History of the Armed Forces



of the Republic of Vietnam 1952-1975

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES



Army



Bộ TTM



Regional Forces



Popular Forces



Self-Defense Forces



Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG)

LỰC LƯỢNG TỔNG TRỪ BỊ
GENERAL RESERVE FORCES



Biệt Động Quân



Lực Lượng Đặc Biệt



Liên Đoàn 81 BCD



Strategic Technical Directorate



Air Force



Hải Quân



Sư Đoàn TQLC



Bộ Phòng Vệ Duyên Hải

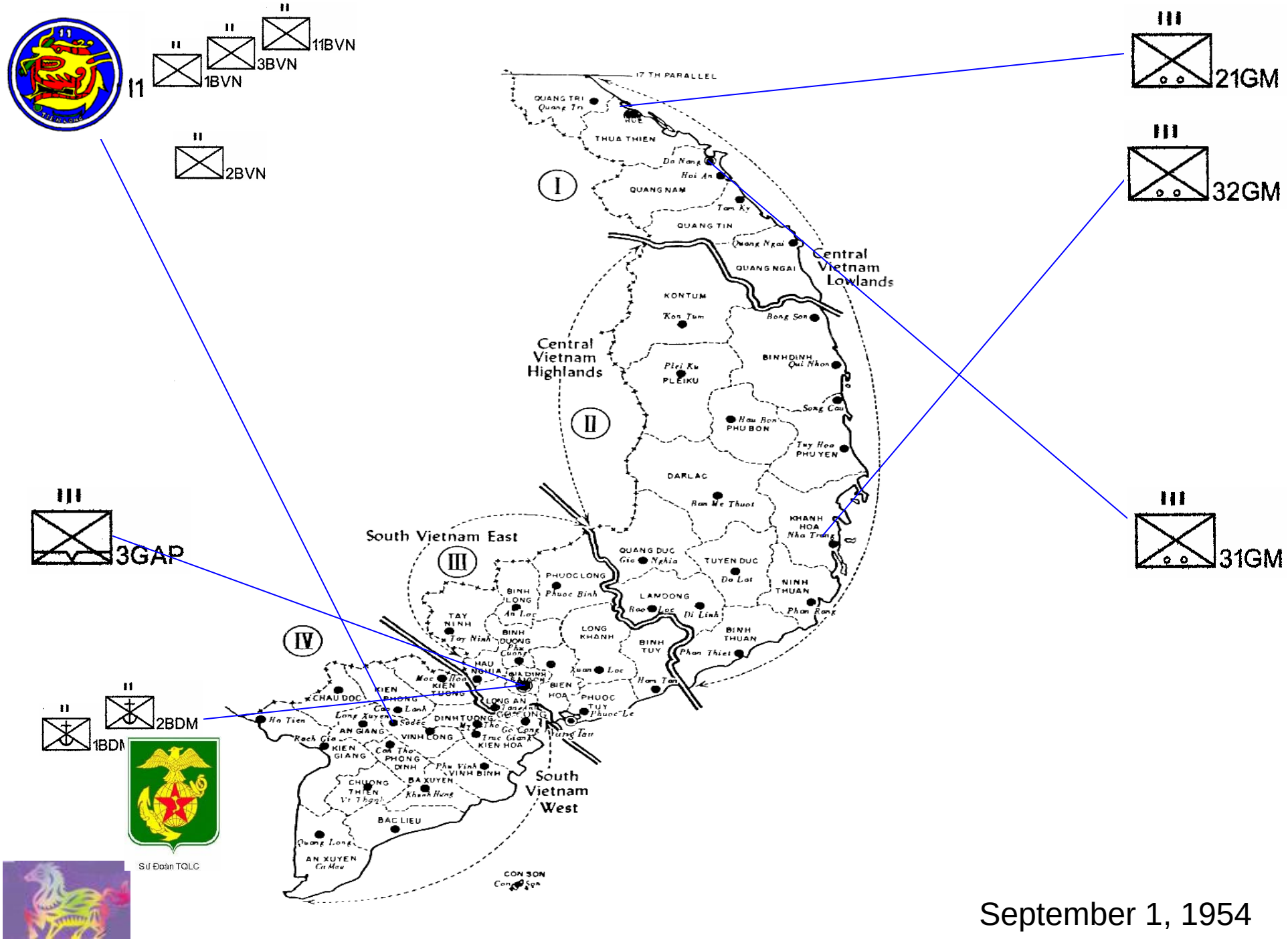


T. Cảnh sát

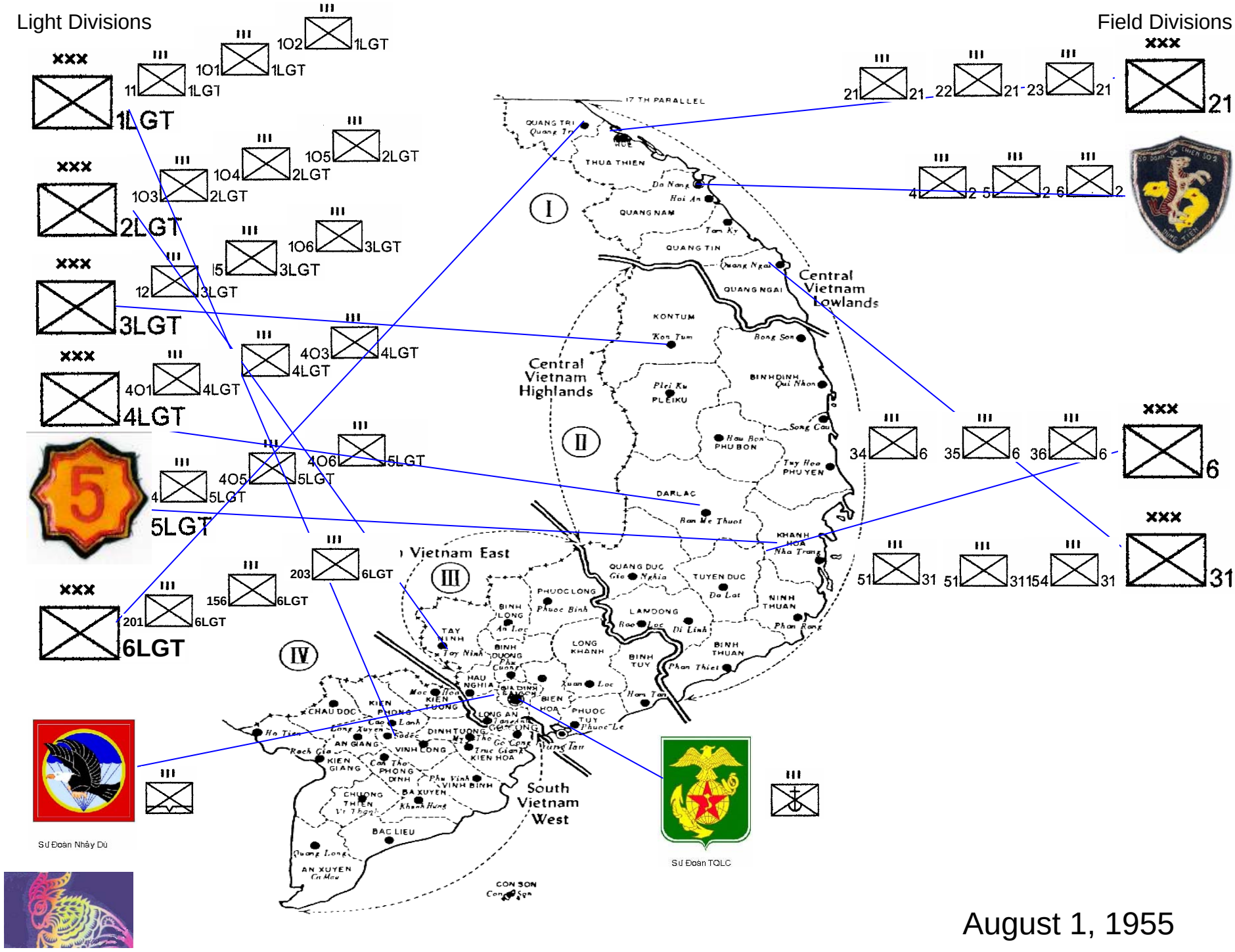
[Bao Dai] was not at all satisfied with program of building up Viet Army. At start, it had been thought necessary to pay Viet soldiers on same scale as French. This was utterly beyond financial abilities of Vietnam over any extended period and, in effect, considering Viet standards, soldiers were overpaid. Army as it now stood was luxury. There wld be resistance, of course, to lowering pay scales but he felt sure that mil wld accept cut. Because of high pay and also because of lack of officers and non-coms, there had been no net increase in Franco-Viet Forces. To be sure, Fr Union Forces had turned over to natl army large number of battalions previously directly paid by French, but of regular 40 Viet battalions only one and one-half battalions were new additional units. He wld ask Fr to accept larger number of Viet officers for year's training in France, but for considerable time to come it wld be necessary for Fr provide officers and non-coms for bulk of Viet Forces. He suggested that Viet battalion units were too light-staffed in accordance with European standards but in excess of local requirements. It wld be sufficient to have one company officer and few non-coms for most Viet companies.

