

3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424

22 February 1968

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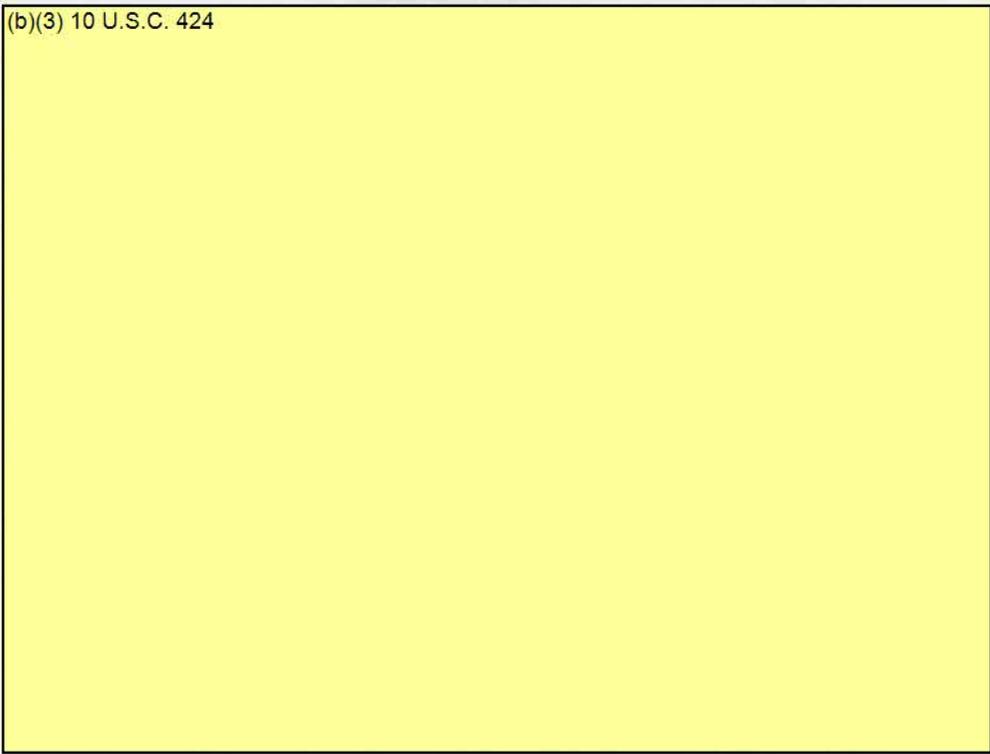
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS



SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

A US Marine battalion in a defensive position on the east side of the Khe Sanh combat base received a heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack yesterday. No casualties were reported but the field, which is now operational, was closed for several hours.

A fortified village 3 miles northwest of Hue was secured yesterday by 3 US Army battalions after a stiff 11-hour fight. US Army casualties were 4 killed and 77 wounded. 41 of the enemy were killed but a sweep of the battlefield could not be completed due to darkness.

A US Marine CH-46A helicopter was hit 2 miles northwest of Hue yesterday and crashed and burned. No casualties were reported.

In Hue, a convoy of logistic landing craft escorted by river patrol boats was attacked by mortar and recoilless rifle fire yesterday. One landing craft was hit, and forced to beach. 10,000 gallons of gasoline aboard ignited and severely damaged the craft. The crew escaped unharmed.

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3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U. road construction on a route eastward from the A Chau Valley to Hue is near completion. An enemy message of 21 February indicated that a North Vietnamese battalion was to send artillery down the road on the night of 25 February. Another battalion apparently was to provide vehicles to pull the artillery.

2D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Pleiku Air Base received 15-20 rounds of mortar fire yesterday but only 5 rounds actually impacted within the perimeter. Only minor damage was caused, 1 US was wounded, and the field remained fully operational.

