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**THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEES
IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT
OF DEFENSE ZONES**

**DOCTORAL THESIS SUMMARY
IN PARTY AND STATE GOVERNMENT BUILDING**

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INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the Research Topic

Building firm provincial defensive areas plays a particularly important role in the cause of national defense, ensuring political security and social order and safety. It serves as the foundation for mobilizing the combined strength of the entire political system and the people in the posture of all-people national defense in close association with the people's security posture. Consolidating and strengthening defensive areas contributes to enhancing local self-defense capabilities, effectively responding to complex situations, while also facilitating sustainable socio-economic development and firmly safeguarding national independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Fully recognizing the position and role of defensive areas, in recent years, the provincial and municipal Party Committees in the area of Military Region 4 have paid due attention to leading the construction of firm defensive areas, thereby making important contributions to the consolidation of the all-people national defense posture, meeting the requirements of national defense in the new context. However, the leadership process still reveals certain limitations. Notably, some provincial Party Committee members, Party committees, and organizations lack a deep and comprehensive understanding of the significance and importance of defensive areas in the cause of national construction and defense. In some cases, there are signs of subjectivity, neglect, and complacency. The concretization and institutionalization of the Party's and State's guidelines into resolutions, plans, regulations, and mechanisms for leading and organizing defensive area - building tasks have sometimes been untimely or inconsistent with local conditions. The relationship between the leadership role of Party Committees and the management function of local authorities is not always clearly defined or effectively coordinated. In some localities, the contents, methods, and operational mechanisms of Party leadership in building defensive areas remain inadequate or mismatched with the actual requirements and specificities of the area. The leadership in organizing implementation still lacks flexibility; coordination between departments, agencies, and military and police forces in advising Party Committees and authorities is not always unified or consistent.

Currently, the global and regional situation continues to evolve in complex and unpredictable ways. Domestically, political security and social order remain basically stable; the economy continues to grow; national defense and security are being consolidated. However, hostile forces are intensifying their anti-revolutionary propaganda campaigns against Vietnam. The negative impacts of

the market economy are deeply affecting various areas of social life. The goals, requirements, and tasks of defending the socialist homeland continue to expand and develop comprehensively. The Party's efforts in building and rectification have achieved important results, yet still face many difficulties and challenges. Non-traditional security threats - especially climate change - are leading to increasingly diverse and unpredictable natural disasters, environmental catastrophes, and epidemics in terms of type, scale, scope, and recurrence, causing serious damage to the State and people.

Therefore, enhancing the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in building firm defensive areas has become an urgent and vital task for the provinces within Military Region 4.

For these reasons, I have chosen the topic: **“The Leadership of Provincial Party Committees in Military Region 4 in Building Provincial Defensive Areas in the Current Context”** as the subject of my doctoral dissertation in the field of Party and State Building.

2. Objectives and Research Tasks of the Dissertation

2.1. Research Objectives

The dissertation aims to clarify theoretical and practical issues regarding the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees within Military Region 4 in building provincial defensive areas. Based on the findings, it proposes directions and solutions to strengthen their leadership in this domain in the coming period.

2.2. Research Tasks

To review relevant domestic and international scientific works, summarize key findings, and identify aspects that need further research and resolution in the dissertation.

To study and clarify theoretical issues concerning the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in building defensive areas in the current context.

To assess the current situation, identify the underlying causes, and draw practical lessons from the leadership of these Party Committees in defensive areas building.

To forecast favorable and challenging factors, determine strategic directions, and propose key and feasible solutions to enhance the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in building defensive areas in the coming years.

3. Research Subject and Scope of the Dissertation

3.1. Research Subject

The subject of the dissertation is the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in the construction of provincial defensive areas.

3.2. Research Scope

Spatial scope: The dissertation focuses on the leadership of the following provincial Party Committees in building defensive areas: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, and Thua Thien Hue (now Hue Municipal Party Committee), in close coordination with the leadership and guidance of the Party Committee of Military Region 4 and the collaboration among departments, agencies, provincial military commands, and police departments - who serve as advisory bodies in building defensive areas.

Temporal scope: The dissertation investigates and surveys theoretical and practical issues related to the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in building defensive areas from 2015 to the present, and proposes directions and solutions for strengthening such leadership in the near future.

4. Theoretical, Practical Basis and Research Methodology

4.1. Theoretical Basis

The dissertation is grounded in the viewpoints of Marxism–Leninism and Ho Chi Minh’s thought on national defense, all-people national defense and people’s war; and the Party’s viewpoints on building the all-people national defense posture and the posture of people’s security.

4.2. Practical Basis

The practical basis of the dissertation comprises the entire leadership practices of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in building defensive areas. Data and materials are synthesized from the author's investigations and field surveys.

4.3. Research Methodology

Based on the dialectical materialist and historical materialist methodology of Marxism–Leninism, the dissertation employs a combination of interdisciplinary and specialized scientific methods, with emphasis on: system-structural analysis; historical-logical method; analysis combined with synthesis; statistical and comparative methods; sociological surveys; and practical summarization.

5. New Scientific Contributions of the Dissertation

The dissertation systematically elucidates core theoretical issues such as the concept, characteristics, position, role, principles, contents, and methods of leadership by provincial and municipal Party Committees in building defensive areas in the current context, thereby contributing to the development of local defense theories.

Based on practical surveys, the dissertation draws out practical lessons learned.

