

K-7008

[Redacted]

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25X1

RIVER CROSSINGS, ROUTE 23
BAN PAK PHA NANG AREA, LAOS
1723N 10544E

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARDS J-9979, J-9562, AND J-1368 FOR COMPARISON)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD REVEALS THE CONTINUING EFFORT BY PL/PAVN FORCES IN LAOS TO MAINTAIN TRAFFICABILITY ON ROUTE 23.

2. REMARKS:

COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT THE PORTION OF ROUTE 23 SOUTH OF ROUTE 12 IS APPARENTLY A MAJOR ROUTE FOR THE TRANSPORTING OF VIET CONG SUPPLIES AND SOME TROOPS TOWARD THE INFILTRATION ROUTES INTO SOUTH VIETNAM, AND FOR SUPPORT OF PL/PAVN FORCES IN SOUTH CENTRAL LAOS.

3. MISSION READOUT:

[Redacted]

REVEALS THE FOLLOWING

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INFORMATION REGARDING ROUTE 23 IN LAOS:

A. A LOG BRIDGE OVER THE SE BANG FAI (RIVER) AT BAN PAK PHA NANG (1723N 10544E) HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY AIRSTRIKES. NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO REPAIR THE BRIDGE OR FORD THE RIVER AT THIS POINT.

B. A PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY-PASS ROAD AND BRIDGE WITH AN ADJACENT FORD (1726N 10542E) HAS BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED BY RECENT AIRSTRIKES. THE NORTHERN APPROACH TO THE BRIDGE AND FORD HAS BEEN INTERDICTED AND IS IMPASSABLE. NO

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ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE.

- C. A SECOND NEWLY-IDENTIFIED, ACTIVE, BY-PASS ROAD, PARTIALLY CONCEALED BY HEAVY TREE COVER, IS OBSERVED BRANCHING FROM ROUTE 23 AT 1724N 10544E (*UTM WE 788243), NORTHWEST TO UTM WE 772254. THE ROAD THEN TURNS SOUTH, UTILIZING A FORD TO CROSS THE SE BANG FAI (RIVER) AT 1724N 10543E (UTM WE 770252), TO A JUNCTION WITH THE ALIGNMENT OF A PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY-PASS ROAD AT UTM 770250.
- D. A NEWLY-IDENTIFIED, ACTIVE, BY-PASS ROAD, PARTIALLY CONCEALED BY HEAVY TREE COVER, IS NOTED BRANCHING FROM THE ORIGINAL ALIGNMENT OF ROUTE 23 AT 1724N 10544E, EAST TO A FERRY ON THE SE BANG FAI (RIVER) AT 1723N 10544E (UTM WE 792237), THEN SOUTHWEST TO A CAMOUFLAGED BRIDGE AT 1723N 10544E (UTM WE 782227) CROSSING THE NAM PHA NANG (RIVER) TO A JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 23 AT 1723N 10543E.

*UTM COORDINATES FROM AMS SERIES L7012, SHEET 6163 III.

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RIVER CROSSINGS, ROUTE 23 BAN PAK PHA NANG AREA, LAOS 17-23N 105-44E