[DDE Vol XIII Doc. 129]





September 1, 1954


Light Divisions
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QUANG TRI
THUA THIEN
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Da Nang
Hoi An
QUANG NAM
Tam Ky
QUANG TIN
Quang Ngai
QUANG NGAI
Central Vietnam Lowlands
KONTUM
Kon Tum
Bong Son
Central Vietnam Highlands
Pleiku
PLEIKU
BINH DINH
Qui Nhon
Song Cau
Hau Bon
PHU BON
Tuy Hoa
PHU YEN
DARLAC
Ban Me Thuot
KHANH HOA
Nha Trang
Vietnam East
QUANG DUC
Gia Nghia
TUYEN DUC
Da Lat
NINH THUAN
Phan Rang
PHUOC LONG
Phuoc Binh
BINH LONG
An Loc
LAMDONG
Bao Loc
Di Linh
TAY NINH
Tay Ninh
BINH DUONG
Phu Cuong
LONG KHANH
BINH TUY
BINH THUAN
Phan Thiet
HAU NGHIA
Tri Dinh
BIEN HOA
PHUOC TUY
Phuoc Le
Xuan Loc
Ham Tan
CHAU DOC
KIEN PHONG
KIEN TUONG
Moc Hoa
Cao Lanh
LONG AN
Tan An
Cho Lon
Go Cong
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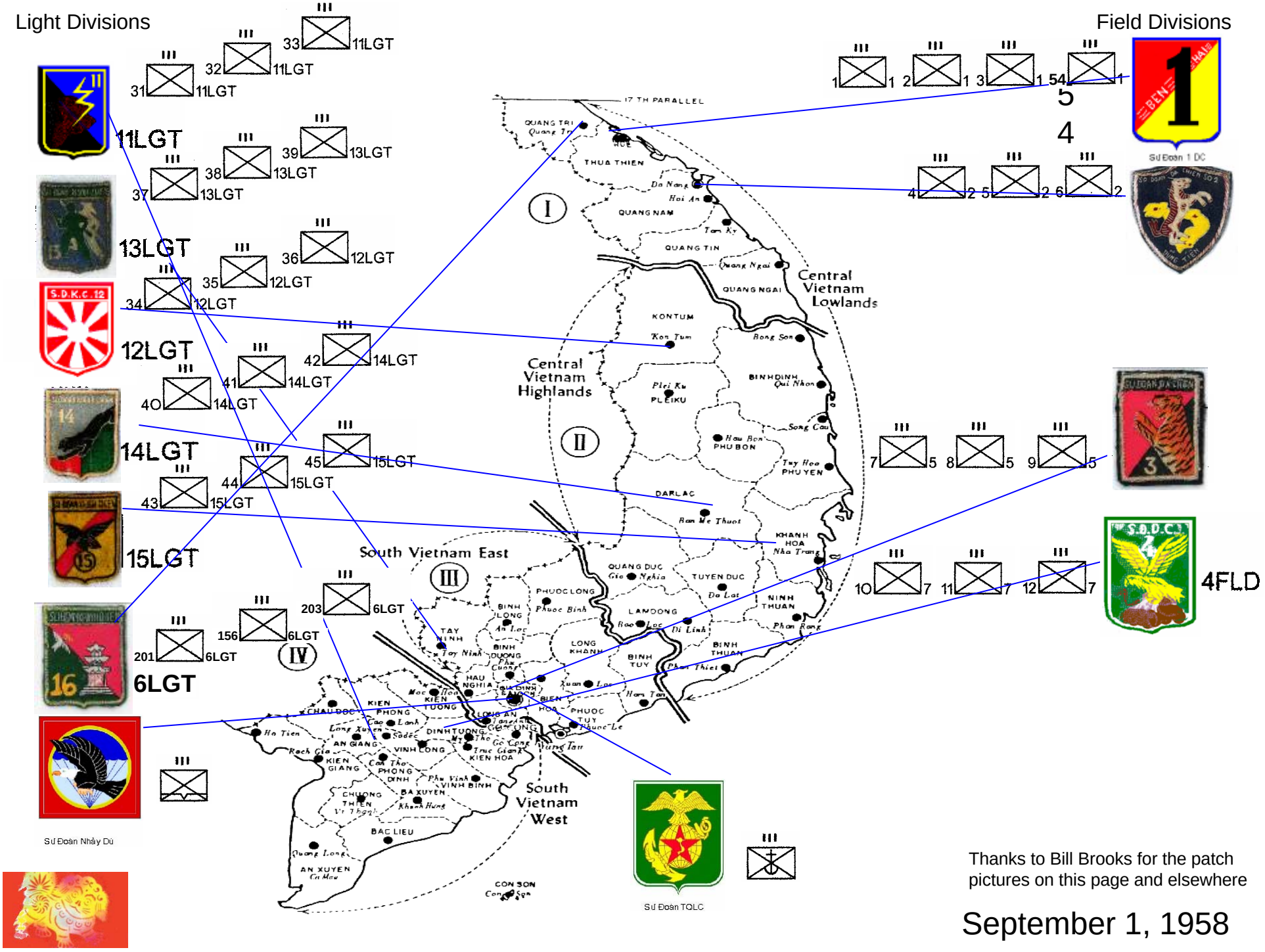
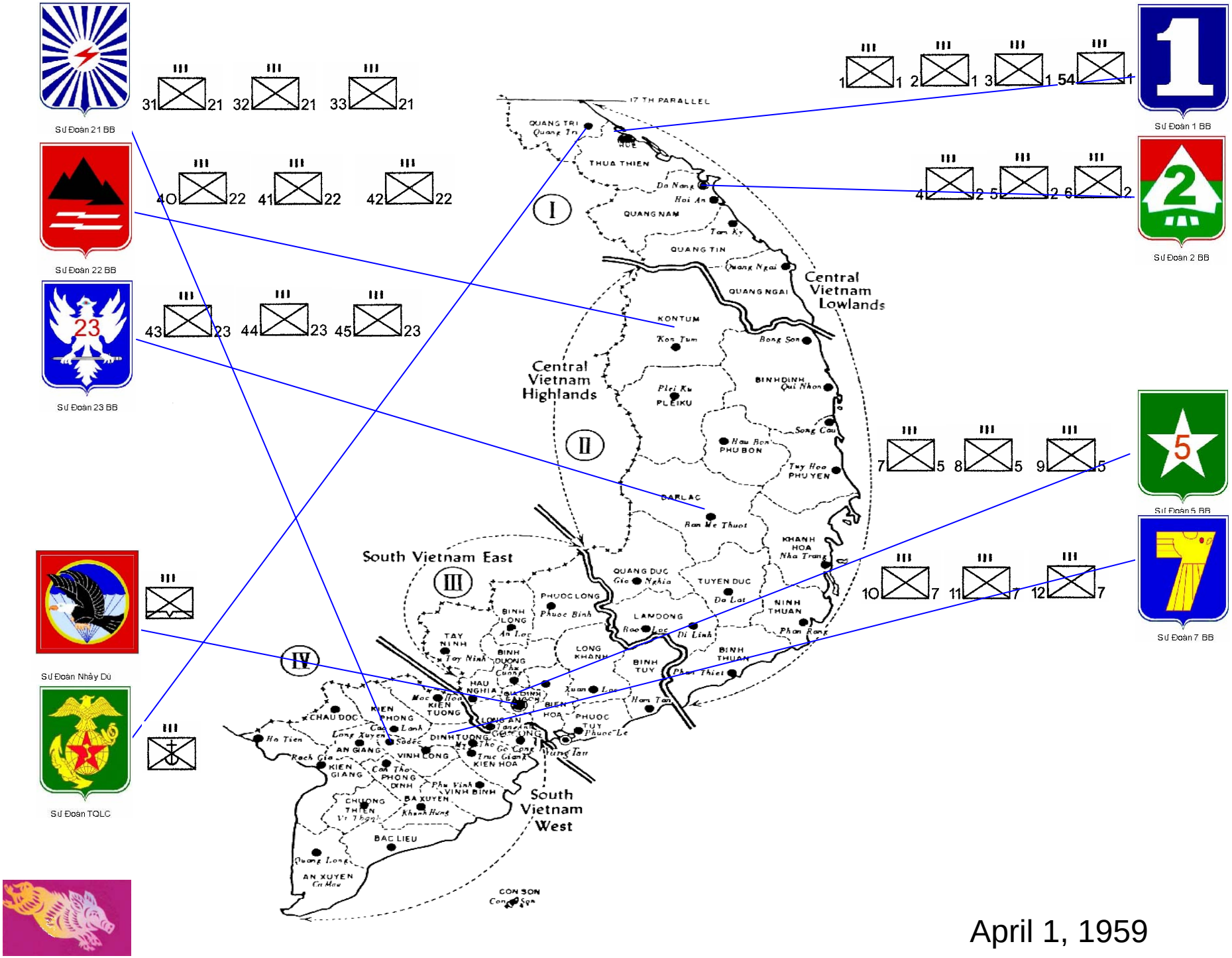
Long Xuyen
Sadec
DINH TUONG
My Tho
Ben Tre
Ha Tien
AN GIANG
VINH LONG
Rach Gia
KIEN GIANG
Can Tho
PHONG DINH
Phu Vinh
VINH BINH
CHUONG THIEN
BA XUYEN
Khanh Hung
BAC LIEU
Quang Long
AN XUYEN
Ca Mau
South Vietnam West
CON SON
Con Son
Sư Đoàn Nhảy Dù
Sư Đoàn TQLC
August 1, 1955



