VIETNAM NATIONAL DEFENCE

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

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HANOI 12 - 2009

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH
THE FOUNDER, LEADER AND ORGANIZER OF
THE VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY
(Photo taken at
Dong Khe Battlefield in
the "Autumn-Winter Border" Campaign, 1950**)**

FOREWORD

The year of 2009 marks the 65th anniversary of the foundation of the Vietnam People's Army (VPA), an army from the people and for the people. During 65 years of building, fighting and maturing, the VPA together with the people of Vietnam has gained a series of glorious victories winning major wars against foreign aggressors, contributing mightily to the people's democratic revolution, regaining independence, and freedom, and reunifying the whole nation. This has set the country on a firm march toward building socialism, and realising the goal of "a wealthy people, a powerful country, and an equitable, democratic and civilized society."

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), the country's comprehensive renovation has gained significant historical achievements. Despite all difficulties caused by the global financial crisis, natural disasters and internal economic weaknesses, the country's socio-political situation remains stable; national defence-security has been strengthened; social order and safety have been maintained; and the international prestige and position of Vietnam have been increasingly improved. As a result, the new posture and strength for building and safeguarding the Homeland have been created.

In the process of active and proactive international integration, under the complicated and unpredictable

conditions in the region as well as in the world, Vietnam has had great opportunities for cooperation and development while facing severe challenges and difficulties that may have negative impacts on the building and safeguarding of the Homeland. This situation requires the VPA to further exert itself to successfully fulfilling all tasks, in particular contributing to the planning of strategic policy; building unceasingly strong provincial and municipal defence zones that are the true foundation for the all-people national defence posture; further promoting propaganda work; and making the VPA revolutionary, regular, seasoned, and gradually modernized, and politically, ideologically and organizationally strong in order to meet the demands of safeguarding the Homeland under new conditions. Adjusting the VPA's structure to conform to peacetime conditions and raising its readiness to meet the requirements of modern warfare is imperative and of strategic importance to the socio-economic development, construction of the nation, and defence of the Homeland.

On the basis of a thorough grasp of the Party and State's guidelines of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development in external affairs, and the foreign policy of openness, multilateralization and diversification in international relations, the VPA should enhance its defence diplomatic activities; expand and consolidate ties and cooperation with all countries (first and foremost with neighbouring and regional ones, and other major partners etc), and conduct deepened, effective, stable,

sustainable, mutually-confident international relations that contribute to the successful implementation of the Party and State's foreign policy, and meet the needs of building the VPA under new conditions.

To this end, the Ministry of National Defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has published the Third White Paper on Vietnam National Defence. This document defines basic viewpoints on Vietnam's national defence policy, the mechanism of leadership and management of national defence, the structure of the Ministry of National Defence, and the organization and guideline for building a comprehensively strong VPA as well as the Militia and Self-Defence Force. This White Paper also touches upon defence cooperation policy, and expresses the desire of the Vietnamese people and the VPA for advancing mutual understanding and trust with other peoples and armed forces so as to further foster cooperation for the sake of peace, national independence and social progress.

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Part One

SECURITY SITUATION
AND
NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

1. SECURITY SITUATION

1.1. The World and Regional Situation

The security situation of the world and the region in the early 21st century has seen complicated changes. However, peace and cooperation for mutual development has been the mainstream. Although a world war or a war in which weapons of mass destruction (WMD) might be used is unlikely, local wars and armed conflicts among countries or within a nation originating from national, ethnic and religious contradictions, terrorism, interference, subversion, separatism, disputes over territory, natural resources, and national interests have been on the rise, deeply affecting peace and security of all nations.

The world situation has changed rapidly and unpredictably. The re-allocation of military and economic power worldwide has profoundly changed the world's political environment with the emerging trend of multi-polarity. Several new powers and power centres have emerged, playing a more important role in the world and regional affairs. The competition for influence among powers and power centres has risen fiercely.

Economic globalization has deepened, making countries increasingly interdependent, and compelling them to expand their cooperation to solve issues of common interests. However, due to differences in interests, competition in certain issues turns out to be fierce. The world's economic recession arising from financial crisis has seriously impacted

all countries. Energy security and food security have become increasingly important issues to the whole world. Apart from these, other global non-traditional security issues have been of major concern to all countries. Addressing the above-mentioned issues is the responsibility of the international community because no single country or region can solve them by itself.

The influence of defence-security issues on international relations has been on the rise. The new revolution in military affairs has been greatly changing the defence and military strategies of all countries. The military power competition around the world has led to the risk of arms races, especially at sea and in space. Many major powers have adjusted their military strategies, increased their defence budgets, speeded up the armed forces modernization, and developed advanced weapons and equipment, and military technologies. These developments have affected not only the relations among major powers but also the national defence of all countries. The gap of military strength between major powers and the rest of the world has widened. In some regions, the enhancement of military strength has made the situation more complicated. The mechanism of arms control and non-proliferation of WMD has faced huge challenges.

The Asia-Pacific region, with its dynamic developing economies, has taken on an increasingly important position in the world, attracting the interest and competition for influence among the major powers. The regional

cooperation mechanisms in various fields have developed. However, this region also poses potential threats to defence-security. In many hotspots, tensions which may lead to armed conflicts and wars have remained unsettled. Disputes over territory and natural resources in land and at sea have been on the rise. The Asia-Pacific region has confronted the increasingly serious impact of many non-traditional security challenges.

In spite of the basically stable security situation in Southeast Asia, potential risks of conflicts still remain. The global economic recession has heavily affected the regional economy, worsening the domestic unstable situation in some countries. Territorial disputes over land and sea have been more complicated, in particular those relating to sovereignty and national interests in the East Sea have been on the rise. Southeast Asia suffers heavily from frequent natural disasters such as storms, floods, and tsunamis. To some extent, terrorism and piracy have been restrained; they still pose potential menaces to the regional security situation and are a common concern of Southeast Asian countries and many others. Climate change, natural disasters, epidemics, and trans-national crimes have a great impact on the security of regional countries.

ASEAN member-states have strengthened cooperation and integration in order to turn Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, and development. The ASEAN Charter has come into effect, opening a new era of regional cooperation. This is an important legal framework

promoting the successful building of the ASEAN Community with three pillars, namely, Security-Political Community, Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community by the year 2015. The cooperative relations between ASEAN and outside partners along the line of peace, stability and development have been strengthened. On the basic principles of "volunteering, consensus and non-interference in each other's internal affairs", ASEAN continues to take a leading role in the motivation and development of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and other regional security mechanisms. Regarding sovereignty disputes in the East Sea, ASEAN countries have further committed to complying with and implementing "The Declaration of Conducts of All Parties in the East Sea" (DOC) and striving to build the "Code of Conducts of All Parties in the East Sea" (COC) in order to reach a long-term solution to this complex issue on the basis of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

1.2. Vietnam

Over twenty years of realizing the policy of renovation, openness and international economic integration, Vietnam has recorded many achievements of historic significance in politics, economy, society, national defence, security, and diplomacy. The overall national strength has been enhanced; the socio-political situation stabilized; national independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and defence-security maintained. The country has achieved significant results

in improving the national security environment. Vietnam has actively participated in the process of negotiating and signing international conventions and agreements regarding national sovereignty on land and at sea. For the first time in history, the land border of Vietnam has been basically demarcated, creating favourable conditions for Vietnam and neighbouring countries to build the borders of peace, friendship and cooperation for mutual development. This is the result of ceaseless efforts by the Vietnamese Government and concerned parties in settling this important and sensitive issue. Vietnam has also been active in finding solutions to the maritime border issue. The maritime boundary between Vietnam and China in the Gulf of Tonkin has been demarcated. Some issues arising in the overlapping areas at sea between Vietnam and other countries have been settled or addressed. Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with most countries in the world. The friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and all countries have been increasingly strengthened and developed.

However, like many other countries, Vietnam faces with diversified and complicated security challenges. Vietnam's economy has been in danger of further lagging behind due to insufficient resilience while coping with the serious impact of the global financial crisis and economic recession. Though the national defence-security has been maintained, many factors, both internal and external, that cause socio-political instability, have not yet been

thoroughly eliminated. Democratic freedom, religious freedom, and human rights have been abused by hostile forces in order to undermine the great national solidarity, and to incite violence and separatism in some areas of the country. Concerning the disputes over sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the territories in the East Sea, the complicated developments so far have seriously affected many activities and the maritime economic development of Vietnam. Non-traditional security issues such as illegal trafficking of weapons and drugs; piracy, organized trans-national crimes, terrorism, illegal migration and immigration; environmental degradation, climate change, and epidemics continue to concern Vietnam.

2. NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

2.1. Fundamental Issues of the National Defence Policy

Vietnam always regards the maintenance of peaceful and stable environment for socio-economic development, industrialization and modernization, building the socialism-oriented market economy as the top national interest, and the consistent goal of its national defence policy. Vietnam has followed a national defence policy of peace, and self-defence expressed in the guideline of not using force or threatening of using force in international relations; solved differences and disputes with other countries by peaceful means. Vietnam advocates the gradual modernization of the VPA and

enhancement of the defence potential only to maintain its military power sufficient for self-defence capability. Vietnam opposes arms race. As a nation having experienced wars for national independence and freedom, Vietnam thoroughly respects other countries' independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national interests on the basis of fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international laws. At the same time, Vietnam demands that its independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national interests must be respected by other countries. Vietnam advocates against the military use of force first in international relations, but is ready to resolutely fight against all aggressive acts.

Vietnam's consistent policy is to solve both historical and newly emerging disputes over territorial sovereignty in land and at sea through peaceful means on the basis of international laws. As for disputed sovereignty rights at sea, though there is sufficient historical evidence and legal foundation to prove Vietnam's undeniable sovereignty over water areas and islands in the East Sea, including the Paracels and the Spratlys, it is always ready to negotiate with all parties concerned to find peaceful solutions to those disputes in conformity with regulations of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. While continuously seeking for a long-term solution to the issue, Vietnam advocates that all parties must restrain themselves, strictly abide by DOC, and strive for building COC in order to reach a long-term and fair solution to this complicated

issue, turning the East Sea into a sea of peace, friendship, and development.

Vietnam builds its national defence power on the basis of the overall strength of the whole nation, of the great solidarity of the masses, of the whole political system led by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), combining the strength of the nation with the strength of the time, the strength of military forces and the all-people defence posture with the strength of people's security forces and posture. Vietnam has established a policy to concurrently develop both its socio-economic and defence capabilities and closely coordinate defence-security and diplomatic activities to support the cause of industrialization and modernization, and rapid and sustainable economic development. To protect Vietnam's independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and other national interests as the region and world situation faces many changes, Vietnam builds its all-people national defence upon the whole nation's tradition of patriotism and fighting against foreign aggression; strengthening armed forces, inheriting and upholding the values of the Vietnamese military sciences over the time, and developing the Vietnamese military arts to meet the demands of modern wars.

Proactively preventing and repulsing the dangers of wars are among essential tasks of Vietnam's national defence in peacetime in order to realize the optimal national defence strategy of protecting its sovereignty, unity,

territorial integrity and other national interests without resorting to war fighting. Vietnam advocates implementing the national defence strategy through a spectrum of political, economic, diplomatic, socio-cultural and military activities aimed at eradicating the causes of armed conflicts and wars. Thoroughly grasping the principle of active, comprehensive defence and safeguarding the Homeland from apart, Vietnam's national defence takes combined measures to maintain internal stability while preventing the risks of outside intervention.

Vietnam's national defence is always closely linked to the CPV and the State's guideline of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development in external affairs, and the foreign policy of openness, multilateralization and diversification in international relations. Through its diplomatic activities, Vietnam has consolidated mutual understanding and trust with peoples and governments of other countries, laying the firm foundation for expanding cooperation, resolving differences in order to prevent and repulse the dangers of armed conflicts, contributing to the maintenance of a peaceful and stable environment in the region and the world. On implementing the independent, and self-reliant national defence policy, Vietnam builds national defence power mainly upon its own resources and people. Thus, Vietnam consistently advocates neither joining any military alliances nor giving any other countries permission to have military bases or use its soil to carry out military activities against

other countries. At the same time, Vietnam attaches great importance to developing defence ties with all other countries on the basis of respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and mutual benefit. Vietnam highly values defence cooperation with neighbouring countries, and traditional friends while developing defence links with other countries sharing the goal of peace, independence and development. With the spirit of "shelving the past, looking forward to the future," Vietnam is ready to cooperate with other countries to solve humanitarian issues left by history; and at the same time, Vietnam acclaims initiatives and activities for peace and cooperation of all countries regardless of political regimes or their history of relations with Vietnam.

Vietnam resolutely condemns and opposes to terrorism in any forms and simultaneously protests against any acts in the name of counter-terrorism to intervene into the internal affairs of other countries. Apart from taking necessary measures to prevent and respond to terrorism, Vietnam supports the international community's endeavours and expansion of cooperation to prevent terrorist actions and support of terrorism in any forms. Vietnam insists that the counter-terrorist measures and international cooperation in the fight against terrorism must be carried out within the framework of the United Nations, and in compliance with the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and international laws. Vietnam has signed 8 out of 12 conventions on counter-terrorism of

the United Nations and is considering participating in the remaining conventions.

Vietnam approves the settlement of other flashpoints which might break out into armed conflicts in the region through dialogue, peaceful negotiation, and without resorting to force or the threat to use force.

2.2. Foreign Relations and Defence Cooperation

As a country actively integrating into the international community, Vietnam consistently realizes the foreign guideline of independence, self-reliance, cooperation and development with a foreign policy of openness, multilateralization and diversification along the principle that Vietnam wishes to be a friend and credible partner of all nations in the international community.

Defence diplomacy is part of the State's diplomacy. The goal of defence diplomacy is to establish and develop defence relations with all countries based on equality, and mutual respect that contribute to the cause of building the country, building the armed forces, consolidating national defence and security, safeguarding the Homeland, and making contributions to the maintenance of regional and world peace and security.

In an increasingly interdependent world, Vietnam's security is inseparable from the world's security in general and regional security in particular. Defence cooperation is one of the most important factors for maintaining peace and

stability in the region and the world as well, and it is also an important factor for achieving Vietnam's defence goals. Therefore, Vietnam advocates expanding defence diplomacy and actively participating in defence and security cooperation in the regional and international community.

The VPA advocates effectively broadening and heightening bilateral defence relations while actively participating in multilateral defence cooperation. Vietnam intensifies all forms of defence diplomacy such as exchange of military delegations at all levels, defence consultancy and dialogue, participation in regional and international fora to reinforce the friendship, mutual understanding, confidence building, and conflict prevention.

Vietnam wishes to widen bilateral defence relations with all countries. The priorities in Vietnam's defence relations with other countries are exchange of military delegations, information and experience sharing, cooperation in training and education, and solving humanitarian issues. Vietnam has so far established official defence relations with 65 countries, including major powers in the world; and set up its defence attaché offices in 31 countries. Forty-two countries have opened their defence attaché offices in Vietnam.

Vietnam promotes its defence cooperation with other ASEAN member countries within the framework of building the ASEAN Political-Security Community and in accordance with its bilateral relations with each country along the line of enhancing information and experience sharing, reinforcing

cooperation in training and education, and co-ordinating to solve security issues of common concern.

Vietnam attaches importance to expanding defence dialogues with relevant countries, enabling all parties to grasp each other's viewpoints, creating the opportunity for solving issues relating to the interests of all parties. Vietnam has conducted frequent defence dialogues at various levels with other ASEAN member countries, and the other countries such as China, Russia, the United States, Japan, France, India and so on. Together with increasing exchange of high-level military delegations, Vietnam also attaches importance to exchange of young military officers, cooperation between research and educational institutions of Vietnam's Ministry of National Defence with other countries. Vietnam has welcomed 46 ship visits, including 81 port calls, over 18,000 turns of naval officers and crew from other countries to Hai Phong, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City. In 2008, for the first time, Vietnam sent naval vessels abroad for friendly visits.

Due to historical, geographical conditions and deeper economic integration into the region and the world, many of Vietnam's defence-security issues have become increasingly intertwined with those of neighbouring countries. Hence, along with exchange of military delegations, cooperation in training and education and so on with all countries, Vietnam prioritized cooperation with neighbouring countries to solve bilateral defence-security issues. Vietnam has completed the land-border demarcation work and landmark planting with

China; conducted the border demarcation and landmark planting in some important border areas and reached agreement on completing border demarcation and landmark planting with Cambodia by 2012; completed the demarcation work and has increased the density of border landmarks with Laos. Vietnam intensified the co-ordination in patrolling and controlling border areas between Vietnam's border guard forces and the border guard and security forces of other countries to strictly implement international agreements on border, border guard cooperation agreements on combating crimes such as trans-border smuggling, illegal migration, women, children and drugs trafficking, and so on for the sake of building a border of peace and friendship. Vietnam has strived to solve the maritime boundary issues, and to expand cooperation with other countries to ensure maritime security. Vietnam's Navy has set up hotlines and conducted joint patrols with the naval forces of Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and China in order to improve the effectiveness of coordination in maintaining security in overlapping zones and bordering areas at sea.

Establishing and maintaining the relations between Vietnam's General Department of Defence Intelligence and other countries' military intelligence agencies is an important channel for sharing information on defence-security issues.

Vietnam highly values and actively participates in multilateral cooperation on security issues through

international and regional organizations and fora such as the UN, ASEAN, ARF, and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

As a UN official member since 1977, Vietnam has strictly accomplished its duties and at the same time, actively and responsibly participated in solving international security issues. During its term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (2008-2009), Vietnam has consulted opinions from non-aligned countries, closely coordinated with other member states of the Security Council in the process of making decisions on international security issues in conformity with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Vietnam greatly appreciates the role of the UN and regards the peace-keeping operations (PKO) as an important function of the UN. To better fulfil this function, UN PKO must abide by the principle of respecting independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries; ensure impartiality; and only be carried out with the acceptance of parties concerned. Vietnam is accomplishing its preparations for effectively participating in UN PKO, in conformity with its capability and conditions. Vietnam's relevant agencies are actively studying experience of other countries, and preparing its personnel with sufficient professional skills, foreign language proficiency and knowledge of international laws to participate effectively in UN PKO.

Prompted by the policy of proactively supporting and contributing to the common efforts of the international community for peace, security and disarmament, Vietnam actively participates in international efforts to prevent and repulse dangers of wars as well as to overcome the consequences caused by armed conflicts and wars. Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries have signed the Treaty on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ). Vietnam calls upon nuclear powers to participate in the Protocol of the Treaty in order to turn Southeast Asia into a permanent nuclear weapons free zone. In accordance with the consistent policy of supporting and actively contributing to the common efforts of the international community for disarmament, Vietnam welcomes the initiatives on preventing the development, manufacturing, storage and use of WMD. At the same time, Vietnam holds that all countries have the right to research, develop, and transfer nuclear, chemical, and biological technologies for the sake of peace as regulated by international laws. Vietnam has taken part in and strictly observed many conventions, agreements, and protocols on non-proliferation of WMD and other international conventions on disarmament. Vietnam is seriously considering international conventions and treaties on defence-security issues, and actively preparing necessary conditions for fully implementing the duties required.

Vietnam is willing to cooperate with the countries in the region and the world in an effort to solve non-traditional

security issues. To improve the effectiveness of cooperation in this field, Vietnam advocates expanding and enhancing cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally, such as sharing information and experience; setting up a coordination mechanism with the relevant organizations of other countries to prevent, cope with and settle the related non-traditional security issues. Vietnam's functional agencies are preparing capabilities of personnel and technical equipment in order to participate in multilateral search and rescue exercises in the East Sea, first and foremost with neighbouring and regional countries.

