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21 February 1968

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PRESIDENTIAL
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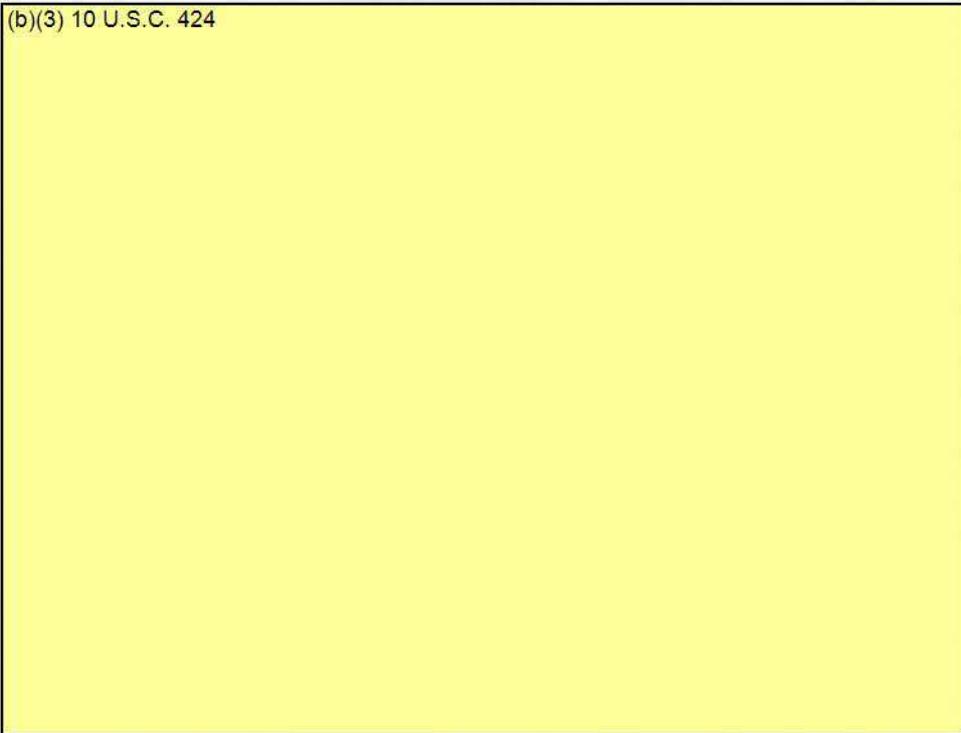
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS



SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The Khe Sanh combat base continued to receive enemy shelling yesterday with little damage reported. The ground control approach (GCA) radar, which was made inoperative on 18 February by enemy rocket fire, was back in operation at 6:35 PM EST on 20 February (7:35 AM 21 February, SVN time).

US Army units reported five separate enemy contacts in an area within 8 miles of Quang Tri City on 18 and 19 February. Cumulative friendly casualties were 12 US killed and 62 (59 US, 3 ARVN) wounded. Enemy losses for the two days were 110 killed and 1 detained. Fifteen enemy weapons were captured.

Heavy fighting continues in Hue where the enemy is making a determined effort to prolong the battle.

The Viet Cong's District Chief in Trieu Phong District, in which Quang Tri City is located, stated on 13 February that Communist forces will "capture" the city and the district in the near future as part of the plan to demand a coalition government in 1968, according to informants of the South Vietnamese. Targets in the city are the police station, the Citadel, and the military base at La Vang. Mortar fire will precede the attacks and tanks will be used.

