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4 March 1968

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**PRESIDENTIAL
OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE
BRIEF**



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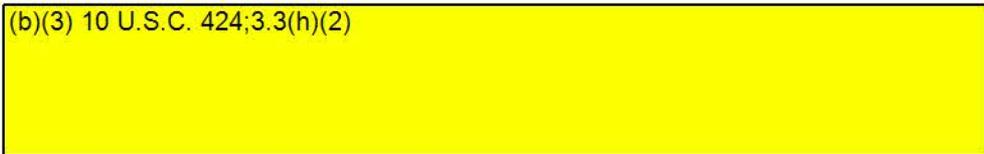
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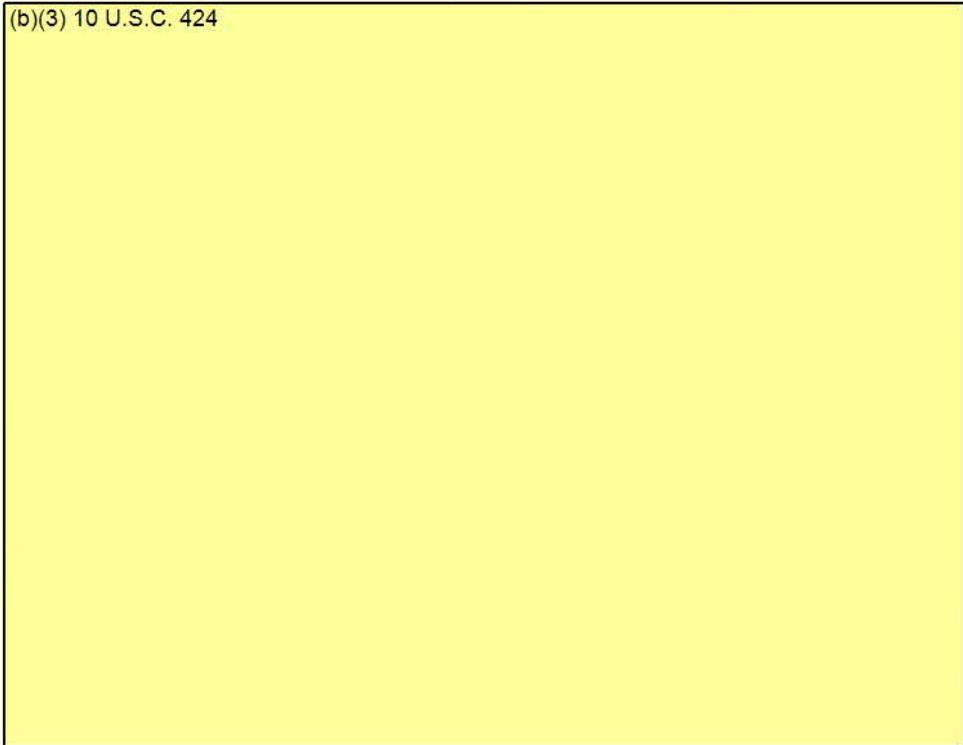
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**OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS**SOUTHEAST ASIA

5 SUMMARY: Yesterday the enemy launched a series of coordinated mortar and rocket attacks against our forces and installations in South Vietnam. All but two of the widespread attacks occurred in the 1st and 2nd Corps areas. Fifteen separate attacks were reported, but in each instance the shelling was comparatively light. Preliminary reports indicate that casualties and damages were not significant. These attacks were not of the scale and diversity that earlier information had suggested would begin yesterday, but they may be a prelude to further widespread offensive activity in the immediate future, to include targets in or around selected key areas such as Hue, Quang Tri City, Ban Me Thuot, Pleiku City, Saigon, and Khe Sanh. Indications that further widespread offensive operations could begin at any time continue to be received.

SOUTH VIETNAM1ST CORPS

In a 3-hour period beginning at noon yesterday (1:00 AM 4 March, Saigon time), the enemy launched 8 separate mortar and rocket attacks against installations in 1st Corps. None of the attacks occurred in Quang Tri Province. The attacks were directed against two US Army division command posts, US Marine communications and logistic installations, and the Marble Mountain Air Facility, south of Da Nang. The cities of Tam Ky and Quang Ngai were also hit by an unknown number of mortar and rocket rounds, but casualties and damage are unknown. Enemy units are on the move to positions northwest and southwest of Quang Ngai City. The most significant attack was made against the Marble Mountain Air Facility, probably by elements of NVA 31st Regiment, where 35 rounds of enemy rocket fire impacted on the target. One rocket hit the US Naval Hospital area wounding 5 patients and 2 medical corpsmen. Two US Marines were wounded at the airfield and one helicopter was destroyed. When the attack ended, two other helicopters and two light, fixed-wing aircraft were burning, but the extent of damages could not be assessed. Total casualties reported in the other attacks were 1 killed (US) and 9 wounded (US).

Early yesterday US Marines killed 35 enemy and took 1 prisoner in two attacks against enemy units near Con Thien.