Vietnam considers as important the strengthening of defence cooperation with ASEAN countries on the basis of defence-security cooperation mechanisms in the process of building the ASEAN Community. These mechanisms are established on the basis of the principles of "consensus", "non-interference in each other's internal affairs", "not changing the ASEAN Community into a military alliance or mutual defence bloc," and other fundamental principles of the ASEAN Charter. Vietnam greatly appreciates and actively participates in ASEAN Defence Minister Meetings (ADMM) and other senior defence officials meetings, and supports initiatives that enhance cooperation among ASEAN militaries to settle common security issues. In this spirit, Vietnam's Ministry of National Defence has proactively taken part in multilateral defence cooperation mechanisms with ASEAN countries by participating in ASEAN defence meetings at all levels, exchanging

experience in defence building, fighting against trans-national crimes and terrorism, participating in such humanitarian operations as natural disaster relief and prevention, and sending observers to military exercises of regional countries. In 2010, as an ASEAN Chairman, Vietnam will closely coordinate with the other member states to successfully organize meetings and activities in order to enhance the defence cooperation relations among ASEAN countries. Vietnam's Ministry of National Defence also supports and plays an active role in efforts of expanding defence-security cooperation relations with non-ASEAN partners with a view to maintaining peace and stability in the region and the world.

Part Two

BUILDING THE NATIONAL DEFENCE

Vietnam's national defence is the all-people national defence which comprises the full spectrum of the State and people's political, economic, diplomatic, military, cultural and scientific activities that contribute to the build-up of a synchronized, balanced and comprehensive power of the nation of which the military power is of the essence and the armed forces being the key element in order to maintain the country's peace and stability, prevent acts of sabotage and war provocation, repulse threats of war, and at the same time, be ready to defeat any aggressive acts in all forms and scales.

The all-people national defence is the concretization of Vietnam's national defence policy manifested in organizational and operational structures of all branches, levels, and of the whole people under a unified strategic guidance, to create the real power for safeguarding the Homeland. The all-people national defence is aimed at firmly protecting independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and national security in all aspects; protecting the regime, revolutionary fruits and the cause of renovation; and at the same time, preventing and repulsing plots to cause violence, armed conflicts and aggressive wars, and firmly preserving a peaceful and stable environment for the cause of industrialization and modernization. The goal of building the all-people national defence in a new era is to ceaselessly enhance the national defence power, prevent and readily defeat all types of aggressive wars under any circumstances. The all-people

national defence is built in the direction of *all-people participation, comprehensiveness, self-mastery, self-reliance and gradual modernization*.

Building the powerful all-people national defence includes the building of national defence potential, defence forces, defence posture, and the mechanism of defence leadership and management.

1. BUILDING THE NATIONAL DEFENCE POTENTIAL

The national defence potential comprises politico-spiritual, economic, scientific and technological, and military potential.

1.1. Building Politico-Spiritual Potential

Politico-spiritual potential is the fundamental component of the national defence potential, inherent in human qualities, in national historical-cultural traditions, and in the political system. This is the potentiality of politics and spirit that could be transformed into physical power for implementing national defence tasks. This potential manifests itself in the people and armed forces' awareness, will, belief, psychology and emotion toward the national defence duties.

The current politico-spiritual potential of Vietnam's national defence is the result of a long building process under the leadership of the CPV and President Ho Chi Minh, and is the continuance of the thousands-year-long-

history tradition of the Vietnamese people in founding and defending the nation.

First and foremost, building the politico-spiritual potential means building the confidence of all strata of people in the virtue of the regime and in the success of national construction and defence. Hence, building a pure and sound Party, a law-governed State of the people, by the people and for the people, and continuously enhancing the people's material and spiritual life are decisive factors in the building of the politico-spiritual potential. Building the politico-spiritual potential requires morale education to raise the national defence awareness of all people, especially the young generation and students, and to foster knowledge on defence-security matters for key cadres of all branches and at all levels. Vietnam has built a system of defence educational materials for people from all walks of life. The politico-spiritual potential is built during the process of consolidating the people's great solidarity and strictly implementing the State of Vietnam's policy of religious freedom, and racial equality. The State of Vietnam consistently pursues a policy of respecting and ensuring the rights of religious freedom, to follow or not to follow any religion, and to legal religious practices. The State strictly prohibits making uses of race, faith and religious issues to violate the laws and regulations of the State, to incite and sow division among the people, particularly among ethnic groups in order to cause social disorder to the detriment of national security. As a country with 54 fraternal ethnic

groups, the State of Vietnam implements a policy of ethnic equality. The ethnic groups of Vietnam enjoy equal rights to improve their material and spiritual life, which enhances their education, preserves, enriches and brings into full play their cultural identity and fine traditions. State policy prioritizes socio-economic development in remote and mountainous areas, border, coastal and island regions as well as hunger elimination and poverty alleviation that gradually narrows and clears the development gap among regions. The politico-spiritual potential is also built through practicing broad democracy with the principle that "people know, people discuss, people implement and people check," radically fighting against corruption and building an equitable, democratic, and civilized society.

1.2. Building Economic Potential

Economic potential is the potentiality in the economic field (including the defence-economic sector), that could be mobilized for socio-economic development, strengthening national defence or conducting a defensive war. The economic potential is also a material foundation for other potential manifested in the quantity, productivity, quality and efficiency of the social production, the growth pace of the economy, the resource reserve and the quality and qualification of the workforce. In the national defence aspect, economic potential is manifested in such major fields as the human, material, and financial resources of the economy that could possibly be mobilized to deal with situations both in peacetime and wartime. The economic

potential is also expressed in the mobility and viability of the economy and also the capacity to ensure economic security in the process of international economic integration and the severe challenges of wars.

Building the economic potential of the all-people national defence is carried out through the close combination between socio-economic development and defence-security enhancement, between socio-economic development and building the provincial and municipal defence zones under the defined long-term programming and plans, and through the building of economic-defence and defence-economic zones in major strategic areas.

Over the past years, Vietnam's economy has continuously achieved a high growth rate. The Gross Domestic Product has increased considerably, the economic structure has continuously shifted towards industrialization and modernization, and the infrastructure has developed. Vietnam has proactively and gradually integrated in the regional and world economies and has become an official member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The material and spiritual life of people from all strata of society and the armed forces has been improved; while the intellectual standards of the people, the quality of human resources, and the dynamism of all socio-economic sectors have been raised significantly. Vietnam strives for the goal of becoming a modernized industrial country by 2020.

Thanks to the economic development of the past years, the building of economic potential for the all-people national defence has gained important results. Vietnam has a logistic reserve sufficient to deal with all contingences. The increasingly perfect and modern infrastructure system has created more favourable conditions for defence activities. Though the economy still faces difficulties in the process of development and impacts of the global economic recession, the State of Vietnam has allocated a necessary portion of the State budget for defence requirements in general and for the acquisition of equipment and weapons for the armed forces in particular.

The Defence Budget of Vietnam

(Billion VND)

	2005	2006	2007	2008
GDP	839,211	973,791	1,143,442	1,490,000
Defence budget	16,278	20,577	28,922	27,024
Share in GDP	1.872%	2.194%	2.529%	1.813%

The major portion of the above-mentioned budgets was spent on ensuring decent living conditions for military officers, non-commissioned officers, soldiers and defence employees, supporting the operations of defence industry, and maintaining the VPA readiness.

Building the economic potential for national defence also requires proper investment in defence industry. The defence industry must be an integral part of the national industry and under the management of the Ministry of National Defence. The renovation efforts to improve defence industry capabilities are made in the direction of dual-use, ensuring the maintenance, manufacture, improvement and upgrading of weapons and equipment required by new assignments for the development of the people's armed forces in strategic regions and focusing on local defence capabilities.

1.3. Building Scientific and Technological Potential

The scientific and technological potential is the potentiality in science and technology (including natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, technical sciences and technologies) that could be mobilized to accomplish the society's immediate and long-term duties as well as to deal with national defence situations. The scientific and technological potential is a factor that plays an ever more important role in the national defence potential. It is manifested in the ability and the level of technological and scientific development, in the quantity and quality of the contingent of scientific and technological workers, in the material facilities for research and development, dissemination and application of scientific and technological achievements in national defence. The scientific and technological potential has a direct impact on the

development of science and technology in the military and defence, the organizational structure of the armed forces, and the command and management of the armed forces.

Building the scientific and technological potential of the all-people's national defence is closely linked with the development of science and technology of the country. The State of Vietnam regards the investment in developing science and technology as the foundation and driving force for socio-economic development. This is an important base to speed up industrialization and modernization, a sound foundation for the scientific and technological potential of the all-people national defence. The State of Vietnam pays special attention to investment in material and technical facilities that meet the requirements of scientific-technological research and development, and at the same time follows a policy of preference and priority to scientific and technological workers. The State also defines measures that tie science and technology to production, business, protection of property rights, gradual establishment of technological market, and expansion of international cooperation to absorb advanced technologies suitable for Vietnam's conditions. Despite difficulties, the scientific and technological potential of the country is being intensified step by step, thus contributing more effectively to economic development and consolidation of national defence-security.

Over the past years, special attention has been paid to develop Vietnam's military science, technique and arts, to

focus on finding technical and tactical solutions for effectively dealing with high-tech wars. Vietnam attaches importance to continuing and bringing into full play the arts of people's war at strategic, operational and tactical levels, meeting the requirements of modern wars to make the most of weaponry and manpower against aggressive wars. Vietnam develops the military science and technology to meet the immediate requirements of equipment and weapons for the people's armed forces while gradually conducting research and development of technological solutions, new weapons and equipment that may be needed in future wars. The State of Vietnam is improving the mechanism to absorb and utilize talents, and mobilizes all internal and external scientific potentialities for building the all-people's national defence.

1.4. Building Military Potential

Military potential is the material and spiritual potentiality that could be mobilized to create real capabilities which connect to the military and defence duties in both peacetime and wartime. Military potential is the core element of the national defence potential which is built on the basis of politico-spiritual, economic and scientific and technological potentialities. The military potential is shown not only in the capacity to maintain, improve and unceasingly develop the combat power and readiness of the armed forces but also in manpower and material reserves to serve military tasks.

The State of Vietnam builds the military potential along an integrated strategic plan, in accordance with the requirements of defending the country. The combat competence and readiness of the armed forces seen in its organizations, personnel, equipment, logistic facilities, military arts and science and technique, are usually taken into account, maintained, improved and continuously developed to meet the requirements of the people's war to defend the country.

The military potential consists of two basic elements, manpower and weaponry of which manpower is the determinant. Vietnam owns the strong military potential partly due to its young and abundant human resources. The State of Vietnam takes interest in building the contingent of the military officers required for fulfilling the tasks in new conditions. The Law on the VPA Officers adopted in the Third Session of the 12th National Assembly defines the common criteria for VPA officers, that is, absolute loyalty to the Fatherland, the people and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; dignity; industriousness, thrift, integrity, uprightness, public-spiritedness, selflessness; democratic heightening, strict obedience of military disciplines and orders; respect for and solidarity with the people and comrades in arms; qualifications of politics and military science required by the assigned duties. The Law is also amended to extend the service age of officers in order to save the expenses for training manpower, utilizing and bringing into full play the expertise and experience of the

officers, especially the professional ones and highly qualified scientists, meanwhile, preserving the specific feature of the military workforce. The Law also adjusts the policy toward officers, identifying the People's Army as "a special labour sector" assigned to duties of defending the country. The amended Law on Military Service adopted in the 7th Session of the 11th National Assembly reduces the service duration from 24 months to 18 months. This regulation results in the possible increase in the number of the youth to join the army. Those ex-servicemen will constitute a powerful reserve force, always ready to supplement the regular force when needed.

Military potential is also shown in the capacity to mobilize various branches, science and technology, transportation and other public service sectors to meet the national defence requirements. Building the military potential is closely tied to the industrialization and modernization of the country. Achievements in economics, science, technology, culture and ideology are the foundation to build the armed forces, develop the military science and arts, and military social sciences and humanities. The State of Vietnam advocates that the building of the military potential be linked to the building of the politico-spiritual, economic, scientific and technological ones, regarding this as an essential demand in building the potential of the all-people national defence to ensure mobilization capability and create the power to firmly defend the country.

2. BUILDING DEFENCE FORCES

The National Defence of Vietnam is based on the comprehensive power of resources; therefore, the defence forces comprise the all-people forces of which the people's armed forces are the core.

Building the defence forces is first and foremost the building and consolidation of the political system including the Party, the State, the Vietnamese Fatherland Front and public mass organizations, with priority given to the task of building and increasing the leading role of the Party, and efficiency in management and implementation of government apparatus at all levels. The political system is the nucleus of the defence forces, playing the decisive role in the mobilization and enhancement of the nation's defence might. In the political system, the building, consolidation and enhancement of operational effectiveness of mass organizations are of great significance in bringing together and mobilizing the popular mass to carry out national defence tasks, to directly protect their own localities and offices, thus making contribution to the maintenance of political stability, public order and safety.

The building of defence forces must be institutionalized by a system of laws and statutory documents on national defence in order to mobilize all sectors of the economy to participate in the construction and consolidation of the all-people national defence, and to safeguard the Homeland.

The task of building comprehensively powerful people's armed forces is crucial to the building of the defence forces. The VPA and the People's Public Security are made revolutionary, regular, seasoned, and gradually modern to truly play the key role in the defence forces. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is organized in conformity with the sectors of economy, broadly and focally at the same time, to meet the requirements of their tasks both in peacetime and in wartime.

3. BUILDING NATIONAL DEFENCE POSTURE

The posture of the all-people national defence is the organization and disposition of the national defence forces and potentialities throughout the territory in conformity with an integrated strategic intent to ensure victory over any hostile plots and acts that violate the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests of Vietnam, and to be ready to pivot toward the posture of people's war once war occurs.

The posture of the all-people national defence is built in connection with the national and local master plans along the guideline of close combination between economy and national defence and vice versa, and the establishment of strategic zones that are firm in politics, rich in economics, and strong in national defence and security. Along with the socio-economic construction and development, building infrastructure and allocating economic and technical facilities are closely linked to the all-people national

defence posture. Thus, building the all-people national defence posture must be taken into account in designing and planning the socio-economic development. The all-people national defence posture is built to ensure a firm and interconnected layout, combining the on-spot posture with the mobile one, the overall posture with the concentrated one, with special attention given to key directions, regions and targets, and strategic localities. The State makes policy for the re-distribution of labour force, establishing economic-defence and defence-economic zones in remote, mountainous areas, border, maritime and island zones to ensure the close coordination of the socio-economic development with the enhancement of the defence forces, potentialities and posture in vital areas.

On the basis of the adjustment of the strategic disposition of the economy nationwide, the State increases its investment in building provinces and cities into sound defence zones, ensuring their ability to deal with local contingencies in peacetime by themselves. In wartime, they are capable of taking initiative in fighting enemies from the very beginning, wearing them out, driving them to become passive and bogged down, thus creating opportunities for, and closely coordinating with the regular corps to annihilate the enemy. Special attention is paid to laying grassroots foundations at hamlets, mountainous villages, communes, wards, border and island zones, and vital local areas to ensure stability and strength in all aspects.

In conjunction with building defence zones, the layout of the armed forces is adjusted in each strategic direction and all over the country, forming a steadfast and highly agile posture, ready to respond to any circumstances. The regular and local forces are rationally positioned and closely combined with the building of a defence system to create an interconnected, solid military posture in key regions and to ensure the armed forces' combat capability in land, air, sea and island environments.

Strategic rear areas, strategic rear bases, and logistic bases of each zone and direction are established to guarantee the people's activities and the armed forces' operations in case of high-tech wars with appropriate attention given to self-support and self-reliance. The national defence posture is executed through the implementation of strategic plans, such as those for shifting the country from peacetime to wartime, securing the national defence and political security, for protecting air space and national border.

The all-people national defence posture is closely linked to the building of the people's security posture to form a firm interconnected layout, bringing into full play the strength of various forces, combining different types of military and non-military activities, creating agility and flexibility, and the capacity for independent and combined combat operations. This is an important part of building the national defence posture, shown in how the defence zones are structured. Based on the features of each defence zone, the disposition and deployment of forces are contemplated

to ensure the highest efficiency in performing defence and security tasks in localities, creating a close combination between defence and security in each strategic zone and all over the country.

4. THE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

4.1. The Leadership Role of the CPV over the VPA and the National Defence

The CPV puts forth the guideline and makes decisions on the issues relating to the Homeland defence strategy. Through Party organizations, it maintains the leadership of the entire political system in defence activities.

The CPV exercises the absolute, direct and all-round leadership over the VPA in order to make the VPA strong politically, ideologically and organizationally. The Party's leadership over the VPA is achieved through the system of Party organizations, the chain of command, the system of political organizations, political cadres at all levels, and public mass organizations at grassroots level.

The system of Party organizations in the VPA comprises the Central Military Party Committee (CMPC in short) and Military Party Organizations at all levels. The General Secretary of the CPV Central Committee is the Chairman of the CMPC. The CMPC also includes Vice Chairman and members appointed by the Politburo, including some members of the CPV Central Committee

within the army and some others outside the army. Party executive committees from those at the level directly reporting to CMPC to the grassroots level are elected by their corresponding party congresses.

CMPC proposes to the CPV Central Committee the issues of military and national defence guidelines and missions, the national defence plan, directions and measures of building the all-people national defence, Party's leadership mechanisms over the VPA. It is CMPC's responsibility to coordinate and instruct its immediate subordinate executive committees in the implementation of the Party's resolutions and directives concerning the military and national defence. CMPC exercises direct leadership in the building of the comprehensively powerful VPA, and the building of pure and sound Party organizations in the army. By improving the quality and efficiency of Party and political work, the CMPC ensures firm and increased Party's leadership over the army. The CMPC performs the collective decision-making on major issues such as policies, programmes, plans of action for the implementation of the Party's directives and resolutions, measures for building the VPA, and decisions on the VPA personnel issues. The CMPC directs the General Political Department and through the General Political Department, it directs Party organizations and the system of commissars and political organizations at all levels in conducting the Party and political work in order to make the VPA strong politically, ideologically and organizationally to accomplish all of its missions.

The system of political organizations in the VPA comprises the General Political Department and political organizations in the units of all levels. The General Political Department directs the Party and political work within the VPA, operating under the leadership of the Politburo and the CPV Central Secretariat, particularly under the direct and constant leadership of the CMPC. Based on the resolutions, and the directives of the Party Congresses, Party Central Committee, Politburo, Party Secretariat and the resolutions of the CMPC; and the orders of the Minister of National Defence, the General Political Department proposes to the CMPC the guidelines, measures and action plans for the Party and political work in the army; directs, instructs and inspects the performance of that work at all levels. The VPA political organizations carry out the cultivation of and education on the CPV guidelines, advocacies and policies, the State laws; direct and instruct the building of pure and sound Party organizations and cells; instruct military units to carry out anti-psychological warfare measures; coordinate with local Party executive committees, authorities and public mass organizations in disseminating and mobilizing people to fulfil their duties of defending the Homeland.

The commissars and junior commissars preside over political work at all levels. Units at the levels from company to battalion have junior commissars. From the level of regiment to military region and the equivalent there are commissars. The commissars and junior commissars are responsible to their superiors and the Party executive

committees for the entire Party and political work within their units, for directly guiding, instructing, inspecting, organizing and executing the Party and political work as regulated; while concurrently taking part in designing and organizing the performance of the unit's plans.

4.2. State Management of National Defence

The State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam carries out the national defence management as defined by its Constitution and laws. The basic contents of the State's national defence management consist of promulgating a system of statutory documents on national defence, signing international conventions and agreements on defence cooperation, building master and specific plans for national defence mobilization, and organizing and guiding the implementation of national defence tasks and necessary measures to defend the Homeland.

The National Assembly is the supreme organ of State authority of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the sole body with the right to promulgate laws concerning fundamental domestic and foreign policies, the country's socio-economic, national defence and security tasks, decisions on the building and organization of the armed forces and matters of war and peace, and to define the state of emergency and other special measures so as to ensure the national defence-security. The National Assembly exercises supreme supervision over the State's national defence activities. Since 2005 the National Assembly has passed a number of laws concerning the

national defence, such as the Law on Amendments and Supplements to several articles of the Law on the VPA Officers, the Law on National Defence, the Law on Amendments and Supplements to several articles of the Law on Military Service, the Law on National Security, the Law on the People's Public Security, and the Law on National Border. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly has enacted a series of national defence decrees, for example, the Decree on the Maritime Police, the Decree on the Militia and Self-Defence Force, the Decree on the Intelligence, the Decree on the Border Guard, the Decree on National Defence Mobilization and the Decree on Defence Industry.