Thanks to Bill Brooks for the patch pictures on this page and elsewhere

September 1, 1958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Sư Đoàn 23 BB
Sư Đoàn Nhảy Dù
Sư Đoàn TQLC
Sư Đoàn 1 BB
Sư Đoàn 2 BB
Sư Đoàn 5 BB
Sư Đoàn 7 BB
17 TH PARALLEL
QUANG TRI
THUA THIEN
QUANG NAM
QUANG TIN
QUANG NGAI
KONTUM
BINH DINH
PLEIKU
PHU BON
PHU YEN
DARLAC
KHANH HOA
QUANG DUC
TUYEN DUC
PHUOC LONG
LAMDONG
NINH THUAN
BINH LONG
TAY NINH
BINH DUONG
LONG KHANH
BINH TUY
BINH THUAN
HAU NGHIA
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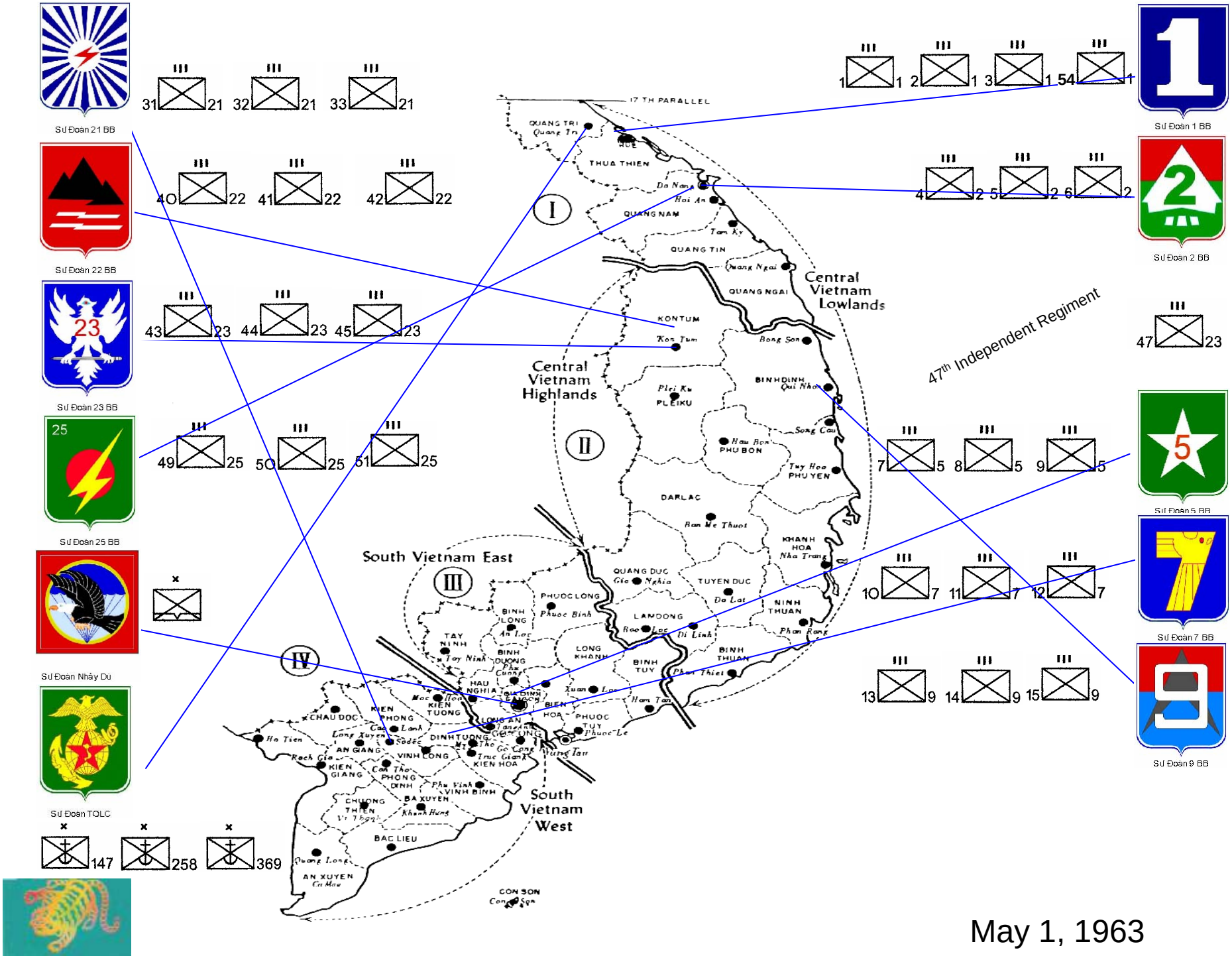
KIEN PHONG
CHAU DOC
AN GIANG
VINH LONG
KIEN GIANG
PHONG DINH
BA XUYEN
CHUONG THIEN
BAC LIEU
AN XUYEN
CON SON
Central Vietnam Lowlands
Central Vietnam Highlands
South Vietnam East
South Vietnam West
I
II
III
IV