The dissertation proposes two innovative, specific, and feasible solutions to strengthen the leadership of Party Committees in Military Region 4 in building defensive areas:

(1) Innovating the content and methods of leadership in defensive areas construction by provincial and municipal Party Committees;

(2) Promoting the comprehensive strength of leadership in building strong and comprehensive local armed forces as the core in constructing defensive areas.

6. Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Dissertation

6.1. The dissertation contributes to supplementing and developing the theoretical system on the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees over national defense and local military tasks, specifically focusing on the leadership in building defensive areas under current conditions. The dissertation clarifies the nature, characteristics, requirements, content, and leadership methods of provincial and municipal Party Committees in building defensive areas, affirming the direct, absolute, and comprehensive leadership role of the Party over the cause of national defense and the protection of the socialist Fatherland. Based on the practical summary, the dissertation provides additional scientific arguments to further improve the leadership mechanism of Party Committees over national defense and local military tasks, especially in the context of global and regional developments and the ongoing restructuring of local government organizational systems.

6.2. The dissertation provides scientific and practical foundations that directly serve the provincial and municipal Party Committees within Military Region 4 in leading and directing the building of solid defensive areas. The research results, including assessments of the current situation, analyses of causes, lessons learned, as well as the viewpoints and solutions proposed by the dissertation, can be applied in formulating resolutions, action programs, and implementation plans for national defense and local military tasks by Party Committees and local authorities in the coming period. Furthermore, the dissertation serves as a valuable reference for research agencies, academic institutions, and defense and security education centers in studying and teaching tasks related to building defensive areas and leadership in national defense and local military affairs in the new context.

7. Structure of the Dissertation

The dissertation consists of: Introduction; Main content comprising 4 chapters with 9 sections; Conclusion; List of the author's published scientific works; List of references; and Appendices.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION TOPIC

1.1. INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

1.1.1. Research works related to national defense and homeland protection

There have been a number of studies focusing on national defense, military affairs, and homeland protection, such as:

The book titled “*Civil Defense*,” edited by A.I. An-Tu-Nin (1980) and translated by Tran Dang Vinh; *Academy of Military Sciences of China* (2013), *The Theory of China’s Military Strategy*, published by the General Department II – Ministry of National Defense, 2018, translated by Luyen Ngoc Hung and Do Van Tuyen, Hanoi. *Si Phon Keo Sa May* (2013), *Building the Potential of the All-People National Defense in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Today*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. Glenn Snyder (2015), *Deterrence and Defense*, Princeton University Press, USA. S.A. Bogdanov, S.G. Chekinov (2016), *Military Strategy: A Vision for the Future*, *Russian Military Thought Journal*, Issue No. 11/2016, translated by Do Ngoc Inh. *Kham Son Keo Bun Pan* (2016), *Participation of the Lao Armed Forces in Building the Defensive Areas in Southern Laos Today*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. *Tu Khue* (2017), *Building a National Defense Mobilization Force System with Chinese Characteristics*, *Chinese Militia Journal*, Issue No. 1/2017, translated by the Center for Military Science Information. *Xay Ti Chit Mit Tha Phap* (2017), *Building Political and Spiritual Potential of the Defensive Area in Central Laos in the Current Period*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. *Xa Lo Chong Teng Chia Xa* (2023), *Participation of Local Armed Forces in Building Provincial and Municipal Defensive Areas in Northern Laos in the New Situation*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. *Thep Sa Vi Say Nha Phong* (2024), *Building the All-People National Defense Posture in the Strategic Region of Northern Laos Today*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi.

1.1.2. Research works related to the leadership of ruling parties over national defense, military affairs, and homeland protection

A number of studies have addressed the leadership of ruling parties in national defense, military affairs, and homeland protection, such as:

D.A. Volkogonov (1998), *Marxist-Leninist Doctrine on War and the Military*.

Li Xuejiang, Xiao Jingmin, and Wang Baotun (1999), The Strategy for the Development of National Defense Education in China. E.G. Vapilin and Q.D. Muliava (2001), Social Issues in Military Education. Panhothon Keovisit (2019), Building Transport Capability in Economic-Defense Zones in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Journal of Military Logistics Science Research, No. 10, pp. 89–92. Khamsing Xaymontry (2024), Leadership Capacity of Party Committees in Military Academies of the Lao People's Army in the Current Period, PhD dissertation in Political Science, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi.

1.2. NATIONAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1.2.1. Research works related to national defense, military affairs, and the construction of defensive zones

There have been numerous domestic studies related to national defense, military affairs, and the construction of defensive zones, including:

Nguyen Nhu Hoi (2009), *Party and political work in building provincial defensive zones in the Central Highlands today*, PhD dissertation in Political Science, Academy of Politics, Hanoi. Ngo Xuan Lich (2018), *Building a strong all-people national defense foundation to firmly enhance the strength of national defense and security for homeland protection*, *All-People National Defense Journal*, No. 5, pp. 1–5. Dang Quang Minh (2018), *Several solutions to improve the effectiveness of building military region-level defensive zones in the new situation*, *National Defense Strategy Journal*, No. 2/2018, pp. 46–50. Le Van Can (2018), *Building economic, scientific, and technological potential in provincial and municipal defensive zones in the new situation*, *Vietnam Military Art Journal*, No. 6, pp. 38–40. Ministry of National Defense (2019), *Vietnam National Defense (Vietnam's National Defense White Paper)*, National Political Publishing House – Truth, Hanoi. Nguyen Cong Dan (2019), *Ha Giang builds a solid defensive zone*, *All-People National Defense Journal*, No. 12, pp. 74–76. Phan Van Giang (2019), *Continue building strong provincial and municipal defensive zones in the new situation*, *All-People National Defense Journal*, No. 3, pp. 1–4. Kieu Dang Khoi (Chief Editor, 2020), *Building political, spiritual, cultural, and social potential in the defensive zone today*, National Political Publishing House – Truth, Hanoi. Nguyen Van Duong (2021), *The quality of leadership in building provincial defensive zones in Military Region 7 today*, PhD dissertation in Party and State Governance, Academy of Politics. Hoang Duy Chinh (2021), *Building a solid defensive zone in Bac Kan province to meet the requirements and tasks in the new situation*, *Military and National Defense Journal*, No. 29, pp. 12–14. Vu Thanh Hiep (Project Leader, 2022), *Building political and spiritual potential in provincial defensive zones to meet the requirements of national protection in the*

