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(Classification and Control Markings)

1. COUNTRY: Republic of Vietnam (RVN)

2. SUBJECT: VIET CONG (VC) - Viet Cong (U)
Initial Results of VC Prisoner Interrogation, Tan Son Nhut AB Attack (U)

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11. PREPARED BY: SA VALMORE D. CRETE JR

12. APPROVED AUTHORITY: DANIEL J. TAYLOR JR, Colonel, USAF
Commander

13. SOURCE: VNAF Office of Investigations
Saigon, RVN

13. SUMMARY:

1. (C) Initial interrogation of three Viet Cong (VC) prisoners captured during the 4 December 1966 attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base revealed that the unit members were first told of the plan two days prior to the attack. The units started out from the vicinity of XS670910 and moved to Tan Hoa Village (vic XS701970), rested for approximately 18 hours, departing for Tan Son Nhut Air Base at approximately 1900 hours, 3 December 1966. The planned target was the aircraft parking area on the base. The group consisted of three platoons, two support and one assault. The assault platoon had penetrated the base and was at the end of the runway when they were observed by a vehicle with a searchlight.

2. (C) The following is the identification and results of the initial interrogation of the three Viet Cong (VC) who were wounded and captured during the VC assault on Tan Son Nhut Air Base on 4 December 1966:

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Nguyen van SAI, aka Nguyen van DUNG; Nguyen van THANH, born 1948 at Vinh Loc, Tan Binh, Gia Dinh Province. Son of Nguyen van TE and Nguyen thi XE (deceased). SAI was a member of squad 2, platoon 2, Company I, Battalion 6. He was a member of the support unit during the attack.

Le van GAN, aka MINH, born 1943 at An Phu, Binh Chanh, Gia Dinh Province. Son of Le van MANG and Lai thi HAI. GAN was a member of squad 2, platoon 1, Company CI, Battalion 6. He was a member of the support group during the attack.

Nguyen van TU, aka NHO, born 1949 at Vuon Thom, son of Nguyen GIOI and Huynh thi NO. TU was a member of squad 2, platoon 2, unit V6. He was a member of the assault group during the attack.

3. (C) Members of the attacking force were informed of the impending attack against Tan Son Nhut AB two days prior to the attack. They were briefed on the attack plans by the platoon leaders and instructions were given to include "sand table studies" and a briefing on obstacles to be expected. They were told that the attack was being made to prove that the Viet Cong are winning and to heighten the morale of VC soldiers and cadres. Their target was the aircraft parking area of the base flightline.

a. The platoons left the Nga Ba Ly Van Manh area (vic XS670910) at different times between 1800 and 1900 hours, 2 December 1966. They arrived at Tan Hoa Village (vic XS701970) between 2400 hours, 2 December and 0300 hours, 3 December and rested until approximately 1900 hours, 3 December at which time they departed for Tan Son Nhut AB, arriving at approximately 2400 hours, 3 December 1966.

b. Platoons 1 and 2 of Battalion 6, consisting of 36 and 22 men respectively, were designated as support units. Platoon 2 of unit V6, consisting of 34 men, including two fence cutters and two mine handlers, was the assault group. Upon arrival at the base perimeter, the assault group cut through three barbed wire fences and gained entry to the base. Once inside the base they advanced toward their target, the base aircraft parking area. At the end of the runway they were observed by a vehicle with a searchlight and they started firing. A small number of men from the support units followed the assault group onto the base.

c. GAN and SAI were captured approximately 100 meters inside the perimeter fence. TU was captured about 100 meters from the traffic light on the runway.

d. The planned escape route for the infiltrators was the same as that used for entry onto the base. The prisoners stated that the group was not assisted by anyone on the base such as guards, VC agents etc. They had no knowledge of any pre-assault information collected concerning the base or how it was collected. They had no knowledge of any future planned attacks on US or GVN installations.

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4. (C) The following information concerning identities of VC involved in the attack was furnished by the prisoners:

HIEP: Platoon Leader, Battalion 6
 NAM: Asst Platoon Leader
 SAI, DONG, THANH, CONG, CHINH, TAM: Platoon members.

TU KHINH: Platoon Leader, Battalion 6
 SON: Squad Leader
 SAN, BUU, HAC, NGOC, BE, GAN, GIOI, DUNG, TAN, TRUNG, BEN:
 Platoon members

TU PHI: Platoon Leader, Unit V6
 HAI HOANG: Squad Leader
 TU, aka NHO, LOI, KIET, BE, HAY NHO, ROI, DANH, GIAO, DI:
 Platoon members.

COMMENTS OF THE APPROVING OFFICER:

(C) The Nga Ba Ly Van Manh area mentioned in the above report is located approximately 18 kilometers southwest of Tan Son Nhut Air Base and is considered a Viet Cong stronghold. Tan Hoa Village is approximately 10 kilometers west of the base. A report of this series dated 30 November 1966 indicated that two VC platoons in the area of Tan Hoa were assigned a mission to make plans for the shelling of Tan Son Nhut AB.

(C) Files of this headquarters reflect no previous information concerning the individuals identified above with the exception of Nguyen van SAI, aka: Nguyen van DUNG. A report of this series dated 24 November 1965 reflects that one Nguyen van DUNG (nfi) was responsible for escorting recruits to VC training centers in the areas mentioned in connection with the 4 December 1966 attack.

(C) Interrogation of the prisoners is continuing and additional information developed will be reported.


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