April 1, 1959

What President Diem proposed was to get enough additional Civil Guards to cover the villages completely. In this way the ARVN forces could concentrate on pursuing the VC in the open country and not have to waste their time trying to flush them out of the villages. The interior of the village complexes themselves would be protected by trained youth who would replace the present Village Guards. Instead of ten guards each village would then have 40 young men. These young men would serve only one month out of twelve; they could therefore be paid less and the overall cost would not be greater than the cost of the present program. There would be, of course, a permanent cadre of NCO's who would ensure continuity. . . .It was no longer [Diem's] intention to raise such a force of [20,000] commandos. He said that he intended to raise some three to four thousand commandos and to maintain that force within the 150,000 force level authorized. He said that at present the Vietnamese Armed Forces fell short by some 6,000 men of the 150,000 ceiling. By raising 3,000 commandos he would not go over the 150,000 but would still be 3,000 men short.



[DDE Vol XXIII, Doc 130]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Central Vietnam Highlands
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Nha Trang
South Vietnam East
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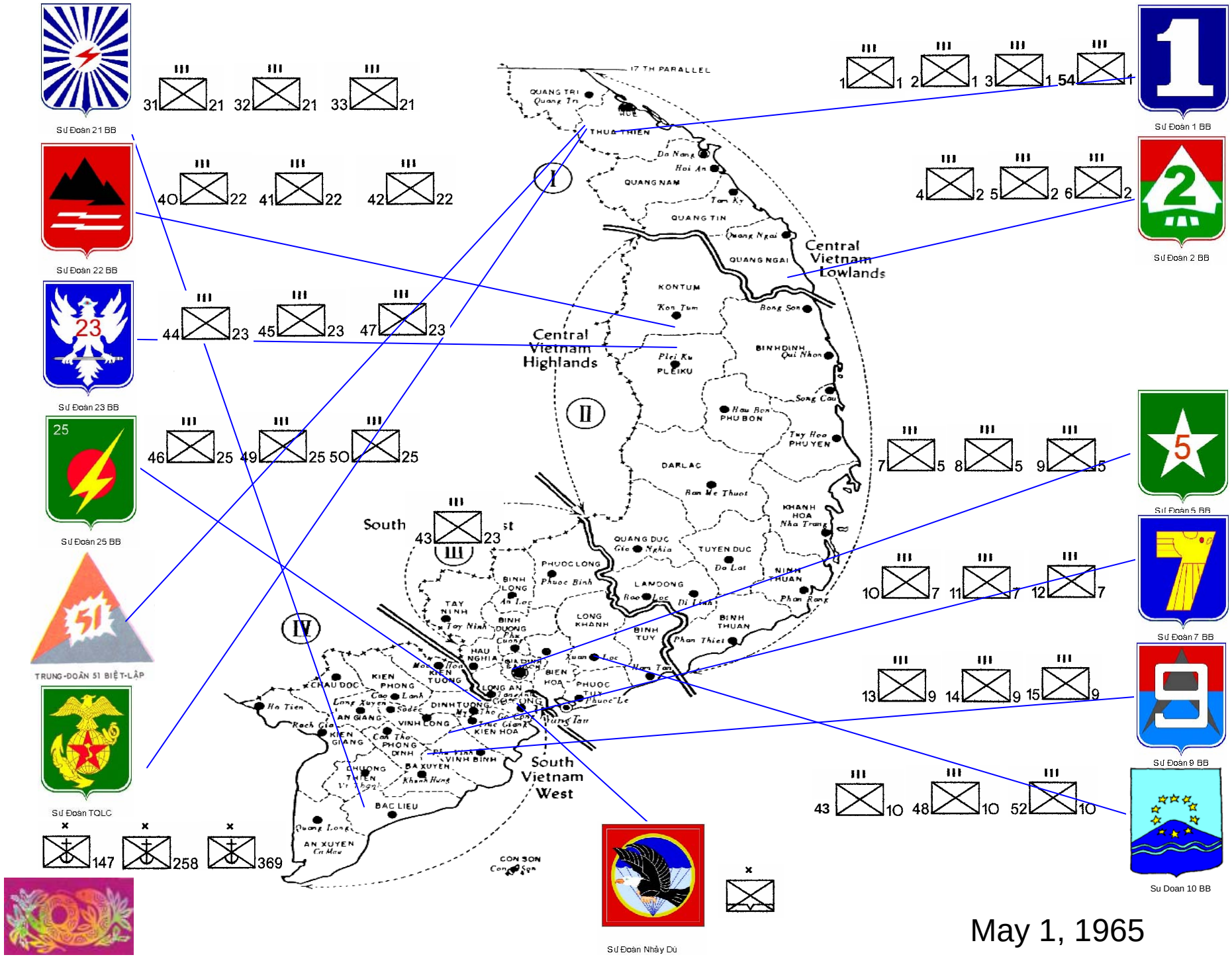
May 1, 1963



Sư Đoàn 21 BB
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Sư Đoàn 25 BB
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Sư Đoàn TQLC
Sư Đoàn 1 BB
Sư Đoàn 2 BB
Sư Đoàn 5 BB
Sư Đoàn 7 BB
Sư Đoàn 9 BB
Su Doan 10 BB
Sư Đoàn Nhảy Dù
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QUANG TRI
THUA THIEN
QUANG NAM
QUANG TIN
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BINH DINH
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BIEN HOA
PHUOC TUY
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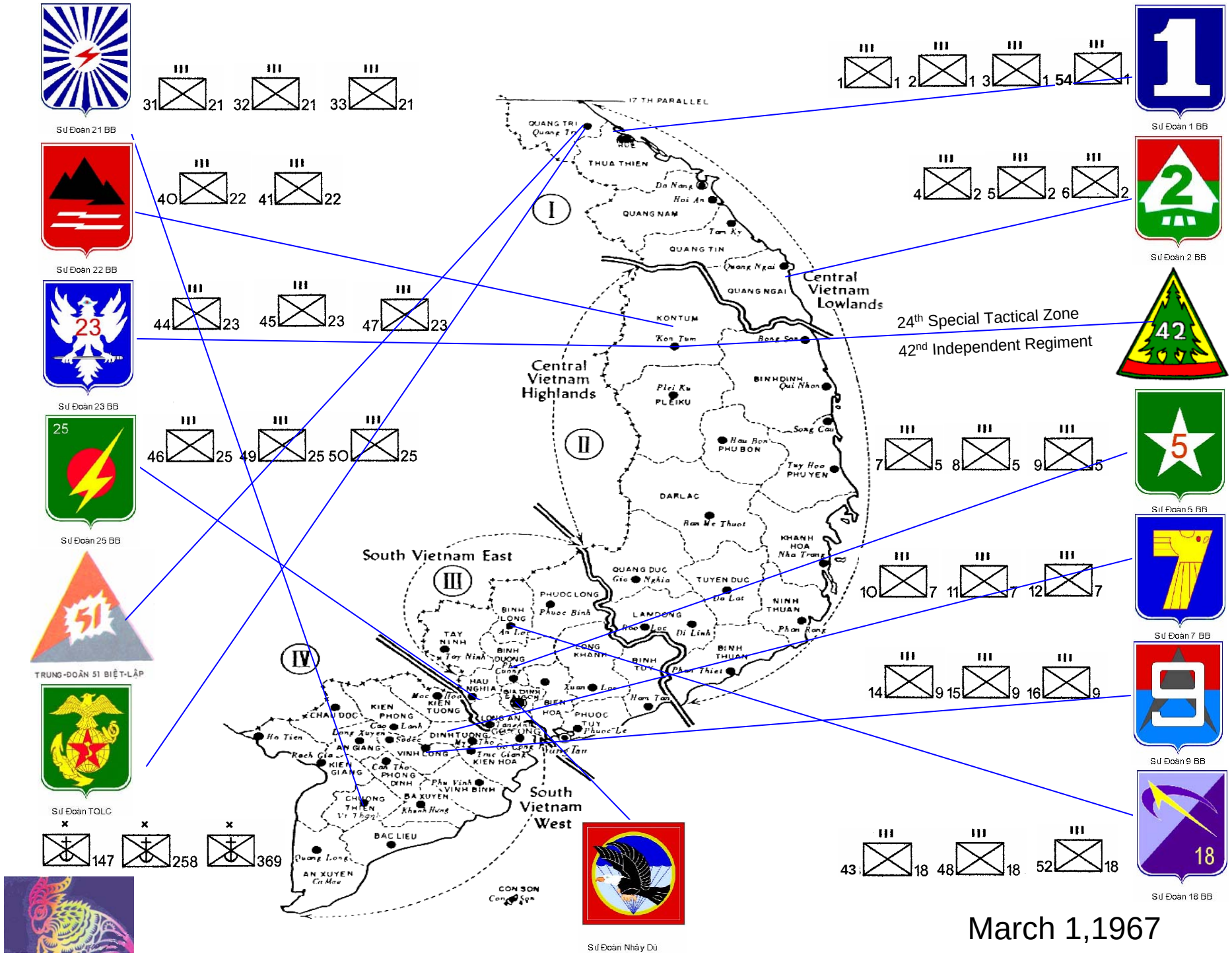
May 1, 1965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Sư Đoàn 23 BB
Sư Đoàn 25 BB
TRUNG-ĐOÀN 51 BIỆT-LẬP
Sư Đoàn TQLC
Sư Đoàn Nhảy Dù
Sư Đoàn 1 BB
Sư Đoàn 2 BB
24th Special Tactical Zone
42nd Independent Regiment
Sư Đoàn 5 BB
Sư Đoàn 7 BB
Sư Đoàn 9 BB
Sư Đoàn 18 BB
March 1,1967