The State President is the Chairman of the Council of National Defence and Security, the Commander-in-Chief of the people's armed forces. The President declares the state of war, orders limited or general mobilizations, declares the state of emergency locally or nationally, proclaims and issues other laws and decrees on national defence, and promotes officers of the people's armed forces to the ranks of Senior Lieutenant General and General.

The Government is the supreme executive organ of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Government promulgates decrees and resolutions to specify the implementation of national defence laws and ordinances. It also makes policies on the consolidation of national defence and building of the VPA, maps out the master and specific plans for defence mobilization, organizes and directs the implementation of national defence tasks and necessary

measures to safeguard the Homeland. As delegated, ministries and branches undertake the national defence education and international cooperation in certain aspects related to national defence, ensure the material life for the armed forces, implement welfare policies for the rear, and inspect the fulfilment of national defence tasks, etc. Since 2004, the Government and the Prime Minister have issued a number of documents regarding national defence. The Government has institutionalized the responsibilities of branches, levels and strata of people in building provinces and cities into defence zones firm in politics, wealthy in economics, strong in national defence and security, which are the sound foundations for the all-people national defence. The Prime Minister decides the promotion of officers of the armed forces to the ranks of Major General and Lieutenant General.

The Ministry of National Defence is the advisory organ for the Party and State to consult on matters of national defence and military guidelines and duties in safeguarding the Homeland, exercises the State management function on national defence nationwide, organizes the work of building, managing and commanding of the VPA, the Militia and Self-Defence Force, and administers public services as stipulated by law. The Minister of National Defence, who directs the execution of the State management functions on national defence and military affairs as defined by law and concurrently takes on responsibilities for the organization, building and management of the armed forces, and is the

highest commander of the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force. The Ministry of National Defence is composed of the General Staff, the General Political Department, other general departments and their subordinates. The Ministry of National Defence decides the commission and promotion of officers to the ranks of field and company officers of the VPA.

The General Staff commands and operates the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force, and exercises the State management function on national defence. The General Staff organizes and directs the development of the army and the Militia and Self-Defence Force while also commanding military operations. The General Staff comprises the General Chief of Staff, the vice chiefs, the functional departments of operations, military training, manpower, militia and self-defence, and educational institutions. The General Chief of Staff, concurrently the Deputy Minister of National Defence, takes the role of the Minister of National Defence in the latter's absence. The General Chief of Staff directs offices and units directly under the General Staff to formulate the defence strategy, the master and specific plans for defending the country; presides over coordinating, instructing, inspecting and motivating other ministries, ministerial-level agencies, and the people's committees at all levels to implement legal regulations on national defence; and inspects and urges VPA units to abide by the State laws and the orders of the Minister of National Defence.

The General Political Department is the organ that directs and carries out the Party and political work in the army. It has the General Director and Vice General Directors, functional departments responsible for the personnel work, political propaganda and ideological education, Party organizations, public relations and army security. It is in charge of administrative management over the system of military tribunals and military procurations at all levels.

The functional organizations at the general department level of the Ministry of National Defence include the General Department of Technology, the General Department of Logistics, the General Department of Defence Industry and the General Department of Defence Intelligence. Each general department has the general director and vice general directors (the General Department of Defence Intelligence has the commander and vice commanders), the commissar and deputy commissar, the staff office, the political department, and other departments and subordinate units with specific responsibilities and duties.

The General Department of Logistics is the leading organ for logistics in the VPA, and functioned as an advisory agency on relevant matters concerned. At the same time it directs and organizes such logistical activities as material supplies, daily necessity support, medical care, and transportation for the army. Its current organization includes the Office of the General Department of Logistics, the Staff Office, Political Department, Department of Logistics, specialized departments in charge of military ordnance,

military medicine, stationing facilities, fuel, transportation and other subordinate agencies, bases, and units.

The General Department of Technology is the leading organ for technology in the VPA, functioning as a staff agency on the matters concerned and ensures the technological and technical support for the VPA. It has functional departments in charge of technological and technical support for military regions, army corps, services and arms. It also has agencies, units, specialized educational institutions, maintenance depots and enterprises, and other subordinate units.

The General Department of Defence Industry is in charge of manufacturing military weapons and equipment for the army and the Militia and Self-Defence Force. It has functional departments, weapon and military equipment manufacturing factories, vocational schools, and subordinate units.

The General Department of Defence Intelligence is a specialized strategic intelligence body for the Party and State of Vietnam, the specialized military intelligence organ for CMPC and the Ministry of National Defence. The General Department of Defence Intelligence directly carries out intelligence activities at the strategic level. At the same time, it is the advisory organ for the Minister of National Defence and the General Chief of Staff to consult on the force organization and intelligence operations. It is the lead department directly responsible for instructing and guiding the army's military intelligence and reconnaissance network in terms of professional intelligence.

The Maritime Police Department under the Ministry of National Defence is the State's specialized force with the responsibility of controlling security, order, safety, and law enforcement as stipulated by the State of Vietnam and the relevant international conventions and agreements signed or participated in by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in its waters and continental shelf. Vietnam has four Maritime Police zones. The Maritime Police force is equipped with vessels capable of enforcing the laws related to sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in Vietnam's waters. All activities of the Vietnam Maritime Police are directly organized, managed and operated by the Ministry of National Defence.

The Department of Rescue and Relief, under the Ministry of National Defence, functions as the standing body of the National Committee for Search and Rescue, and is responsible for coordinating both military and non-military forces in search and rescue operations, and disaster relief.

The Foreign Relations Department, under the Ministry of National Defence, is the State management organ on the VPA's defence external relations, functioning as the advisory organ for the CMPC and the Minister of National Defence to consult on the guidelines, directions and measures to military external relations, instructing and managing defence external relations activities, and planning and organizing those activities in assigned domains. The Department of External Affairs represents the Ministry of National Defence in relations with foreign defence attachés,

diplomatic representatives, international and regional organizations in Vietnam.

The Office of the Ministry of National Defence concurrently the CMPC Office and other organizations play the role of a consultative organ and provide assistance to the Ministry of National Defence.

4.3. Directions to Enhance the Leadership and Management in National Defence

Enhancing the Party's leadership in national defence is aimed at meeting the requirements of defending the Homeland under new conditions. The Party's organizational structure in national defence leadership is built in a unified and synchronous way from the centre to locality, notably at military region and grassroots levels. The contents of the Party leadership work in national defence are continuously supplemented. The operational mechanism and the coordination responsibilities of each level, branch, locality in activities relevant to national defence, especially in dealing with complicated situations are becoming more clearly defined and perfected.

Administrative reform, aimed at making the work of the state apparatus in national defence increasingly effective is of exceptional significance. The goal of the administrative reform is to make the system of administration and state administrative management smooth, sufficiently authoritative, competent and efficient, with three main points: the institutional reform of administrative affairs, the

rectification of the apparatus, and the formation of cadres and employee contingents.

The organizational structure of the State management in national defence from the centre to localities continues to be adjusted on the basis of clearly identifying the operational mechanism, functions and tasks of agencies and cadres charged with national defence work in ministries and branches. The national defence duties of agencies, departments and branches at all levels are institutionalized by law so as to make the best of the State management power in national defence. The delegation of the State management authority in national defence between the governmental agencies and authorities of centrally-governed provinces and cities is being further studied in order to set in details.

One of the major policies and solutions to the administrative reform in national defence is to ensure the democratization of the society's political life, the realization of the people's mastery in safeguarding the Homeland and in fulfilling their duties and rights in national defence. Administrative procedures concerning the State management in national defence are being continually reformed along with building the contingent of pure and competent cadres responsible for national defence work.

The cadres of functional agencies should continually be guided and fostered to bring into full play their roles as consultant in organizing the building and management of

national defence work. The statute of relations, coordination, and combination among agencies and branches at all levels in carrying out defence-related activities should be streamlined in order to enhance the overall strength of all forces. The system of statutory documents and the system of policies in building the all-people national defence should be studied, supplemented, and amended to match the requirements of new situations so that every citizen would be able to fulfil their obligation and rights to the national defence tasks.

Part Three

BUILDING THE PEOPLE'S ARMY

AND

THE MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE VPA AND THE MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

The People's Army and the Militia and Self-Defence Force are the main components of Vietnam people's armed forces, playing the key role in all-people national defence, charged with the task of combat readiness and combat to defend the Homeland, and at the same time, making contribution to the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country.

1.1. Vietnam People's Army

The VPA, the core of the Vietnam people's armed forces, is an army from the people and for the people, and ready to sacrifice their own lives for "the independence and freedom of the Homeland, for socialism and for the happiness of the people."

The forerunner of the VPA is the Vietnam Propaganda Unit of the Liberation Army, the first main force established on December 22, 1944 under the directive of late President Ho Chi Minh.

At the time of its founding, the Propaganda Unit of the Liberation Army, with only 34 cadres and soldiers, soon displayed the tradition of the nation's struggle against foreign invaders and the military art of "using the few to counter the many and the small to defeat the big." In its early days, the first regular troops of Vietnam attained resounding feats of arms, liberating large areas to establish

the bases for the struggle for independence, beginning the VPA's tradition of “determined to fight and determined to win.” On May 15, 1945, the Vietnam Propaganda Unit of Liberation Army merged with the National Salvation Army and was renamed the Liberation Army, becoming the main military force of the Front of Vietnam Independence League during the General Uprising to seize state power in the August Revolution in 1945.

The Vietnam Propaganda Unit of Liberation Army, forerunner of the VPA, established on December 22nd 1944

From 1945 to 1954, the VPA developed by leaps and bounds in both manpower and combat strength. Shortly since the Independence Day to November 1945, the Liberation Army developed from a small group into a 50,000 strong National Army of Vietnam organized into 40 detachments. In 1950, the latter was renamed the Vietnam People’s Army. At that time, the important regular multi-

regiment units (equivalent to divisions), namely, 308, 304, 312, 320, 316, 325 and 351, were established one after another, and have so far remained the main force units of the VPA. From a small troupe with only several hundreds soldiers during the General Uprising, the VPA grew into an army of powerful regular divisions, achieving outstanding feats of arms, of which the greatest was the Historic Victory of Dien Bien Phu, where the French scheme to re-establish its colonial regime was resolutely defeated.

The flag of "determined to fight and determined to win" in the Dien Bien Phu Battle, May 1954

After the 1954 Geneva Accords were signed, Vietnam was temporarily divided into two parts. The Vietnamese people assumed the two strategic tasks of the socialist construction in the North and the struggle for national reunification. The VPA's missions then were to develop into a more regularized army that could both safeguard the socialism in the North and join the struggle for the liberation of the South to achieve national reunification. On February

15, 1961, the South Vietnam Liberation Army, the military force of the South Vietnam Liberation National Front, was founded on the basis of merging the local armed forces with reinforcements from the North. Upon the direct intervention of US troops, the VPA, shouldering with the people and other armed forces, launched the all-people, all-round, long-lasting and arduous war, accomplished miracles with the 1968 Spring General Offensive and Uprising as a typical instance, and the fought back against the sabotage wars conducted by the US Air Force and Navy on the North, with "Dien Bien Phu Battle in the Air" in December 1972 as the pinnacle; with the successful ending by the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign on April 30, 1975 resulting in the reunification of the country, and opened a new era of development for Vietnam.

South Vietnam Liberation Army's tank entered the Independence Palace on April 30th 1975

After the 1975 historic victory, the VPA with the whole people again won the wars for border protection, preserved the Homeland's independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Right after the end of the national salvation war against American aggressors, the genocide regime headed by Pol Pot in Cambodia incited nationalist resentment and launched the border encroachment war in the south-west border of Vietnam. Pol Pot's clique committed numerous barbarous massacres against the Vietnamese people living along the border, and at the same time, conducted the policy of genocide against the people of Cambodia. To protect the Homeland, on December 23, 1978, the VPA launched the strategic counter-offensive and smashed the Pol Pot army's attacks. Then, in response to an urgent appeal from the Cambodian people and the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation, Vietnam's military volunteers, along with the Cambodian armed forces, annihilated 21 Pol Pot divisions and put an end to this brutal genocide regime.

When the country embarked upon the period of peace and construction, the VPA adjusted its organizational structure and equipment, and downsized its strength by nearly two thirds. Generations of VPA officers and soldiers continue to display the fine tradition and nature of "Uncle Ho's Soldiers" and always faithfully fulfil their functions as an army ready for fight, for work and for produce, worthy of late President Ho Chi Minh's praise of "Our army, loyal to the Party, pious to the people and ready to fight and sacrifice

their lives for independence and freedom of the Homeland, and socialism, will fulfil any tasks, overcome any difficulties and defeat any enemies."

Functioning as an army ready for work, the VPA has always maintained its close ties with the people. Being one of the core forces participating in mass mobilization, the VPA units have actively conducted that work. Many of them have taken the lead in socio-economic development in remote and secluded areas, taking part in search and rescue operations, natural disaster relief, and flood and storm prevention. The VPA has also joined in the work of hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, contributing to the improvement of the people's material and spiritual life, striving to achieve by 2010 the goal of hunger elimination and poverty alleviation for 100,000 needy households.

As an army ready for produce, VPA units have made the most of such potential as labour, land, techniques, etc., to promote production activities and generate on-spot supplemental products that contribute to stabilizing and considerably improving the servicemen's quality of life. VPA factories and enterprises have manufactured various types of weapons and equipment necessary for modern operations that meet the army's requirements of combat readiness and combat. Many VPA units engaging in production and business have effectively conducted their operations to become the country's major economic organizations, pioneering the combination of economy with defence, thus making worthy contributions to the nation's

socio-economic development and defence-security consolidation. VPA businesses have joined a number of the nation's major projects and ventures such as the Ho Chi Minh highway, North-South 500KV electric grid, services for petrol and gas exploitation, and hydroelectric station constructions at the Da River and Dray H'ling. There are 98 VPA businesses at present operating in various fields of the economy, such as flight services, seaport services, telecommunication, and ship-building industry. Their export commodity and service turnover is ever increasing.

Fulfilling its basic function of combat readiness and combat to protect national independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and interests, the VPA is organized in the direction of making it highly-skilled and compact, supplied with necessary modern weapons and equipment, regularly trained, and ready to complete any assigned tasks.

At the moment, the VPA has 450,000-strong active forces including main force and local force, and a 5-million-strong reserve.

The main force, the core of the VPA, comprises the mobile force of the corps, services, arms, the main force of the military regions and technicians and professional personnel. Besides readiness-training units and combat units, there is a complete system of logistic support units, technical support units, academies, research institutes, officer-training institutions and professional and vocational schools at various levels.

1.1.1. Ground Forces

The Ground Forces is not organized into a separate command, but put under the direct guidance and command of the Ministry of National Defence, the General Staff, the General Political Department, and under the specific direction of general departments and other functional agencies. In the early days, the VPA was composed of the Ground Forces only, mainly infantry. After 65 years of building, the Ground Forces have gradually developed in organization and strength to meet the requirements, circumstances and fighting modes of the Vietnam's people's war.

The Ground Forces consist of seven Military Regions (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9) and Hanoi Capital Command, six arms (Artillery, Tank and Armour, Engineering, Signal, Chemical, and Commando) and four corps (1, 2, 3, and 4). Each military region, Army corps and arm has Commander and Vice Commanders, Commissar and Deputy Commissar, functional agencies responsible for staff, political, logistics, and technical affairs and other subordinate units. The military regions are organized in strategic directions and areas. Each military region consists of affiliated regular divisions and regiments. A military region commands provincial and district military units and the Militia and Self-Defence Force within the region. Army corps, the largest-size mobile units in the Ground Forces, are positioned to protect the country's vital strategic local areas. An Army corps is composed of divisions and other affiliated

units. The arms participate in joint and combined operations as assigned and also exercise the function of technical support and officer and technical personnel training in professional branches for the whole VPA. Each arm has its own combat units, officer-training colleges and professional technical schools.

The Ground Forces of Vietnam are equipped in the "modern, light and compact" direction so as to achieve the capabilities of high mobility, strong shock and fire power, and fighting in various terrains and any weather and climate conditions in conformity with the art of modern people's war. Having undergone a lot of trials during the wars for national liberation and defence, the Ground Forces have gradually matured, excellently fulfilled their duties, and built the glorious tradition. All of its corps, most of the arms and numerous units have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces.

1.1.2. Air Defence – Air Force

The Air Defence – Air Force is a service assuming the responsibilities of both national air defence and air forces. It is the core force responsible for the control and defence of the airspace, protection of the nation's key facilities and the people, and participates in safeguarding the Homeland's seas and islands. The Air Defence – Air Force is able to independently perform its missions, or to take part in joint and combined operations. The service plays the role of a consultative organ for the Ministry of

National Defence on matters concerning the building of the air defence of the Ground Forces and the air force of other services, arms and branches. The military air transportation, besides the task of supporting combat and combat readiness, also takes part in natural disaster relief operations and economic development activities.

The Air Defence – Air Force is organized into the Service Command, combat units, support units, educational institutions and production units. The Service Command has the Commander and Vice Commanders, the Commissar and the Deputy Commissar. It also consists of agencies responsible for military affairs, Party and political work, technical and logistic issues, and affiliated units. The main combat units of the service are air divisions, air defence divisions, and affiliated air units. The Air Defence – Air Force is gradually equipped with various types of modern combat aircraft, missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and other technical means, including multi-purpose fighters, long-range air defence missiles and new generation radars. The service has well performed the training task, maintained the combat readiness and control of the country's airspace, and taken part in search-and-rescue and disaster relief operations.

During the liberation war, the Air Defence – Air Force, by performing its duties with excellence, defeated the two wars of sabotage of the U.S. Air Force and Navy in the North, protected the transportation of supplies from the North to the South, making worthy contribution to

defending the North and liberating the South, thus achieving national reunification. By virtue of their achievements in combat operations and other tasks, both the Air Defence and Air Force have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces

1.1.3. Navy

The Vietnam People's Navy is the core service in protecting Vietnam's maritime sovereignty. The Navy's responsibility is to strictly manage and control the waters and islands in the East Sea under Vietnam's sovereignty, to maintain security, to counter any acts of violating sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and national interests of Vietnam at sea, to secure normal activities of Vietnam in its waters and islands in conformity with Vietnamese and international laws, to ensure maritime safety and participate in search-and-rescue operations in accordance with Vietnam's laws and the international conventions adopted by Vietnam, to be ready for joint and combined operations to defeat any aggression from and at sea.

The Navy Headquarters takes command of the entire Navy. The Headquarters has the Commander and Vice Commanders, the Commissar and the Deputy Commissar. It also consists of agencies responsible for military affairs, Party and political work, technical and logistic issues. The Navy is organized into five Naval Regions (1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and affiliated units. The main forces of the Navy are the

units of surface ships, coastal artillery and land-to-sea missiles, marine, naval commando and island defence forces. The Navy has been reinforced with personnel and equipment to effectively conduct search-and-rescue operations. In the future, the Navy will be further equipped with modern weapons and enhanced combat power to be sufficiently capable of successfully accomplishing the task of protecting Vietnam's sovereignty, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and national interests at sea.

The Navy enjoys a very glorious tradition, having achieved great feats of arms in fighting against the sabotage war launched by the U.S. Air Force and Navy in the North of Vietnam, particularly in breaking through the U.S. sea lane blockade, and in accomplishing its assigned tasks in the historic Ho Chi Minh Campaign. The Service has been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces.