2D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

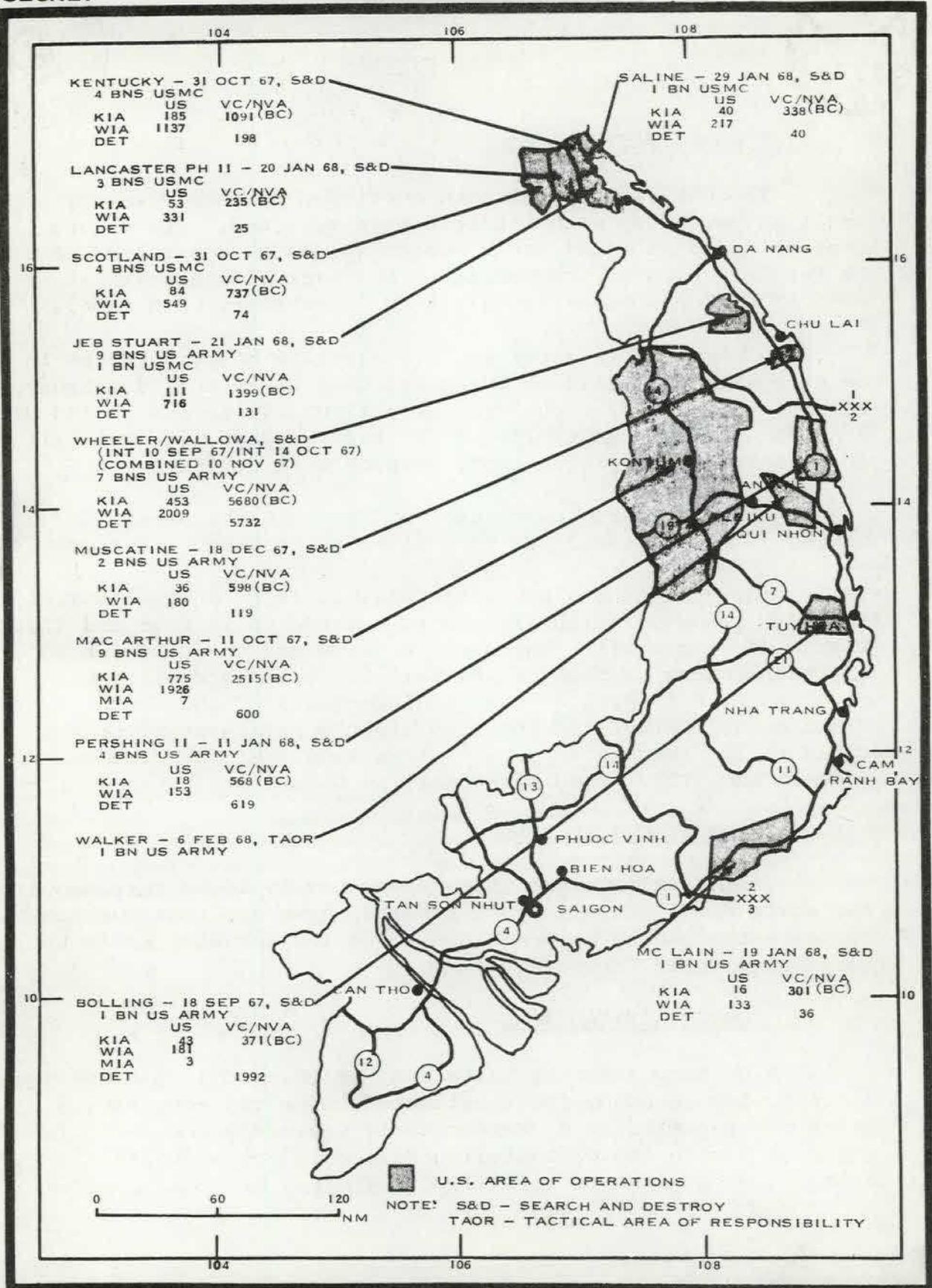
Enemy activity has been comparatively light throughout the corps area. A variety of reports, however, continue to indicate that enemy elements are preparing for attacks in the corps area on 23 February.

3D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

A US Army infantry battalion was engaged in a heavy contact with an enemy force estimated to be two companies 5 miles north-northeast of Saigon early yesterday morning. In a 4-hour battle the US battalion killed 123 enemy while sustaining the loss of 15 killed, 4 missing, and one wounded.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES (1ST & 2D CORPS)

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the enemy expects the current level of military activity to continue for several months. The message directed a subordinate to attack in 2 phases. Phase one was stated as being from 31 January to 1 March and phase two from 1 March to 19 May. Ho Chi Minh's birthday is on 19 May and also marks the date the Viet Minh was established in 1941.