4 March 1968

Page 1

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

4 MARCH 1968

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	24 Hrs	Current Week	Cumula-	Cumula-	Cumula-
	Ending	11 AM EST	tive	tive	tive
	11 AM EST	24 Feb 68	From	From	From
	3 Mar 68	11 AM EST	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	2 Mar 68	2 Mar 68			
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	46	536	3,223	12,388	19,245
Wounded Not Hosp	93	989	7,200	37,854	54,975
Wounded Hosp	100	1,070	9,240	41,611	62,228
Captured	0	2	9	144	240
Missing	0	23	299	570	946
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	26	284	3,343	14,223	56,513
Wounded	36	970	10,151	39,599	124,941
Missing/Captured	0	139	1,243	3,583	28,587
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	1	16	253	1,358	1,956
Wounded	2	66	558	2,876	4,606
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	483	5,002	51,233	139,314	298,467
Wounded	725	7,455	76,802	208,924	447,653
(estimate ^b)					

a. U.S. Casualties include Laos and Vietnam.

b. Estimate based on a 1.5 to 1 Wounded to Killed ratio.

c. The figures shown in column (1) are preliminary, unrefined battlefield reported casualties received from COMUSMACV daily.

d. The figures in columns (2) through (5) are verified figures representing casualties reported during the period indicated.

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US Marine casualties were 2 killed and 8 wounded.

Unconfirmed prisoner reports indicate that all battalions of the 90th Regiment of the NVA 324B Division are now in the Hue area. The NVA 4th Regiment which moved to the east of Hue from the Phu Loc area Saturday is reported continuing to move to the north. A pattern seems to be developing around Hue which is in important ways similar to that prior to the Tet offensive.

2ND CORPS

Yesterday morning a US Army Base Camp at Dak To was hit by 35 rounds of enemy 82-mm mortar and 75-mm recoilless rocket fire resulting in 1 man killed and 3 wounded. Later a South Vietnamese CIDG camp south of Pleiku received 20 rounds of 82-mm mortar fire which wounded 2 CIDG. At about noon 4 enemy mortar and rocket attacks were made against US installations at Kontum, Dak To, An Khe, and a US base camp south of Pleiku. About 20 rounds of enemy fire were delivered in each attack. The only casualties occurred at a US Army base camp at An Khe where 5 men were killed and 27 wounded. Further attacks are expected. So far there has been no enemy ground follow-up reported, but these are possible, especially against Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, and Tuy Hoa. The attacks near Dak To are believed to have been carried out on the basis of firm orders from the NVA 1st Division in the face of many earlier complaints and excuses by cadre.

3RD CORPS

Bien Hoa Air Base was hit by 15 enemy 122-mm rockets early yesterday afternoon. Elements of the Viet Cong 5th Division were probably involved. One building in a US airborne division area was destroyed and 9 men were wounded. The airfield is fully operational. More such attacks by fire are expected. Also, the Viet Cong 9th Light Infantry Division Headquarters has now moved to within 11 miles north of the base and artillery elements of the 5th Division have appeared in communications for the first time since early February.

A SVN Regional Force unit engaged a small enemy force 28 miles south of Saigon yesterday. Nine enemy were killed and 1 prisoner was taken. SVN losses were 2 killed and 5 wounded.

The Nha Be Tank Farm, south of Saigon, was hit by 15-18 rounds of recoilless rifle fire. Four men (US) were wounded and two vehicles were damaged. A building was damaged and a large fuel tank was set afire, but the blaze was extinguished before significant damage occurred.

The battalion of the Viet Cong 274th Regiment in eastern Bien Hoa Province has requested even more munitions under conditions suggesting urgency of its mission. The battalion, together with another which has now moved nearby, may be preparing to attack the Long Binh military complex.

4TH CORPS

No significant ground activity was reported in the 4th Corps area, but the overall situation remains unchanged with the enemy continuing harassment of outposts and district and provincial capitals in the Delta.

Increased enemy activity is indicated in Dinh Tuong Province and probable sampan resupply activity goes on in Kieng Phong Province to the west.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Yesterday 35 Air Force B-52s struck enemy troop concentrations, artillery positions, and storage areas in the Khe Sanh area. An additional 18 B-52 aircraft hit enemy base camps, troop concentrations, fortifications, and storage areas near Hue, Pleiku, and Saigon.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: US tactical aircraft flew 109 sorties over NVN yesterday. Yesterday morning an A-6 aircraft struck Hanoi Port using radar release techniques. The crew reported the strike was successful with all ordnance on target; however, a detailed evaluation of results was not possible because of darkness. Yesterday evening 4 Air Force F-4D aircraft struck the Ha Dong Shipyard, southwest of Hanoi. Ground control radar release procedures were used because of weather conditions. Results could not be observed because of poor visibility and heavy anti-aircraft fire in the target area.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Yesterday 241 armed reconnaissance sorties were flown over Laos. Pilots reported the destruction of 41 enemy trucks. In the area adjacent to Khe Sanh 115 sorties were flown. One enemy tank was destroyed 20 miles west of Khe Sanh.

ATTOPEU SITUATION: On Saturday communist forces occupied 4 outposts near the city, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424:3.3(h)(2) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424:3.3(h) the situation there grave.

LATE ITEM

Enemy activity at Khe Sanh yesterday was confined to sporadic artillery and mortar fire and light harassing probes of perimeter defenses. Only 100 rounds of mortar, artillery, and rocket fire impacted in the Khe Sanh area; however, 16 Marines were wounded. Despite limited visibility and low ceilings 276 sorties were flown by tactical aircraft in support of Khe Sanh. Five enemy gun positions, 2 trucks, and 9 military structures were destroyed, 1 armored vehicle was damaged and 27 enemy were killed. A US Marine battalion fought a day-long battle with an enemy force north of Con Thien yesterday and reported 136 enemy were killed while Marine losses were only 1 killed and 3 wounded. In another action near Con Thien US Marines killed 21 enemy while losing 1 Marine killed and 5 wounded.

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