TẾT MẬU THÂN
VIỆT CỘNG SÁT HẠI ĐỒNG BÀO
QUÂN ĐỘI
VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA


BƯU CHÍNH
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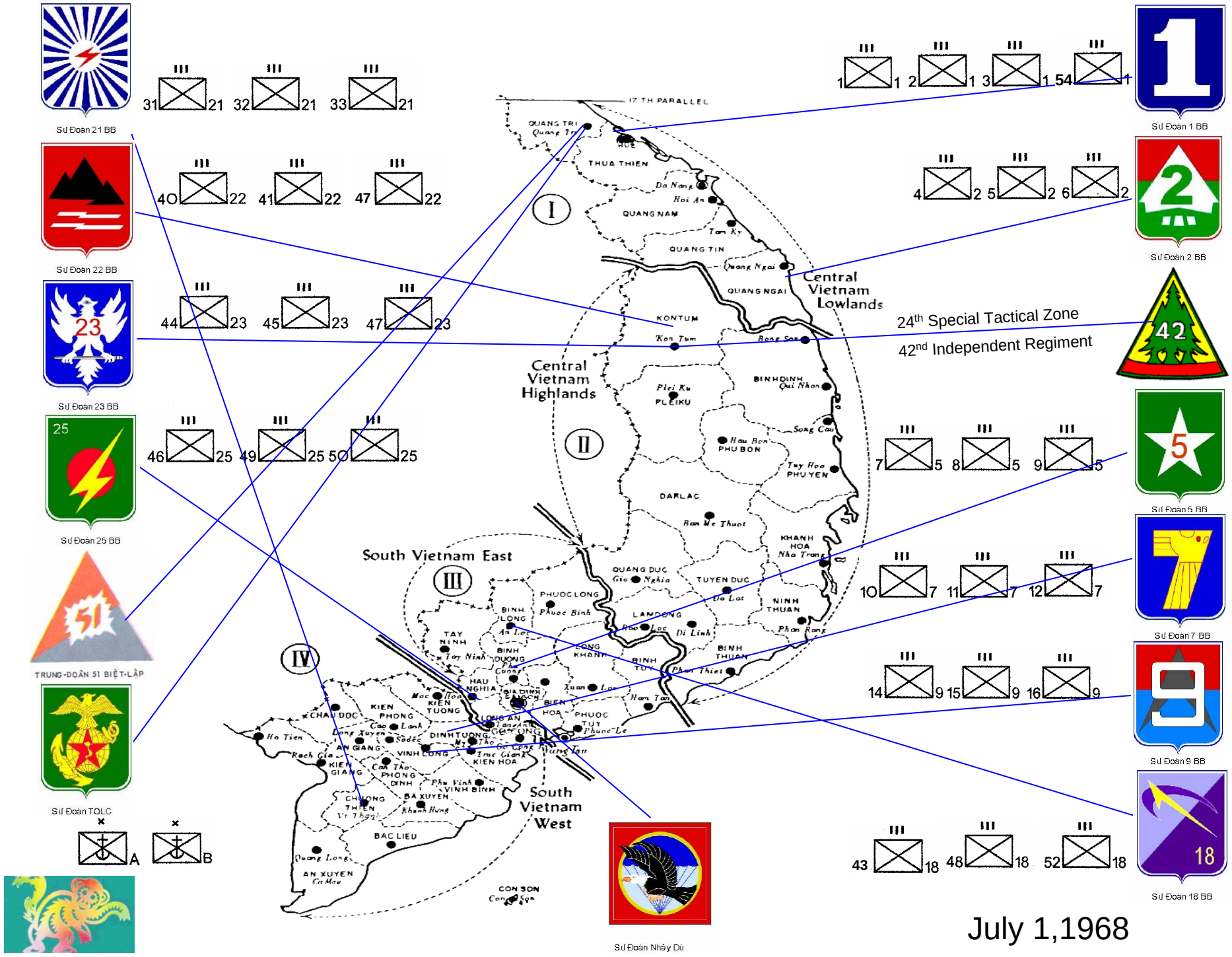
VIỆT-NAM CỘNG-HÒA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TRUNG-ĐOÀN 51 BIỆT-LẬP
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24th Special Tactical Zone
42nd Independent Regiment
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BAC LIEU
AN XUYEN
CON SON
Central Vietnam Lowlands
Central Vietnam Highlands
South Vietnam East
South Vietnam West
I
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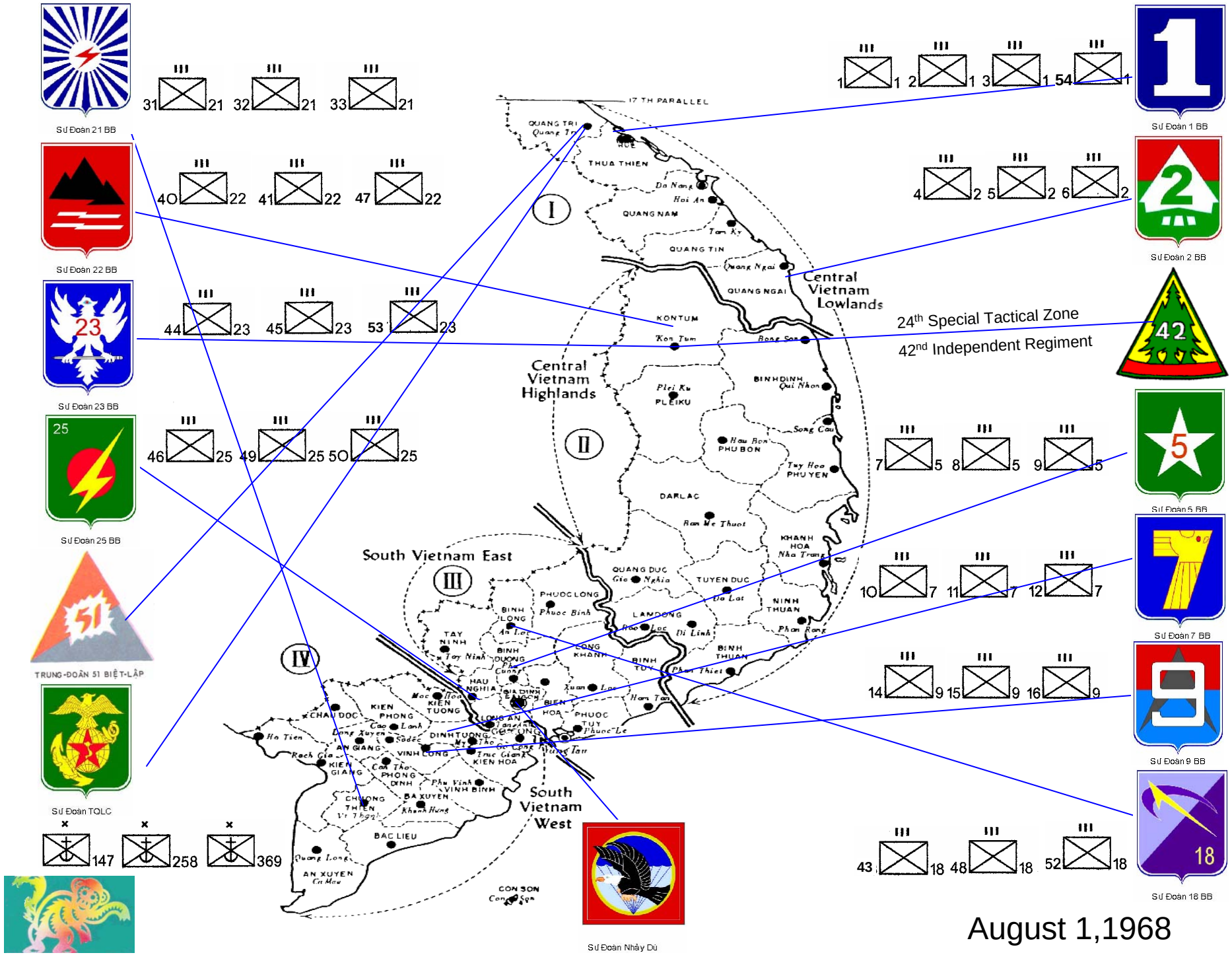
July 1,1968