The enemy military activity around Saigon may have assumed vital importance to Hanoi. An increase in military communications between Hanoi and its military headquarters controlling activity around Saigon (Military Region 4), and a decline in those between COSVN and Military Region 4 suggest that Headquarters, Military Region 4 is taking orders directly from Hanoi, at least temporarily.

4TH CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

A two-day operation conducted by South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) units against enemy forces in Vinh Long City (65 miles southwest of Saigon), ended yesterday. An update of ARVN casualties previously reported are placed at 11 killed and 57 wounded. Also four US Army advisors were wounded. Seventy-two enemy were killed and 38 suspected enemy were detained.

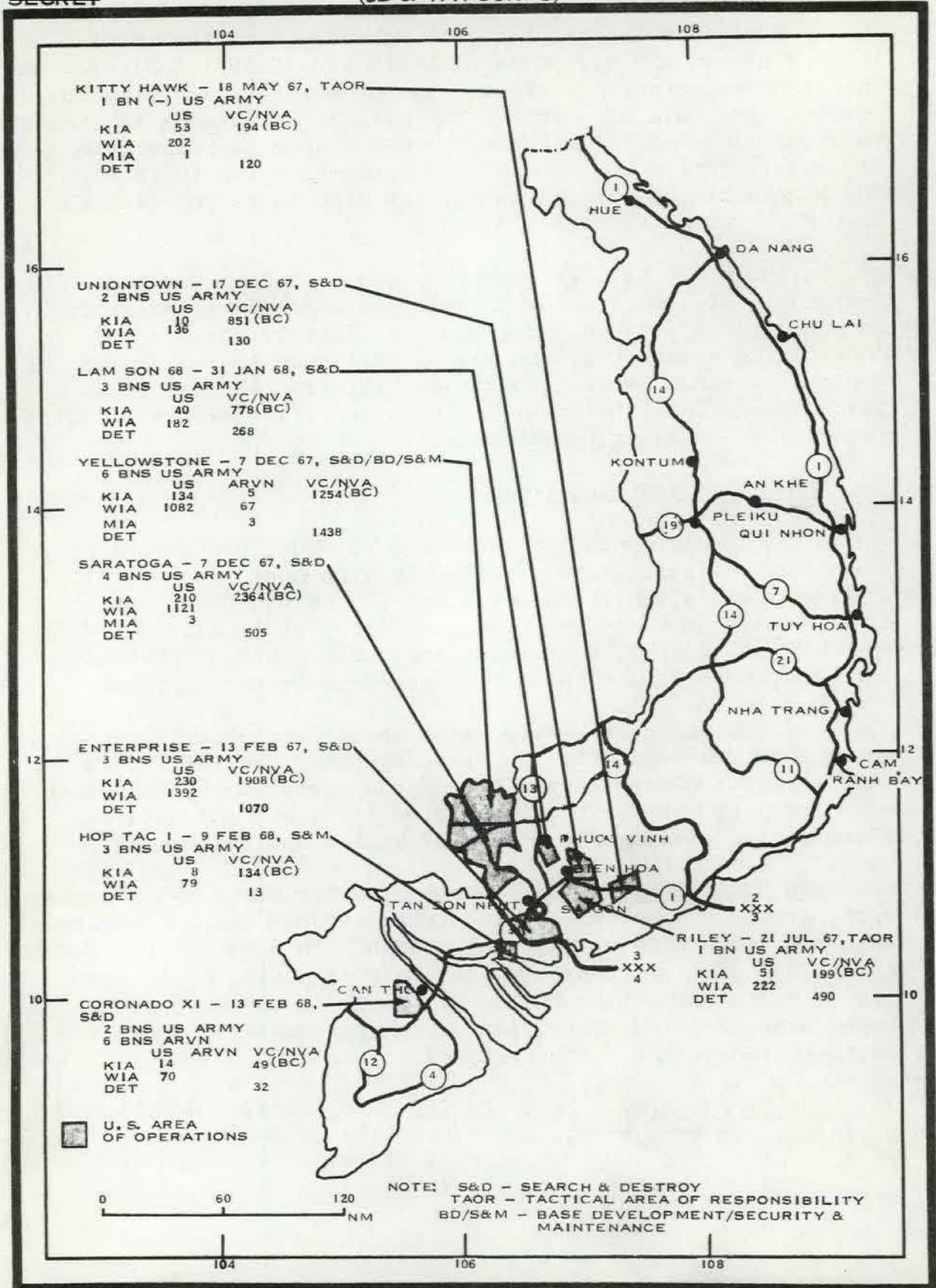
South Vietnamese Army units engaged in clearing the enemy from Vinh Loi City (53 miles south of Can Tho) ended their operation yesterday. During the operation, which began on 9 February, the ARVN units killed 149 enemy and detained 85 suspected enemy while losing 49 killed and 59 wounded.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Thirty-nine Air Force B-52s bombed enemy troop concentrations, supply areas, and weapons positions within a seven mile radius of Khe Sanh. In addition six B-52s bombed antiaircraft and automatic weapons positions in Laos nine miles southwest of Khe Sanh. Twelve B-52s also struck enemy base camps and fortified areas approximately 30 miles north-northeast and north-northwest of Saigon.

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**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES
(3D & 4TH CORPS)**

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2d and 3d Battalions, 27th Marines from El Toro Marine Corps Air Station California to Da Nang; 96.3 percent of troops and 47.3 percent of cargo have departed.

No change to 1st Battalion, 27th Marines proceeding by sea.

PEACE TALK RUMOR: A British newsman in Paris is quoted this morning by Associated Press as stating the North Vietnamese officials say they will start peace talks with the US within 48 hours if President Johnson announces publicly that the US will unconditionally stop bombing North Vietnam. Hanoi's delegation in Paris refused to deny or confirm the report, according to AP.

*W.P.O.S.T
2/2/68*

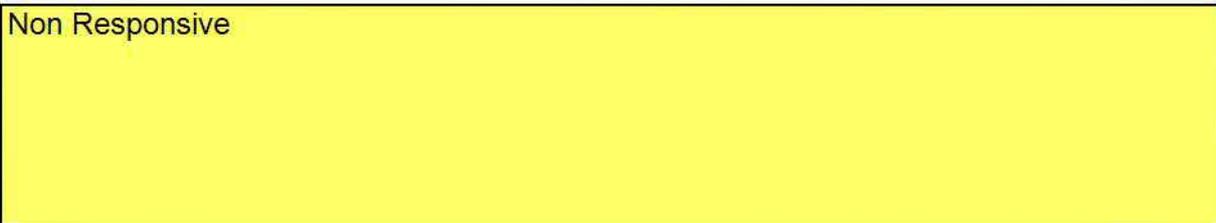
NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Yesterday, 100 sorties consisting of 52 Air Force, 35 Marine Corps, and 13 Navy were flown over North Vietnam. Seventy-eight of the total air strikes in North Vietnam were against enemy lines of communication and logistics in the area immediately north of the DMZ. Adverse weather was a limiting factor for the number of sorties flown and caused the cancellation of all scheduled ALFA strikes last night and early this morning.

Four Air Force F-4Ds struck the Thanh Moi railroad siding located 58 miles northeast of Hanoi and 4 Air Force F-105s struck the airfield at Vinh. Because of adverse weather conditions, damage assessment was not possible.

*W.P.O.S.T
2/2/68*

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LAOS

STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: In Laos, 240 sorties were flown. Of these sorties 102 were flown against targets adjacent to Khe Sanh.

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

21 FEBRUARY 1968

	(1) 24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST 20 Feb 68	(2) Current Week 11 AM EST Through 11 AM EST 19 Feb 68	(3) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 68	(4) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 67	(5) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 61
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	41	140	2,357	11,522	18,379
Wounded Not Hosp	107	249	6,115	35,769	52,897*
Wounded Hosp	117	280	7,120	39,491	60,108*
Captured	0	5	5	140	236
Missing	5	10	374	645	1,021
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	58	176	2,850	13,730	56,025
Wounded	176	371	8,529	37,977	123,219
Missing/Captured	16	11	983	3,323	28,327
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	0	10	240	1,341	1,939
Wounded	2	20	486	2,804	4,534
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	899	2,237	43,199	131,280	290,433
Wounded (estimate ^b)	1,349	3,356	64,799	196,920	435,650

*Adjusted figures.

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

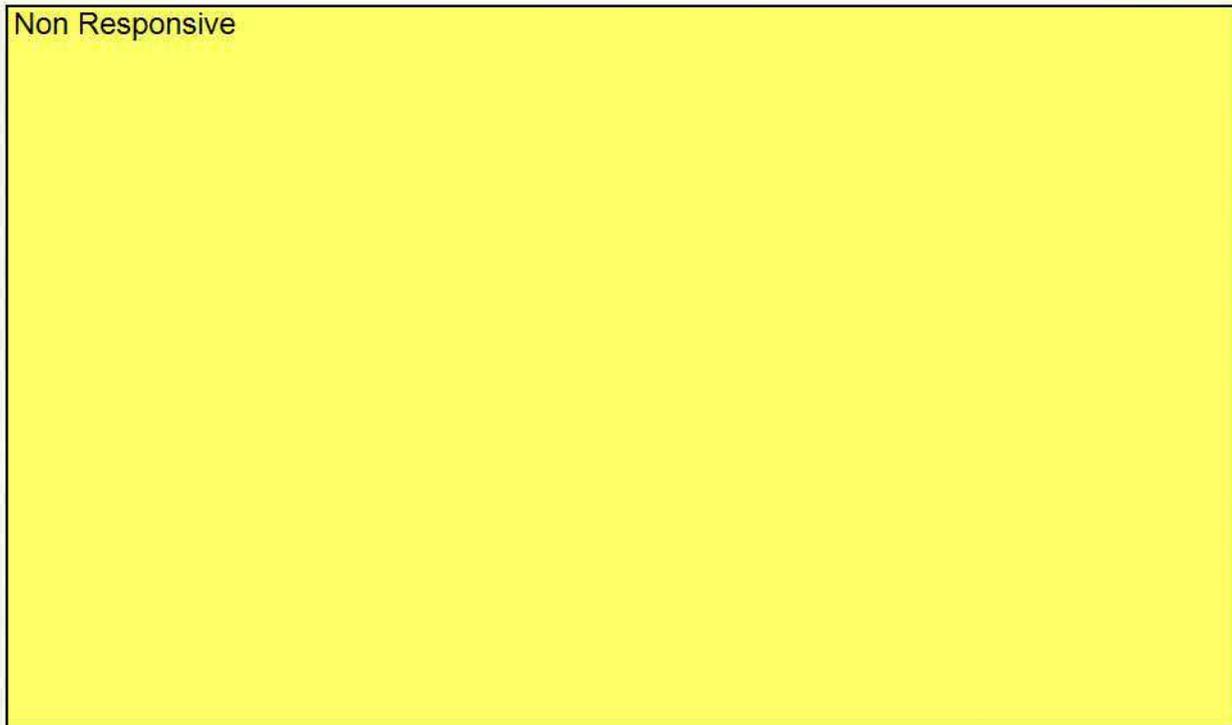
b. Estimate based on a 1.5 to 1 Wounded to Killed ratio.

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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LATE ITEMSOUTH VIETNAM1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Small-unit tactics and intermittent enemy shelling constituted principal activity in northern 1st Corps yesterday. The pace of enemy shelling slackened somewhat during the last 24-hour period. Incoming fire against friendly forces bordering the DMZ totaled 124 rounds of mixed caliber mortar and artillery. A marked decline in enemy efforts was evidenced yesterday as only 69 mortar rounds fell at Khe Sanh. Casualties attributed to enemy shelling were 10 US wounded.

Ground activity was limited principally to small-unit contacts. One significant contact was reported 7 miles north of Quang Tri when a US Marine battalion confirmed killing 9 enemy soldiers and capturing 7 detainees. Three US were killed and 8 wounded in this contact.

Tactical air sorties flown in support of Khe Sanh for the period totaled 296 (146 USAF, 86 USN, and 64 USMC). The weather was suitable only for ground control radar missions in the Khe Sanh area.

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