new situation, Ministry of National Defense-level research project, Dong Nai. Nghiem Duc Trong (2022), *Local armed forces participating in building the all-people national defense posture in defensive zones of northern border provinces*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. Nguyen Van Duong (2023), *Enhancing political, spiritual, cultural, and social potential in provincial defensive zones to meet the requirements of national protection in the new situation*, *Military and National Defense Journal*, No. 56, pp. 75–77. Bui Van Thang (2023), *Solutions for building coastal provinces and cities in Military Region 3 into solid defensive zones in the current period*, *Vietnam Military Art Journal*, National Defense Academy, Hanoi, No. 2/2023, pp. 21–24. Nguyen Duc Thuan (2023), *Building solid provincial and municipal defensive zones to meet task requirements in the new situation in Vietnam*, *State Organization Journal*, No. 4/2023, pp. 67–69. Phuc binh Nie Kdam (2024), *Solutions for building a solid defensive zone in Đắk Lắk province in the new situation*, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. Nguyen Manh Tuc (2024), *Local military agencies advising party committees and governments in building defensive zones in border provinces of the Central Highlands in the new situation*, PhD dissertation in Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi.

1.2.2. Research works related to the leadership of the Party and Party committees in national defense, military affairs, and the construction of defensive zones

There have been various domestic studies focusing on the leadership role of the Party and Party committees in national defense, military affairs, and the construction of defensive zones, including:

Nguyen Tien Quoc (2014), *Renovating the content and methods of Party and political work in provincial and municipal defensive zones in the new period*, Ministry of National Defense-level scientific project, Hanoi. Pham Gia Cu (2014), *Research on improving the quality of operations of provincial and municipal military Party committees in building strong defensive zones in the new period*, Ministry of National Defense-level scientific project, Hanoi. Nguyen Van Thanh (2015), *The leadership of Provincial Party Committees in Military Region 1 over local national defense work in the current period*, PhD dissertation in Political Science, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, Hanoi. Tran Ngoc Hoi (2016), *Strengthening the leadership of Provincial Party Committees over local national defense and military affairs today*, PhD dissertation in Political Science, Academy of Politics, Hanoi. Tran Xuan Dan (2018), *Improving the advisory capacity of provincial and municipal military Party committees in constructing defensive zones in Military Region 3 under the new situation*, PhD dissertation in

Military Science, National Defense Academy, Hanoi. Ho Van Thang (2019), *Enhancing the effectiveness of Party and political work in building grassroots-level local defensive zones today*, *Journal of Military Political Science*, No. 5, pp. 76–79. Vu Quang Hien (2019), *The Party's Military Line – History of Formation, Development, and Core Contents*, National Political Publishing House – Truth, Hanoi. General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army (2019), *The leadership activities of the Party in transitioning the country from peacetime to wartime*, People's Army Publishing House, Hanoi. Le Minh Long (2021), *The leadership of Provincial Party Committees in the Red River Delta in building defensive zones in the current period*. Bui Van Thang (2023), *Strengthening the leadership of Party committees and the management role of authorities at all levels in building the political and spiritual potential of provincial and municipal defensive zones today*, *Military Science Journal*, Ministry of National Defense, Hanoi, No. 1/2023, pp. 45–49.

1.3. OVERVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH RESULTS AND ISSUES TO BE FOCUSED ON IN THE DISSERTATION

1.3.1. Overview of the results of related scientific research works

A review of domestic and international research works related to the dissertation topic shows the following:

In terms of theory, research works - both domestic and international - have addressed various theoretical issues related to national defense and territorial defense from different perspectives. Several studies have delved deeply into theoretical matters concerning defensive zones, the construction of defensive zones, and the leadership role of the Party in building defensive zones. A small number of studies have clarified the position, role, contents, and methods of leadership by Party committees in the construction of defensive zones.

In terms of practice, some research has surveyed and assessed the actual situation of defensive zone construction and the leadership of the Party and local Party committees in national and local military defense work. These studies have identified strengths and limitations, explored the underlying causes, and drawn lessons learned in the leadership and direction of national and local defense tasks and the construction of defensive zones.

In terms of strategic orientation and solutions, several studies have proposed directions and solutions for building defensive zones and enhancing the leadership of the Party and local Party committees in national and local defense work and defensive zone construction.

In summary, the research works on national defense, military affairs, national protection; the construction and operation of defensive zones; and the leadership of Party committees and Party organizations in these areas have achieved

significant results. However, there has not yet been any study that thoroughly and systematically investigates, from the perspective of Party building and state governance, the leadership of the construction of defensive zones by provincial and municipal Party Committees in the area of Military Region 4. The theoretical and practical findings of the aforementioned research works are a valuable source of reference, providing important scientific ideas for this dissertation on the topic: *"The leadership of provincial Party Committees in Military Region 4 in the construction of defensive zones in the current period."*

1.3.2. Issues that need further focus in the dissertation

Based on the overview of related research, the dissertation identifies the following key issues to be further explored:

First, to study and clarify theoretical issues related to defensive zones and the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 over the construction of defensive zones. This includes: an overview of the characteristics of Military Region 4; the concept of the defensive zone; the concept, content, and role of defensive zone construction in Military Region 4; the concept, functions, duties, and organizational structure of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4; the concept, contents, methods, and role of the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in the construction of defensive zones.