1.1.4. Border Guard

The Border Guard, equivalent to a service, is a component of the VPA. It exercises the functions of controlling, protecting national sovereignty, territorial integrity, public order and security of national borders on land, at sea, and border gates as regulated by laws. It is also a force in defence zones of the border provinces and districts. The Border Guard bears the main responsibility for coordinating with concerned branches and forces in local areas and authorities in controlling and protecting the national border lines and border landmarks, ensuring the

implementation of agreements, regulations and laws on border issues, detecting and fighting against all illegal activities and sabotages, and crimes of all kinds to preserve sovereignty, security and public order in the boundary areas; carrying out the border guard external relations, maintaining contacts with agencies concerned of neighbouring countries to settle the border related issues with a view to building the border of peace and friendship, hence making contribution to the creation of an environment of stability and development that actively supports the policy of expanding international cooperation.

The Border Guard is consistently organized and commanded from its Headquarters to grassroots units, including the Border Guard Command, border guard provincial (municipal) commands, border guard maritime brigades, and border guard posts, border guard maritime detachments. The Border Guard Command has the Commander and Vice Commanders, the Commissar and the Deputy Commissar. It also consists of agencies responsible for military affairs, Party and political work, technical and logistic issues, the Department of Drugs Prevention and Control, and affiliated units. The Border Guard has become increasingly stronger, professionally competent, and adept at mass mobilization and expert in Vietnam laws, as well as international laws and practices. It is equipped with border guard professional means and devices and increasingly modern weapons to accomplish its tasks.

Since its establishment on March 3, 1959, after 50 years of growing, and maturing, and increasingly striving, the Border Guard's officers and soldiers have achieved numerous feats of arms and glorious victories. The Border Guard has been awarded a Gold Star Order and twice the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces.

1.1.5. Local Force

The Local Force is a mobile force engaging in operations mainly within its locality, and together with the militia and self-defence units, playing the core role in the people's war at localities under the direct command of the provincial military commands (or centrally-governed cities) and the district-level military commands (or provincially-governed towns and cities). The Local Force is closely linked to a defence zone, carrying out combat operations in the general defence posture of the military region as well as the whole country in accordance with the requirements and characteristics of each area in the people's war at the locality in combination with the people's war of the entire country.

The organization, equipment, and disposition of the Local Force depends on the size and the importance of provinces (or centrally-governed cities) and districts (or provincially-governed towns and cities). Up to the organizational size, terrain conditions, and the socio-economic situation of each locality, the Local Force units are equipped with the amounts and types of weapons

suitable for combat needs. The Local Force also has professional and technical units, as well as air-defence, artillery, reconnaissance, commando, engineering and other support units.

Nowadays, education and training for Local Force units are conducted regularly in order to raise the sense of vigilance and readiness necessary for the coordination and combination with militia and self-defence units in fighting for the protection of the local people and authorities. The Local Force also closely coordinates with the Militia and Self-Defence Force to maintain order and security within their own localities, render assistance to the Militia and Self-Defence Force in training, and contribute to the fulfilment of training task for the Reserve.

1.1.6. Reserve

The Reserve, a component of the VPA, is strictly organized, disciplined and capable of fulfilling its task, ready to participate in the active force as required. The Reserve includes reserve military personnel and technical means of the national economy which have been selected and planned to readily supplement the active force of the VPA. The Reserve is organized on the basis of the same table of organization and equipment of the VPA with its components corresponding to those of the services and arms of the regular and Local Force.

Every year, the Government assigns quotas of training, exercises and examinations of mobilization readiness for

ministries, branches and localities. The Ministry of National Defence instructs, directs, inspects and urges the localities and units in their building and mobilization of the Reserve in conformity with the laws, and directly administers the training arrangement of the reserve units. The ministries, branches, and provincial people's committees coordinate with active units of the VPA to allocate military reservists and technical equipment to reserve units based on the mobilization quotas assigned by the Government.

The reservists are selected from military personnel finishing their military service and civilians trained as regulated by the law. Annually, the reserve units are summoned for checking their mobilization readiness, with training and military exercises based on a common training programme. Reservists are selectively appointed to command posts of the reserve units and get allowances as regulated.

So far, the Reserve has become an important force contributing to the building of the all-people defence and the consolidation of the strength of the people's war posture to meet the requirements of construction and protection of the Homeland under new circumstances.

1.1.7. Major Academies, Colleges and Research Institutes

The VPA has a complete system of academies and schools to meet the demand for training officers and non-commissioned officers as well as technicians at all levels for the VPA, masters and doctorate candidates for the

military, engineers and technicians for civilian areas. Those institutions also do scientific and technological research in general, and military scientific and technological research in particular. At present, Vietnam has 21 military academies, colleges, and 1 junior college training officers for all branches, agencies and units under the Ministry of National Defence. Organizationally, there are 6 major academies and 3 officer-training colleges directly attached to the Ministry of National Defence. The remaining academies, colleges and schools are under the management of general departments, services and arms. Military educational institutions are classified on the basis of responsibilities and tasks of training officers. The National Defence Academy is the only institution training strategic-level officers. The remaining academies train operational and tactical-level officers. The officer-training colleges train company-level command officers.

The National Defence Academy is a major State educational institution, assigned by the Government to the Ministry of National Defence for direct management. This Academy is the training and supplementary centre for Party's and State's high-level cadres. Its tasks include the training of operational and strategic-level officers for the VPA, the improvement of national defence knowledge for key cadres of the ministries, agencies, branches and public mass organizations at central and local levels, the training of military masters and doctorate candidates, and international cooperation with

some countries in the field of training military and civilian cadres in terms of national defence.

The Ministry of National Defence also directly administers two academies training medium and high-ranking political and military officers, namely, the Academy of Politics and the Academy of Army. The Academy of Politics' mission is to train political officers at the intermediate and advanced levels of politics. It is also entrusted with the task of managing the Institute for Military Social Sciences and Humanities by the Ministry of National Defence. The Academy of Army, which is directly under the Ministry of National Defence, is a military educational institution, responsible for training command and staff officers at regimental and divisional levels for the Ground Forces.

Directly attached to the Ministry of National Defence are other research institutes on military science, arts and technology such as the Institute for Military Strategy, the Institute for Military Science and Technology, the Institute for Military History, and the Institute for Defence International Relations.

The Institute for Military Strategy plays the role of a consultative organ for the Ministry of National Defence on issues related to national defence guidelines and policies, and the building of the armed forces, studying, analysing and forecasting potential threats to Vietnam's national defence and security, issues of military ideology, guidelines

and doctrines, the arts of war, modes of warfare, the economic-national defence issues, and proposing the directions for the organization and construction of the armed forces, the leadership and command system, and measures for safeguarding the Homeland.

The Institute for Military Science and Technology is a research institution on military science-technologies that conducts research on and develops equipment and weapons for the army to meet the requirements of modern warfare, while simultaneously doing research on sciences, techniques and technologies for civilian use.

The Institute for Military History is the leading historical research institution of the VPA in charge of doing research on the military history of Vietnam and the world in order to draw lessons and experiences that serve the tasks of the Homeland's construction and protection at present and in the future.

The Institute for Defence International Relations is responsible for research on the world defence relations. At the same time, it plays the role of a consultative organ and organizes activities of multilateral defence foreign relations for the Ministry of National Defence.

1.1.8. Major Production Units

The production units of the VPA are the leading force in combining the economy with national defence. VPA's companies, enterprises, including many corporations and production corps, have made considerable contributions to

the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country, maintaining their presence in the most difficult regions for socio-economic development, thus creating strong national defence posture in the vital areas of the Homeland.

The VPA has more than 20 production corps responsible for the socio-economic development of the remote and mountainous areas, contributing to the improvement of the material and spiritual life of the people, and ensuring national defence and security in the border regions and islands. The production corps take part in the re-distribution of the inhabitants in accordance with the production planning and national long-term defence-security goals, forming groups of villages and communes in the border regions in the all-people national defence posture for the protection of the Homeland. The tasks of such production corps are to build critical infrastructures, for example, roads, electric and irrigation systems, clean water supply, schools, medical stations and markets; to carry out measures to encourage the production of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, creating basic elements for the development of the commodity economy; to assistant in hunger elimination and poverty alleviation in the areas of responsibility. In places with favourable conditions for large-scale production where local people are not able to invest in goods production by themselves (such as the Central Highlands, South-western Vietnam and North-western Vietnam), the VPA directly organizes production so as to attract the ethnic minorities as

well as people from other places to come for settlement and participation in the State's economic organizations.

In parallel with improving the material life of the people, production corps also make considerable contribution to the improvement of the cultural and spiritual life in the distant areas of the Homeland. The production corps have mobilized the people to carry out the Party's and State's guidelines and policies; developed television and radio broadcasting, cultural and medical systems in mountainous villages; built schools for the children of the ethnic minorities; taken part in primary education universalization and illiteracy eradication; improved conditions of medical care for the people; and preserved and developed the traditional culture of the ethnic minorities. The production corps have also helped improve and train the cadre contingent for the localities, facilitating sustainable socio-economic development in local areas.

Since their establishment, production corps have taken part in resettlement programs, built hundreds of groups of new mountainous villages, sponsored and organized the permanent agriculture and settlement for tens of thousands of households, and generated jobs for ethnic minority groups. The production corps have assisted the people to reclaim virgin lands, improve paddy fields for wet rice cultivation, contributing to the modification of backward lifestyles and cultivating customs, and built and consolidated the national defence-security posture in key local areas.

1.2. Militia and Self-Defence Force

Militia and Self-Defence Force is the armed force of the masses that is not separated from production activities and work. As a component of the People's Armed Forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, it is placed under the leadership of the CPV, the management of the Government and people's committees at various levels, the unified guidance and command of the Minister of National Defence, and the direct guidance and command of local military headquarters, taking responsibility for the protection of administrative authorities, lives and property of the people, State property at the levels of communes, offices and organizations.

In peacetime, the Militia and Self-Defence Force is the core force tasked with performing both work and production, and playing the vanguard role in protecting production activities, preventing and overcoming the aftermaths of natural calamities and enemy-inflicted destruction as well as other serious incidents. At the same time, it co-ordinates with grassroots-level security forces to maintain political security, and public order and safety in localities, and participates in building grassroots-level establishments into comprehensively strong ones, making contributions to the building of increasingly firm local defence zones. In border, sea areas and islands, the Militia and Self-Defence Force co-ordinates with the Border Guard Force to firmly protect sovereignty, territorial integrity and border security of the Homeland. In wartime, the Militia and

Self-Defence Force becomes the strategic force in carrying out people's war, acting as the core force in the movement of fighting the enemy by the whole people, taking part in combat and combat service, coordinating with other forces to protect the locality and unit pursuant to the operational plan of the defence zone. The Militia and Self-Defence Force carries out civil defence work both in peacetime and wartime as regulated by law.

Militia units are organized in communes, precincts or district towns (commonly called communes). The self-defence units are organized in political, socio-political bodies, State offices, civil services and economic organizations (commonly called offices and organizations). The Militia and Self-Defence Force is composed of the core force and the broad force. The core one is composed of the Militia and Self-Defence Force in infantry, air-defence, artillery, engineering, reconnaissance, signal, chemical protection, medical care, and the coastline and maritime Militia and Self-Defence Force. The mobile, on-the-spot and permanent forces of the Militia and Self-Defence Force are organized into platoons, companies or battalions, and equipped with appropriate weapons. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is provided with political education and military training in the programmes regulated by the Ministry of National Defence. The Minister of National Defence and commanders of military headquarters at various levels command the Militia and Self-Defence Force as stipulated by the Law on National Defence. Activities of the Militia and

Self-Defence Force are carried out according to the plans of commune-level military commanders, and of military command boards of offices and organizations, under the direct leadership as well as guidance of the Party's executive committees and the grassroots-level administrative authorities.

The First National Congress of the CPV issued "the Resolution on Self-Defence Teams" on March 28, 1935 which is regarded as the foundation date of Vietnam's Militia and Self-Defence Force. For the past 74 years, the development history of the Militia and Self-Defence Force has been closely linked to the cause of national independence, and the Homeland's construction and protection. From 1935 to 1945, self-defence teams in both rural and urban areas came into being, becoming core elements for the masses to conduct armed uprisings and guerrilla warfare, and to build and expand their guerrilla bases. In August 1945, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the whole people successfully carried out the General Uprising for independence. After September 2, 1945, the Militia and Self-Defence Force became an element of the independent State of Vietnam's armed forces, one of the three categories of the people's armed forces, and was organized in all communes and villages, municipal quarters, actually becoming a tool to protect the young revolutionary regime and the revolutionary achievements.

In the resistance war against the French colonialists, the Militia and Self-Defence Force was developed

extensively all over the country, gradually unified organizationally, guided and commanded by the communal militia board, and district and provincial military headquarters under the direct leadership of the Party's executive committees at various levels. Although equipped only with rudimentary improvised weapons while facing the expeditionary force armed with modern weapons, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the people formed combat villages, steadfastly held the ground and stuck fast to the people, wearing the enemies out, destroying the puppet authority system, eliminating traitors to the Vietnamese nation, and actively co-ordinating with regular troops to fight against enemy's mopping-up and besieging operations. The Militia and Self-Defence Force made many enemies' military posts surrender and withdraw, expanded the guerrilla bases, and contained and stretched enemy's forces, compelling them to disperse for response, created favourable conditions and joined the regular troops in conducting successfully many major operations, culminating in the historic Dien Bien Phu Battle.

In the national salvation war against American aggressors, the North Vietnam's Militia and Self-Defence Force, comprised of over 700 detachments and equipped with relatively modern weapons, formed an anti-aircraft network against enemy's low flying airplanes and shot down many enemy aircraft. The number of US aircraft shot down by the Militia and Self-Defence Force alone accounted for ten percent of the total US airplanes shot

down over the North. The Militia and Self-Defence Force also captured alive a great number of US pilots, wiped out tens of enemy commando groups, and sank and damaged many enemy combat ships. The Militia and Self-Defence Force also performed well the task of the people's air-defence at grass-roots localities, built a variety of air-raid shelters, overcame the aftermath of the damage caused by enemy's air-raids, cleared unexploded bombs, mines and water mines, and broke through sea lanes and harbours blockade, etc. There were 183 million turns of people participation in transportation, combat service, and help evacuating people, preventing and overcoming the aftermath of the damage caused by the enemy, and reinforcing effectively manpower and materials for the Southern front.

The Militia and Guerrilla Forces in South Vietnam bravely fought against the enemy with all kinds of weapons, used various and creative ways of fighting throughout three strategic regions, closely combining political struggle with armed struggle, holding out resiliently, creating the position of an interlocked pattern between our forces and the enemy's. This unique and creative way of fighting, Vietnamese guerrilla warfare, compelled the enemy to stretch its force in response. In the 1975 Spring General Offensive, the Militia and Self-Defence Force together with the regular troops and the entire people in South Vietnam launched simultaneous offensives and uprisings, liberating the whole of Southern Vietnam and achieved the reunification of the country.

After the great victory in the spring of 1975, the Militia and Self-Defence Force acted as a core component of the people at grassroots levels to overcome the aftermath of war by actively clearing unexploded bombs and mines to restore millions of hectares of cultivated land for production. The Militia and Self-Defence Force was mobilized to take part in the construction of the border defence line, directly engaged in combat and combat service, making important contributions to the success of the border wars.

Nowadays, the Militia and Self-Defence Force has developed in quality, quantity, organizational structure, and equipment. The organizational structure is more compact but the overall quality of the Militia and Self-Defence Force has been upgraded, meeting the requirements of new assignments.

Over 74 years of construction, combat and development, generations of cadres and members of the Militia and Self-Defence Force have shown absolute loyalty to the Homeland, the people, and the revolutionary cause of the Party, combating resiliently, ingeniously and bravely, labouring, studying and working effectively and creatively, and gained great achievements. Its 366 units and 275 individuals have been awarded the title of Hero of the People's Armed Forces. Vietnam's Militia and Self-Defence Force deserves President Ho Chi Minh's praise: "The Militia and Self-Defence Force and guerrillas are the force of the whole nation, an invincible force, a solid wall of the Homeland. No matter how

atrocious enemies are, if they collide with that force, that wall, they are sure to be destroyed."

2. GUIDELINES FOR BUILDING OF THE VPA AND THE MILITIA AND SELF-DEFENCE FORCE

2.1. Building the Vietnam People's Army

Vietnam advocates maintaining the VPA powerful enough, with a reasonable strength, highly trained, ready to meet all the demands for the protection of the Homeland.

2.1.1. Building Politico-Spiritual strength

Building the VPA politically and spiritually strong is a principle in the building of the VPA, a basis to raise the overall quality as well as combat power of the VPA, manifesting the viewpoint of regarding the human factor as the determinant in the battlefield. Political and spiritual building is to strengthen the Party's leadership and the effectiveness of the State's management, to maintain the nature of the working class, the national and people's characteristics of the VPA. The combat power in terms of politics and ideology of Vietnam's armed forces also manifests in the striving for mastery of advanced military science and technology, and the spirit of "dare to fight and fight to win."

Vietnam advocates enhancing the work of political education to make sure that the VPA brings into full play the tradition of patriotism and solidarity to fight the enemy and defend the country bequeathed from our forefathers for

national protection, the tradition of "determined to fight, determined to win" of the VPA. VPA cadres and soldiers must be educated and trained to ensure their firm political foundation and determination to fulfil any tasks, in any conditions and under any circumstances, especially in the face of ideology-sabotaging activities by hostile forces and negative effects of the society, their absolute loyalty to the Homeland and the regime, impregnation of revolutionary morals, close connection to the people, and their willingness to sacrifice their lives for national independence, freedom and interests, making contribution to the maintenance of peace in the region and world. The Party, command organizations, the system of political offices and the public mass organizations in the VPA should be made comprehensively powerful.

Vietnam is determined to counter all attempts of "depoliticizing" the VPA and People's Armed Forces by hostile elements to separate the People's Armed Forces from the leadership of the CPV.

2.1.2. The Organizational Structure and Equipment, and the Build-up of Human Resources

In peacetime, Vietnam advocates continuing to downsize the strength of the active force and to build the reserve force sufficient to meet the requirements in case of contingency or war. The active force of the VPA is maintained at the level of reasonable strength, highly-skilled, yet compact, ensuring the combat power. The

reduction in the number of subordinate units, the gradual transfer of certain support activities to civil sectors, the restructuring of the armed forces in the direction of giving priority to combat units, the units conducting important tasks, and technical services and arms are fundamental guidelines for the organizational structure and equipment of the armed forces in general, and the VPA in particular.

President Ho Chi Minh greatly appreciated the role of the contingent of officers and cadres when he said: "Cadres are considered as cornerstones for all kinds of work". Thus, the building of the contingent of officers and professional technical personnel, and training high-quality human resources for the people's armed forces are pivotal work and are of strategic significance. The objective of the training and education of the contingent of officers and professional technical personnel of the VPA is to satisfy the demand of building the revolutionary, regular, seasoned and gradually modern Army. Officers and professional technical personnel of the VPA must have firm political foundation and determination, strong combat will, and be capable of commanding the troops and operating under conditions of hi-tech wars. They must be educated and trained in all aspects of politics, ideology, morals, manners, competence and qualifications. The system of VPA educational institutions responsible for training officers and technicians in military science-technology majors must be organized in the direction of intensive training, widening the linkages among

themselves and with the training establishments of other ministries and branches so as to raise the effectiveness of training, to build an abundant source of talents trained for satisfying the requirement of the armed forces. Furthermore, VPA educational institutions must provide necessary knowledge in such fields as politics, economics, culture, sociology, law, technique, technology and management for the contingent of officers and professional technical personnel so that when they are no longer in service, they would easily adjust to civilian life. The State implements proper training policies to encourage and attract numerous brilliant young students to attend officer and professional technical personnel training colleges and schools in order to create a supplementary source of talents for the armed forces.

2.1.3. Training

In peacetime, in parallel with political and spiritual building, military training is indispensable for strengthening the combat power and combat readiness of the armed forces. The VPA pays special attention to the training of individual combat skills, joint and combined operations, and making the best use of the performance as well as effectiveness of existing weapons and equipment through the application of the Vietnamese military art. It also attaches great importance to raising the knowledge on modern military technology and to renovating the content, programmes and methods of training in conformity with the organizational

size, equipment as well as realistic conditions of each category of the armed forces so as to meet the combat requirements for defending the country in new situations.

The training is renovated comprehensively along the motto of "basics, practicalities, thorough grasp." Great importance is attached to the synchronized and in-depth training, close to combat realities, the requirements, assignments and operational areas of each force and each unit, consonant with the organizational structure and equipment, and the Vietnamese military art. In training, special attention is paid to the training and exercises of area defence at various levels, to the exercises of search and rescue, of natural disaster prevention as well as overcoming natural disaster consequences, and of counterterrorism, so that the units can deal well with various situations, fulfilling excellently the assignments.

To raise overall quality, enhance combat power as well as combat readiness of the VPA, the educational and training contents, programmes and methods continue to be renewed in order to be suitable for modern operational conditions. Special attention is paid to domestic and international linkage and integrated education. Great importance is attached to the training and fostering leaders and commanders with comprehensively excellent skills, military talents and skilled technical personnel. The training is close to combat requirements, combining the new way of fighting with the traditional one, selectively acquiring

experiences of other countries and combining guerrilla fighting mode with the regular force one.

2.1.4. Weapons, Technical and Logistic Equipment

Weapons and technical equipment play a very important role in modern wars. Although being a developing country with low-level of science and technology development the State of Vietnam pays attention to provide the VPA with weapons and technical equipment necessary for safeguarding the country. In order to provide the armed forces with weapons and technical equipment, in addition to conserving and maintaining well, and improving selectively the existing inventories, Vietnam has made appropriate investment in self-producing some weapons and equipment conformable with its technological capability, and at the same time, procuring some advanced weapons and technical equipment to meet the demands of strengthening the combat power of the people's armed forces.

Vietnam's national defence industry is a component of the national industry, developed mainly in the direction of self-reliance. At the same time, cooperation with defence industries of friendly countries is being conducted so as to absorb advanced technologies with a view to raising the level of science and technology development. For the research, development and application of military technology and production of Vietnamese national defence industry establishments to further satisfy the requirements for repairing, improving, producing weapons and technical

equipment of the armed forces, the national defence industry develops on the basis of close linkage with other industries, mobilizing potentialities of all economic sectors in an integrated strategy.

Logistic equipment plays an essential role in combat operations. The development of logistic equipment is carried out in the direction of research and improvement for raising quality of products necessary for the troops to fight under the condition of hi-tech wars. Proper investment is made in the acquisition of and research on manufacturing logistic equipment in order to meet regular demands of the VPA as well as of war situations. The scientific-technological research for the production of logistic equipment is accelerated together with strengthening the maintenance, management, reasonable use and bringing into full play the existing logistic equipment.

2.1.5. Building and Developing the Military Science

Experience and lessons drawn from the long history of armed uprisings, wars of liberation and wars of national defence have been developed into the unique military doctrine of Vietnam. Such experience and lessons have been summed up into the system of knowledge in order to find out the strength for safeguarding the country. One of the bases for creating this source of strength is the sense of national cohesion of Vietnam. That sense is shown fully in the patriotism, in the spirit of independence, self-mastery, self-reliance and self-resilience as stated by President Ho Chi

Minh "Liberate ourselves with our own power." The military science of Vietnam always places emphasis on that great and profound lesson. Owing to this, the capabilities of the entire people and entire nation have been exploited and made full use to the maximum extent through the thousands-of-year long history to build and defend the Homeland.

Nowadays, under the new conditions and circumstances, the military science of Vietnam is being enriched with theories of building the people's armed forces and the all-people national defence in peacetime. The military science of Vietnam has been built on the basis of the military theory and practices of its own and at the same time, acquired the quintessence of the world military science and applied in conformity with the specific conditions of Vietnam, especially those related to new factors emerging from the influences of the techno-scientific revolution in military affairs.

Coupling with the development of the military science, the military technology branch is also bringing into full play the tradition of "initiative, creativeness, self-reliance and self-resilience" in the research, development and application of new technologies, especially the information technology, in the training and education of technicians with a view to meeting the demands of conducting the people's war against hi-tech war to safeguard the Homeland.

The command system has satisfied the requirement of commanding the VPA and excellently fulfilled its tasks in

the recent wars. Nowadays, the techno-scientific achievements, particularly those in information technology, have made great strides in communication means to the service of command, control, intelligence and "information warfare." The big challenges of this kind of warfare require the command system of the VPA to be modernized so as to be able to meet the needs of any future war of national defence. Improving and raising the quality of the communication system play an important role in building the strength of the all-people national defence in general and the combat power of the VPA in particular.

2.1.6. Broadening Defence International Cooperation

Broadening external relations and heightening the effectiveness of international cooperation in the defence and security fields are an important orientation in the building of the VPA in the time to come.

The cooperation in training, education, and experience and academic exchanges are priorities in the defence external relations of Vietnam. Vietnam advocates broadening international cooperation in the training of officers and high-level professional technical personnel, especially in foreign language training, military medicine as well as other militarily scientific and technological fields. In addition to sending military personnel abroad for studying and training, some schools and colleges of the VPA are expanding their training and education for students of other countries' armed forces. Since 2007, the Vietnam's National

Defence Academy has opened training courses for foreign high-ranking officers. Broadening relations between Vietnam's academies, colleges and research institutes of national defence with foreign partners, and sending officers to attend international conferences as well as seminars are important channels for open exchanges on regional and international security issues of mutual interests, at the same time create opportunities for cooperation to raise the quality of research on new issues in the military science and art.

Vietnam pays attention to international cooperation in national defence industry in order to meet the demands for weaponry of the armed forces, to enhance capabilities of the national defence industry on the basis of the strict implementation of international commitments to arms control mechanism. Vietnam's national defence industry prioritises international cooperation in the fields of technological research and transfer, weapon and equipment production and repair, and personnel training.

To provide the VPA with modern weapons that the domestic defence industry is not yet capable of producing to meet the requirement of safeguarding the Homeland, Vietnam continues to acquire military weapons and equipment from traditional trading partners. At the same time, Vietnam pays attention to expanding defence trade relations with other countries in order to further satisfy the needs for technical support as well as equipment and weapons of the armed forces.

2.2. Building the Militia and Self-Defence Force

The Militia and Self-Defence Force is built in the direction of "solidity and extensiveness", with high overall quality, first and foremost the political one, and organized into active mobile force and widespread force with appropriate quantity and proportion, and rational organizational structure. The quality of training militia commanders of communes (precincts, district towns) is further improved. The role of leadership and guidance of local Party's executive committees and administrative authorities to the Militia and Self-Defence Force is strengthened, ensuring that this force is capable of fulfilling successfully its tasks and playing a pivotal and important role in the protection of the Party's executive committees, administrative authorities and people in localities.

Thoroughly grasping the Party's viewpoints and guidelines in building the armed forces of the masses in new situations, the Militia and Self-Defence Force is re-examined, consolidated to raise quality, foremost the political one. Proceeding from new requirements and assignments in modern wars, the building of an appropriate Militia and Self-Defence Force organization is carefully studied. The organization model of the Militia and Self-Defence Force is renovated in conformity with the diversity of economic sectors. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is organized in an extensive manner but with focal points, combining rudimentary with relatively modern and modern

equipment to meet the demands of foreseeable and long-term tasks.

The training of the Militia and Self-Defence Force is being renovated both in contents and methods, concentrating on cadres drilling and fostering. Examinations, demonstrations and exercises are frequently held to enhance working, command, and combat competences of the cadres and soldiers of the Militia and Self-Defence Force. Great importance is attached to the training of combat co-ordination between the Militia and Self-Defence Force and local troops and regular troops. The Militia and Self-Defence Force is trained for better fulfilling the tasks of natural disaster relief and prevention, and protection of social security order in localities.

The State applies an appropriately good treatment policy towards cadres and members of the Militia and Self-Defence Force, creating favourable conditions both materially and spiritually for them to operate more and more practically and effectively, so as to make worthy contribution to the cause of Homeland construction and protection

CONCLUSION

The White Paper on Vietnam National Defence provides readers with an overview on the basic issues of the Vietnam's national defence policy of which the building of all-people national defence, the building of the VPA and the Militia and Self-Defence Force are key matters. The issues addressed in the White Paper on Vietnam National Defence are aimed at contributing to the promotion of mutual understanding and confidence-building between Vietnam and other countries. This Paper is also an important document to raise the awareness of national defence for citizens of Vietnam, and help all citizens, offices, units and social organizations better understand their rights and duties to national defence consolidation for building and safeguarding the Homeland.

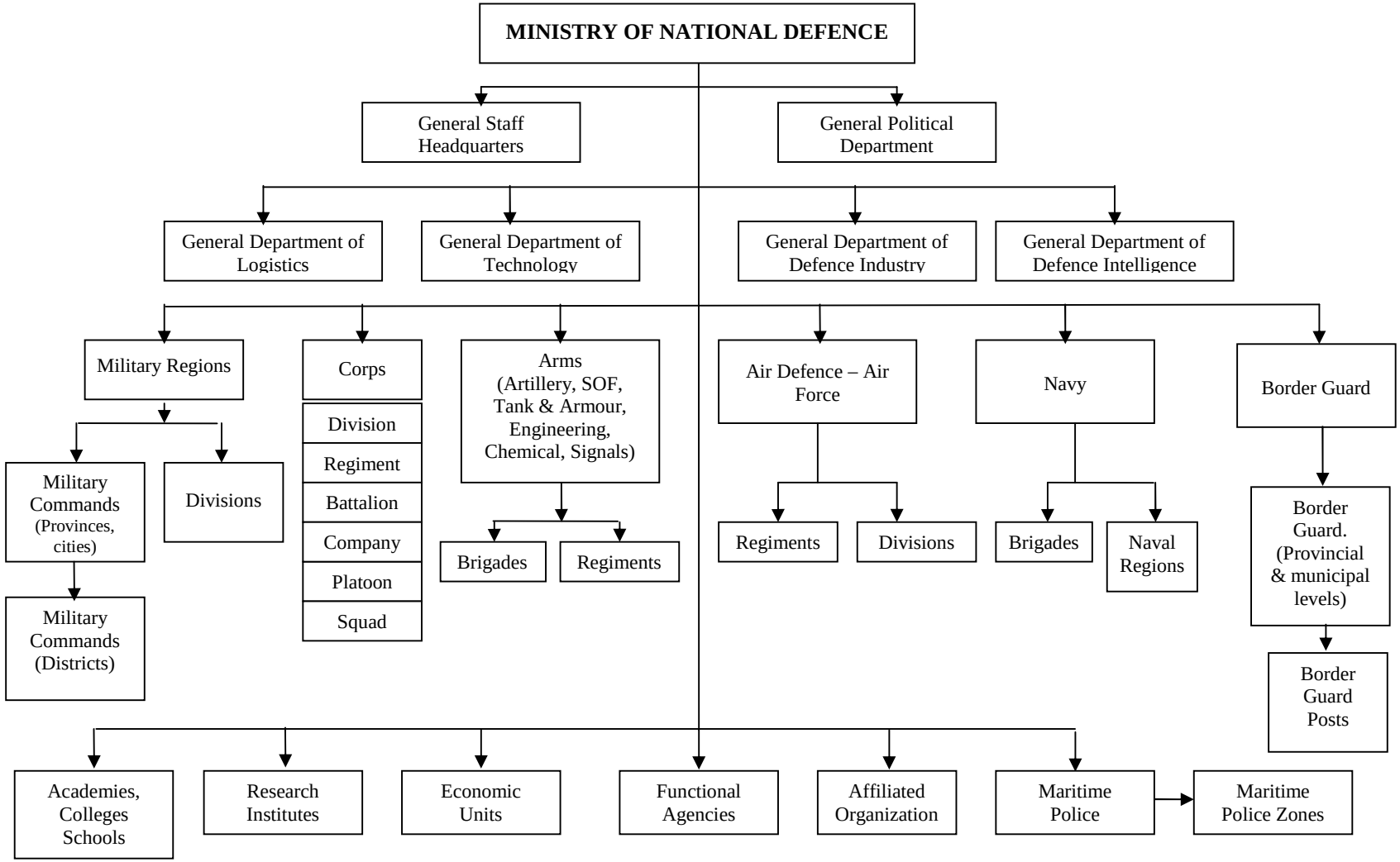
In the context of complicated and unpredictable changes in the world and regional security, with the mixture of opportunities and challenges, Vietnam advocates the maintenance and development of a sufficiently powerful national defence, adheres to the national defence policy of peaceful and self-defence nature focusing on building the all-people national defence. Vietnam builds its armed forces "of the people, by the people and for the people." which are closely organized and strictly disciplined, with a reasonable active force, a large and mighty reserve force. The armed forces are trained and equipped with increasingly advanced weapons to be strong enough to protect independence, sovereignty, unification, territorial integrity and the interests of the nation and the socialist regime. Vietnam accelerates

international cooperation in the national defence and security fields, seeks long-term solutions to territorial disputes as well as other issues by peaceful means, and contributes to building Southeast Asia into a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

The publication of 2009 White Paper on Vietnam National Defence expresses Vietnam's desire and determination for the development of friendship, cooperation, and equal relations with all countries on the basic of mutual respect for the sake of peace, national independence, democracy and social progress./.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1:
Organization and Structure of the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam



APPENDIX 2: LIST OF VIETNAM'S NATIONAL DEFENCE ATTACHÉ OFFICES

No.	Location	Address	Phone Fax
1	Laos	No. 65, Saomsayha Rd., Vientiane, Laos	00.856.21412403 00.856.21416352
2	Cambodia	No.75, 214 Rd., 7/1 Dist., Phnom Penh, Cambodia	00.855.12595443 00.855.23801430
3	Indonesia	Ambassador Mall, JS Sura Sarid, Indonesia	00.62816876373 00.62215265093
4	Malaysia	No.7, Lorongsan Ah wing, Off Jalan samarak, 54100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	00.603.26913522 00.603.26913566
5	Myanmar	No.45, Inyamaing Rd.,Bahan Township, Yangon, Union of Myanmar	00.95.1537823
6	The Philippines	No.670, Pabio, Ocampo, Malate, Manila, the Philippines	00.63.25280474 00.63.25280476
7	Singapore	No.62, Farrer Rd. # 03 - 01, Spanish Village, Singapore 268847	00.65.64757491 00.65.64632817
8	Thailand	No.1479, Pichaya Lasalle, Soi Sukhumvit 105 (Soi Lasalle), Bangna, Bangkok 10260 Thailand	00.66.23839284 00.66.23839285

No.	Location	Address	Phone
			Fax
9	China	No.32, Guang Hua Rd., Chao yang Dist., Beijing, China	00.86.1065323593
			00.86.1065323593
10	Korea, Republic	No.726-62, Hannam 2 - dong, Yongsan – gu, Seoul, ROK	00.82.27498362
			00.82.27493275
11	Korea, DPRK	No.7, Moonsoo dong-Dong Pyong Yang-Pyongang, DPRK	00.86.1065442327
12	Japan	Yoyogi 3-57-6, Room 305, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0053, Japan	00.81.35320617
			00.81.35320617
13	India	B1/70, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029, India	00.911146019697
			00.91.26161571
14	United States (concurrently in charge of Canada)	1233, 20th St., NW, Suite 201, Washington D.C., 20036, USA	00.01.202.2931822
			00.01.202.2931842
15	Brazil	SHIS QI-13, Conjunto 12-Casa 16, Lago Sul, Brasilia, Brazil	00.55.6132547957
			00.55.6132480669
16	Cuba	No 15201, Avenida 1ra A, Esq.154 Reparto Nautico, Municipio Playa, Ciudad La Habana	00.53.7.2044087
			00.53.7.2086418
17	Russia	No.30, Tverxkaia St., Iamskaya 1. Moscow, Russia	00.74.952518950
			00.74.952502138
18	Ukraine	No.51-A, Tavarna St., Kiev 01103, Ukraine	00.380.442845740
			00.380.442845542

No.	Location	Address	Phone
			Fax
19	Bulgaria	No.7, 507 St. Semeonovo, Sofia, Bulgaria	00.359.29613257
			00.359.29613429
20	France	No.45 bis, Av. Division Leclerc, 92320 Chatillon	00.33.157630353
			00.33.157637036
21	South Africa	Rem. Ext of Erf 551,No.302, NicholsonSt., Brooklyn Pretoria, Republic of South Africa	00.27.124608863
			00.27.124608872
22	Australia	No.4, Broinowski PL., ISAACS, ACT 2670, Australia	00.61.262901590
			00.61.262868630
23	Algeria	No.38, Rue Des Tourelles, Hydra, Alger, Algeria	00.21.321.603854
			00.21.321.603854
24	Germany	Platanenallee 12a, 14050, Berlin-Westend, Germany	00.49.3042023593
			00.49.3042023794
25	Venezuela	Mamabiba Building, Tropical Rd., La Floresta, Chacao dist., Caracas, Venezuela	n/a
26	Czech Republic	n/a	
27	Belarus	n/a	
28	Spain	n/a	
29	Brunei	n/a	

APPENDIX 3:
LIST OF MAJOR ACADEMIES, COLLEGES OF THE VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

A. Ministerial Level

No.	Name	Traditional Day	Contact Address
1	National Defence Academy	Jan. 03, 1977	No.93, Hoang Quoc Viet Rd., Hanoi
2	Political Academy	Oct. 25, 1951	Ngo Quyen Rd., Ha Dong, Hanoi
3	Army Academy	Jul. 07, 1946	9th Ward, Dalat, Lam Dong
4	Military Technology Academy	Oct. 28, 1966	100, Hoang Quoc Viet Rd., Hanoi
5	Logistics Academy	Jun. 15, 1951	Ngoc Thuy Ward, Long Bien Dist., Hanoi
6	Medical Academy	Mar.10, 1949	Phung Hung Rd., Ha Dong, Hanoi
7	1st Army College	Apr. 15, 1945	Co Dong Commune, Son Tay, Hanoi
8	2nd Army College	Aug. 27, 1961	Tam Phuoc Commune, Long Thanh, Dong Nai
9	College of Political Officers	Jan. 14, 1976	Bac Ninh Town, Bac Ninh

B. Service, Arm, General Department Levels

No.	Name	Traditional Day	Contact Address
1	Academy of Military Sciences	Jun. 10, 1957	No.322, Le Trong Tan St., Hoang Mai, Hanoi
2	Naval Academy	Apr.26,1955	No.30, Tran Phu Rd., Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa
3	Academy of Air Defence – Air Force	Jul.16, 1964	Kim Son Commune & Trung Son Tram Commune, Son Tay, Hanoi
4	Academy of Border Guard	May 20, 1963	Son Loc Quarter, Son Tay, Hanoi
5	College of Army Culture and Arts	Sept. 23, 1955	No. 100, Nguyen Chi Thanh Rd., Dong Da, Hanoi
6	College of Air Force Officers	Aug. 20, 1959	Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa
7	College of Tank & Amour Officers	Apr. 10,1973	Vinh Yen Rd., Tam Dao Dist., Vinh Phuc
8	College of Signals Officers	Jul. 20, 1967	Nha Trang, Khanh Hoa
9	College of Engineering Officers	Dec. 26, 1955	Thu Dau Mot Town, Binh Duong
10	College of Chemical Defence Officers	Sept. 21, 1976	Son Dong Commune, Son Tay Dist., Hanoi
11	College of Artillery Officers	Feb. 18, 1957	Trung Son Tram Commune, Son Tay, Hanoi

No.	Name	Traditional Day	Contact Address
12	College of Special Operation Officers	Jul. 20, 1967	Xuan Mai Town, Chuong My Dist., Hanoi
13	Vinhem Pic Technical Junior College	May. 27, 1978	No.189, Nguyen Oanh, Go Vap, Ho Chi Minh City

APPENDIX 4
LIST OF MAJOR RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF THE VIETNAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

No	Name	Traditional Day	Contact Address
1	Institute for Military Strategy	Jan. 11, 1990	No.3B, Hoang Dieu St., Hanoi
2	Institute for Military Science and Technology	Oct. 12, 1060	No.17, Hoang Sam St., Hanoi
3	Institute for Defence International Relations	Dec. 21, 2002	Nhan My, My Dinh, Tu Liem, Hanoi
4	Institute for Military History	May 28, 1981	No.3B, Hoang Dieu St., Hanoi
5	Institute for Military Art	Jan. 03, 1977	No.93, Hoang Quoc Viet Rd., Hanoi
6	Institute for Military Social Sciences and Humanities	Dec. 21, 2002	Ngo Quyen, Ha Dong, Hanoi

APPENDIX 5: TRADITIONAL DAYS OF MAJOR UNITS

No	Unit	Traditional Day
1	Vietnam People's Army	Dec. 12, 1944
2	General Staff Headquarters	Set. 07, 1945
3	General Political Department	Dec. 22, 1944
4	General Department of Logistics	Jul. 11, 1950
5	General Department of Technology	Sep. 10, 1974
6	General Department of Military Industry	Sep. 15, 1945
7	General Department of Defence Intelligence	Oct. 25, 1945
8	Military Region 1	Oct. 16, 1945
9	Military Region 2	Oct. 19, 1946
10	Military Region 3	Oct. 31, 1945
11	Military Region 4	Oct. 15, 1945
12	Military Region 5	Oct. 16, 1945
13	Military Region 7	Dec. 10, 1945
14	Military Region 9	Dec. 10, 1945
16	Air Defence – Air Force	Oct. 22, 1963
17	Navy	May, 07, 1955
18	Border Guard	Mar.03, 1959
19	Corps 1	Oct. 24, 1973
20	Corps 2	May 17, 1974
21	Corps 3	Mar.26, 1975
22	Corps 4	Jul. 20, 1974
23	Engineering Arm	Mar. 25, 1946
24	Special Operation Arm	Mar. 19, 1947
25	Chemical Arm	Apr. 19, 1958
26	Artillery Arm	Jun. 29, 1946
27	Tank-Amour Arm	Oct. 05, 1959
28	Signals Arm	Sep. 09, 1945
29	Foreign Relations Department	May 28, 1964
30	Maritime Police Department	Aug. 28, 1998

APPENDIX 6: LIST OF ECONOMIC-DEFENCE ZONES

No	Name	Location
1	Mau Son Economic - Defence Zone	Lang Son
2	Bao Lac-Bao Lam Economic - Defence Zone	Cao Bang
3	Muong Cha Economic - Defence Zone	Dien Bien
4	Vi Xuyen Economic - Defence Zone	Ha Gang
5	Xin Man Economic - Defence Zone	Ha Gang
6	Bat Sat Economic - Defence Zone	Lao Cai Province
7	Song Ma Economic - Defence Zone	Son La
8	Phong Tho Economic - Defence Zone	Lai Chau
9	Bac Hai Son Economic - Defence Zone	Quang Ninh
10	Binh Lieu-Quang Ha-Mong Cai Economic - Defence Zone	Quang Ninh
11	Khe Sanh Economic - Defence Zone	Quang Tri
12	Aso-Aluoi Economic - Defence Zone	Thua Thien-Hue
13	Ky Son Economic - Defence Zone	Nghe An
14	Muong Lat Economic - Defence Zone	Thanh Hoa
15	Cumga Economic - Defence Zone	Dak Lak
16	Tay Giang Economic - Defence Zone	Quang Nam
17	Bu Gia Phuc-Bu Gia Map Economic - Defence Zone	Binh Phuoc
18	Bac Lam Dong Economic - Defence Zone	Lam Dong
19	Tan Hong Economic - Defence Zone	Dong Thap
20	Quang Son Economic - Defence Zone	Dak Lak
21	Economic - Defence Zone of the 15th corps	Gia Lai, Kontum, Dak Lak
22	Economic - Defence Zone of the 16th corps	Dak Lak, Binh Phuoc

APPENDIX 7: LIST OF MAJOR DEFENCE GENERAL CORPORATIONS

No	Names	Traditional Day	Main Headquarters
1	Truong Son Construction General Corporation	May 19, 1959	No. 475, Nguyen Trai, Thanh Xuan, Hanoi
2	Northeast General Corporation	Dec. 24, 1994	Hong Hai Ward, Ha Long, Quang Ninh
3	Flight Services General Corporation	Jun. 01, 1989	No. 172, Truong Chinh Rd., Dong Da, Hanoi
4	Military Telecommunication General Corporation (Viettel)	Jun.01, 1989	No. 1, Giang Van Minh, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
5	General Corporation No.15	Feb. 20, 1985	Yen The Ward, Pleiku, Gia Lai
6	Military Petrol General Corporation	Sep. 30, 1965	No 125, Nguyen Phong Sac, Dich Vong, Cau Giay, Hanoi
7	General Corporation No 28	May 09, 1975	No.3, Nguyen Oanh, 10th Ward, Go Vap Dist., Ho Chi Minh City
8	Thanh An General Corporation	Jun. 11, 1982	No. 141, Ho Dac Di, Nam Dong, Dong Da, Hanoi
9	Tan Cang General Corporation	Mar. 15, 1989	Dien Bien Phu Rd, 22th Ward, Binh Thanh Dist, Ho Chi Minh City
10	Military Bank	Nov. 04, 1994	No. 3, Lieu Giai Rd., Ba Dinh District, Hanoi

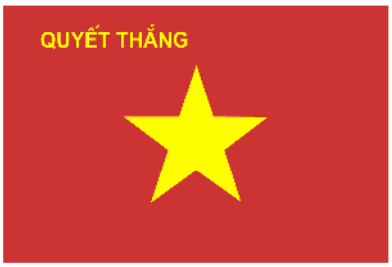
APPENDIX 8: AGREEMENTS ON BORDER ISSUES

1	Vietnam-China Agreement on Maritime Boundary Demarcation of the Gulf of Tonkin
2	Vietnam-China Agreement on Fishery Cooperation in the Gulf of Tonkin
3	Vietnam-China Agreement on Land Border Demarcation
4	Vietnam-Lao Agreement on Land Border Demarcation
5	Vietnam-Cambodia Agreement on Land Border Demarcation
6	Vietnam-Cambodia Agreement on Delimitation of the Historical Waters
7	Vietnam-Thailand Agreement on Delimitation of the Historical Sea Zone
8	Vietnam-Indonesia Agreement on Delimitation of the Continental Shelf
9	Vietnam-Malaysia Arrangement on Mutual Survey and Exploitation of the Overlapping Zone

APPENDIX 9: MILITARY FLAG, MILITARY BADGE, INSIGNIA, UNIFORMS

1

I. MILITARY FLAGS



Flag of the VPA

Flag of an unit

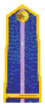
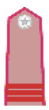
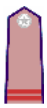
II. EMBLEMS

Emblem

Military emblem with the conifer wreath

III. RANK BADGE

	ARMY	AIR DEFENCE-AIR FORCE	NAVY	BORDER GUARD	MARITIME POLICE
1. Officer					
a. General Grade					
	General	Sr. Lt. General	Vice Admiral	Lieutenant General	Major General
b. Field-Officer Grade					
	Sr. Col.	Colonel	Commander	Lt. Major	Major
c. Company-Officer Grade					
	Sr. Capt.	Captain	Lieutenant	First Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant

	ARMY	AIR DEFENCE-AIR FORCE	NAVY	BORDER GUARD	MARITIME POLICE
2. Professional warrant officer					
	Colonel	Lieutenant Major	Lt. Commander	Captain	Warrant Officer
3. Non-commissioned officer and soldier					
	Major sergeant	Sergeant	Corporal	Lance-Corporal	Private
4. Cadet					
5. Non-commissioned student					

IV. INSIGNIA

1. Badge Plate

a. General Grade

Army

AD - AF

Navy

Border Guard

b. Officer, non-Commissioned Officer and Enlisted Soldier

Army

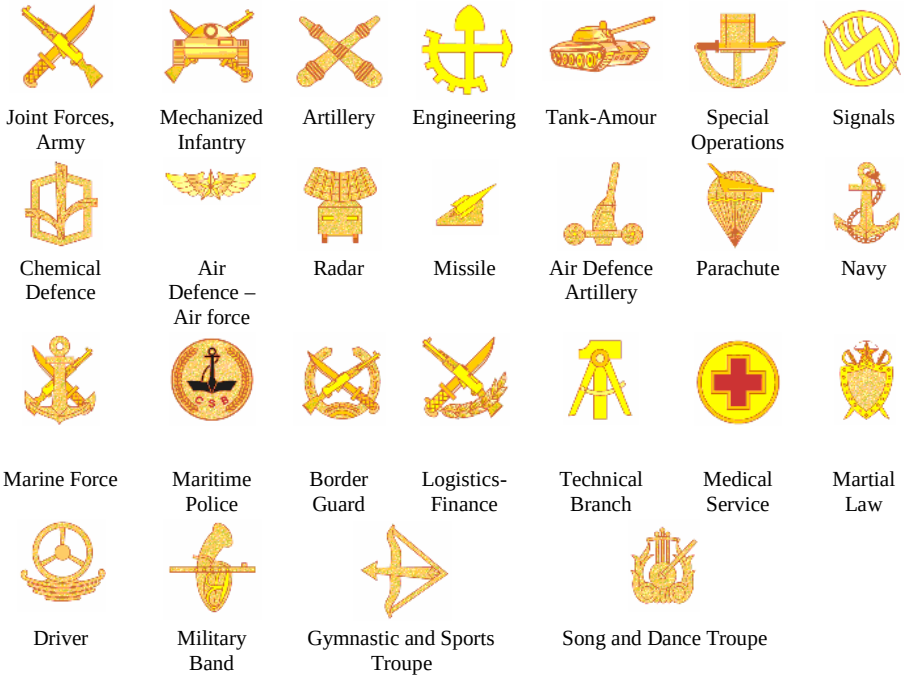
Air Defence-Air Force

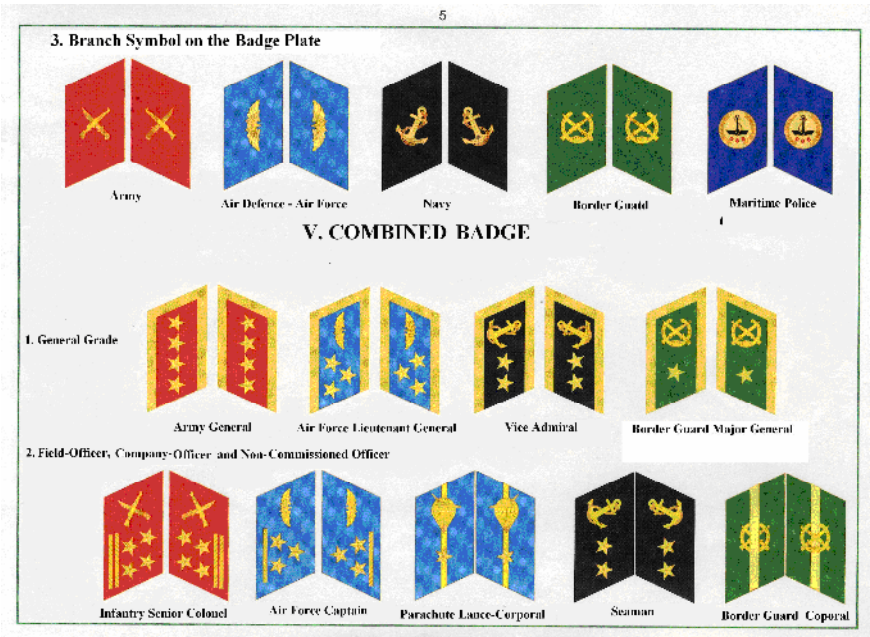
Navy

Border Guard

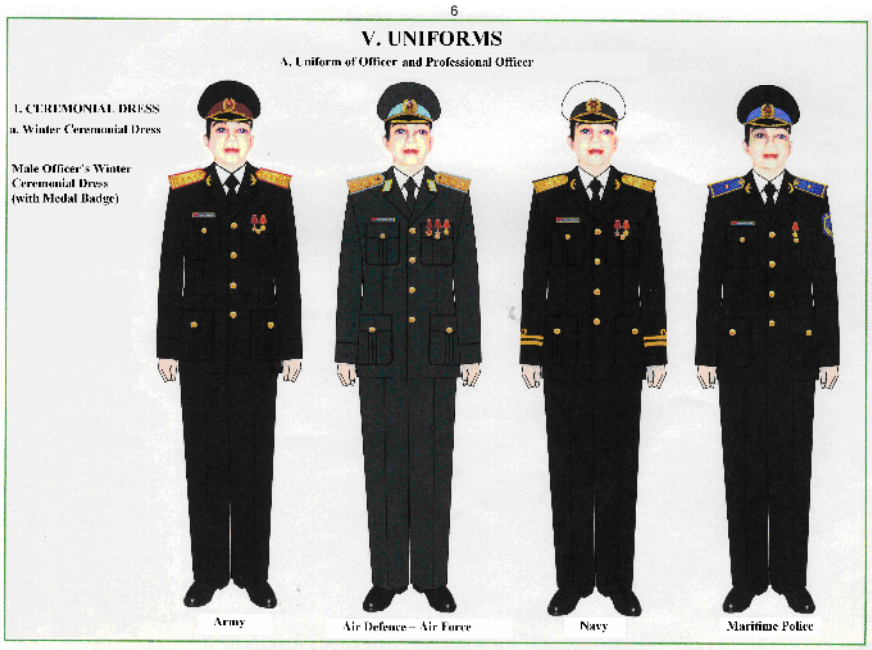
Maritime Police

2. Branch Insignia and Symbols

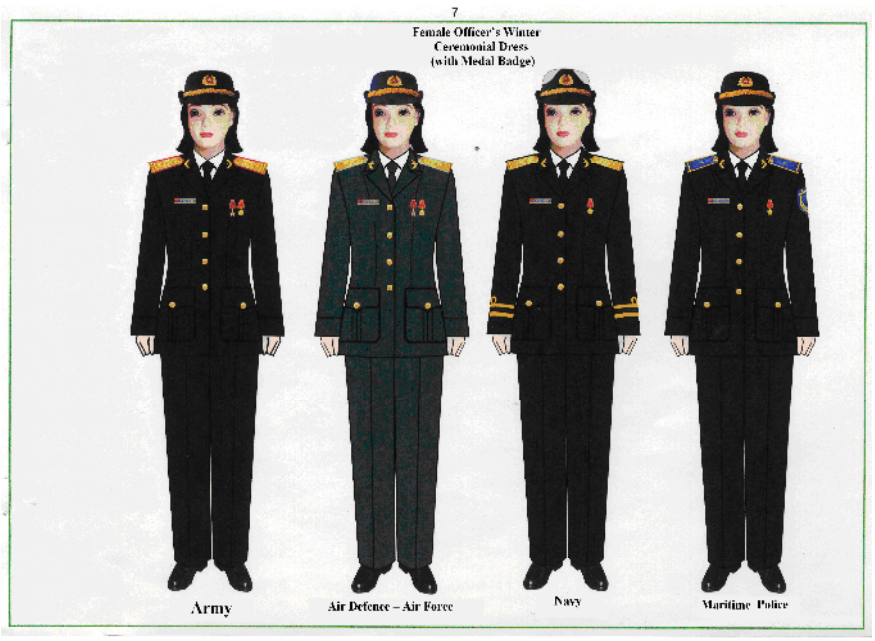




6


V. UNIFORMS
A. Uniform of Officer and Professional Officer
1. CEREMONIAL DRESS
a. Winter Ceremonial Dress
Male Officer's Winter Ceremonial Dress (with Medal Badge)
Army
Air Defence – Air Force
Navy
Maritime Police

7

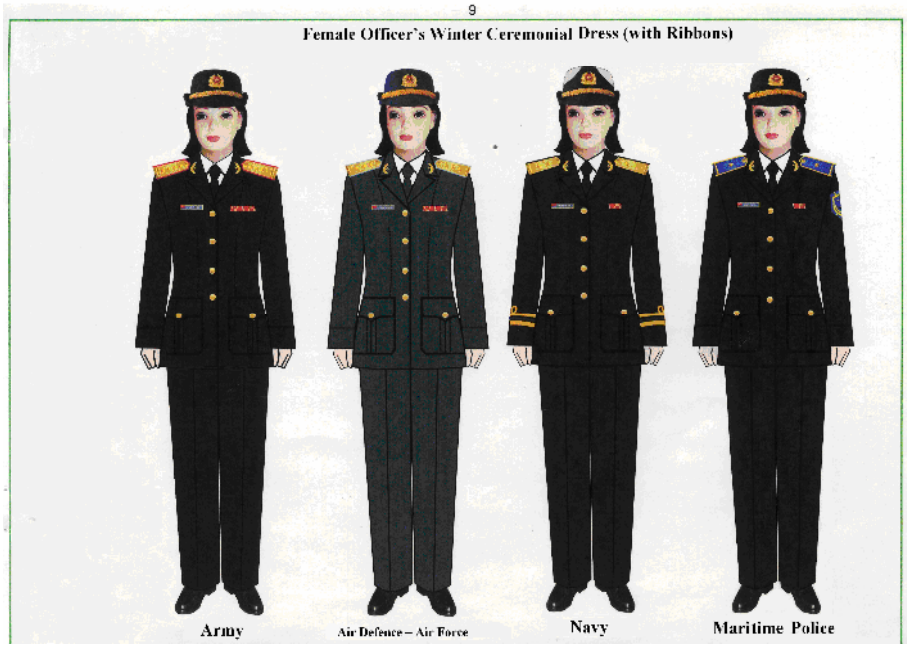

Female Officer's Winter Ceremonial Dress (with Medal Badge)
Army
Air Defence – Air Force
Navy
Maritime Police

8

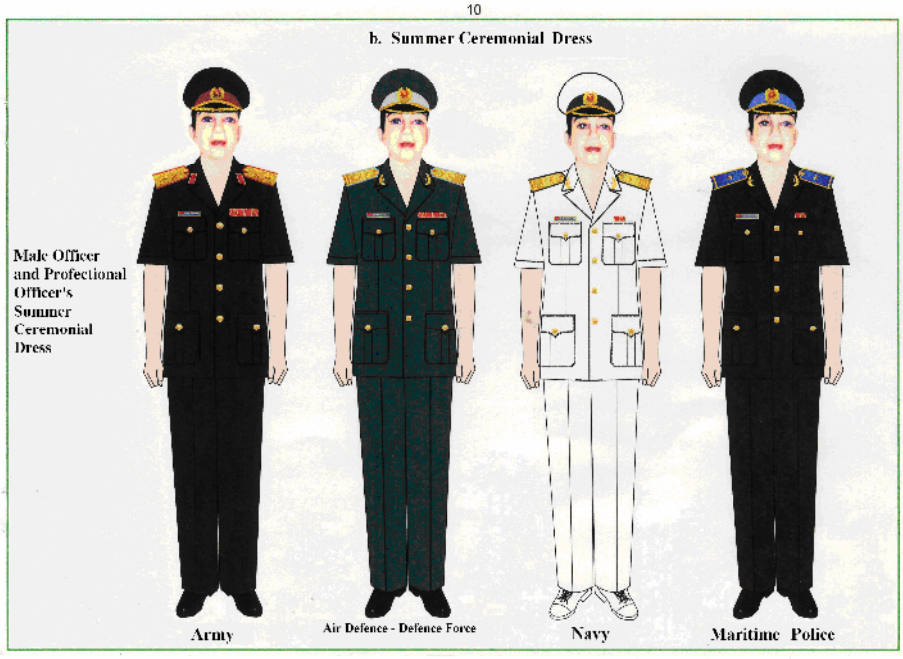
Male Officer's Winter Ceremonial Dress (with Ribbons)

9

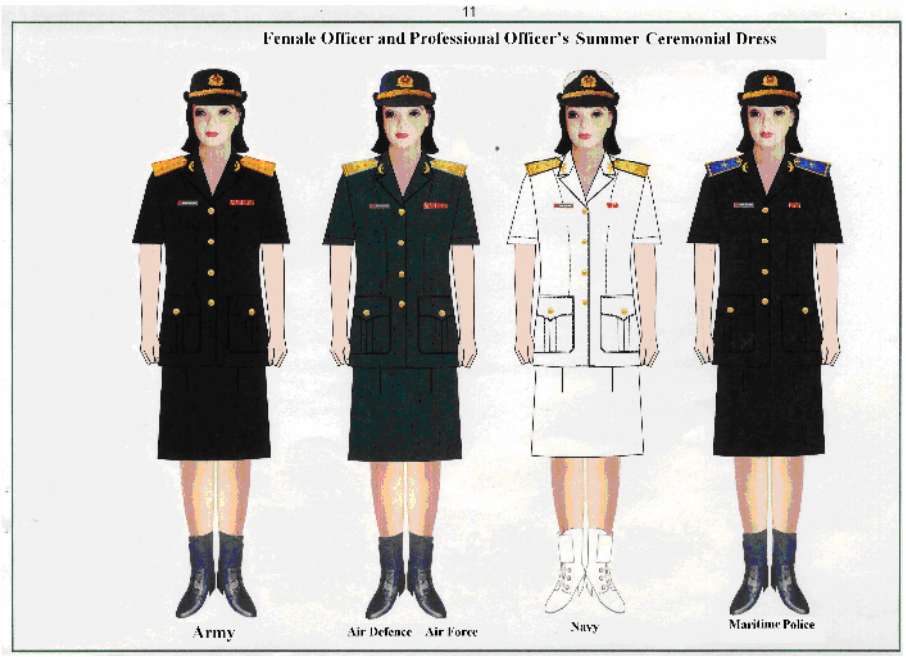
Female Officer's Winter Ceremonial Dress (with Ribbons)



10


b. Summer Ceremonial Dress
Male Officer and Profectional Officer's Summer Ceremonial Dress
Army
Air Defence - Defence Force
Navy
Maritime Police

11


Female Officer and Professional Officer's Summer Ceremonial Dress
Army
Air Defence Air Force
Navy
Maritime Police

12

3. DAILY UNIFORM

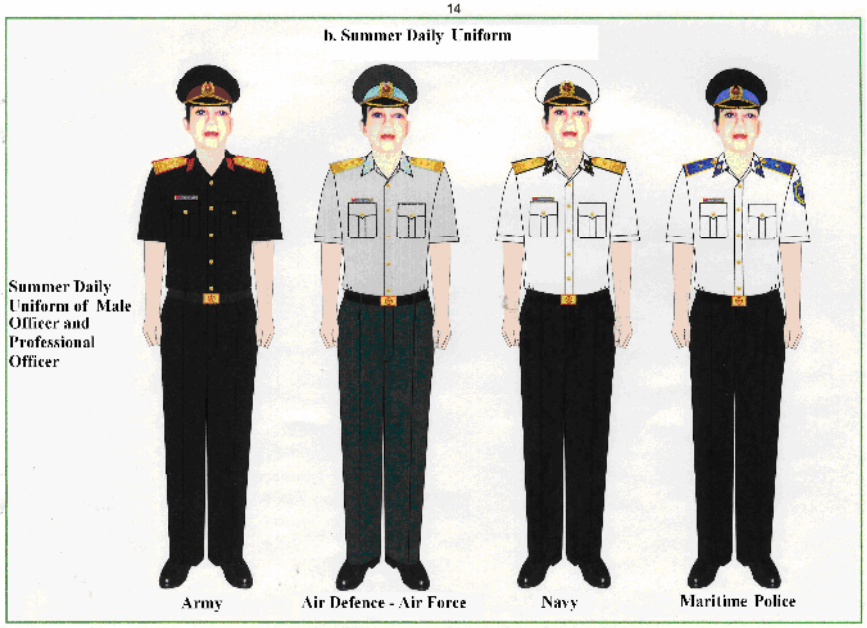
a. Winter Uniform

Daily Uniform of Male Officer and Professional Officer

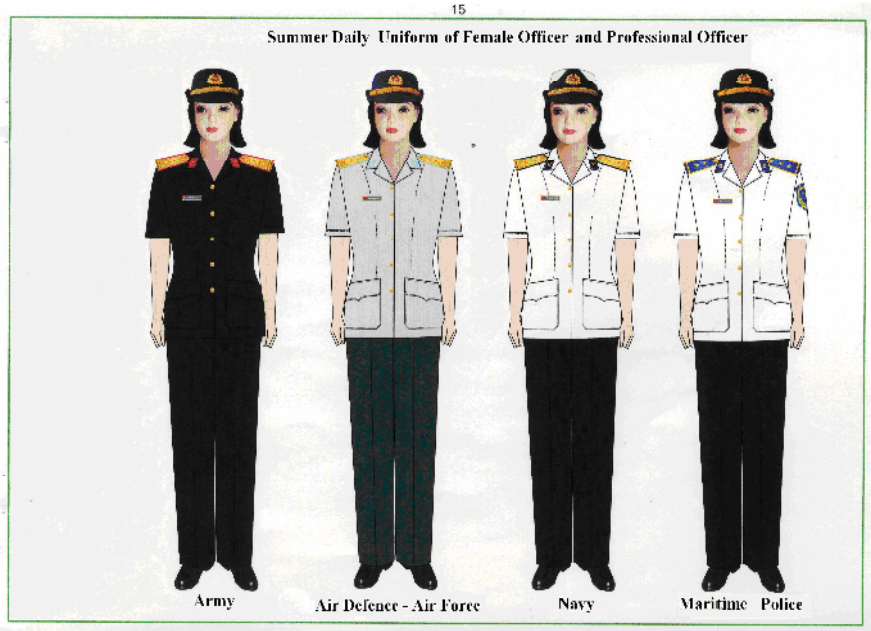
13

Winter Daily Uniform of Female Officer and Professional Officer

14


b. Summer Daily Uniform
Summer Daily Uniform of Male Officer and Professional Officer
Army
Air Defence - Air Force
Navy
Maritime Police

15


Summer Daily Uniform of Female Officer and Professional Officer
Army
Air Defence - Air Force
Navy
Maritime Police

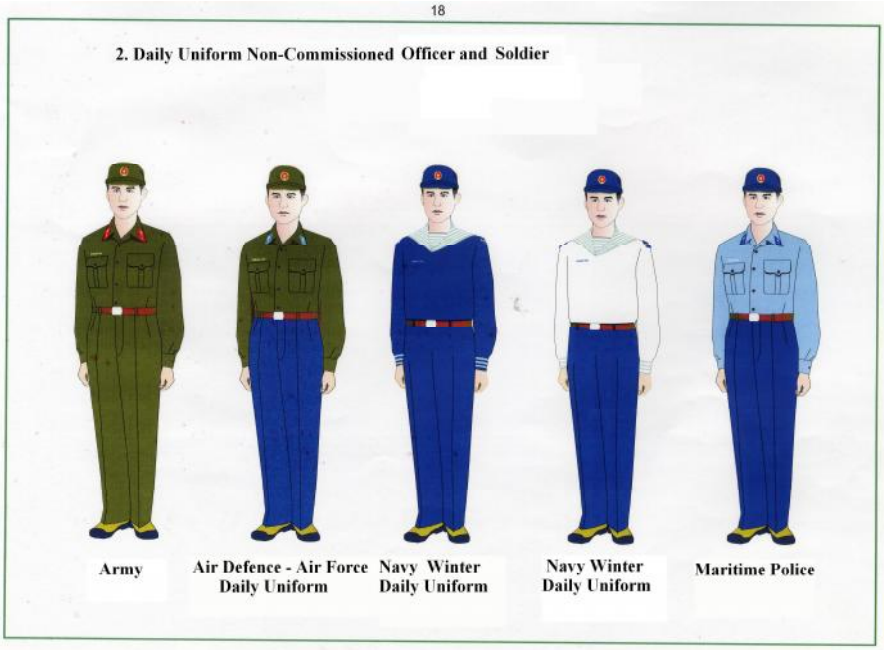
16

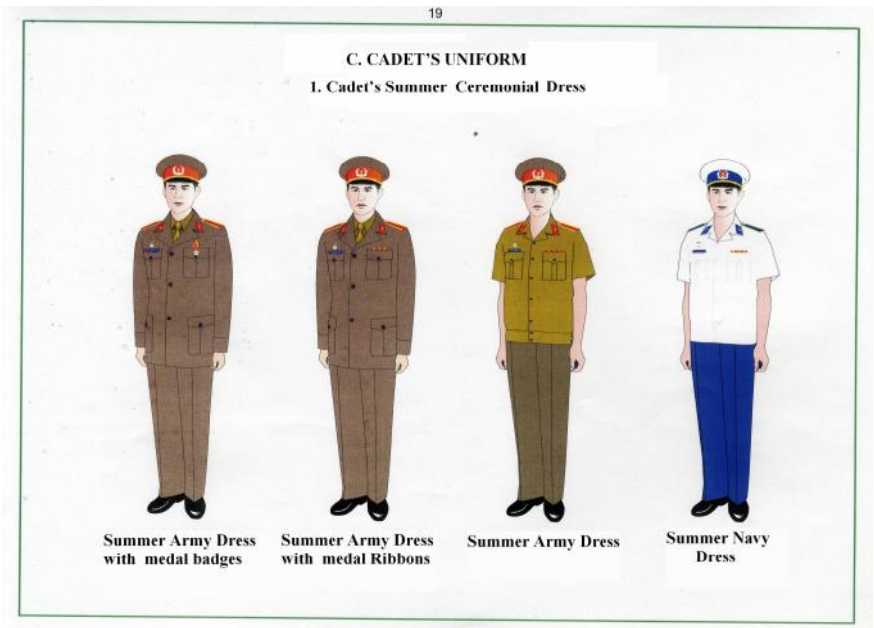
4. MILITARY OVERCOAT

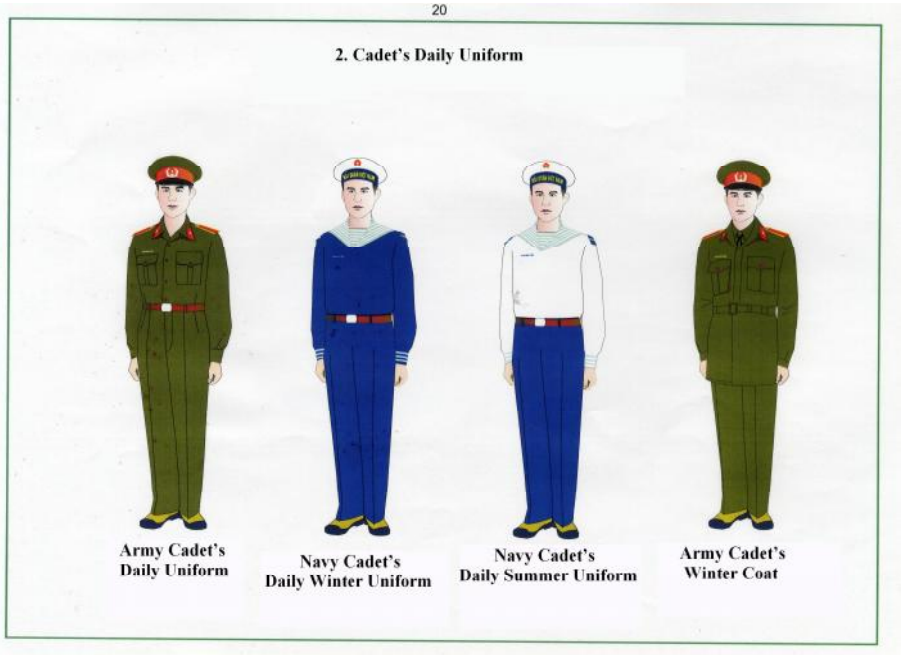
17

B. UNIFORM OF NON -COMMISSIONED OFFICER AND SOLDIER

1. Ceremonial Dress of Non-Commissioned and Soldier


18
2. Daily Uniform Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier
Army
Air Defence - Air Force Daily Uniform
Navy Winter Daily Uniform
Navy Winter Daily Uniform
Maritime Police


19
C. CADET'S UNIFORM
1. Cadet's Summer Ceremonial Dress
Summer Army Dress with medal badges
Summer Army Dress with medal Ribbons
Summer Army Dress
Summer Navy Dress


20
2. Cadet's Daily Uniform
Army Cadet's Daily Uniform
Navy Cadet's Daily Winter Uniform
Navy Cadet's Daily Summer Uniform
Army Cadet's Winter Coat

21
D. CEREMONIAL DRESS OF HONOUR GUARD
1. Ceremonial Dress of Ministerial Honour Guard
a. Ceremonial Dress of Honour Guard Officer
Army Officer's Ceremonial Dress
Honour Air Defence-Air Force Officer's Ceremonial Dress
Navy Honour Officer's Ceremonial Dress

22

b. Ceremonial Dress of Honour Guard Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier

Army | **Air Defence - Air Force** | **Navy Winter Dress** | **Navy Summer Dress**

23

2. Ceremonial Dress of Unit-level Honour Guards

a. Ceremonial Dress of Unit-level Honour Guard Professional Officer

Army Officer | **Air Defence - Air Force Officer** | **Navy Officer**

24

b. Ceremonial Dress of Honour Guard non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier

Army Dress | Air Defence – Air Force Dress | Winter Navy Dress | Summer Navy Dress | Army Cadet

25

E. PROFESSIONAL DRESS OF HO CHI MINH'S MAUSOLEUM HONOUR GUARD

I. Officer and Professional Officer | Non-Commisioned Officer and Soldier

Winter | Summer | Winter | Summer

26

G. UNIFORM OF MILITARY POLICE

1. Uniform of Professional Military Police

a. Professional Military Police Office

b. Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier

Winter | Summer | Summer | Winter Coat

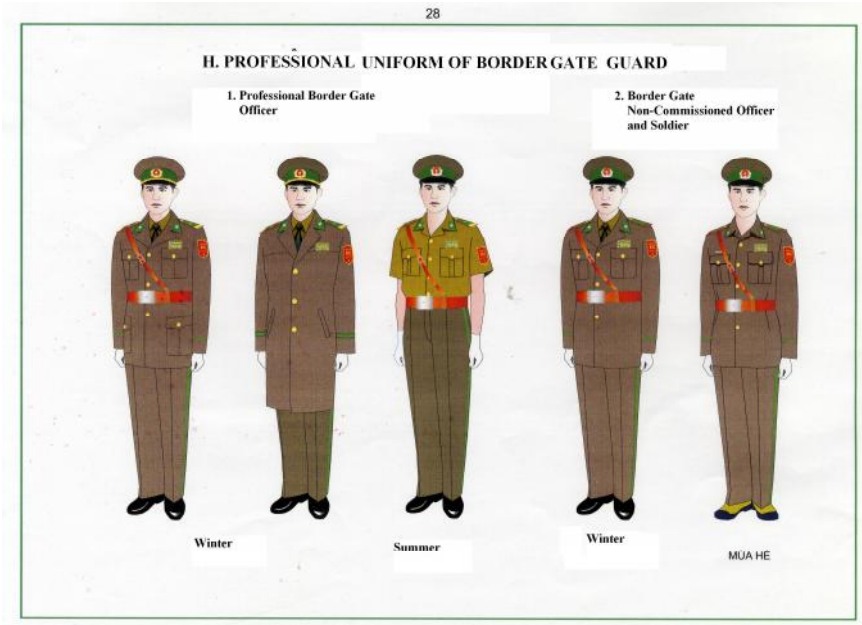
27

2. Uniform of Non-Professional Military Police

a. Professional Military Police Officer

b. Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier

Winter | Summer | Summer | Winter Coat


28
H. PROFESSIONAL UNIFORM OF BORDER GATE GUARD
1. Professional Border Gate Officer
2. Border Gate Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier
Winter
Summer
Winter
MUA HE

29
I. FIELD UNIFORM
General Grade
Field Officer Grade
Non-Commissioned Officer and Soldier

APPENDIX 10
EXCHANGE OF HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY DELEGATIONS
From 2005 to first six months of 2009

INCOMING VISIT	
Time	**Delegation**
2005	
Jan. 28-29	Minister of Defence, Laos
Feb. 23-25	Chief of General Staff, Algeria
Mar. 07-10	Commander in Chief, Cambodia Royal Army
Apr. 06-8	Minister of Defence, Australia
Apr. 20-25	Chief of General Staff, Laos
Apr. 18-21	Commander of Defence Forces, Singapore
Apr.27-May 02	Minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces, Cuba
May 17-21	Chief of Staff of Armed Forces, the Philippines
Aug.31-Sept 02	Minister of Defence, Laos
Aug. 29-30	Minister of Defence, Cambodia
Sept. 19-20	Supreme Commander of Royal Armed Forces, Thailand
Oct. 18-20	Minister of Defence, South Africa
Oct. 22-29	Chief of General Staff, Belgium
Dec. 20-23	Co-Minister of Defence, Cambodia
Feb. 23-27	Air Commander, Australia
Mar. 21-25	Deputy Director of Security Agency, Russia
Apr. 04-10	Chief of General Department of Logistics, Laos
Apr. 25-29	Chief of General Department of Defence Intelligence, South Africa
Jun. 01-03	Navy Commander, Thailand
Jun. 01-04	Director of Federal Bureau, Russia
Jun. 07-09	Assistant Minister of Defence, USA
Jun. 20-Jul.01	Air Commander, Cuba
Jul. 02-08	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Jul. 12-13	Army Commander, Thailand
Jul. 17-19	Air Commander, Malaysia

Time	Delegation
Jul. 21-25	Delegation of Bureau of Central Military Commission, China
Aug. 01-05	Army Commander, Cambodia
Aug. 02-06	Governmental Special Section, Laos
Sep. 26-30	Delegation of Governmental Special Section, Cambodia
Oct. 16-20	Deputy Chief of General Political Department, the People's Army of Laos
Oct.30-Nov.2	Chief of General Department of Police, Cambodia
Nov. 14-19	Deputy Minister of National Defence, Brunei
Nov. 28-30	Chairman of Ukrainian Subcommittee, Inter-Governmental Committee
Dec. 04-07	Chairman of Russian Subcommittee, Inter-Governmental Committee
2006	
Feb. 06-09	Minister of Defence , Laos
Apr. 06-10	Minister of Defence, PRC
May 15-18	Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces, the Philippines
May 30-Jun.02	Minister of Defence, Republic of Korea
Jun. 04-06	Secretary of Defence, USA
Jun. 07-11	Chief of General Political Department, Laos
Jun. 12-17	Chief of General Staff, Republic of South Africa
Sep. 10-12	Minister of Defence, Laos
Dec. 20-24	Commander of Armed Forces, Malaysia
Jan. 05-07	Chief of General Department of Intelligence, Russia
Feb. 08-10	Commander of Army, Singapore
Feb. 15-16	Commander of Royal Air Force, Thailand
Mar. 07-10	Chief of General Department of Intelligence, ROK
Mar. 14-17	Chairman of Ukrainian Subcommittee
Mar. 14-19	Chief of Staff of Air Force, France

Time	Delegation
Mar. 28-31	Commander of Military Region I, Cambodia
May 02-06	Chief of Staff of Army, Russia
May 02-07	Committee on Defence Industrial and Logistical Cooperation, Republic of Korea
May 03-06	Navy Commander, Malaysia
May 18-24	General Department of Military Medicine, Russia
May 20-26	Chief of General Department of Materials, Angola
May 23-26	Director of Intelligence Agency, the Philippines
May 26-28	Deputy Minister of Defence , Laos
Jun. 22-26	General Department of Military International Cooperation, Russia
Jul. 13-16	Commander of the Pacific Command, USA
Jul. 14-17	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Aug. 02-05	Navy Commander, Republic of Korea
Aug. 06-12	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Aug. 07-10	Commander of Navy, Thailand
Aug. 16-22	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Aug. 24-28	Army Commander, Malaysia
Sep. 10-17	Delegation of Ministry of Emergency, Russia
Oct. 12-14	Deputy Minister of Defence, India
Oct. 13-17	Army Commander, Australia
Dec. 03-08	Chengdu Military Region, China
Dec. 06-07	Army Commander, Thailand
Dec. 20-24	Commander of Armed Forces, Malaysia
2007	
Jan. 04-05	Supreme Commander of Thai Royal Armed Forces
May 02-08	Chief of General Staff, Laos
May 30-Jun.06	Chief of General Staff, PRC
Jul. 02-06	Chief of General Staff, Mozambique
Aug. 18-24	Chief of General Staff, Sudan
Sep. 24-29	Minister of Defence, Singapore

Time	Delegation
Sep.30-Oct.10	Minister of Defence , Bulgaria
Oct. 15-21	Commander-in-Chief of Royal Armed Forces, Cambodia
Nov. 15-19	Chief of General Political Department, PRC
Mar. 04-07	Army Chief of Staff, Japan
Apr. 02-04	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Singapore
Apr. 19-23	Commander, Guangxi Military Region, PRC
Jun 10-13	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Jun. 10-15	Secretary, Ministry of National Defence, Cambodia
Jun. 15-18	General Department of Intelligence, Thailand
Aug. 12-14	Air Commander, Indonesia
Sep. 10-13	Navy Commander, Australia
Sep. 10-16	Governmental Special Section, Laos
Sep. 11-12	Army Commander, Thailand
Sep. 23-29	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Sep. 24-30	Deputy Minister of Defence , Laos
Sep. 24-30	Head of Central Military Procuracy, Hungary
Oct. 22-26	Governmental Special Committee, Cambodia
Nov. 07-10	Commander of Defence Intelligence, South Africa
Nov. 14-17	Navy Commander, the Philippines
Nov. 13-18	Air Commander, New Zealand
Nov. 08-13	Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence, USA
Nov. 28-30	Deputy Chief of General Staff, Laos
Dec. 03-07	Chairman of Russia-Vietnam Cooperation Subcommittee
Dec. 06-07	Chief of General Department of Intelligence, Russia
Dec. 06-08	General Secretary of Defence, Italy
Dec.10-14	Chairman of Ukraine -Vietnam Cooperation Subcommittee

Time	Delegation
Dec. 12-13	Commander of the Pacific Command, USA
Dec. 18-20	Army Commander, Thailand
Dec. 18-22	Chairman of Belarus - Vietnam Cooperation Subcommittee
2008	
Feb. 17-20	Minister of Defence, Laos
Feb. 26-29	Chairman of Committee of Chief of Staff, India
Mar. 24-26	Minister of Defence, Cambodia
Apr. 2-4	Commander of Defence Forces, Singapore
May 12-18	Chief of General Political Department, Laos
Jul. 7-8	Supreme Commander of Thai Royal Army
Aug. 6-9	Commander of Defence Forces, New Zealand
Nov. 6-7	Minister of Defence, Poland
Nov. 9-13	Chief of General Staff, Bulgaria
Nov. 18-22	Chief of General Staff, Belarus
Nov. 30-Dec. 5	Secretary General of Defence, Algeria
Dec. 23-26	Minister of Defence, Pakistan
Jan. 14-17	Division 2, Division 3 and provinces of Northern Laos
Jan. 20-22	Army Commander, the Philippines
Jan. 23-30	Subcommittee of Belarusian Inter-Governmental Committee
Mar. 2-12	Subcommittee of Russian Inter-Governmental Committee
Mar. 9-13	Air Commander, Singapore
Apr. 21-23	Air Commander, Thailand
May 18-21	Commander of 13th Air Corps, USA
May 27-29	Director of Defence Intelligence, Singapore
Jun. 25-28	Navy Commander, Thailand
Aug. 20-21	Army Commander, Thailand
Jul. 27- Aug. 2	Deputy Director of Russian Federal Agency
Sep. 7-12	Army Chief of Staff, Rwanda
Jul. 10-13	General Department of Intelligence, ROK

Time	Delegation
Oct. 6-12	Commander of Air Force, Cambodia
Oct. 6-8	Commander of Army, Singapore
Oct. 9-11	Deputy Minister of National Defence, India in Security Dialogue
Oct. 20-24	Commander of Special Military Region, Cambodia
Nov. 2-6	Deputy Chief of General Political Department, China
Dec. 7-12	Command of Army, Cambodia
Dec. 14-18	Deputy Commander, Chief of Staff of Air Force, Russia
First 6 months of 2009	
Feb. 19-21	Supreme Commander of Thai Royal Army
Mar. 8-12	Commander in Chief of Cambodian Royal Army
Mar. 20-24	Chief of General Staff, China
Feb. 12-14	Commander of Navy, Thailand
Feb. 15-17	Deputy Chief of General Staff, China (in transit)
Feb. 23-26	Army Training Command, India
Feb. 24-26	Navy Commander, Malaysia
Mar. 8-13	Commander of Pacific Fleet, USA
Mar. 16-18	General Department of Logistics, India
Mar. 17-21	Navy Commander, Cambodia
Mar. 23-25	Navy Commander, Indonesia
Apr. 28 – May 1	First Deputy Chief of General Political Department, PDRK Army
Apr. 7-11	Commander of Eastern Navy, India
Apr. 13-15	Navy Commander, Singapore
May 26-29	Minister of National Defence, Belarus
May 11-15	Chief of General Staff, Laos
May 5-6	Deputy Minister of Defence, Japan
May	Army Command, Russian Armed Forces
May 13-17	Secretary of Defence, New Zealand
May 14-25	Russian and Ukrainian Veterans in Vietnam War

Time	Delegation
May 21-24	Chairman of Russian Subcommittee, Russia - Vietnam Intergovernmental Committee on Military Technical Cooperation
May 23-31	Director of Defence Legal Agency, South Africa
Jun. 17-29	Belarusian Veterans in Vietnam War
Jun. 15-19	Secretary, Ministry of National Defence, Cambodia
Jun. 10-13	Pacific Air Commander, USA
Jun. 8-12	Minister of Defence, Laos
Jun. 8-12	Chief of General Department of Logistics, Laos
Jun. 18-24	Chief of General Department of Logistics, Laos and his family
Jun. 20-27	Army Commander, Cambodia
OUTGOING VISIT	
Time	**Delegation**
2005	
Mar. 2-7	Minister of National Defence to Laos and India
Apr. 3-10	Chief of General Staff to Myanmar and the Philippines
May 10-14	Chief of General Political Department to Laos
Oct. 25-28	Minister of National Defence to PRC
Jan. 16-19	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended ASEAN Chief of General Staff Meeting in Malaysia
Mar. 20-25	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Cambodia
Mar. 25-30	Commander of the 5th Military Region to Cambodia
Mar. 24- Apr. 7	Navy Commander to Russia and Poland
Apr. 10-15	Deputy Chief of General Staff to PRC
Apr. 4 – May 1	Deputy Minister of National Defence accompanied Prime Minister to Australia and New Zealand

Time	Delegation
May 3-10	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Cambodia
May 17-20	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the ARF Security Policy Meeting in Vientiane, Laos
May 15-21	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Russia
Jun. 19-29	Deputy Minister of National Defence accompanied Prime Minister to the USA and Canada
Jun. 12-18	Commander of the 4th Military Region to Laos
Jun. 19-27	President of National Defence Academy to the UK
Jul. 25-29	Commander of Border Guard to Cambodia
Jul. 3-14	Deputy Chief of General Staff to the UK and Hungary
Jul. 31 – Aug. 5	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the Pacific Army Commander Meeting in Thailand
Sep. 5-14	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Sweden
Sep. 7-12	Deputy Chief of General Staff to India
Sep. 25-30	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the ASEAN Army Commander Meeting in Brunei
Sep. 4-10	General Director of the General Department of Defence Intelligence to the Philippines and Indonesia
Oct. 10-13	Navy Commander to the Philippines
Oct. 18-22	Commander of the 9th Military Region to Cambodia
Nov. 14-20	Deputy Minister of National Defence to France
Nov. 10-12	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended ASEAN Defence Force Commander Meeting in the Philippines
Nov. 14-25	Chief of General Political Department to PRC
Dec. 10-16	Navy Commander to France and Italy

Time	Delegation
2006	
Jan. 2-9	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Cambodia
Jan.9-13	Navy Commander to Cambodia
Jan. 12-14	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Cambodia
Feb. 13-19	Chief of General Political Department to India
Mar. 8-11	Minister of National Defence to Malaysia
May 7-13	Minister of National Defence to South Africa
Sep. 24-30	Chief of General Staff to Laos and Cambodia
Oct. 15-22	Chief of General Political Department to PRC
Nov.27-Dec. 7	Chief of General Political Department to Cuba
May 8-10	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the 1st ADMM in Malaysia
Apr. 16-May 1	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the ARF Security Meeting in Malaysia
Feb. 13-20	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Southern Laos (1)
Mar. 2-10	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Southern Laos (2)
Mar. 21-27	Commander of Air Defence-Air Force to Ukraine
Jun. 3-7	Commander of the 9th Military Region to Cambodia
Jun. 5-10	General Director of the General Department Of Defence Intelligence to Ukraine
Jun. 11-21	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Sweden
Jun. 6 – Jul. 3	Chief of General Department of Defence Industry to France and some European countries
Jul. 2-9	Deputy Minister to Austria
Aug. 8-12	Commander of Capital Military Region to Laos
Sep. 26-Oct.8	Vice Chairman of National Committee of Search and Rescue to the USA
Oct. 17-2?	Deputy Chief of General Staff to the Republic of Korea

Time	Delegation
Oct. 21-5?	General Director of the General Department of Defence Intelligence to Russia
Oct. 11-19	Chief of General Department of Defence Industry to South Africa
Oct. 28 – Nov. 3	Navy Commander attended the West Pacific Navy Commander Meeting
Nov. 13-5?	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended Asia-Pacific Defence Force Commander Meeting in Malaysia
Nov. 20-4?	Commander of Air Defence-Air Force attended the Air Commander Meeting in Indonesia
Nov. 28-?	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Laos
Nov.30-Dec. 3	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Thailand
Nov. 24 – Dec. 12	Deputy Minister of National Defence to three CIS countries
Dec. 14-15	Deputy Chief of General Political Department to Malaysia
Dec. 16-18	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Cambodia
Dec. 26-30	Deputy Chief of General Political Department attended the Governmental Special Section in Laos
2007	
Mar. 12-19	Minister of National Defence to Laos and Cambodia
Mar. 23-25	Minister of National Defence attended the ADMM in Indonesia
May 27-31	Chief of General Political Department to Laos
Jun. 16-24	Chief of General Staff to Russia and Belarus
Aug. 26-31	Minister of National Defence to PRC
Oct. 7-20	Chief of General Political Department to South Africa and Algeria
Nov. 11-15	Minister of National Defence to Singapore and attended the ADMM

Time	Delegation
Jan. 22-26	Deputy Chief of General Political Department to Cambodia
Jan. 9-13	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Laos (1)
Feb. 2-11	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Laos (2)
Mar.10-23	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Australia, New Zealand and Brunei
May 11-19	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Cambodia
May 22-30	Commander of the 5th Military Region to Laos and Cambodia
Apr. 24-29	Leaders of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th and Capital Military Regions to PRC
May 16-22	Commander of the 5th Military Region to Laos
May 23-25	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the ARF Security Policy Meeting in the Philippines
May 31 – Jun. 4	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the 6th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore
Jun. 11-15	Commander of the 7th Military Region to Republic of Korea
Jul. 18-26	Deputy Chief of General Political Department to Russia
Aug. 1-3	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the ASEAN Chief of General Staff Meeting in Singapore
Aug. 5-10	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the 5th Pacific Army Commander Meeting in Australia
Aug. 18-26	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Russia
Aug. 24 – Sep. 6	Chief of General Department of Defence Industry to Russia and Israel
Oct. 17-20	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended ADSOM in Singapore
Oct. 30 – Nov. 2	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the Asia-Pacific Defence Leader Meeting in Hawaii, USA
Oct. 29-Nov. 2	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Cambodia

Time	Delegation
Oct. 7-11	President of National Defence Academy attended the ARF Defence Academy President Meeting in Australia
Nov. 1-5	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Cambodia
Nov. 17-21	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Laos
Nov. 19-25	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Thailand and attended the ASEAN Army Commander Meeting
Nov. 20-25	Commander of the 4th Military Region to Laos (1)
Nov. 20 – Dec. 12	Commander of the 4th Military Region to Laos (2)
Nov. 27 – Dec. 2	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the Security Dialogue in India
Nov. 30 – Dec. 4	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Thailand
2008	
Jan. 6-10	Chief of General Staff and the 2nd Military Region to Laos
May 28 – Jun. 1	Chief of General Political Department to Cambodia
Jun. 25 – Jul 6	Chief of General Political Department to Russia and Belarus
Aug. 10-16	Minister of National Defence to Myanmar and Malaysia
Jul. 31 – Aug. 3	Chief of General Staff attended the Defence Force Commander Meeting in Thailand
Sep. 21-28	Chief of General Political Department to People Democratic Republic of Korea
Sep. 20 – Oct. 2	Minister of National Defence to Russia and Belarus
Nov. 30 – Dec. 5	Chief of General Staff to PRC
Jan. 6-12	Navy Commander to Thailand and Malaysia
Jan. 22-26	Navy Commander to Republic of Korea

Time	Delegation
Jan. 22-26	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the Inter-Governmental Committee of Bilateral Direction in PRC
Apr. 21-28	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Austria
Apr. 24-29	President of National Defence Academy to Laos
Apr. 22 – May 4	General Department of Defence Intelligence to Nicaragua and Chile
May 13-24	President of National Defence Academy to France
May 20-31	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Switzerland and Finland
May 31 – Jun. 6	General Department of Defence Intelligence to Venezuela
May 30 – Jun. 2	Commissar of Air Defence-Air Force Service attended the 50th anniversary of Malaysia Air Force
Jun. 21-28	The Central Military Procuracy to Russia
Jul. 14-18	Capital Military Region to Laos
Aug. 2-8	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Cuba
Aug. 17-25	Presiding Judge of the Central Military Court to South Africa
Sep. 18-25	Commander of the 2nd Military Region to Laos
Sep. 23-26	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended an exercise in PRC
Sep. 24-29	Deputy Minister of National Defence attended the 10th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Committee
Oct. 12-14	Deputy Chief of General Staff accompanied Prime Minister to Australia
Nov. 10-12	7th and 9th Military Regions and the Border Guard Command to Cambodia
Nov. 25-26	Deputy Minister of National Defence accompanied Prime Minister to Laos
First six months of 2009	
Feb. 18-27	Minister of National Defence to Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and attended the 3rd ADMM

Time	Delegation
Mar. 30 – Apr. 3	Chief of General Political Department to Laos
Feb. 10-14	Commissar of Air Defence-Air Force Service to India
Feb. 15-20	Deputy Chief of General Political Department and the Governmental Special Section to Laos
Feb. 21-28	General Director of the 2nd General Department to South Africa
Feb. 22-25	Commander of the 9th Military Region to Cambodia
Feb. 21 – May 1	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Ukraine and Republic of Korea
Mar. 11-17	Navy Commander to Singapore and India
May 30 – Apr. 3	Commander of the 5th Military Region to Cambodia
Apr. 12-25	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Norway, Ireland and Turkey
Apr. 7-12	Deputy Minister of National Defence to PRC
Apr. 19-21	Deputy Minister of National Defence to Cambodia
Apr. 20-23	Navy Commander attended the 60th anniversary of China Navy
Apr. 7-11	Commander of Border Guard to Cambodia
May 28 – Jun. 1	Minister of National Defence attended the 8th Shangri-La Dialogue
May 4-11	Deputy Chief of General Staff to Italy and Austria
May 6-12	General Director of the General Department Of Defence Intelligence to Japan and Republic of Korea
May 17-20	Deputy Chief of General Staff attended the ARF MOD and ASPC
May 31 – Jun. 6	Standing Deputy Chairman of the National Committee of Search and Rescue to the USA

Time	Delegation
Jun. 21-27	Chief of General Staff to Malaysia and Indonesia
Jun. 12-20	Deputy Chief of General Political Department to Germany
Jun. 13-23	Commissar of Air Defence-Air Force Service to France and Spain
Jun. 25 – Jul. 3	Standing Deputy Chairman of the National Committee of Search and Rescue to France
Jun. 29 – Jul. 3	Commander of the 5th Military Region to Laos

APPENDIX 11
FRIENDLY PORT CALLS BY FOREIGN MILITARY VESSELS

FOREIGN NAVY VESSELS TO VIETNAM	
Time	**Delegation**
2005	
Mar. 29 – Apr. 2	US Navy vessel and 223 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
May. 10-13	2 Thai Navy vessels and 247 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Jun. 9-13	Indian Navy vessel and 215 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Aug. 15-17	3 Malaysian Navy vessels and 435 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Nov. 5-7	Indian Navy vessel to Da Nang
Nov. 22-26	French Navy vessel to Da Nang
Nov. 27 – Dec. 2	5 Russian Navy vessels to Da Nang
2006	
Jun. 8-11	Indian Navy vessel to Da Nang
Jul. 1-6	2 US Navy vessels to Ho Chi Minh City
Aug. 26-30	2 New Zealand Navy vessels to Ho Chi Minh City
Sep. 9-12	Indonesian Navy vessel to Hai Phong
Sep. 28 – Oct. 3	Australian Navy vessel to Da Nang
Sep. 25-29	French Navy vessel to Hai Phong
Oct. 21-26	UK Navy Geological Survey vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
2007	
Feb. 5-10	French Navy vessel to Hai Phong
Mar. 18-21	2 Malaysia Navy vessels to Ho Chi Minh City
Apr. 11-16	Australian Navy vessel to Da Nang
Apr. 11-15	2 Thai Navy training vessels and 228 crew to Ho Chi Minh City

Time	Delegation
May 15-25	2 Indian Navy vessels and 910 crew to Hai Phong
Jun. 26-29	Pakistani Navy vessel and 702 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Jul. 15-25	US Navy Peleliu Hospital vessel to Da Nang
Aug. 8-13	Singaporean Navy vessel and 250 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Sep. 9-11	Republic of Korean Navy vessel and 610 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Oct. 17-20	US Navy Bruce Heeze vessel to Da Nang
Nov. 14-18	2 US Navy vessels to Hai Phong
Dec. 14-15	Philippines Navy vessel and 130 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
2008	
Mar. 3-7	3 Japanese Navy vessels and 900 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Apr. 17-21	Indian Navy vessel and 300 crew to Hai Phong
Apr. 23-26	Thai Navy vessel and 300 crew to Ho Chi Minh City
Jun. 30 – Jul. 4	French Navy VAR vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Jun. 4-8	Canadian Navy Regina vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Jun. 19-29	US Navy Mercy Hospital vessel to Khanh Hoa
Aug. 25-29	Australian Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Sep. 15-18	Singaporean Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Oct. 18-21	US Navy vessel to Da Nang
Oct. 31 – Nov. 5	South African Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Nov. 18-22	Chinese Navy training vessel to Da Nang
Dec. 14-16	Republic of Korean Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
First 6 months of 2009	
Apr. 9-12	2 Indian Navy vessels to Hai Phong
Apr. 10-14	Singaporean Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
May 1-5	Brazilian Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
May 19-24	French Navy vessel to Da Nang

Time	Delegation
Jun. 16-19	Thai Navy vessel to Ho Chi Minh City
Jun. 19-23	4 Russian Navy vessels to Da Nang
Jun. 23-25	US Navy Heezen vessel to Da Nang
VIETNAM NAVY VESSEL'S OUTGOING VISIT	
Jul. 3-6	2 Navy vessels and 98 crew to Sattahip Port, Thailand
Jun. 24-27	2 Navy vessels and 104 crew to Zhanjiang Port, PRC

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QUỐC PHÒNG VIỆT NAM

Chịu trách nhiệm xuất bản
TRẦN ĐOÀN LÂM

In 4000 bản, khổ 16 x 24 cm, tại Trung tâm Chế bản và In - Nhà xuất bản Thế Giới. Giấy chấp nhận đăng ký kế hoạch xuất bản số: 1065-2009/CXB/3-263/ThG, cấp ngày 17 tháng 11 năm 2009. In xong và nộp lưu chiểu Quý IV năm 2009.