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

23 December 1967

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
OPS - INT
SUMMARY



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WARNING

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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 44 bn-size opns or larger in prog: 28 US, 2 FWF, 14 ARVN. (C)

1 CTZ: On 21 Dec, ½ nm S of Hue, a provisional recon unit (PRU) compound received mort/rkt fire from unk-size en force. Losses -- PRU: 4 WIA; CIV: 5 KIA, 40 WIA, 10 houses dest. (C)

ROKMC Opn DRAGON TRAIL term 21 Dec after 32 days. Cum losses -- ROKMC: 9 WIA; VC/NVA: 31 KIA, 1 det, 3 wpns. (C)

23 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- US: 4 KIA, 11 WIA; ARVN: 8 WIA; VC/NVA: 13 KIA, 15 det, 3 wpns. (C)

2 CTZ: On 22 Dec in Opn PERSHING, armed helos atkd unk-size en force with tac air supporting. Losses -- VC/NVA: 34 KIA. (C)

7 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- US: 4 KIA, 7 WIA; VC/NVA: 3 KIA, 1 wpn. (C)

3 CTZ: USA 2-bn S&D Opn FARGO init 21 Dec in Ninh-Bu Dop area. (C)

Prelim results of ammo fire 24 nm NNW Saigon on 21 Dec indicate 10,000 rds 105-mm, 4830 x 4.2" rds, 4 x 2½-ton trks, and 1 x ¾-ton trk dest. 1 UH-1D hvy damage. (C)

3 contacts reptd in Opn CAMDEN 21 Dec: (1) 2 USA cos engaged unk-size en force; (2) USA co exchanged fire with unk-size en force; (3) 2 USA cos engaged unk-size en force. Cum losses -- US: 22 KIA, 48 WIA; VC/NVA: 4 KIA. (C)

14 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- US: 17 WIA; ARVN: 2 KIA, 10 WIA; VC/NVA: 33 KIA. (C)

Aircraft Downed 22 Dec: USA UH-1H helo downed by gnd fire 28 nm NW Saigon. Helo dest; no injuries to crewmen. (C)

USAF F-100 downed by gnd fire 30 nm NNW Saigon. Acft dest; pilot KIA. (C)

4 CTZ: Opn QUANG TRUNG 24 term 22 Dec after 1-day opn. Losses -- ARVN: 13 KIA, 12 WIA, 5 MIA, 13 wpns. VC/NVA: 24 KIA, 2 det, 9 wpns. (C)

On 20 Dec, USN LFT atkd en sampans 31 nm ESE Can Tho. Losses -- VC/NVA: 14 KIA, 12 sampans dest, 3 damaged. (C)

On 21 Dec, 65 nm SW Can Tho, an unk-size en force atkd and overran RF co outpost. Reaction Force employed with no report of contact. Losses -- RF: 19 KIA, 16 WIA, 20 MIA, 41 wpns. 6 radios; VC/NVA: unk. (C)

