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22 March 1968

DOIS 16-68

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DAILY JOINT STAFF
OPS - INT
SUMMARY



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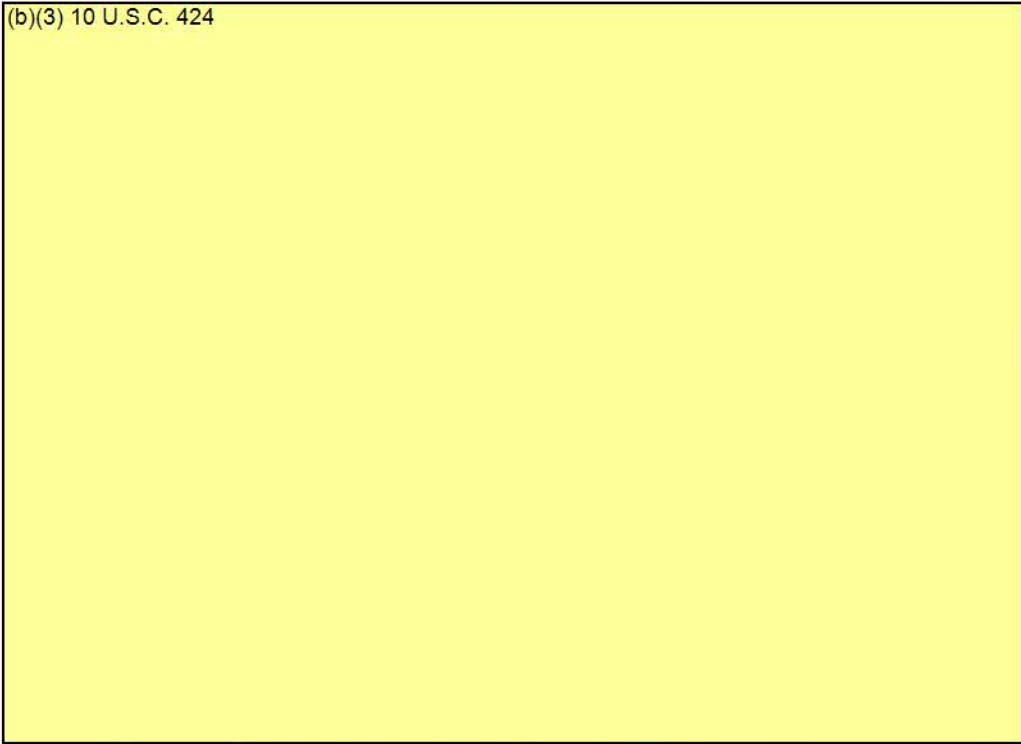
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The DAILY JOINT STAFF OPERATIONS/INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY is a digest of selective operational and intelligence reports which is produced by the National Military Command Center, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Intelligence Agency. 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS



SOUTHEAST ASIA

SUMMARY: MACV reports that there is an indication that large enemy attacks might occur later today in the Khe Sanh area and in 3d Corps.

Heavy ground fighting took place in the 1st Corps area of South Vietnam yesterday. Most of the action was centered in the vicinity of Hue, but two significant battles were fought near Hoi An, southeast of Da Nang. The enemy took heavy losses with 257 of them reported killed, while our casualties were relatively light. No significant ground fighting was reported in other corps areas.

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS

MACV suggests there is a possibility of significant attacks at least in the Khe Sanh and 3d Corps areas today. A prisoner captured during the Tet campaign indicated that the exact timing of the offensive was passed to some units through the use of a certain radio signal. This signal has been repeated and if it remains unchanged, an attack today at 2:00 PM EST (3:00 AM 23 March Saigon time) is suggested for the Khe Sanh area and at 2:00 PM or 5:00 PM EST (3:00 AM or 6:00 AM 23 March Saigon time) in 3d Corps.

The enemy has the capability to launch large-scale attacks in either area. Two possibly related unusual developments occurred yesterday. It is noted that two AN-2 transport aircraft equipped for bombing and rocket attacks were scheduled to operate near the DMZ area at night on the 21st. Nothing more was heard, but the schedule indicates possible air attacks in the Khe Sanh area soon. Also, a new reference was made to N Day -- the North Vietnamese equivalent to D Day -- in a 21 March message between two NVA elements located in 3d Corps.

Yesterday, the enemy shelled the combat base at Khe Sanh with 111 rounds of mixed mortar and artillery. The Marines sustained a total of 27 wounded. Friendly artillery counter-fired with 2,830 rounds while 279 tactical air strikes against

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MILITARY CASUALTIES AND ENEMY WEAPONS
SEIZED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

22 MARCH 1968

	(1) 24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST <u>21 MAR 68</u>	(2) Current Week 11 AM EST 16 MAR 68 Through 11 AM EST <u>20 MAR 68</u>	(3) Cumula- tive From <u>1 Jan 68</u>	(4) Cumula- tive From <u>1 Jan 67</u>	(5) Cumula- tive From <u>1 Jan 61</u>
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	21	211	4,285	13,450	20,307
Wounded Not Hosp	108	641	11,366	41,020	58,141
Wounded Hosp	117	694	12,223	44,594	65,211
Captured	0	2	24	159	255
Missing	1	0	183	454	830
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	31	193	3,958	15,038	57,228
Wounded	79	630	13,213	42,661	128,003
Missing/Captured	15	79	1,501	3,841	28,845
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	5	6	279	1,384	1,982
Wounded	14	35	333	2,951	4,721
Missing/Captured	0	0	4	7	24
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	634	2,579	69,805	157,886	317,039
Wounded (estimate ^b)	951	3,868	104,707	236,828	475,558
WEAPONS SEIZED					
Individual	112	564	13,833	42,265	- - - -
Crew Served	29	57	2,966	5,842	- - - -

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

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

c. The figures shown in column (1) and (2) are preliminary, unrefined battlefield-reported casualties received from COMUSMACV daily.

d. The figures in columns (3) through (5) are verified figures representing casualties reported during the period indicated.

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

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enemy gun emplacements, trenches, and bunkers killed 35. Elsewhere along the DMZ sporadic action resulted in killing six enemy with no friendly casualties.

Yesterday afternoon US Marine armed helicopters attacked a large enemy group 10 miles northwest of Hue and killed 45 of them. Two hours later US Army armed helicopters caught an enemy force in the open four miles east of Hue and killed 43 in a surprise attack. There were no US casualties in either engagement.

An enemy attack was launched against the night defensive position of a US Army airborne infantry battalion four miles southwest of Hue and the perimeter of the defensive position was temporarily broken by an enemy battalion. The enemy concentrated its fire on a US artillery position within the perimeter; however, heavy fire from the airborne battalion drove the enemy off and they withdrew under cover of darkness leaving 22 dead and three prisoners behind. US casualties were seven killed and 15 wounded.

Another engagement, being fought near Hue, began when a US Army airborne infantry company attacked an enemy position 11 miles south-southwest of the city. Reports on the action are preliminary and incomplete, but the airborne company continued to press the attack. Enemy losses are not yet known, but US casualties are placed at five killed and 52 wounded.

On 21 March, approximately 100 civilians demonstrated in the district town of Quang Dien, 10 miles northwest of Hue, in protest against the Viet Cong terrorist activities. MACV reports this is the first time South Vietnamese civilians have openly protested against the enemy.

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Near Hoi An, a Republic of Korea Marine company killed 35 enemy while losing three killed and nine wounded. A few miles away, in another action near Hoi An, US Army units have mauled a large enemy force killing 112 and seizing 14 crew-served and 12 individual weapons. US casualties were placed at 18 wounded. The presence of enemy forces so near Hoi An tends to substantiate reports of planned attacks against the city.

2D CORPS

For over a week there have been indications that the enemy might attack Kontum and Pleiku cities. Since 19 March, his

DOIS 16-68

capability to hit either or both provincial capitals has increased. NVA units have moved closer and a division-level forward tactical group is located between the two cities, about 12 miles away from each.

4TH CORPS

There are indications that the enemy is making preparations for wide attacks in An Xuyen Province, an area free from current Allied sweeps. The Viet Cong continue resupply and forced recruiting activity, and have trenchworks near the provincial capital at Ca Mau and all district towns.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Thirty-six B-52 sorties struck troop concentrations and installations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. An additional 24 sorties were flown against enemy units, base camps, and lines of communication east of Tey Ninh.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Poor weather conditions again hampered air operations over North Vietnam and forced the cancellation of all but one ALFA strike. Four F-4 aircraft made a successful airborne radar release on the Lang Gia Railroad Yard 70 miles northeast of Hanoi. Damage was not observed due to poor weather. A total of 196 armed reconnaissance sorties were flown yesterday with most of the strikes directed against targets in the panhandle region.

An F-4D aircraft on an armed reconnaissance mission north of the Demilitarized Zone was hit by ground fire and went down in Laos, 68 miles west of Dong Ha yesterday morning. The fate of the two pilots is not yet known.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Yesterday, 210 armed reconnaissance sorties were flown over Laos, of which 64 sorties were flown against targets in the area adjacent to Khe Sanh.

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Page 7 of 8

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