

LIB & Congress
Ref 461

Date: 18 August 1970

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 8-70-1

1. INSTALLATION: BA VI Possible PW Camp, N-13

2.

3. LOCATION : 21-06-05N 105-25-05E

4. This installation is located on the north side of Route #213, 3.8 NM northeast of the peak of Mt. BA VI and 24.5 NM west-northwest of Hanoi. The Xom Ap Lo PW Camp, N-51 (BE 0616-01631), is located 5.3 NM to the northwest and the Son Tay PW Camp, N-69 (BE 0616-04929) is located 5.3 NM to the northeast.

5. Area "A", the possible PW compound, occupies an area approximately . The compound is reportedly surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, however, low precludes confirmation. Area "B", to the south of the compound and , is a possible messing facility believed to be associated with the PW compound. Area "C", on the south side of Route 213, is a possible Veterinary/Dairy Farm.

6. is an oblique view of the facility taken on 19 July 1970, 24 days after the briefing board . The general appearance of the buildings and grounds and the change in position of the three vehicles (annotation 15) in the indicate this installation is currently active.

7. This installation agrees most favorably in location and description with a U.S. PW compound reportedly observed during the period February 1966 to March 1968. Source of the report stated that the installation was the "MOZEN" (MO CHEN) coffee plantation until 1958 when it was converted to a detention facility for captured French mercenaries. In 1962, the French mercenaries were allegedly repatriated and/or released to work on North Vietnamese farms. In mid-1965, the installation was reportedly activated as a PW camp for captured U.S. pilots. Other sources have reported the observation of a U.S. PW camp

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in this general vicinity during the period January 1966 to January 1969. Although it is believed that this installation may have been a U.S. PW camp during that period, its current status and occupancy cannot be verified.

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Date: 23 February 1967

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 3-67-7

INSTALLATION: Ap Lo Possible PW Detention Installation N-51

LOCATION : 21 09 07N 105 20 28E

GENERAL : The installation is located approximately 7 statute miles south of the junction of the RED and BLACK Rivers; 2.75 statute miles southwest of the dam located at 21 10N 105 23E and .5 statute miles north of the AP LO Village.

The installation consists of two walled compounds and what appears to be a group of support-type buildings. The most northerly compound is about ^{DATA} with a guard tower at the northwest and southeast corners and a guard shack outside the southwest corner. The entrance is centered in the west wall. Outside of the compound, and built into the southeast corner of the wall, there is a small, walled area, which contains a building, ^{DATA}. Inside the compound there are 2 walls which connect to the east and west outer walls and divide the compound into 3 areas. Each area contains 3 buildings. Unconnected, blast-type walls separate one building from another.

The other walled compound, just southwest of the above, is about ^{DATA}. It has a guard tower at the northwest and southeast corners and one entrance centered in the east wall. A segregated area, ^{DATA}, located in the northeast corner of this compound contains one building about ^{DATA}. The rest of the compound is open and contains 4 buildings, 2 ^{DATA}.

Seven buildings which appear to be support-type, are located 75 to 100 yards south of the most northerly compound and east of the smaller walled compound. A trench system surrounds all of this area except one building which appears to be a mess hall.

^{DATA}

Date: 24 January 1968

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 1-68-23

1. INSTALLATION: Xom Ap Lo Ammunition Storage and PW Camp,
N-51

2. *DATA*

3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E

4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously
issued Briefing Board No. 3-67-7.

5. This installation is confirmed as a detention area
holding U.S. PWs.

6. *METHOD* 11
November 1965 and 29 August 1967, reveals previously
unconnected blast-type walls running north/south through Area
"A" have now been connected to the east/west walls thereby
completely isolating each building in the compound.

ate: 23 March 1970

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NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 3-70-3

1. INSTALLATION: Xom Ap Lo PW Camp, N-51

2. *09-00*

3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E

4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously issued Briefing Boards, (BB) No. 3-67-7 and 1-68-23.

5. In January 1967, this installation was initially identified as a possible PW camp from fragmentary information that a detention facility for captured U.S. personnel was located approximately 65 kilometers west of Hanoi. At that time, this installation was being maintained in the Basic Encyclopedia (BE) as an inactive ammunition storage facility. With the confirmation of this installation as a PW camp for U.S. PWs, in April 1967, the facility was reactivated in the BE as Xom Ap Lo Ammunition Storage and PW Camp, N-51

METHOD resulted in the conclusion that the facility was no longer used for ammunition storage and that category was deleted from the BE and the name of the installation was changed, as shown in paragraph 1, above.

