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23 February 1968

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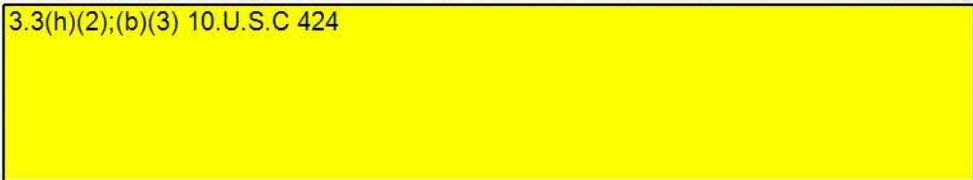
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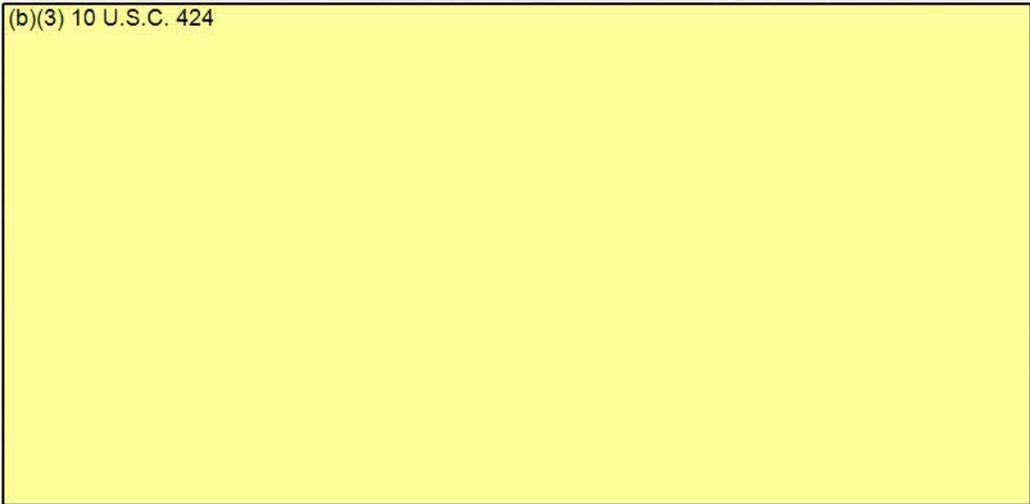
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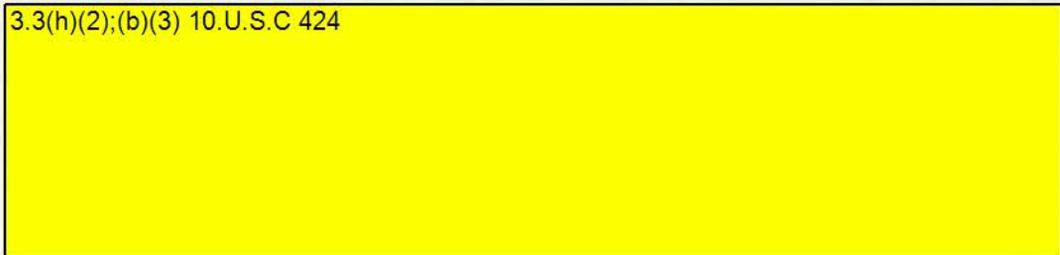
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS



SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

In Hue the enemy is confined to the Imperial Palace area and 3,000 yards of the south and west portion of the Citadel wall as US Marines and ARVN forces continue clearing operations against stubborn resistance.

US Army units, which secured a fortified village 3 miles northwest of Hue on 21 February, swept the area yesterday against moderate to heavy enemy resistance. 163 enemy were killed in two days of fighting. 4 prisoners, 22 individual weapons, 9 crew-served weapons, and 100 gas masks were captured. US casualties were 12 killed and 137 wounded.

1 mile north of the Imperial Palace in Hue, a US Army O-1G aircraft was shot down and destroyed by ground fire while on a reconnaissance mission yesterday. 1 US was killed and 1 wounded.

In a 3-hour attack on 21 February, a radar site at Dong Ha, 8 miles northwest of Quang Tri, received 10-12 rounds of artillery fire, rendering the site inoperative. Friendly casualties were 2 USAF, 2 SVN killed and 1 USAF, 2 SVN wounded. The site has only a limited supply of electric power and no estimate as to the time needed to restore operations is available.

Yesterday, a US Marine CH-53 helicopter was hit by mortar fire on take-off from Khe Sanh. The helicopter was destroyed, the pilot and copilot killed, and the crew chief was critically injured. 6 other passengers escaped injury.

More intense enemy artillery, mortar, and rocket attacks against Khe Sanh may be in the offing. The first detected reference to N Day in the Khe Sanh area was noted on 22 February. Unidentified North Vietnamese artillery elements mentioned the possible use of 140-mm rockets from N Day plus 2 until N Day plus 7. N Day is the North Vietnamese equivalent to D Day and its mention has been noted elsewhere in South Vietnam prior to the start of new enemy attacks.

