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1. COUNTRY:	CB	9. REPORT NUMBER:	6 029 0701 69
2. SUBJECT:	(U) K-23 VC/NVA Hospital, KATUM area, CAMBODIA	9. DATE OF REPORT:	26 June 69
3. ISC NUMBER:	271.000 752.000	10. NO. OF PAGES:	4
4. DATE OF INFORMATION:	Nov 68 to Apr 69	11. REFERENCES:	DIRM: 441b(2), 1K4b SICR: U-UPB-U1538 BLACKBEARD ICP
5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ:	CMIC, SAIGON, VS 19 Jun 69	12. ORIGINATOR:	US Element, CMIC, USMACV LUBOMIR KONIK SP6, USA
6. EVALUATION: SOURCE	INFORMATION	13. PREPARED BY:	<i>George T. Gabelia</i>
7. SOURCE:	PW Interrogation	14. APPROVING AUTHORITY:	GEORGE T. GABELIA LTC, USA Dir, US EIA, CMIC

15. SUMMARY:

(C) This report contains limited information pertaining to the K-23 VC/NVA Hospital located in the KATUM area of CAMBODIA (exact location unk); including overall mission, approx capacity, sections, types of employees, obtaining and preparation of food rations and a general description of the hospital area. THIS REPORT PARTIALLY SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF BLACKBEARD ICP (BTA UNKNOWN).

1. (C) Background Information:

- a. Name: LUU DINH HOAN (LUWU, DINHL HOANL), CMIC No 2630
- b. Rank: PVT
- c. Position and Unit of Assignment: Soldier; 5th Sqd, 2d Plat, 2d Co, Z-10 Sapper Bn, 3d Regt, subordinate to WS-9.
- d. DPOB: 27 Nov 50; VU THUAN Vil, VU TIEN Dist, THAI BINH Prov, NVN

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18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

None

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OPNAV FORM 3420 (Rev 10-60),
37 FORM 115, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE
USED UNTIL 1 JAN 69

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Parents' Names: Father: LUU DINH QUYEN (LUU, DINH QUYEN), living;
Mother: THI NHAN (HUI, THIV NHANR), living

c. Circumstances of Capture. Source was captured on 12 May 69, by an unidentified ARVN unit, in TRI TON Dist, CHAU DOC Prov, RVN. His unit, the Sapper Bn, had moved into TRI TON Dist, CHAU DOC Prov, to attack the combined US-ARVN Airbase and Training Center of CHI LANG. While the unit was moving into the attack position, source sprained his ankle and was left behind to await the unit's return but was spotted by an ARVN unit and captured.

d. Significant Activities: Source was born on 27 Nov 50, in VI THUAN Vil, VU TIEN Dist, THAI BINH Prov of NVN; he remained at his POB until Feb 68 when he was drafted into the NVA. Source received seven years of schooling at his POB. On 26 Feb 68, he was drafted into the NVA and assigned for basic combat and infiltration training with the 8th Sqd, 3d Plat, 4th Co (C-4), 518th Inf Bn, 4th Regt, 350th Div. The 518th Inf Bn received its training in YEN BAI, LAM GIANG, HA BAC and YEN THU Provinces, NVN. The reason for the moves of the training areas to other locations was to avoid detection by aerial observation and airstrikes by US aircraft. Source's unit completed training on 11 May 68 and began infiltration on 18 May 68. Prior to departure, the members of the unit received a seven day leave; source stated that only cadre members were authorized to depart from the training area. All other members received a seven day rest period in the training area. An order received from the 350th Div headquarters (hearsay information) stated that no enlisted members would be allowed to depart the training area (in order to prevent possible desertions). The 518th Inf Bn (aka 2037th Infil Gp), departed the training area on foot, on 18 May 68, traveling through THAI BINH, NAM HA, NINH BINH, THANH HOA, HA TINH and QUANG BINH Provinces of NVN. After reaching the TRUONG SON Mountain chain (NVN-LAOS border), the unit's designation was changed from the 518th Inf Bn to the 2037th Infil Gp. The 2037th Infil Gp infiltrated through LAOS and CAMBODIA, reaching the regrouping area located in vicinity of Comme-liaison Station No 9, near the CAMBODIA-RVN border, on 3 Nov 68, (exact location unk). After three days, source contracted malaria and was taken to the K-23 NVA/VC Hospital, located in the KATUM area of CAMBODIA, where he remained from 11 Nov 68 to 11 Apr 69. After his discharge from the hospital, source returned to the regrouping area and was assigned to 5th Sqd, 2d Plat, 2d Co, Z-10 Sapper Bn (VC), operating from its base camp in CAMBODIA. Source could not locate the base camp on the map. The camp was in a jungle area, located approx 40 minutes march from the VAM CO DONG River. Source remained with the Z-10 Sapper Bn until the date of his capture on 12 May 69.

e. Additional References: CMIC Exploitation Guide; previous report from same source: CMIC IR 6 029 0692 69.