Second, to accurately assess the current state of leadership over the construction of defensive zones by provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4, identifying strengths and achievements, while also pointing out limitations and shortcomings. The dissertation will analyze the causes of these strengths and achievements, as well as the causes of the limitations and shortcomings. On that basis, it will draw lessons learned in the leadership of defensive zone construction by provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 today.

Third, to forecast the international, regional, and domestic situation, analyze the advantages and difficulties that affect the construction of defensive zones and the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in the coming period. On that basis, the dissertation will determine the orientation and propose key solutions to strengthen the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in the construction of defensive zones in the time ahead.

Summary of Chapter 1

The overview of relevant research related to the dissertation topic shows that there have been numerous scientific studies on national defense, military work, and the protection of the Fatherland; the establishment and operation of defensive zones; and the leadership roles of Party committees and organizations in defense and military affairs, particularly in building defensive zones. However, no research has comprehensively, systematically, and in-depth examined, from the perspective of Party building and State governance, the leadership of provincial and municipal Party committees in Military Region 4 in the construction of defensive zones. Therefore, the topic of this dissertation is new, with theoretical and practical significance, and does not overlap with previously approved scientific projects or defended dissertations. The aforementioned studies are valuable sources of reference, providing scientific arguments to support the doctoral candidate's research.

Chapter 2

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES REGARDING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN BUILDING DEFENSIVE AREAS IN THE CURRENT PERIOD

2.1. PROVINCES, CITIES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF PROVINCIAL DEFENSIVE AREAS IN MILITARY REGION 4

2.1.1. Military Region 4 and the Provinces, Cities within the Area of Responsibility of Military Region 4

2.1.1.1. Overview of Military Region 4

Military Region 4 is one of the seven military regions of the Vietnam People's Army, under the direct management of the Ministry of National Defence. It holds a strategically important position, covering four provinces and one city: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, and Hue city.

2.1.1.2. Overview of the Provinces and City within Military Region 4

The area of Military Region 4 includes four provinces and one centrally governed city: Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Tri, and Hue City.

Geography, Natural Features, Climate and Weather

These provinces have both land and maritime borders, situated along the North Central region of Vietnam, stretching from Doc Xay (Thanh Hoa) to Hai Van Pass bordering Da Nang city, with a total length of 642 km. The land border extends for 1,227.8 km, and the coastline stretches 722 km. The region is well-known for its harsh climate, often described as "abundant sunshine, heavy rains" and "frequent storms and thunderstorms."

Administrative Organization, Population, Ethnicity, and Religion

The total natural area of Military Region 4 is 52,062 km². On June 12, 2025, during the 9th session of the 15th National Assembly, a resolution was passed on the reorganization of provincial administrative units. Following the merger, the region consists of 414 communes, 68 wards, and one special administrative area (Con Co island, Quang Tri province). By 2024, the population of Military Region 4 was approximately 11 million people, with a highly uneven population distribution: over 550 people/km² in the lowlands and about 95 people/km² in the mountainous areas. There are 52 ethnic groups residing in the region, with more than 1,246,738 ethnic minority citizens, accounting for 11.21% of the total population. The main religions practiced in the area include Catholicism, Buddhism, Protestantism, and Cao Dai, with over 1,799,045 followers, representing 16.16% of the population. Notably, there are also illegal religious activities causing negative impacts on certain communities, affecting social stability and security.

Politics, Economy, Culture, and Society

Military Region 4 is known for its rich traditions of patriotism and revolution, producing many national heroes and famous historical figures. The people are industrious, studious, and resilient in overcoming poverty and hardship, remaining steadfastly loyal to the revolutionary cause of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

National Defence and Security

Currently, hostile and politically opportunistic forces operate aggressively in the region. More than 200 individuals are linked to the reactionary organization “Viet Tan,” mostly among Catholic followers, supported by extremist clergy. Reactionary forces have exploited social media to spread anti-government propaganda and incite public disorder.

2.1.2. The Provincial Defensive Area and Its Construction in the Provinces and Cities within Military Region 4: Concepts, Contents, and Roles

2.1.2.1. Concept of Provincial and Municipal Defensive Areas in Military Region 4

According to Law No. 98/2025/QH15 dated June 27, 2025, amending and supplementing several laws on military and national defence, it is defined that:

“The Defensive Area is an integral component of the Military Region’s defence posture, encompassing political, ideological, economic, cultural, social, scientific, technological, military, security, and diplomatic activities, organized at the provincial and special administrative-economic unit levels, with grassroots defence (commune-level defence) as its foundation for the protection of the locality.”

Strategic Position and Role

The strategic position of the Provincial Defensive Area is manifested in both peacetime and wartime. It serves to stretch and disperse enemy forces, forcing them into a passive and bogged-down posture, defeating their strategies of rapid victory and internal-external collusion. The defensive area strengthens the

people's war posture, integrating both combat and production, and thrives through resistance.

