

~~TOP SECRET~~

FILE

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

24 February 1968

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

PRESIDENTIAL
OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE
BRIEF



PROPERTY OF DIA LIBRARY

ATTENTION:

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

COPY NO.

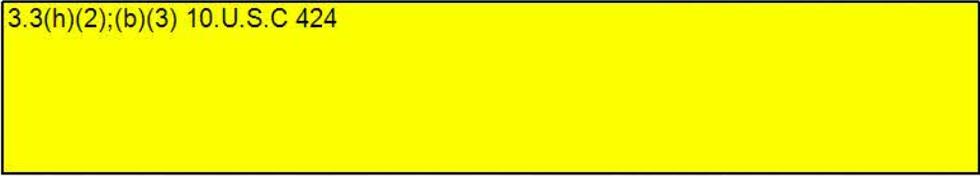
802011

62

~~TOP SECRET~~

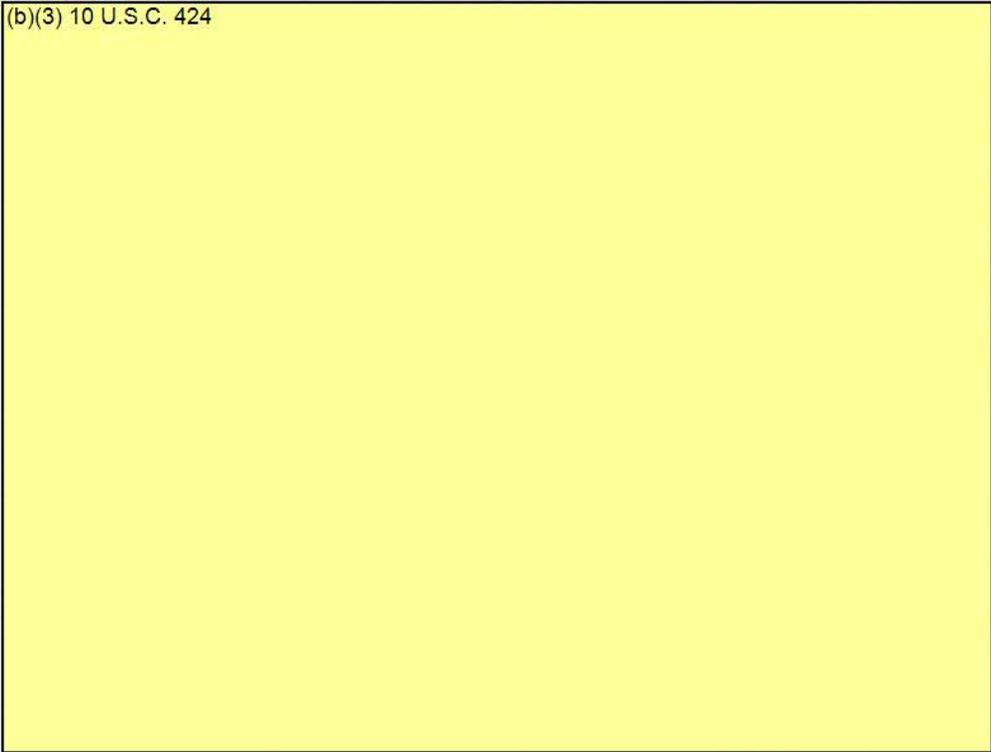
The PRESIDENTIAL OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEF is a digest of selective operational and intelligence reports which is produced by the National Military Command Center, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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



WARNING

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424



**OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS**SOUTH VIETNAM1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The Khe Sanh combat base was struck by 1,300 rounds of artillery, mortar, and rocket fire during a 14-hour period yesterday. Eight US were killed and 38 wounded. An ammunition storage area was hit and 1,620 rounds of 90-mm tank ammunition were destroyed.

In Hue, a US Army brigade advanced to within 650 yards of the west Citadel wall yesterday against light opposition. One US was killed and 44 wounded while the enemy lost 10 killed. Delayed reports from ARVN indicate that on 21 and 22 February ARVN units killed 136 enemy at a cost of four killed, eight wounded, and two missing.

There is increasing evidence that Communist forces will launch a major attack against Da Nang, although no specific date is mentioned in various intelligence reports. Quang Tri and Hoi An are also indicated as targets. On 22 February, communications intelligence indicated a sizable enemy concentration of troops in an area 16 miles southwest of Da Nang.

2D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

The airfield at Ban Me Thuot received 40-50 rounds of mortar and recoilless rifle fire yesterday. Three US and three VNAF were wounded and nine Army UH-1 helicopters, one VNAF aircraft, and six structures were damaged.