FINAL ADVICE
BY GENERAL WESTMORELAND, COMUSMACV

1. The most competent and honest officers should be installed as province and district chiefs. Your best fighters and disciplinarians should be placed in command of combat troops.
2. Insure that each commander takes a personal interest in the welfare of his troops and their dependents.
3. Continuously concentrate on timely intelligence and gear your organization to react immediately thereto, both with respect to enemy military elements and political infrastructure.
4. Take extraordinary steps to deny the enemy knowledge of your plans and operations.
5. Emphasize night operations to gain the initiative on the enemy and deny his freedom of movement.
6. Appreciate that the greatest gain that can be made with minimum resources is improvement in the performance and morale of the Regional and Popular Forces.
7. Give more emphasis to administrative and logistical support organizations that are essential to sustained combat operations.
8. Training must be a continuous process with more attention given to in-place classes and exercises when the tactical situation permits. Psy war and motivational training are essential parts of this program.
9. Pacification must be supported by all elements of the Government of Vietnam, of which the RVNAF is a major part. All soldiers must realize their important role and be required to assume always a proper, friendly and helpful attitude toward the people.
10. Maintain the offensive spirit!

[LBJ Vol VI Doc. 250]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Khanh Hung
South Vietnam West
BAC LIEU
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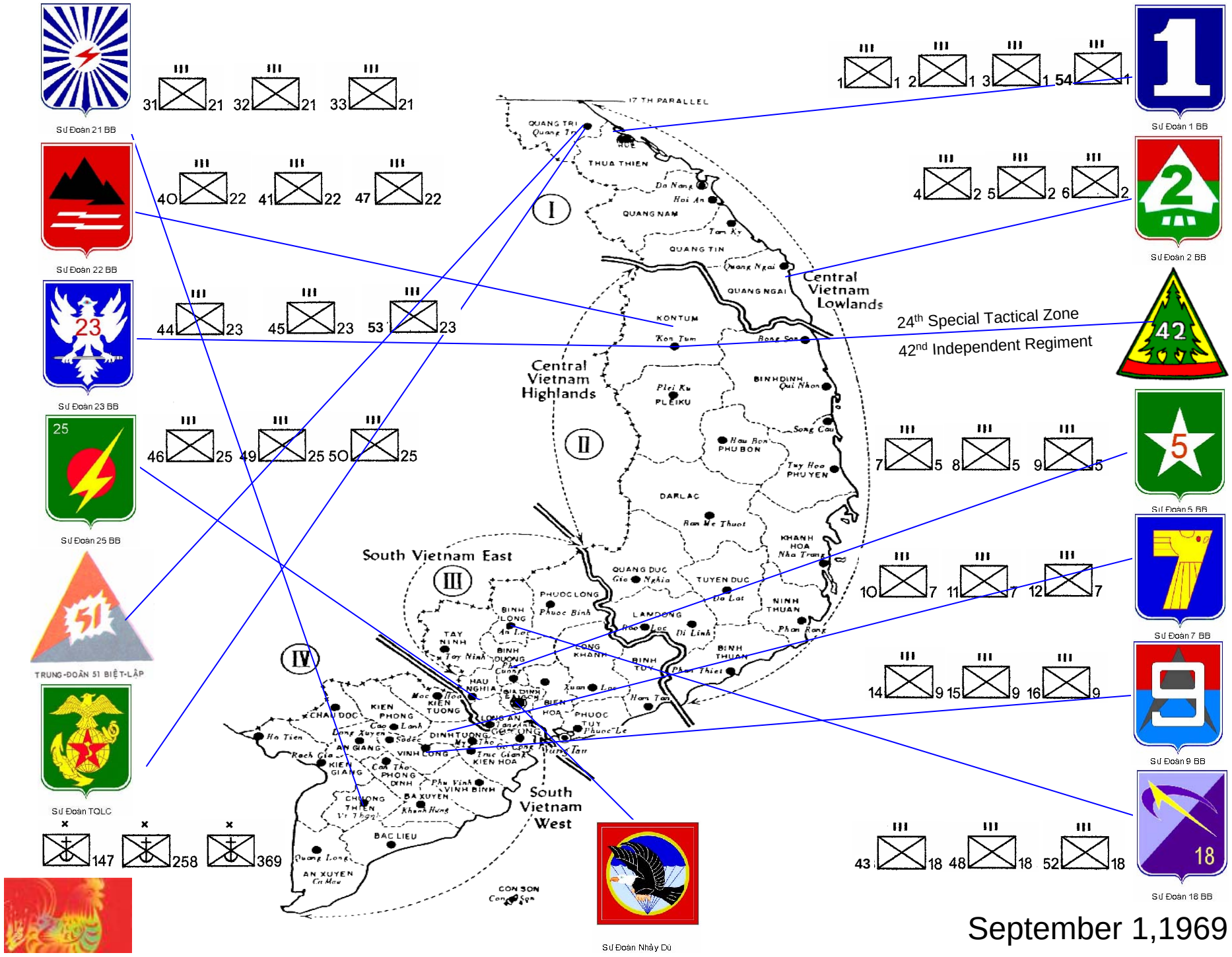
24th Special Tactical Zone
42nd Independent Regiment
August 1,1968