2.1.2.2. Concept, Content, and Role of Building the Provincial Defensive Area in Military Region 4

Concept

The construction of the Provincial Defensive Area in Military Region 4 comprises a comprehensive system of political, ideological, economic, cultural, social, scientific, technological, military, security, and diplomatic activities organized at the provincial level, aiming to establish a robust all-people national defence posture closely linked with the people's security posture in each locality.

2.1.2.3. Content of Building the Provincial Defensive Area in Military Region 4

The construction of the defensive area involves three main components: building potentials, forces, and defence posture.

First, building the potentials of the defensive area, including:

Political and ideological potential

Cultural and social potential

Economic and scientific-technological potential

Military, security, and diplomatic potential

Second, building the forces of the defensive area Third, building the defence posture of the defensive area

2.1.2.4. The Role of Building the Provincial Defensive Area in Military Region 4

Firstly, the construction of the defensive area in provinces and cities directly implements the Party's guidelines, policies, and state laws on national defence and security, contributing to the successful realization of the two strategic tasks of national construction and defence.

Secondly, it directly strengthens local defence and security, effectively preventing hostile plots and subversive activities from the grassroots level.

Thirdly, it contributes to building comprehensively strong localities, ensuring political stability, social order and safety, and fostering socio-economic and cultural development both locally and nationally.

Fourthly, it lays a solid foundation for fully harnessing each locality's inherent strengths and potentials.

2.2. THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN LEADERSHIP OF DEFENSIVE AREA CONSTRUCTION – CONCEPTS, CONTENTS, AND METHODS

2.2.1. The Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4

2.2.1.1. Concept

The Provincial Party Committees and Municipal Party Committees (hereinafter referred to as Provincial and Municipal Party Committees) within the area of Military Region 4 are the leading organs of the provincial and municipal Party organizations between two Party congresses, elected (or appointed) by the

congress of provincial or municipal Party organizations. They serve as the nucleus of leadership, representing the qualities, capacities, and intellect of the entire Party organization, and the will and aspirations of the local people. Their core responsibility is to lead the implementation of the resolutions of the provincial or municipal Party congresses, the directives, resolutions, and instructions of the Central Party, as well as the policies and laws of the State within their respective localities.

2.2.1.2. Functions

According to Regulation No. 305-QĐ/TW dated June 13, 2025, issued by the Central Organization Commission on the functions, tasks, and organizational structure of provincial and municipal Party Committees under the direct leadership of the Central Committee, the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees within Military Region 4 perform two principal functions:

Firstly, to exercise direct and comprehensive leadership and direction at the provincial level; to lead and direct affiliated Party organizations in accordance with the Party Charter and the regulations and guidelines of the Central Committee; and to lead the local Party organizations in fully implementing the Party's guidelines, policies, State laws, and the resolutions of the provincial Party congress.

Secondly, to propose and recommend to the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat matters related to the leadership and direction of the Central Committee for their respective localities.

2.2.1.3. Duties and Powers

The Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 have the following duties and powers:

1. Lead the concretization of guidelines and measures for the implementation of the resolutions of the Provincial Party Congress and directives of the Central Party; decide on the working program, annual and term-long supervision and inspection programs, and operational regulations of the provincial Party Committees and Inspection Commissions; issue documents to lead political tasks based on the nature of each sector.

2. Lead, direct, and organize preliminary and final reviews of the resolutions and directives of the Central Committee, Politburo, and Secretariat, as well as those of the provincial Party Committees; organize pilot programs and new models as directed by the Central Committee.

3. Lead the Party building in political ideology, ethics, political theory education, summarization of practices and theoretical studies; safeguard the Party's ideological foundation, Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's thought, and the Party's viewpoints and policies; resolutely combat wrongful and hostile viewpoints, manifestations of political-ideological, ethical, and lifestyle degradation, and the phenomena of "self-evolution" and "self-transformation"; enforce the responsibility of exemplary conduct among cadres, especially leaders and managers.

4. Decide on guidelines and measures related to the organizational apparatus and staffing within their authority; lead the reform and consolidation of the political system; determine the establishment, merger, division, dissolution, and adjustment of subordinate Party organizations and administrative boundaries; lead the building of strong and clean Party organizations, enhancing leadership capacity and combat strength.

5. Exercise comprehensive leadership over personnel work; manage and decide on cadre affairs in line with Party regulations; propose to higher authorities personnel matters under the Politburo and Secretariat's jurisdiction; discuss and decide on the number of Standing Committee members, Inspection Commission members, key leadership positions, and local electoral tasks.

6. Guide the direction of local Party congresses at all levels and convene provincial Party congresses and mid-term conferences when applicable.

7. Conduct self-criticism and criticism, implement questioning and vote of confidence on key positions in accordance with regulations.

8. Lead and direct inspection, supervision, discipline enforcement within the Party, anti-corruption efforts, and protection of internal political security; handle complaints and denunciations involving Party organizations and members.

9. Lead and organize the implementation of mass mobilization, ethnic, and religious affairs; strengthen grassroots democracy; promote the great national unity bloc and improve the roles of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and mass organizations in supervision and social criticism.

10. Lead local authorities in executing state governance functions; provide orientations on critical socio-economic, national defence, and security issues; give guidance on strategic programs, socio-economic development plans, major projects, and key public investment programs.

11. Lead the implementation of all-people national defence and local military tasks; maintain political security and social order; promote vigilance and protect Party and State secrets.

12. Decide on matters related to Party financial management and property; oversee the annual and term-end financial reporting of the Party organizations.

13. Consider and comment on matters resolved by the Standing Committee between two meetings of the provincial Party Committee; decide on other significant matters presented by the Standing Committee.