6. The installation was confirmed as an operational PW camp in 1965. Later reports indicated that it may have been abandoned in early 1967. Recent information indicates the camp was reactivated in late 1968. Photography tends to substantiate these reported changes in the status of this facility:

a. Highly reliable reports received in early 1967 confirmed this facility was being utilized as an active U.S. PW camp as early as the fall of 1965. *METHOD* of November 1965 (BB No. 3-67-7) reveals the installation operational with trails and grounds around the buildings cleared of vegetation.

b. In mid-1967, it was reported that all U.S. PWs at Xom Ap Lo allegedly were moved into Hanoi. In addition, the U.S. PWs released in August 1969 reported rumors that an unidentified

PW camp, about 40 miles west of Hanoi, was closed in February 1967. Although not confirmed, the unidentified PW camp they referred to may have been Xom Ap Lo. Photography of August 1967 (BB No. 1-68-23) reveals a substantial decrease in activity at Xom Ap Lo with trails and grounds around buildings overgrown with vegetation.

c. In late 1969, reliable sources reported U.S. PWs were being detained in an unidentified camp in the vicinity of Xom Ap Lo. ^{in 1969} of 1969, used for this briefing board, reveals the installation again operational with trails and grounds cleared of vegetation and new construction evident since August 1967.

7. (S) In view of the above, this installation is now being carried as a currently active camp for U.S. PWs.

8. (S) Description:

General: The installation covers an ^{DATA} in the western part of Ha Tay Province. Xom Ap Lo, 0.5 NM to the south, is the nearest identifiable village and Son Tay, the administrative center for Ha Tay Province, is 9.5 NM due east. Prominent landmarks in the vicinity of the camp are Mt. Ba Vi (alt. 4,300 ft.) 6.0 NM to the south, the Black River, 2.5 NM to the west and a large, unidentified dam, 2.0 NM to the east. The camp consists of two walled compounds and a number of support facilities; the information listed below is keyed to the annotations on the briefing board:

a. Area "A": This area contains a walled compound, about ^{DATA} with a guard tower at its southeast and northwest corners. Inner walls divide the compound into 9 squares giving it the appearance of a "tick-tack-toe" board. Each square contains a single building. Outside the southeast corner of the compound, there is a small walled area containing a single building. A small thatched roof building surrounded by a fence is just off the center of the east wall.

b. Area "B": This walled compound is about ^{DATA} with a guard tower at its southeast and northwest corners. Inside the compound, two areas have been segregated by inner walls - one, in the northeast corner, and the second, along the north wall, each contains one building.

c. Area "C": This area contains support and quarters-type buildings which apparently are used by the camp cadre. Additional evidence of increased activity at this facility is the new construction noted since 29 August 1967 (BB No. 1-68-23):

- (1) Buildings annotated "1" were first noted on
of 20 October 1968 (Mission GS S69).
METHUEN
- (2) Buildings annotated "2" were first noted on
of 27 January 1969 (Mission GS S103).
METHUEN
- (3) Buildings annotated "3" and the dam "4" were first
noted or METHUEN used for this briefing board.

Date: 7 February 1972

NORTH VIETNAM
BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. 8-71-857

1. INSTALLATION: XOM AP LO PW Camp, N-51
2. DATA
3. LOCATION : 21 09 08N 105 20 31E
4. This briefing board updates and supplements previously issued Briefing Boards No. 3-70-3, 1-68-23, and 3-67-7.
5. In January 1967, this installation was initially identified as a possible PW camp from ~~MCNHC~~ information that a detention facility for captured U.S. personnel was located approximately 65 kilometers from HANOI. Highly reliable reports received in 1967 confirmed that this installation was being utilized as an active U.S. PW Camp as early as the fall of 1965.
6. The installation appears to have reacted to the SON TAY SAR effort of 21 Nov 70. A few days after the SON TAY SAR effort, ~~MCNHC~~ revealed newly constructed perimeter defenses, i.e., fighting trenches and Automatic Weapons positions, around Xom Ap Lo, while no such construction was noted around other military facilities. It is reasoned that HANOI was taking steps to thwart other possible SAR efforts to rescue U.S. PWs.
7. The eight fence-enclosed areas located around the small pond in the southern part of the installation have been constructed since September 1970. This and the construction in progress in Area B, in addition to the trails and grounds around the buildings which are cleared of vegetation reveal that the installation is still operational.

21 December 1972

NORTH VIETNAM
PHOTO INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING NOTES
ON
BRIEFING BOARD NO. DI-8-72-759

1. INSTALLATION: LAO CAI POSSIBLE PW CAMP, N-80

2.

3. COORDINATES : 22 29 58N 103 58 49E

4. This installation is located .5 kilometers from the Chinese border and one kilometer east of Lao Cai City.

5. The compound is approximately 400 x 300 feet, surrounded by a wall with a single entrance centered in the western wall. Two guard towers provide surveillance of the detention areas.

6. The installation is operational with two possible PW quarters and seven support/storage buildings located within the compound walls. In addition, cadre billets and support type buildings are located in the immediate area outside the southern and western walls. The facility is in an isolated location and is surrounded by rice fields and scattered villages. The camp has an approximate capacity for 60 prisoners.

7. Several hearsay reports have stated that a U.S. prisoner of war camp was located in the Lao Cai area. The physical security barriers, the isolated location and the interior containment walls segregating the possible PW quarters indicate this is a maximum security detention compound. Although the facility is currently operational, its occupancy by U.S. PWs cannot be determined.

8. Queries and/or comments on this product should be directed to DIA, Attention: DI-6C.