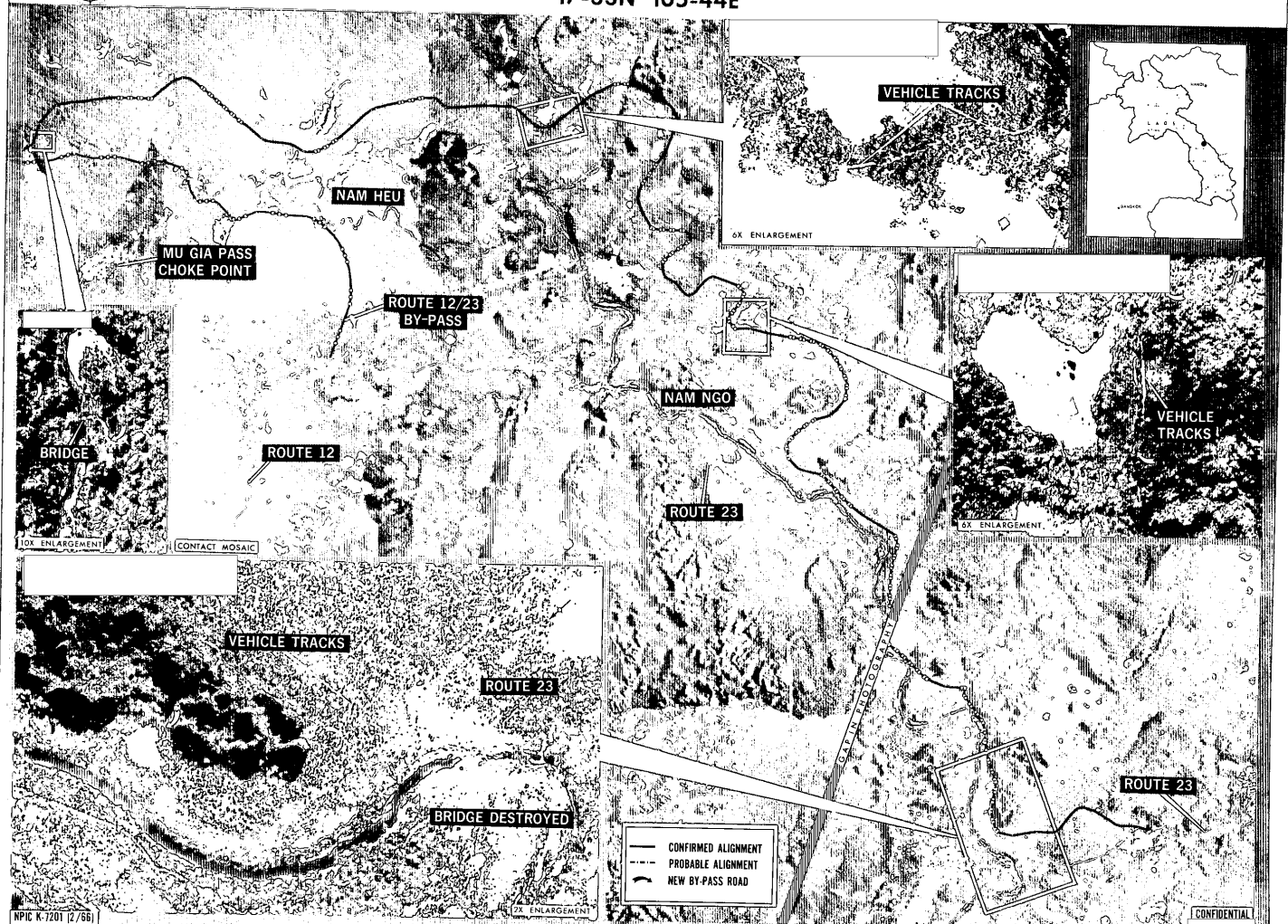


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NEW BY-PASS ROAD MU GIA PASS AREA, LAOS 17-33N 105-44E

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K-7201

NPIC/CMD-30/66
2 FEBRUARY 1966
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NEW BY-PASS ROAD
MU GIA PASS AREA, LAOS
1733N 10544E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS A NEW BY-PASS ROAD IN THE MU GIA PASS AREA OF LAOS.