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

23 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
	22 FEB 68	Through	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	11 AM EST	21 FEB 68			
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	38	286	2,503	11,668	18,525
Wounded Not Hosp	141	500	6,366	36,020	53,141
Wounded Hosp	152	445	7,285	39,656	60,273
Captured	0	6	6	141	237
Missing	1	34	398	669	1,045
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	55	292	2,966	13,846	56,141
Wounded	149	723	8,881	38,329	123,571
Missing/Captured	68	43	1,015	3,355	28,359
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	1	10	236	1,341	1,939
Wounded	2	23	489	2,807	4,537
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	968				
Wounded	1,452	3,746	44,708	132,789	291,942
(estimate ^b)		5,619	67,062	199,184	437,913

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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2D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

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3.3(h)(2) large-scale attacks against Allied force in Kontum Province are imminent. Kontum City and Dak To are the most likely targets. A major attack on Kontum City as early as 23 February, possibly involving elements of the NVA 24th Regiment has been indicated. Only minor Communist-initiated incidents have been reported in the 2d Corps Tactical Zone the past 24 hours, however.

3D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The 25th US Army division base camp at Cu Chi was hit by rocket and mortar fire yesterday. 7 US and 4 Filipinos were wounded but there was no damage to the installation or equipment.

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4TH CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Binh Thuy Airfield, 5 miles northwest of Can Tho, was hit by 75-mm recoilless rifle fire yesterday afternoon. 3 US and 3 VNAF were wounded and one VNAF O-1 aircraft sustained minor damage. Primary electrical power was knocked out and the base operated on emergency power for 5 hours. The airfield is now fully operational.

US forces killed 60 enemy and captured 4 yesterday 20 miles south-southwest of Can Tho. 4 US were wounded.

In 3 operations in the Delta yesterday, ARVN units killed 35 enemy and detained 5 suspects while losing 21 killed and 66 wounded. One M-113 armored personnel carrier was destroyed and 2 damaged.

Enemy documents captured near Can Tho City on 15 February indicate that the enemy still plans a major attack against the city, although admitting that Allied air strikes have impeded troop movements. The disposition of Allied forces near Can Tho, and sweep operations now taking place in the province in which it is located, probably have delayed a major assault on the city.

OIB 4-68

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Air Force B-52s flew 10 missions (28 aircraft) against enemy troop concentrations, supply areas, and artillery positions within a 16 mile radius of Khe Sanh. 30 additional aircraft struck troop concentrations and fortified positions in other parts of South Vietnam.

DEPLOYMENT STATUS OF US FORCES: 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Chu Lai; 89.3 percent of troops and 76.7 percent of cargo has departed.

2d and 3d Battalions, 27th Marines from El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, California to Da Nang; 100 percent of troops and cargo have departed.

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

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Yesterday, 80 sorties consisting of 51 Air Force, 23 Marine, and 6 Navy were flown over North Vietnam. 60 of these were flown in the area just north of the DMZ against lines of communications and logistics areas. Weather conditions again forced cancellation of strikes against ALFA targets.

4 Air Force F-105s, using ground control radar weapons release, bombed Hoa Lac Airfield 23 miles west of Hanoi. Two SA-2 missiles were launched against this strike causing minor damage to 1 F-105. Weather prevented damage assessment of the target.

AIRCRAFT LOSS: A USAF F-4D was downed by an air-to-air missile fired from a MIG-21 54 miles northeast of Haiphong. The crew ejected safely and voice contact was made with the pilots. SAR is in progress.

ALLEGED AIR THREAT: According to a prisoner recently captured in Da Nang City, Defense Minister Giap's strategy for the present offensive includes the use of aircraft to support ground actions against Allied forces. If true, this may be one explanation for the fairly recent expansion of air facilities and air-associated activity in southern North Vietnam. No North Vietnamese flights have been noted in the southern reaches since 12 February.

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DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE: North Vietnam is playing up recent Viet Cong "successes" and Hanoi's "willingness" to begin negotiations in a number of foreign capitals with the evident purpose of keeping pressure on the US. Intercepted messages and other sources disclose that North Vietnam has explained her position on negotiations to a number of Western, Arab, and African governments. Mexico was the first Latin American country to be approached.

LAOS

STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: In southern Laos 187 sorties were flown consisting of 163 Air Force, 17 Navy, and 7 Marine Corps. 115 of the sorties flown were adjacent to Khe Sanh. 24 trucks were reported destroyed.

ENEMY ACTIVITY: The town of Tha Thom and STOL Site 11 in central Laos fell to the Communists on 21 February. Three Lao T-28s operating in the general area on the 20th have not been accounted for and are presumed to have been shot down.

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Non Responsive

LATE ITEMSOUTH VIETNAM1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Yesterday, shelling activity in northern Quang Tri Province totaled 935 rounds of artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. Khe Sanh combat base received approximately 375 rounds. Casualties were 7 US killed and 22 wounded (18 evacuated). Camp Carroll received 29 rounds, and Dong Ha received 81 rounds with no casualties reported. 4 midafternoon barrages at Con Thien, totaling 193 rounds, wounded 2 US Marines while Gio Linh and Cua Viet were also shelled resulting in 1 US killed and 12 wounded.

In the only ground activity in northern Quang Tri Province a US Marine company ambushed a moderate size enemy force killing 5 NVA. One US Marine was killed and 9 were wounded.

Tactical air sorties flown in support of Khe Sanh for the period totaled 241 (132 Air Force, 87 Marine, and 22 Navy). The majority were ground control radar missions.

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