3D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Yesterday afternoon, the Tan Son Nhut Air Base was hit by 19 rounds of 122-mm rocket and mortar fire. An additional five rounds impacted outside the base perimeter in a military/civilian area with one round hitting a US senior officer billet. There were no reported casualties in the billet, however. Elsewhere, four US were killed and 24 wounded, one C-130 aircraft received major damage, and three C-130 and one EC-47 received minor damage. One automotive warehouse was also destroyed and several buildings and vehicles damaged. The airfield is now fully operational.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

24 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
	23 FEB 68	11 AM EST	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	23 FEB 68	22 FEB 68	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	50	369	2,586	11,751	18,608
Wounded Not Hosp	155	658	6,524	36,178	53,299
Wounded Hosp	167	716	7,576	39,927	60,544
Captured	0	6	6	141	237
Missing	0	2	366	637	1,013
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	38	347	3,021	13,901	56,191
Wounded	151	872	9,030	38,478	123,720
Missing/Captured	21	111	1,083	3,423	28,427
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	0	11	237	1,342	1,940
Wounded	1	25	491	2,809	4,539
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	555	4,714	45,676	133,757	292,910
Wounded	833	7,071	68,514	200,636	439,365
(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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424 elements of three Communist divisions continue to pose a major threat to the Saigon-Bien Hoa areas.

At the same time, there are widespread reports that the enemy will launch a new major attack on Saigon soon. An agent who has been a reliable reporter in the past stated that over 5,000 enemy troops started moving south from Phuoc Long Province for Saigon on 20 February. These troops are said to be replacements for casualties suffered in the Tet offensive and will be used in a second offensive on Saigon in late February.

[REDACTED] 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424 the enemy will launch a second large-scale attack on Saigon before 1 March, concentrating on taking and holding the city, if only for 24 hours, regardless of cost. Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa air bases and the 4th precinct were mentioned as targets.

Enemy forces in Tay Ninh Province -- northwest of Saigon and along the Cambodian border -- have been equipped with the new Chinese Communist spin-stabilized 107-mm rocket. This weapon, with a range of about 5 miles, does not significantly add to the enemy's firepower. Its light weight of 42 pounds, however, is less than other rockets being used, and thus it can easily be carried by infiltrators. About 40 of these rockets were found in an enemy cache early this week.

4TH CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Two ARVN battalions initiated a search and destroy operation 34 miles northeast of Can Tho on the 22d of February. Fifty-one of the enemy have been killed and a significant quantity of mortar, recoilless rifle and small-arms ammunition, as well as grenades, medical supplies, and a quantity of weapons have been seized. No ARVN casualties have been reported.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Forty-two Air Force B-52s struck enemy concentrations and supply areas within a nine mile radius of Khe Sanh. An infiltration route 25 miles southwest of Hue was hit by three B-52s and troop concentrations east of Saigon were bombed by six B-52s.

DEPLOYMENT STATUS OF US FORCES: The 2d and 3d Battalions, 27th Marines from El Toro, Marine Corps Air Station, California completed their deployment to Da Nang at 12:45 PM EST 23 February (1:45 AM 24 February Saigon time).

The 1st Battalion moving by sea is expected to close Da Nang at 7:00 PM EST 28 February (8:00 AM 29 February Saigon time).

The 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division has completed its departure from Fort Bragg, North Carolina and is expected to close Chu Lai at 4:40 PM 26 February (5:40 AM 27 February Saigon time).

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Eighty-seven sorties were flown over North Vietnam yesterday. Fifty-six of these sorties were immediately north of the DMZ.

Four Air Force F-4Ds using ground control radar release struck Kep Airfield. Vinh Airfield was struck by four Air Force F-105s and one Marine A-6. Two Navy A-6s struck Hanoi Port, 1.5 miles south-southeast of the city, and one Marine A-6 struck the Hanoi Radio Station 4 miles southwest of Hanoi. Adverse weather prevented damage assessment of these strikes.

Pilots observed six surface-to-air missiles near Vinh and Hanoi which did no damage.

LAOS

ENEMY ATTACK IN BOLOVENS PLATEAU: It is not yet clear whether the North Vietnamese have begun an all-out offensive in southern Laos or if they are conducting only limited actions designed to further demoralize Lao forces. Intense fighting apparently continues at Lao Ngam, with casualties heavy on both sides, and some friendly positions are known to have been lost. Attopeu was under attack from three sides at last word. The situation at Saravane had eased late yesterday.

LATE ITEM

SOUTH VIETNAM -- 1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Today at 3:00 AM EST (4:00 PM SVN time) ARVN units secured the Palace grounds at Hue. There continues to be sporadic contact in the southwest corner of the Citadel.

Tactical air sorties flown in support of the Khe Sanh Combat Base for the period totals 351.

~~TOP SECRET~~

ATTENTION:

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

~~TOP SECRET~~