2. REMARKS:

THE MU GIA PASS AREA OF ROUTE 12, NEAR THE NORTH VIETNAM/LAOS BORDER, IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR POINT OF ENTRY INTO LAOS FROM NORTH VIETNAM FOR THE TRANSSHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES TO COMMUNIST OPERATIONS IN LAOS AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL REPORTS THAT THE MU GIA PASS AREA, AND PARTICULARLY THE MU GIA PASS CHOKE POINT, HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO NUMEROUS AIR STRIKES SINCE FEBRUARY 1965, BLOCKING TRAFFIC BY BOMB DAMAGE AND RESULTING LANDSLIDES. EXTENSIVE REPAIR ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT TO KEEP THE ROAD SERVICE-ABLE BY FILLING IN BOMB CRATERS, CLEARING DEBRIS, AND MAKING SMALL BY-PASSES AROUND INTERDICTION POINTS AFTER EACH AIR STRIKE. A NEW ROAD (ROUTE 12/23 BY-PASS) HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED 0.5 NM FROM THE NORTH VIETNAM BORDER, BY-PASS-ING ROUTE 12 AND THE MU GIA PASS CHOKE POINT, AND TERMINATING AT ROUTE 23, JUST SOUTH OF THE JUNCTION OF ROUTES 12 AND 23. (SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD K-7006).

4. MISSION READOUT:

These notes have been prepared for briefing purposes only and should not be used for detailed analytical work. Their use should be restricted to the particular briefing board(s) they were prepared for and must be considered valid only for the reporting period as indicated by the date of issue.

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1966, REVEAL A NEW BY-PASS ROAD IN THE MU GIA PASS AREA, LAOS. THE NEW ROAD EXTENDS FROM ROUTE 12/23 BY-PASS AT 1736N 10544E (UTM WE795461) TO 1736N 10545E (UTM WE797460); THEN GENERALLY SOUTH-SOUTHEAST TO 1732N 10545E (UTM WE812386); THEN WEST TO 1731N 10544E (UTM WE788379); THEN SOUTH TO 1730N 10544E (UTM WE789362); THEN WEST TO 1730N 10544E (UTM WE778362); THEN GENERALLY SOUTHWEST, FOLLOWING THE KARST HILL LINE, TO 1729N 10542E (UTM WE748335); THEN GENERALLY SOUTH, JOINING ROUTE 23 AT 1728N 10542E (UTM WE752319). SEGMENTS OF THE BY-PASS ARE OBSCURED BY HEAVY TREE COVER AND/OR SHADOW FROM THE KARST HILLS; HOWEVER, FRESH VEHICLE TRACKS ARE OBSERVED INTERMITTENTLY ALONG ITS ENTIRE LENGTH ON TROJAN HORSE DICK 8, 18 JANUARY 1966. (THESE TRACKS ARE NOT OBSERVED ON PHOTOGRAPHY OF [REDACTED])

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THE BY-PASS UTILIZES A WOODEN DECK-TYPE BRIDGE OVER THE NAM HEU (STREAM) AT 1736N 10545E (UTM WE797460) AND A PROBABLE BRIDGE OVER THE NAM NGO (STREAM) AT 1732N 10545E (UTM WE811392).

THIS NEW ROAD COMPLETES A BY-PASS NETWORK WHICH CIRCUMVENTS THE VULNERABLE SEGMENTS OF ROUTES 12 AND 23 AT THE MU GIA PASS CHOKE POINT, ROUTE 12/23 INTERSECTION, THE BAN LANG KHANG MILITARY AREA [REDACTED] THE BAN LANG KHANG STRONGPOINT [REDACTED], BAN PHAN HOP AIRFIELD [REDACTED] [REDACTED], AND BAN SENG PHAN HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER NAM NGO [REDACTED]

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(UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L7012, SHEETS 6163 I, 6163 III, AND 6163 IV).

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