14. Perform other tasks assigned by the Central Committee, the Politburo, and the Secretariat.

2.2.1.4. Organizational Structure

The Provincial and Municipal Party Committees are leadership bodies operating between the two congresses of provincial and municipal Party organizations, elected by the Party congress in accordance with the Party Charter and the guidelines of the Central Committee. Members of the Party Committees must exemplify outstanding political qualities and leadership capacities, represent the will and aspirations of the Party organization and the people, and demonstrate the ability to concretize and effectively implement the Party's guidelines and

policies. Moreover, they must possess innovative thinking, a high sense of responsibility, be willing to think, act, and take responsibility, always acting for the common good. The selection of Party Committee members ensures a rational structure in terms of geographical areas, age, gender, professional qualifications, and experience, with particular attention paid to young, successor, and reserve cadres.

2.2.1.5. Working Relationships

The relationship between the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and the Central Committee of the Party, the Politburo, and the Secretariat is one of subordination and leadership direction.

The relationship between the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and the Central Military Commission, the Central Public Security Party Committee, the Ministry of National Defence, and the Ministry of Public Security is one of close cooperation. The relationship between the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and the Provincial Military Party Committee, the Provincial Public Security Party Committee, and the Border Guard Party Committee is one of leadership and subordination. The relationship between the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees and the specialized advisory agencies, supporting bodies, public service units, and affiliated Party organizations is one of direct leadership and management.

2.2.2. Concept, Content, Methods, and Role of Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 in Leading the onstruction of Defensive Areas

2.2.2.1. Concept

According to the Vietnamese Great Dictionary, “leadership” is defined as the act of setting out guidelines and policies, organizing, and directing the implementation process to lead an organization or a collective towards predetermined objectives. From this definition, several key points can be highlighted:

The leadership entity in constructing defensive areas (KVPT) includes the Military Region Party Committee and the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4, with the direct and regular leadership being exercised by the Standing Committees and Standing Boards of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees.

The forces participating in the leadership process of constructing defensive areas include the Party Committees at all levels, affiliated Party organizations, and the functional agencies of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees.

The leadership targets of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in building defensive areas encompass the entire political system, from Party Committees and organizations at all levels to local authorities, mass organizations, armed forces, and the general populace.

The purpose of the leadership by the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees is to build solid defensive areas, firmly safeguarding the locality under all circumstances and conditions.

2.2.2.2. Contents of Leadership by Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Building Defensive Areas

The leadership of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees over the construction of defensive areas includes the following key contents:

First, the Party Committees lead the orientation and define the tasks of building defensive areas in their localities.

Second, the Party Committees lead the government in institutionalizing and concretizing the resolutions and directives of the Party Committees into programs and plans for building defensive areas.

Third, the Party Committees lead the implementation of specific activities and tasks involved in constructing defensive areas.

Fourth, the Party Committees lead the coordination between the Military Region 4 Command, provincial military commands, local governments, the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and other relevant forces within their localities in the construction of defensive areas.

Fifth, the Party Committees lead the review, evaluation, and summarization of experiences in building local defensive areas.

2.2.2.3. Methods of Leadership by Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Building Defensive Areas

The leadership methods employed by the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 over the construction of defensive areas include:

Firstly, leadership through issuing resolutions and major policy orientations.

Secondly, leadership through promoting the role of State management by the provincial government.

Thirdly, leadership through political education, persuasion, and mass mobilization.

Fourthly, leadership through organization and personnel work.

Fifthly, leadership through inspection and supervision.

2.2.2.4. Role of Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Leading the Construction of Defensive Areas

First, ensuring the absolute leadership of the Party over national defence and security.

Second, ensuring the firm establishment of the “people’s hearts and minds” posture.

Third, ensuring the effective mobilization of the combined strength of the entire political system in building the local defensive areas.

Fourth, ensuring the close integration of socio-economic development with the consolidation of national defence and security.

Summary of Chapter 2

Chapter 2 of the dissertation has clarified the theoretical and practical foundations concerning the leadership of the provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 over the construction of defensive areas in the

current period. Based on the viewpoints of Marxism-Leninism, Ho Chi Minh's Thought, and the Party's resolutions, this chapter affirms the decisive role of local Party Committees in building defensive areas. The dissertation identifies the characteristics of the regional situation, analyzes influencing factors, and defines the fundamental contents and methods of leadership, thereby establishing a foundation for surveying and assessing the actual situation in the next chapter.

Chapter 3

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN BUILDING DEFENSIVE AREAS TODAY – CURRENT SITUATION, CAUSES, AND EXPERIENCES

3.1. THE CURRENT SITUATION OF LEADERSHIP BY THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN CONSTRUCTING DEFENSIVE AREAS

3.1.1. Strengths

3.1.1.1. *In Implementing Leadership Content*

First, the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 have led and directed the serious grasp and implementation of the Party's and State's viewpoints, policies, and guidelines, as well as the directions of the Central Military Commission on building defensive areas.

Second, they have led the construction of political, economic, and scientific-technological potential within defensive areas and achieved significant results.

In leading the construction of political–spiritual potential

In leading the development of socio-economic potential

In leading the construction of scientific–technological potential

Third, they have paid attention to leading and directing the construction of local armed forces and the military posture in defensive areas, in accordance with task requirements and local conditions.

Fourth, they have effectively promoted the role and responsibility of the entire political system and the people in building defensive areas.

3.1.1.2. *In Implementing Leadership Methods*

Firstly, the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 have timely issued resolutions, directives, and major strategic orientations on national defense, security, and the construction of defensive areas.