3D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Early yesterday, a US Army company engaged an unknown sized enemy force 6 miles west of saigon. After 5 hours of fighting

MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

22 FEBRUARY 1968

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	24 Hrs	Current Week	Cumula-	Cumula-	Cumula-
	Ending	11 AM EST	tive	tive	tive
	11 AM EST	17 FEB 68	From	From	From
	21 FEB 68	Through	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	11 AM EST	11 AM EST			
	21 FEB 68	20 FEB 68			
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	35	197	2,414	11,579	18,436
Wounded Not Hosp	141	370	6,236	35,890	53,011
Wounded Hosp	153	304	7,144	39,515	60,132
Captured	0	6	6	141	237
Missing	0	15	379	650	1,026
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	58	234	2,908	13,788	56,083
Wounded	176	547	8,705	38,153	123,395
Missing/Captured	16	27	999	3,339	28,343
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	0	10	236	1,341	1,939
Wounded	1	22	488	2,806	4,536
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	610	3,136	44,098	132,179	291,332
Wounded	915	4,704	66,147	198,269	436,998
(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.

the enemy broke contact leaving 128 dead. 3 US were killed and 21 wounded. (4) hours later US Army armed helicopters fired on 50-60 enemy in the same area killing 30.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Air Force B-52s flew 74 sorties in South Vietnam against enemy troop concentrations, supply areas, and fortified positions. 23 of these sorties struck targets within a 14 mile radius of Khe Sanh and 42 bombed targets within 29 miles of Saigon.

DEPLOYMENT STATUS OF US FORCES: 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Chu Lai; 75.1 percent of troops and 60.2 percent of cargo had departed.

2d and 3d Battalions, 27th Marines from El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, California to Da Nang; 96.5 percent of troops and 60.2 percent of cargo have departed.

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

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Adverse weather over North Vietnam limited the number of air sorties flown to 35 consisting of 17 Air Force, 10 Marine, and 8 Navy. 19 of these sorties struck truck parks and logistics areas immediately north of the DMZ. The Hanoi Radio Station, an ALFA target located 5 miles southwest of Hanoi, was struck by a Marine A-6A radar controlled bombing attack through overcast.

LAOS

STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: In southern Laos 230 sorties were flown. Of these sorties, 105 were adjacent to Khe Sanh. 52 trucks were reported as destroyed.

SITUATION AT SITE 85 AND SARAVANE: The enemy buildup around Site 85 continues. This installation, which supports US air operations over North Vietnam, was considered to be within enemy mortar range on 20 February. On the 21st, enemy troops had a patrol within 2.5 miles of the site before friendly fire forced it to withdraw. A document captured this week indicates that the Communists plan to use 2 regiments in a ground assault on the site.

Saravane is still surrounded by up to 4 Communist Battalions. Only light enemy probes around the town continue to be reported. The Indian and Canadian ICC Commissioners were in Saravane yesterday, apparently for a "visit," not to investigate.

* * * * *

LATE ITEM

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Yesterday, shelling activity in northern Quang Tri Province was increased as 690 enemy-initiated rounds of mixed mortar, artillery, and rocket attacks were received. Enemy concentrations centered at the Khe Sanh combat base, as friendly elements received 250 mortar rounds, 50 rounds of artillery, and 70 rocket rounds, causing minor injuries to 22 Marines. At Camp Carroll, elements of the 4th and 9th Marines were recipients of 15 rounds of rocket, 33 rounds of 82-mm mortar, and 38 rounds of artillery fire. Friendly casualties were 13 US wounded (9 evacuated). 3 Marines were wounded in heavy midday barrages on Con Thien. The enemy delivered 55 rounds of artillery and 48 rounds of mixed caliber mortar during the bombardment.

Ground activity in northern Quang Tri Province was limited to an estimated enemy company size probe at Khe Sanh. By dark yesterday, all activity had ceased.

Tactical air sorties flown in support of Khe Sanh for the period totaled 284 (136 USAF, 82 USMC and 64 USN). The weather was suitable only for ground control radar missions.

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