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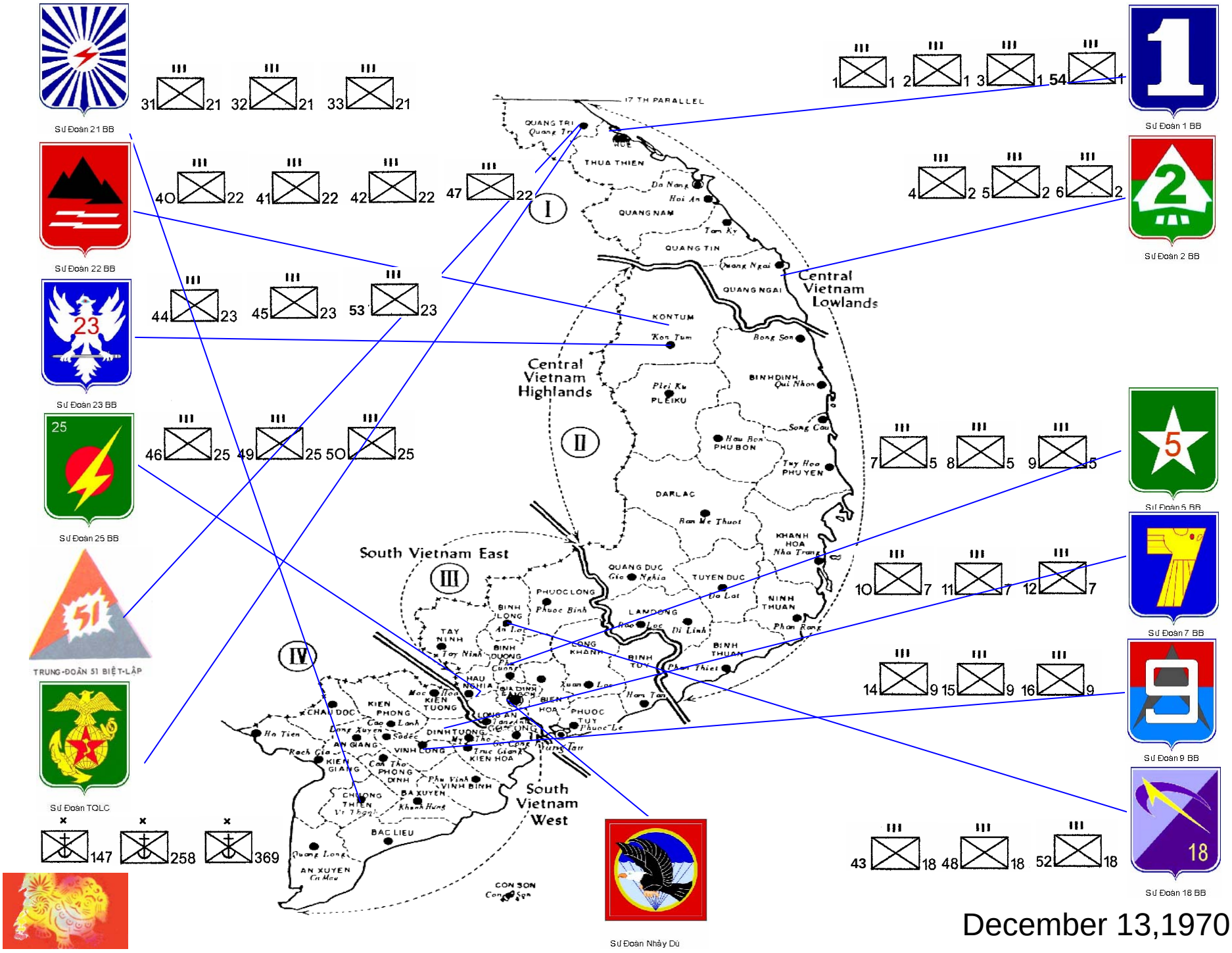

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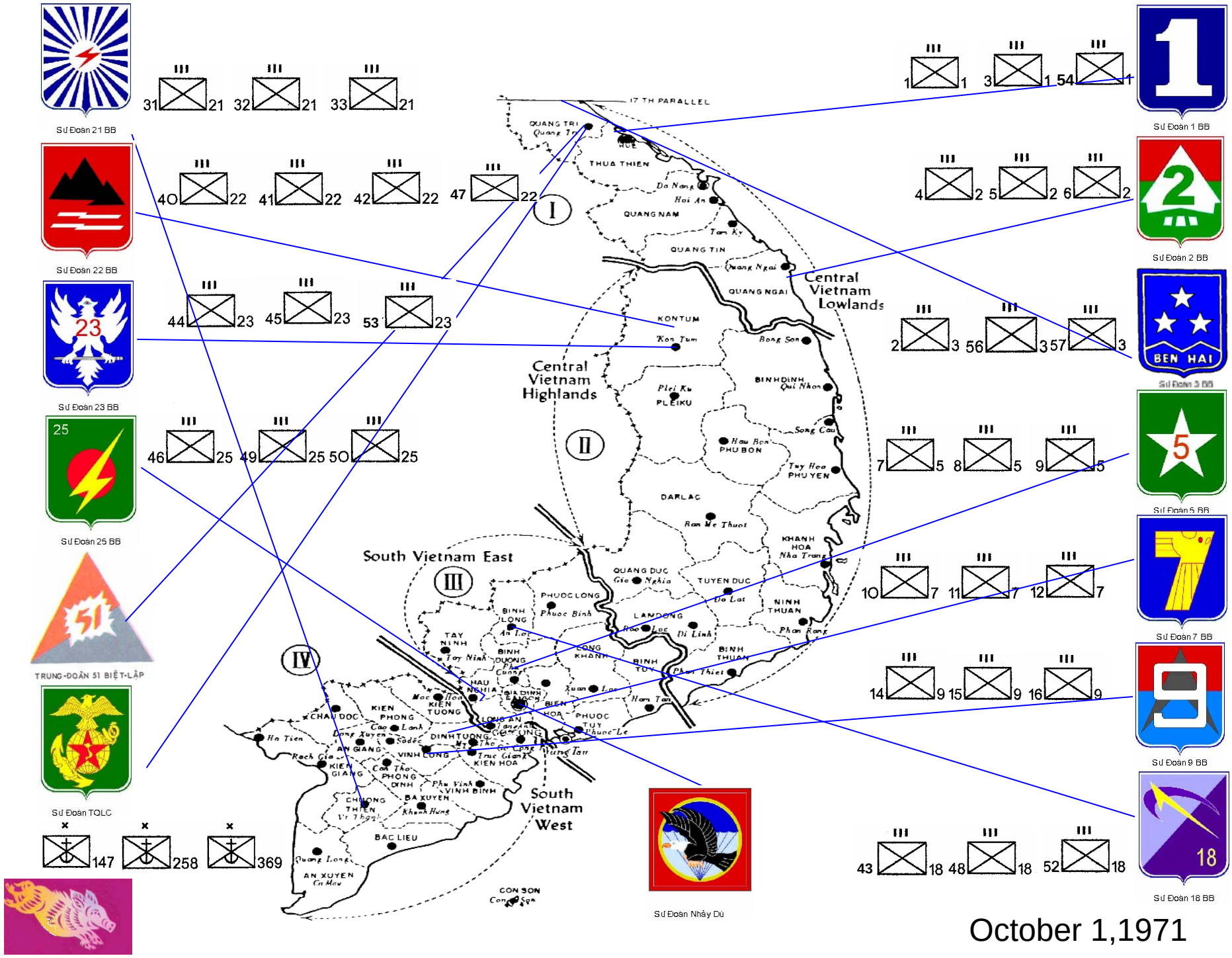

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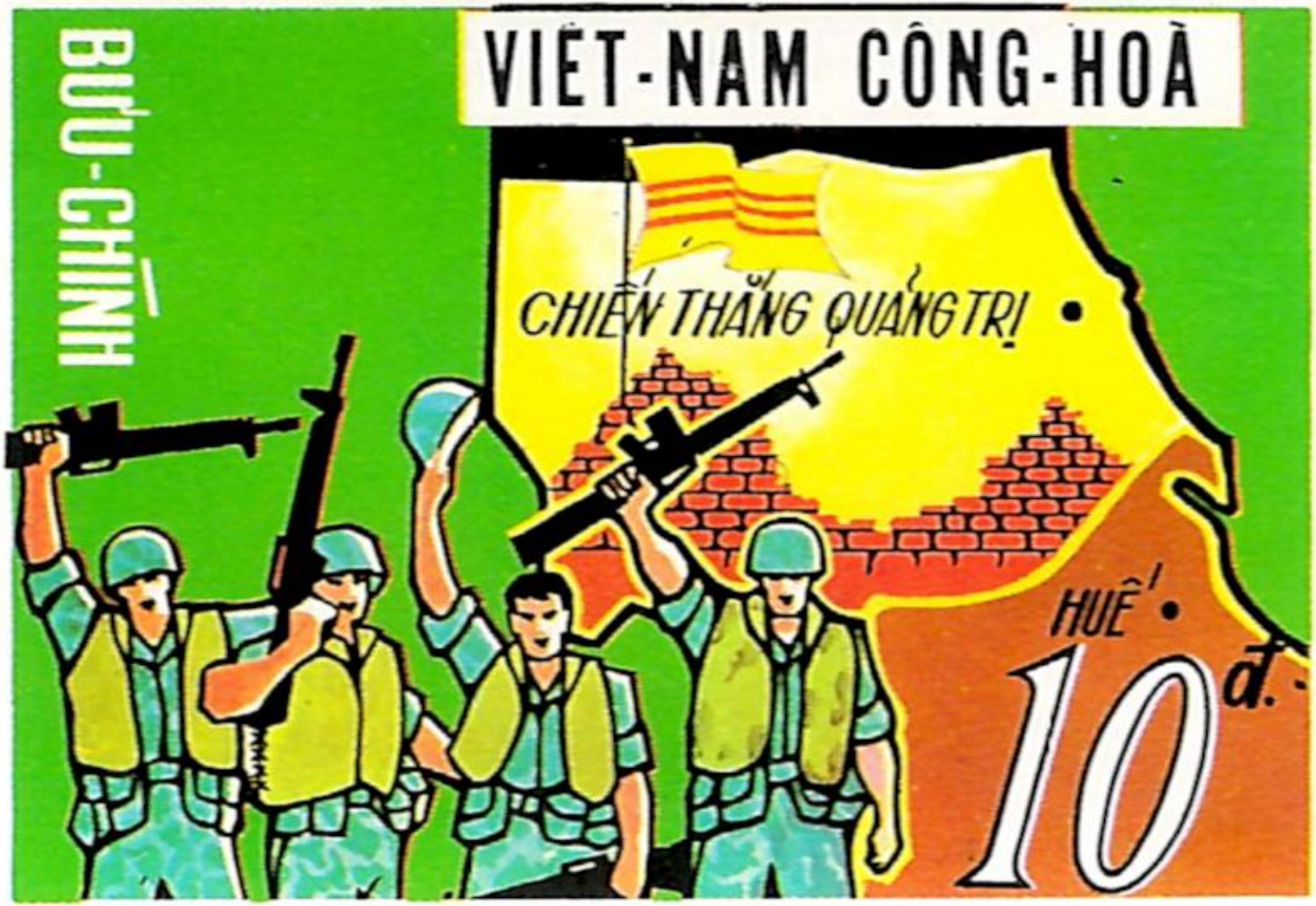
BƯU-CHÍNH
VIỆT-NAM CỘNG-HOÀ
CHIẾN THẮNG QUẢNG TRỊ
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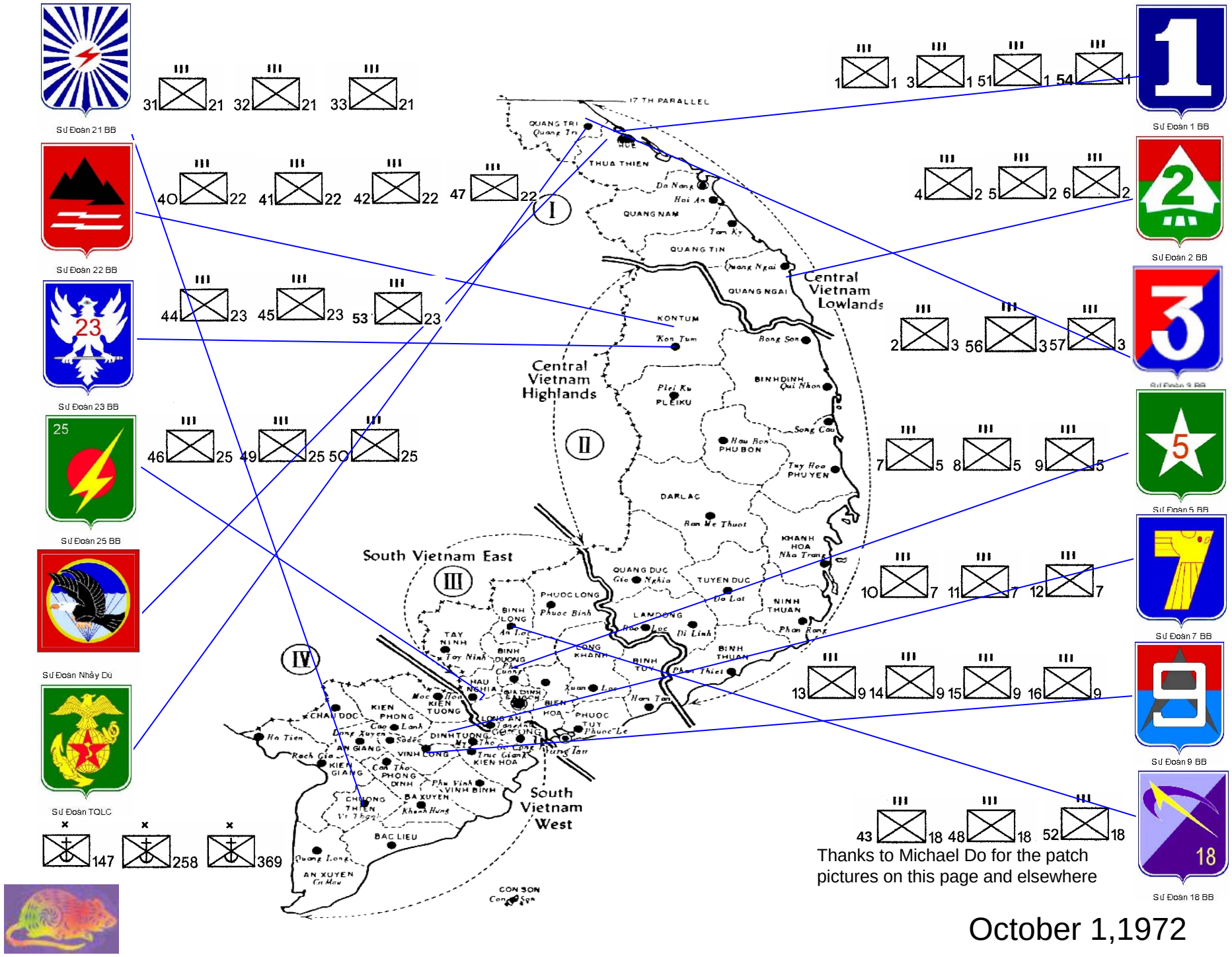

Thanks to Michael Do for the patch pictures on this page and elsewhere

October 1,1972