Secondly, the leadership role of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees is clearly reflected in the effective management and administration of provincial governments.

Thirdly, they have effectively led propaganda, education, and mass mobilization efforts for the construction of defensive areas.

Fourthly, they have effectively promoted the role of Party organizations, personnel work, and the Party membership in leading the construction of defensive areas.

Fifthly, they have seriously led and directed the inspection, supervision, review, and summarization of tasks related to building defensive areas.

3.1.2. Limitations

3.1.2.1. In Implementing Leadership Content

Firstly, the grasp and concretization of the guidelines on constructing defensive areas in some provinces remain passive and not closely aligned with local realities.

Secondly, in leading the construction of political, economic, and scientific–technological potentials, there are still elements lacking sustainability.

In building political–spiritual potential

In leading the construction of socio-economic, scientific and technological potential

Thirdly, there are limitations in leading the development of armed forces and the military posture that do not yet meet the task requirements of building defensive areas in the current context.

Fourthly, the capacity, role, and responsibility of organizations and forces participating in constructing defensive areas remain limited.

3.1.2.2. In Implementing Leadership Methods

Firstly, the issuance of resolutions, directives, orientations, and leadership measures for local military, defense tasks and defensive area construction in some localities is still slow and of limited quality.

Secondly, the leadership and direction of defensive area construction through the role of provincial governments are, at times and in certain places, not strong, clear, or effective.

Thirdly, propaganda, education, persuasion, and mass mobilization regarding national defense, security, and defensive area construction still have many limitations.

Fourthly, the responsibility of Party committees, Party organizations, officials, and Party members in performing tasks related to national defense, security, and constructing defensive areas is, at times and in places, not fully promoted.

Fifthly, the inspection and supervision of the implementation of defensive area construction tasks have, at times, not received proper attention, and the quality and effectiveness remain limited.

3.2. CAUSES AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES OF THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 IN BUILDING DEFENSIVE AREAS

3.2.1. Causes

3.2.1.1. Causes of the Strengths

Firstly, the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 have consistently received strong leadership from the Party and the State, as well as close, timely guidance from central ministries, departments, and agencies in implementing national defense and security tasks and building defensive areas.

Secondly, the potential, advantages, and tremendous achievements of the national renewal process have provided favorable conditions for these Party Committees to successfully carry out defense, security, and defensive area construction tasks.

Thirdly, the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 have flexibly and creatively applied the Party's and State's viewpoints, lines, and policies on defense, security, and the construction of defensive areas to suit the specific realities of each locality.

Fourthly, the unity, consensus, and strict adherence to leadership principles by these Party Committees have been critical factors ensuring the effectiveness of defensive area construction.

Fifthly, agencies, departments, mass organizations, armed forces, and the people have demonstrated a proactive and responsible spirit in advising and implementing the Party Committees' leadership in the task of building defensive areas.

3.2.1.2. Causes of the Limitations

Firstly, negative impacts from the international and regional environment, adverse consequences of the market economy mechanism, and the hostile sabotage efforts by reactionary forces.

Secondly, the system of mechanisms, policies, and laws remains inconsistent and has not kept pace with the demands of actual development.

Thirdly, the awareness of some Party Committee members and a portion of Party organizations, cadres, and Party members remains limited and does not yet meet the requirements of tasks in the new situation.

Fourthly, some Party Committee members still lack sufficient knowledge and leadership capacity in national defense and security.

Fifthly, coordination among agencies, departments, and mass organizations is still not synchronous and lacks high effectiveness.

3.2.2. Leadership Experiences

Firstly, regularly and thoroughly grasp, and flexibly and creatively apply the Party's and State's viewpoints, lines, orientations, and policies on national defense, security, and the construction of defensive areas in a manner suitable to the specific conditions and circumstances of each locality.

Secondly, consistently maintain and strengthen the comprehensive, focused leadership and direction of the Provincial and Municipal Party Committees over the task of building defensive areas; especially emphasizing the firm establishment of the "people's hearts and minds posture" as a foundation for successfully fulfilling local defense and security tasks.

Thirdly, firmly understand and strictly implement the Party's leadership mechanism in building and operating defensive areas.

Fourthly, regularly lead and direct the organization of training and exercises to improve the combat readiness and operational coordination capabilities of forces within the defensive areas.

Fifthly, regularly conduct inspection, supervision, preliminary reviews, final reviews, and draw lessons during the leadership process of building defensive areas.

Summary of Chapter 3

In recent times, the Provincial Party Committees in Military Region 4 have achieved many positive results in leading the development of defensive zones. This is clearly reflected in the consistency of their direction, as well as the improved awareness and sense of responsibility among local Party committees, authorities, and the people. The content and methods of leadership have been increasingly renewed and made more effective to suit practical demands.

However, alongside these achievements, certain limitations still exist. The leadership capacity at some grassroots levels remains inadequate; coordination among forces is sometimes inconsistent; and the awareness of a portion of cadres, Party members, and the general public is still one-sided and limited. In some areas, the all-people national defense posture is not yet firmly established. The main reasons for these issues include a lack of decisiveness and insufficient coordination in leadership and direction.

This reality underscores the need to draw meaningful lessons from experience, continue innovating leadership approaches, and synchronously implement comprehensive solutions to firmly build strong and resilient defensive zones that meet the demands of the new situation.