2. (C) The K-23 NVA/VC Hospital in KATUM area, CAMBODIA:

a. Facilities. The hospital was composed of approx 50 wooden frame (bamboo) structures (each having a packed dirt floor). The frames were covered with a green colored nylon waterproof material placed on top of the frames forming a roof. The sides of the structures were open. Source stated that the structures were of various sizes. Each held from nine to 15 patients resting on hammocks, slung between two rows of posts. The structures were approx 150 meters apart, situated at random, in a dense jungle area.

b. Location. Source stated that the hospital site was approx 400 meters from the Cambodian village known as SOC SAU. The village had an approx population of 200. When asked why he assumed that he was in CAMBODIA, source stated that he had visited that village on several occasions to purchase some additional food items and cigarettes at the village market. The people there speak a different language, and source had to use Cambodian currency to pay for the items which he had purchased.

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AND DA FORM 896, 1 AUG 66 WHICH
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Composition: The hospital was divided into three main sections. Each section had its own messhall, cooks and medical personnel. Source stated that the 14 buildings comprised one section. The sections were as follows:

- (1) Malaria Section
- (2) Wounded Section
- (3) Recuperation Section

In addition, several buildings were occupied by patients with other diseases (unk to source).

d. Capacities of the Sections: Source estimated that the hospital could handle approx 650 patients. Approx 500 patients were treated at this facility during his last few weeks there. All of the patients there were either VC or NVA soldiers.

(1) Malaria Section. This was the largest section, comprised of 17 buildings which were all filled to capacity. Approx 250 malaria patients were treated at the facility at the same time source received his treatment. The patients were from infiltrating units and from units operating in the RVN, both NVA and VC.

(2) Wounded Section. Source estimated that approx 180 wounded patients were being treated at the facility. The patients were from VC and NVA units operating in the RVN (details unk).

(3) Recuperation Section. Source estimated that approx 40 to 60 patients were recuperating after an illness or wounds. They normally left this section after approx two weeks and returned to their units of assignment, or were reassigned to new units operating in the RVN and units operating from CAMBODIA.

e. Mission. Source could give no exact mission, but he stated that the hospital was receiving patients from infiltrating units traveling through CAMBODIA. It also cared for wounded and malaria cases from NVA/VC units operating in certain areas of the RVN (details unk).

f. Personnel. Each section had two doctors. One of the doctors was the head of the section, and the other was an assistant. In addition, each section had several medical technicians, many medics, and both male and female aid men. Source was unable to provide the number of each type of personnel because they worked in shifts, and he had no personal contact with the majority of them. All personnel working at the hospital were Vietnamese, and members of the NVA or VC. No civilians were employed at the hospital to source's knowledge.

g. Personalities. Source identified the following personnel from the K-23 NVA/VC Hospital, Malaria Section:

Chief: Dr NHIEU (NHIEUR), approx 45 years old, 55 kilograms in weight, South Vietnamese

Asst Chief: Dr HOA (HOA), approx 28 years old, 1.65 meters tall, 53 kilograms in weight, light complexion, South Vietnamese

PO: SOAN BA, (XOAN BA), approx 42 years old, 1.60 meters tall, 45 kilograms in weight, gray hair, medium complexion, South Vietnamese

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REPLACES DA FORM 104-1, 1 AUG 66,
AND DA FORM 100, 1 AUG 60 WHICH
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i. Treatment of Malaria Cases. Source stated that the following treatment was given to malaria patients at the K-23 hospital:

One vitamin injection on a daily basis (B1 and B12)

Two quinine injections daily

Plasma was given if the patient was in a critical condition.

j. Rations/Daily Diet. The hospital was allotted 20 Cambodian rials per day per patient. All food was purchased on the local market by the hospital's rear service section (details unk). Each section received its rations from the hospital headquarters, and each was responsible for the preparation of its section's food. The food was prepared by cooks employed in each section's messhall. Three meals were served each day. All ambulatory patients ate in the messhall; all other patients received their food served in their wards by nurses and aid men. The meals consisted of rice (700 grams per day), buffalo meat, beef or fish, and fresh vegetables. Source stated that there was no shortage of food, but that the quality of rice was from fair to poor.

k. Return of Patients to NVN. Source stated that patients who suffered incurable diseases and critically wounded patients who had lost the use of their limbs were returned to NVN. Source was unable to provide details. He only knew that several patients were waiting for transportation while he was recuperating. There was no special transportation available. The returning patients were put aboard trucks returning to NVN.

l. Disposal of Deceased Personnel. Source heard that all deceased personnel were buried in the RVN. The cemeteries were located along the CAMBODIA- RVN border. Each grave was marked with the individual's name, POB, and date when he was buried. The information was inscribed on two rocks which were placed at the head and at the foot of each grave. The graves were inspected by special teams who were responsible for maintaining records of them. After a period of approx two years, the graves were reopened, and the skeleton was removed. All bones were placed in a bag which was tagged with the deceased's name and his POB. The bag was then sent to the deceased's nearest relatives in NVN. After the body's arrival in NVN, the skeleton received a burial service according to the religion of the deceased. Source did not know how the remains were transported to NVN. Source stated that this policy has been in effect since the start of the war. It was the North Vietnamese Communist Party Policy to maintain this ritual so as not to adversely affect the morale of the troops. Source stated that during his stay at the hospital, several patients died and were taken to a cemetery located in the RVN. He could not give any locations.

(C) COMMENTS: Source was extremely cooperative and appeared to be sincere in his desire to answer all questions. This report partially satisfies the requirements of SICR: U-UPE-U1538. Collection action continues.

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