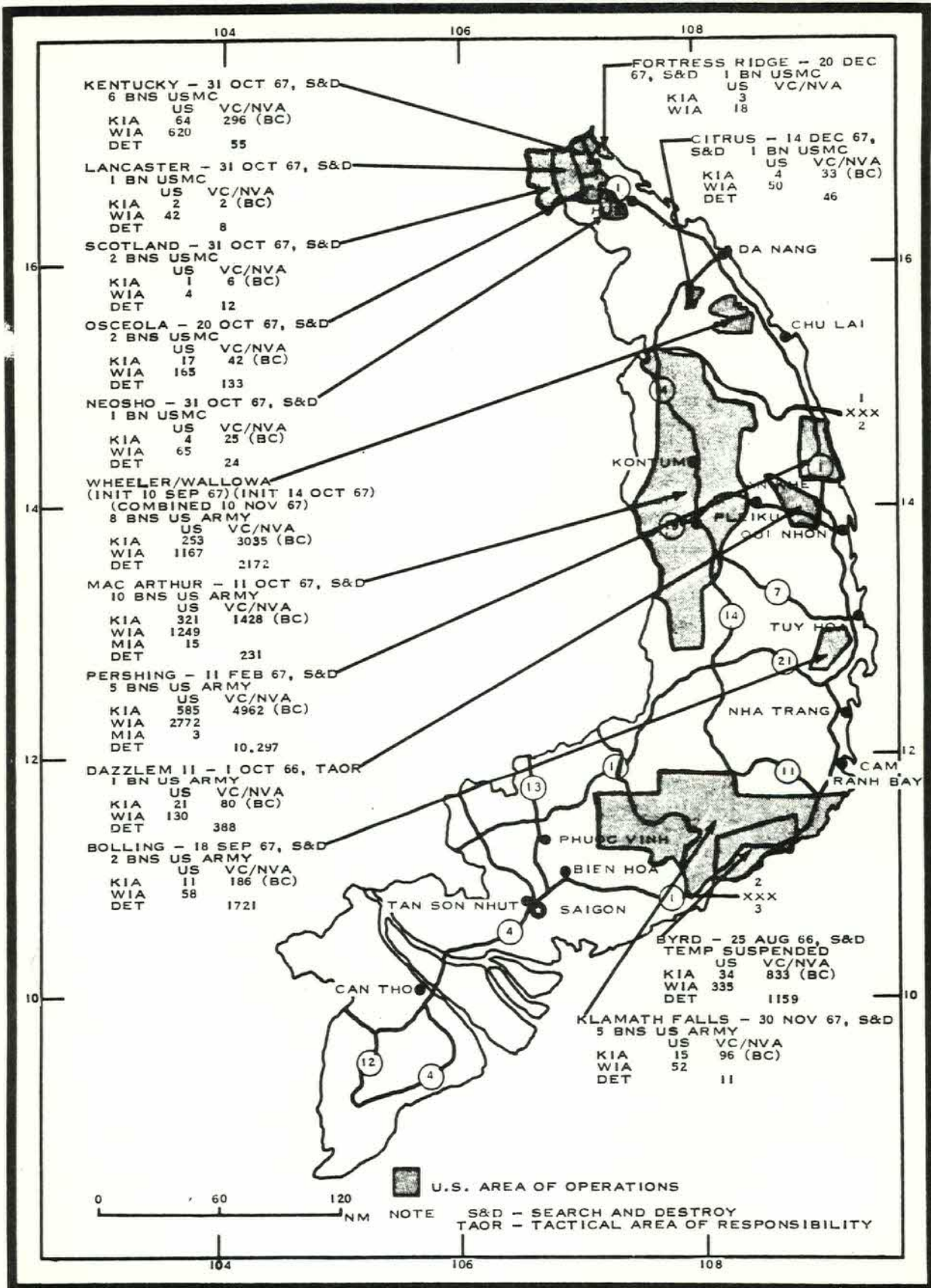
10 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- ARVN: 9 KIA, 5 WIA, 1 MIA, 5 wpns; VC/NVA: 34 KIA, 16 wpns. (C)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 22 DEC: 9 B-52s bombed area 43 nm NW Hue containing susp elms NVA 90 Regt and arty psns. (C)

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WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES
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DA NANG: That rkt atks may be planned against Da Nang complex is indicated by discovery of 122-mm rkt launcher tubes left behind by en elm following 21 Dec engagement with USMC reaction force 10 mi SW Da Nang. Some weeks ago OIS briefed series of reports to effect en planning atk subject area, prob prior year's end. (Last such atk was 15 Jul, by elms NVA 368B Arty Regt -- still loc in area.) (S)

TRUCE PERIOD: There may be a last moment flurry of en acty preceding Christmas truce periods. (Sometime ago VC announced period extending from noon EST 23 Dec to noon EST 26 Dec. Allied truce runs for 24 hrs from 5:00 AM EST 24 Dec.) (S)

MOBILIZATION DECREE: Lower house has joined Senate in setting up cmte to draft substitute legislation for govt's controversial partial mob decree of Oct (sked go into effect 1 Jan). Both houses claim Directorate not empowered pass legislation during period CA was being phased out and NA established. Seems likely govt will proceed implement its decree -- though full extent of implementation measures not yet clear (OIS 21 Dec). (S)

POLITICAL: (SENSITIVE BRIEF) On 5 Dec, VC rep Hanoi, speaking on Paris radio, said that an NLF press office there would be "opened soon" and that its chief would have "official contacts". A French official, following up "recently", gained impression that VC, holding out for some sort of "pol representation". Same VC rep told the French official that VC were lacking in qualified journalists but not in qualified pol pers. (Twice earlier this year VC have made noises re opening of Paris press office "soon".) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(2)

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NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 22 DEC: 105 sorties (53 USAF, 35 USN, 17 USMC) dest/damaged 3/1 bldgs, 3/14 gun psns, 1/27 WBLC, 0/3 trk pks, 0/9 stor areas, 0/1 rd graders, 0/11 trks, 0/2 bridges, 0/3 bunkers, 0/2 trp concs, 0/1 biv area, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424; 0/4 transship pts, 0/4 radar sites, and LOCs. (S)

Significant targets struck: Kep Afld. (Afld struck 8:03 PM EST 21 Dec; COMINT indicates that 4 KorCom MIG-17s landed there from 8:19 PM EST 21 Dec. Kep controller said bombs had fallen along aflld perimeter and prob in AAA btry area.) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3