Chapter 4

ORIENTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 OVER THE BUILDING OF DEFENSIVE ZONES IN THE COMING TIME

4.1. FORECAST OF INFLUENCING FACTORS AND ORIENTATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 OVER THE BUILDING OF DEFENSIVE ZONES IN THE COMING TIME

4.1.1. Forecast of factors affecting the leadership of provincial and municipal Party committees in Military Region 4 over the building of defensive zones in the coming time

4.1.1.1. Favorable factors

First, the positive impact of global and regional developments.

Second, the great achievements of the national renewal process.

Third, the positive impact of the organizational streamlining and restructuring revolution.

Fourth, the comprehensive achievements of the provinces within Military Region 4.

Fifth, the positive impact of the fine traditions of the provinces in Military Region 4.

4.1.1.2. Difficulties and challenges

First, negative impacts of global and regional developments.

Second, challenges facing the country in the new period.

Third, increasingly fierce, sophisticated, malicious, and deceitful sabotage by hostile forces.

Fourth, difficulties and challenges in economic, cultural, and social development and in consolidating national defense and security in the provinces within Military Region 4 in the coming time.

Fifth, the reorganization of the local government apparatus from three administrative levels to two will have a direct impact on the leadership of defensive area construction, with several major difficulties anticipated to arise.

4.1.2. Orientations for strengthening the leadership of provincial and municipal Party committees in Military Region 4 over the building of defensive zones in the coming time

First, thoroughly grasping the Party's guidelines and policies, the State's laws and regulations; and the resolutions and directives of the Central Military

Commission, the Ministry of National Defense, and the Party Committee and Command of Military Region 4 regarding the building of defensive zones.

Second, conducting research and fully understanding the comprehensive local conditions, including geography, population, socio-economic development, national defense and security, and clearly identifying the plots and tricks of hostile forces as well as potential destabilizing factors.

Third, focusing on leading, directing, and organizing the building of potentialities (political, spiritual, cultural-social, economic, and scientific-technological; military, security, and foreign affairs), forces (political forces and armed forces in defensive zones), and posture (the posture of all-people national defense, people's security, and people's warfare) in the defensive zones.

Fourth, leading the full promotion of the roles and responsibilities of the Party committees, authorities, the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, institutions, and forces of the province in concretizing and implementing the leadership.

Fifth, leading, directing, and conducting inspection, supervision, preliminary and final reviews, and drawing lessons in building defensive zones.

4.2. SOLUTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE LEADERSHIP OF PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PARTY COMMITTEES IN MILITARY REGION 4 OVER THE BUILDING OF DEFENSIVE ZONES IN THE COMING TIME

4.2.1. Strengthening propaganda and education to raise awareness and responsibility among provincial Party committees, lower-level Party organizations, the political system, armed forces, and the people regarding the leadership of provincial Party committees in building defensive zones.

4.2.2. Building strong provincial and municipal Party committees, People's Councils, and People's Committees to meet the leadership, management, and administrative requirements of building defensive zones.

4.2.2.1. Building strong Party organizations at all levels, especially provincial and municipal Party committees.

4.2.2.2. Building strong local authorities at all levels, with a focus on the provincial level.

4.2.3. Building and perfecting the leadership mechanism of provincial Party committees for building defensive zones in provinces under Military Region 4.

First, innovating the content and leadership methods in accordance with the principle of "unchanging in fundamentals, flexible in application."

Second, focusing on and ensuring the core goal of strengthening the Party's absolute, comprehensive leadership and enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of State management in building defensive zones.

Third, leadership innovation must be highly practical and suited to the specific conditions of each locality.

Fourth, innovation must be comprehensive, synchronous, and inherit and develop leadership experiences accumulated over time.

4.2.4. Emphasizing leadership in promoting the combined strength in building comprehensively strong local armed forces, which truly serve as the core force in building defensive zones.

4.2.5. Strengthening inspection, supervision, and reviews to draw lessons from the leadership of provincial and municipal Party committees in Military Region 4 in building defensive zones.

Summary of Chapter 4

Currently, the task of constructing defensive areas under the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 faces numerous objective and subjective challenges. To enhance leadership effectiveness, Party Committees must have a profound understanding of the situation and closely follow new task requirements. The construction of KVPT must be carried out in a comprehensive and synchronous manner, with a focus on raising awareness and responsibility within the political system and among the people, consolidating organizational structures, and renewing the content and methods of leadership. Party Committees at all levels must promote their core role, mobilize the combined strength of the entire system, and implement flexible and locally appropriate solutions to ensure practicality and efficiency.

CONCLUSION

Building a solid defensive area is a strategic guideline of the Party, in which the leadership of provincial and municipal Party Committees in Military Region 4 plays a decisive role. The Party Committees exercise comprehensive leadership through formulating policies, directing implementation, conducting inspection and supervision, coordinating forces, building the political system, and consolidating the potential and posture of the defensive area. In recent years, the provincial and municipal Party Committees have achieved positive results; however, there remain limitations in terms of awareness, leadership capacity, and coordination. In the coming period, it is essential to focus on raising awareness, building strong Party Committees and authorities, renewing the content and methods of leadership, promoting overall strength, and strengthening inspection and supervision to ensure comprehensive, effective leadership in constructing defensive areas suited to the specific conditions of each locality.

**LIST OF AUTHOR’S PUBLISHED WORKS RELATED TO THE
DISSERTATION TOPIC**

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2. Ha Ngoc Phi (2023), *Contents and solutions for building political and spiritual potential in the construction of provincial (municipal) defensive zones at present*, Special Issue No. 2, 2023, Journal of Political Theory and Communication.
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4. Ha Ngoc Phi (2025), *Building Political-Spiritual Potential in the Construction of Defensive Areas at Present*, Political Theory E-Journal, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics.