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

24 March 1968

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DAILY JOINT STAFF
OPS - INT
SUMMARY



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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: Ground activity throughout South Vietnam was limited to scattered small-unit contacts as enemy forces continued to avoid decisive engagements. The enemy continues to shell US Marine positions at Khe Sanh, but the volume of fire has declined.

Enemy communications indicate supplies and men are on the move for future large actions in the Quang Tri City and Hue areas, and provincial capitals in the western highlands can expect increased enemy attacks.

A captured COSVN document dated 21 February reflects the enemy's post-Tet problems and what he is trying to do about them.

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS

For the second successive day no significant engagements were reported in the 1st Corps area. In a number of separate small-unit contacts, however, 119 enemy were killed and four suspects were detained. Friendly casualties were 15 killed (13 US and two ARVN) and 84 wounded (82 US and two ARVN)

Khe Sanh Combat Base received 636 mortar, artillery, and rocket rounds yesterday. Thirty-nine friendly personnel were wounded as a result of these attacks. Artillery fire support for the base consisted of 2,056 rounds expended by our forces against the enemy. Air strikes in the area resulted in 13 enemy killed while one enemy was killed by friendly artillery fire.

Enemy messages since 21 March indicate sharply increased activity at the NVA staging area 101, 10 miles south of Quang Tri City. A buildup of men and supplies is evidenced, probably for refit of his forces primarily in the Quang Tri City and Hue areas. Earlier reports had revealed enemy movements from North Vietnam to the south along the eastern coastal areas.

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MILITARY CASUALTIES AND ENEMY WEAPONS
SEIZED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

24 MARCH 1968

	(1) 24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST 23 MAR 68	(2) Current Week 11 AM EST 16 MAR 68 Through 11 AM EST 22 MAR 68	(3) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 68	(4) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 67	(5) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 61
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	9	309	4,383	13,548	20,405
Wounded Not Hosp	101	847	11,572	41,226	58,347
Wounded Hosp	109	917	12,446	44,817	65,434
Captured	0	2	24	159	255
Missing	0	4	187	458	834
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	20	248	4,013	15,093	57,283
Wounded	101	774	13,357	42,805	128,147
Missing/Captured	0	95	1,517	3,857	28,861
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	1	14	287	1,392	1,990
Wounded	1	54	352	2,970	4,740
Missing/Captured	0	0	4	7	24
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	352	3,600	70,826	158,907	318,060
Wounded (estimate ^b)	528	5,400	106,239	238,360	477,090
WEAPONS SEIZED					
Individual	72	766	14,035	42,467	
Crew Served	7	93	3,002	5,878	

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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There is continuing evidence that Hue will be a prime target in any new large-scale enemy offensive. Movement of the headquarters of the 325C Division and its 101D Regiment in Laos continues to indicate the reassignment of the Division to the Hue area. NVA elements outside the city continue their preparations for tactical operations. // probably!

2D CORPS

Yesterday evening a US Army Psychological Operations radio site, 3 miles southwest of Pleiku, was hit by 40 rounds of mortar and rocket fire. At about the same time the site was assaulted by a small enemy force. The attack was unsuccessful and the enemy was forced to withdraw leaving behind three dead. Friendly casualties were three US and four South Vietnamese soldiers wounded. Recent communications intelligence and prisoner reports have revealed an increased enemy interest in the Pleiku City area. On 20 and 21 March, airborne sensors placed four unidentified radio terminals within the city complex, an indication of reconnaissance activity. The appearance of such terminals near an urban area is usually followed by enemy offensive activity.

3.3(h)(2):(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 attacks in the Ban Me Thuot area. A prisoner recently captured near the town said 122-mm rockets would be used on nearby military installations in conjunction with an attack on Ban Me Thuot.

3D CORPS

US Army units on an offensive sweep through an area 20 miles northwest of Saigon seized a large enemy cache which contained more than 40 tons of food supplies along with two 122-mm rocket warheads, 110 mortar rounds, 251 antitank grenades, 25 antitank and antipersonnel mines, and three Chinese Communist radio sets.

Elsewhere in the 3d Corps area, our forces continued offensive operations designed to destroy enemy forces and to provide security for rural populations. Contact with the enemy was light and sporadic; however, 40 enemy were killed and 69 suspected Viet Cong were captured in a number of small-unit actions. US casualties in these encounters were placed at 23 wounded while South Vietnamese Army units lost four killed and 15 wounded.

4TH CORPS

No significant enemy contacts were reported, but in a number of small-unit actions 21 enemy were killed and 19 suspects were detained while South Vietnamese Army losses were one killed and 16 wounded.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Yesterday, 54 B-52 sorties were flown against lines of communication, artillery and rocket positions, and fortifications and troop concentrations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh. Six additional sorties bombed a target containing elements of a North Vietnamese Army regiment, and storage and assembly areas north of Pleiku.

CAPTURED COSVN DOCUMENT: A COSVN letter dated 21 February and captured on 13 March north of Saigon reveals the enemy's post-Tet problems and what is to be done in the meantime in preparation for a large-scale "three-front all-out attack when the time is ripe." Among COSVN's complaints were: (1) too few Allied troops killed; (2) attacks in rear areas too few; (3) attacks on rear areas still limited; and (4) reporting system still too slow. The letter directed: (1) cities and towns should be surrounded and harassed at night with shelling; (2) food supplies going to urban areas should be intercepted; and (3) an increase in political activity. The sharp drop in enemy offensive activity in recent weeks resulting from Allied operations has probably caused COSVN to revise plans for the future.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: Ha Dong Army Barracks, 9 miles southwest of Hanoi, Kinh No Railroad Yard, 9 miles north of Hanoi, and Cat Bi Airfield, 4 miles east-southeast of Haiphong, all 57 ALFA targets, were struck yesterday. Each strike was made by a single Navy A-6 aircraft with all ordnance reported on target but results could not be observed because of poor weather and darkness. Four Air Force F-4D aircraft also struck the Ha Dong Army Barracks yesterday using radar delivery techniques. All other strikes scheduled against ALFA targets last night were canceled because of poor weather conditions in the target areas. Elsewhere over North Vietnam 185 armed reconnaissance sorties were flown, primarily against targets in the southern panhandle region.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: US tactical aircraft flew 217 sorties against enemy targets in Laos with 164 of the sorties directed against enemy troop concentrations, truck parks, gun sites, and storage areas in the sector adjacent to Khe Sanh.

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