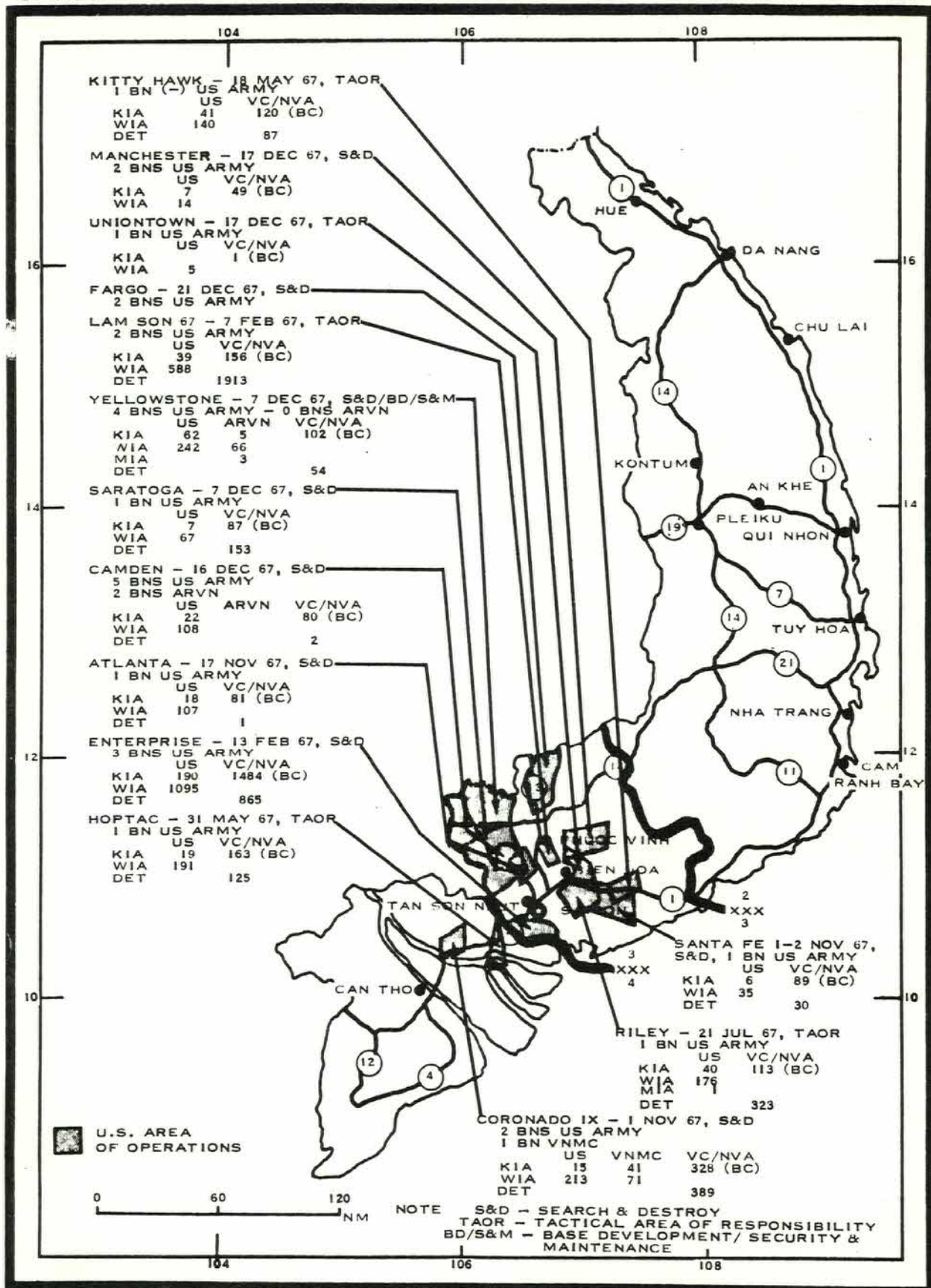
SAM SIGHTINGS: 3 abn SAMs obs vic Haiphong. One of these downed USN A-7A (OIS 22 Dec). (S)

BRIDGE BYPASSES: 15 Dec photos show that 2 new hiway bypass crossings over Red River at Hanoi are nearing completion -- 1 north of Doumer Bridge (it also spans Canal des Rapides); the other, south of Doumer. Following completion, will be 6 hiway bypasses for Doumer; 4 for Canal des Rapides. NVN may be

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anticipating higher vol trk tfc, or simply increasing number of crossings in expectation of more bombings. (b)(3) 10 U.

CHICOM AAA: CCAF 104 AAA Div (last loc '62 vic Shanghai) has prob moved to Nanning-Ningming border area, bringing to 5 (poss 6) the number of AAA divs located there. One of these divs could eventually relieve 105 Div, at Lang Son for almost 7 mos now. (Historically, rotation period for ChiCom AAA divs in NVN has been 6-8 mos.) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 22 DEC: 258 sorties (238 USAF, 16 USMC, 4 USN) dest/damaged 24/88 trks, 5/10 gun sites, 0/38 road segs, 0/34 trk pks, 0/10 fords, 0/11 stor areas, 0/3 bridges, 0/7 mil compl, 0/7 trp concs. (S)

AIRCRAFT LOSS: USMC F-4B downed by gnd fire 45 nm WSW Hue. Radar operator recovered. SAR continues for pilot. (S)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 22 DEC: 9 B-52s bombed area 62 nm NW Pleiku containing stor complexes/supply rts. 6 B-52s bombed area 67 nm NW Hue containing stor areas/AW psns. (S)

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