Front representative.

2. NFLSVN Secretariat. The NFLSVN Secretariat is the executive body of the Front; it consists of appointees from among the Praesidium members. At COSVN level it speaks for the NFLSVN and provides current guidance down through its own channels. Operational command and control follow PRP channels.

3. Technical Sections. The NFLSVN Technical Sections provide higher echelons with propaganda material and information required to sustain the facade of the Front's legitimacy as the people's representative.

a. The Information/Culture/Indoctrination Section, is responsible for providing material upon which Front propaganda is based.

b. The Foreign Affairs Liaison Section, conducts foreign relations at COSVN level in the name of the NFLSVN.

B. NFLSVN Mass Associations (Organizations, Other than PRP, Affiliated with the NFLSVN).

1. Liberation Youth Association. As the second most important mass organization, the Liberation Youth Association implants the germ of Communism in young people and supplies the manpower pool from which most laborers, guerrillas, and future Party members are drawn. Liberation Youth may be 35 years old, but any "good element" below that age of either sex is eligible for membership. The youth aid the Party in all aspects -- constructing combat villages, proselyting, propagandizing, carrying ammunition, persuading people to pay taxes, holding themselves up for emulation by the people, and fighting.

2. Liberation Women's Association. The Liberation Women's Association is the third most important NFLSVN organization. Its membership is open to all women who are not in the Liberation Youth Association. The women sew NFLSVN flags, sharpen spikes, prepare food and shelter for transient VC troops, and participate in face-to-face struggles with GVN authorities. These struggles may take the form of a near-riot if they are well organized, and they may be mounted to demand anything from a decrease in rice prices, or release of a politically sensitive prisoner, to abolition of conscription.

3. Liberation Peasant (Farmers') Association. The most important Front popular organization is the Liberation Farmers' Association. Its members include the village and hamlet community leaders and all of the male population not involved in the Youth Association. The Farmers' Association Executive Committee is responsible for directing most of the community development and production work. At hamlet level, the committee chairman may be the NFLSVN chairman as well as the Civilian Proselyting Section Chief. The chairman may be a Party member and sit on the Party Executive Committee of his echelon. He responds to the orders of the village Party secretary, which may require him to perform any duty from persuading people to pay their VC taxes to gathering forced labor for duty as porters.

4. The Liberation Workers' Association. The Liberation Workers' Association has been formed to provide a vehicle for organizing city and rural workers who are not farmers or youth. Duties of the executive committee are ostensibly to establish labor unions, organize labor struggle movements, and create labor unrest, but efforts have been weak and only sporadically successful.

5. Nine other mass associations affiliated with the NFLSVN have been identified. They all seek to involve the occupational, religious, ethnic, or solidarity group, identified by the following titles in the Front movement:

- a. South Vietnam Patriotic Buddhists' Association.
- b. Western Highlands People's Autonomy Movement.
- c. South Vietnam Liberation Psywar Entertainment Association.
- d. South Vietnam Patriotic Teachers' Association.
- e. South Vietnam Patriotic Journalist Association.
- f. Former Resistance Members' Association.
- g. Central War Invalids' and Heroes' Association.
- h. Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Association.
- i. Liberation Laborers' Association.

### III. OTHER LIBERATION GROUPS.

A. Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces. The Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces has been structured by the Communists for two purposes: to serve as a unifying body to replace the Front, in conjunction with elected Peoples Councils, in the eventual formulation of a coalition government; and to serve as a catch-all association for intellectuals, students, writers, journalists, teachers, civil servants, white collar workers, businessmen, and other categories of people living in urban areas. The movement to form alliances has been weak and notably unsuccessful to date. The national leaders of the alliance have been tried and sentenced to death in absentia, leaving would-be participants wary. Several legal, political alliances with similar names have been formed in Saigon and elsewhere, adding to the confusion in names and movement goals.

B. People's Liberation Councils. People's Liberation Councils are the "elected" bodies which the VC are attempting to create as the vanguard of their long-promised establishment of a legitimate government. As such, the councils often have replaced the Front committees and have been administering mass association resources wherever they have been created. The general procedure is to elect the Liberation councils at hamlet level first. These hamlet council members become delegates to a village convention and elect a Village Council from among the hamlet delegates. The Village People's Liberation Council (numbering 15 to 35 members, depending upon the size of the village) elects the Village Liberation Committee (see IIIC below) from among its members. The Village Liberation Committee then appoints each hamlet Liberation Committee from among the members of the Hamlet Liberation Councils. Since the People's Liberation Councils and Committees are controlled by the Party apparatus, they represent another PRP attempt to exercise population control under the guise of democratic elections of "legitimate" local government.

C. People's Liberation Committees. Directives from COSVN clearly state that the People's Liberation Committee mission is to intensify the well-known three-pronged attack: the military struggle, the political struggle, and military proselyting. The various standing committee branches (security, military affairs, finance and economy, information, and civil affairs) will generally be headed by the Party members who are already heads of these sections in the PRP organization. Normally, basic policies will continue to be made by PRP members who will obtain "approval" for the policies from the Liberation Council which will then have the policies implemented by the Liberation Committee. Guidance from PRP experts will be "offered" to Liberation Committee members at every echelon. Liberation Councils and Committees have been formed sparsely at region through district level and heavily at village and hamlet level.