PRESIDENTIAL
OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE
BRIEF

2 March 1968

ATTENTION:

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

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

WARNING

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

SUMMARY: While enemy-initiated ground activity in South Vietnam remained at a relatively low level yesterday, the tempo of ground fighting increased in all Corps areas as our forces, extending their operations away from population centers, located and engaged enemy units. Coordinated attacks may be carried out against widely separated targets in the western highlands, and possibly elsewhere in Military Region 5, beginning on Sunday. "N-Day" preparations for Sunday have been mentioned by an enemy unit near Saigon. Truck movements into the A Shau Valley continue.

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS

An ARVN battalion engaged an enemy force 6 miles east of Dong Ha and killed 189 enemy in a 4-hour battle. Six ARVN were killed and 23 were wounded. US Marines sweeping the area northeast of Dong Ha attacked an enemy unit in a village and lost 10 killed and 45 wounded. Enemy casualties could not be assessed because of darkness. An enemy artillery battalion west of Dong Ha has complained of a shortage of ammunition.

Recent redispositioning of enemy forces in eastern Quang Nam and Quang Ngai Provinces has made these likely target areas for any early enemy operations.

Intercepts reveal that more trucks were to arrive in the A Shau Valley Friday; the type mentioned can be used to haul cargo or personnel as well as to tow mortar and artillery pieces. Other messages mention the infiltration of mortar and rocket ammunition and large amounts of food and medicine into this area.

2D CORPS

A Republic of Korea (ROKA) armored cavalry unit engaged an enemy unit 10 miles north of Qui Nhon and in heavy fighting killed 165 and captured 6 of the enemy. ROKA casualties were 7 killed and 11 wounded.

2 March 1968
# MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

## 2 MARCH 1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Current Week</th>
<th>(2) Cumulative</th>
<th>(3) Cumulative</th>
<th>(4) Cumulative</th>
<th>(5) Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST</td>
<td>24 FEB 68</td>
<td>Through 11 AM EST</td>
<td>From 1 Jan 68</td>
<td>From 1 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 MAR 68</td>
<td>1 FEB 68</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UNITED STATES<sup>a</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>24 Hrs</th>
<th>1 FEB 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 67</th>
<th>1 Jan 61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>3,092</td>
<td>12,257</td>
<td>19,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded Not Hosp</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>7,122</td>
<td>37,776</td>
<td>54,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded Hosp</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>9,156</td>
<td>41,527</td>
<td>62,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captured</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SOUTH VIETNAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>24 Hrs</th>
<th>1 FEB 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 67</th>
<th>1 Jan 61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>3,238</td>
<td>14,118</td>
<td>56,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>9,820</td>
<td>39,268</td>
<td>124,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing/Captured</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1,183</td>
<td>3,523</td>
<td>28,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### OTHER ALLIED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>24 Hrs</th>
<th>1 FEB 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 67</th>
<th>1 Jan 61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>1,347</td>
<td>1,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>2,844</td>
<td>4,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing/Captured</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VIET CONG/NVA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>24 Hrs</th>
<th>1 FEB 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 68</th>
<th>1 Jan 67</th>
<th>1 Jan 61</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Killed</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>3,624</td>
<td>49,855</td>
<td>137,936</td>
<td>297,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>5,387</td>
<td>74,734</td>
<td>206,856</td>
<td>445,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(estimate<sup>b</sup>)

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<sup>a</sup> U.S. Casualties include Laos and Vietnam.

<sup>b</sup> Estimate based on a 1.5 to 1 Wounded to Killed ratio.

<sup>c</sup> The figures shown in column (1) are preliminary, unrefined battlefield reported casualties received from COMUSMACV daily.

<sup>d</sup> The figures in columns (2) through (5) are verified figures representing casualties reported during the period indicated.
enemy mortar and rocket attacks against allied positions in the Dak To area and in western Pleiku Province are planned for Sunday. The language contained in one intercept is reminiscent of that seen in a number of messages prior to the Tet offensive. (Sunday is the anniversary of the founding of the Lao Dong Workers' Party.) Sizeable enemy forces are positioned near Kontum City, Pleiku City, and Ban Me Thuot, all possible targets for any "N-Day" operations.

3D CORPS

An ARVN airborne battalion killed 40 enemy in sporadic fighting yesterday with 2 enemy companies 4 miles north of Saigon. ARVN casualties were placed at 4 killed and 22 wounded.

A US Army airborne infantry company ambushed 150 enemy 22 miles northeast of Saigon. Twenty-one enemy were killed and one was captured. There were no US casualties.

An ARVN Ranger battalion killed 35 enemy yesterday 2 miles south of Tan Son Nhut while losing 5 ARVN killed and 15 wounded.

an artillery battalion was to be supplied with machine-gun and mortar ammunition in time to be "on the move on Sunday morning"; the battalion was to receive information on "N-Day" and "H-Hour" prior to its move. Current indications are that its target is the Long Binh military complex northeast of Saigon.

4TH CORPS

An ARVN road-clearing operation near Ben Tre (30 miles east of Vinh Long) continued yesterday against light enemy resistance. To date 53 enemy have been killed while ARVN casualties are 13 killed, 25 wounded, and 15 missing.

In other road-clearing and search-and-destroy operations in the Mekong Delta region yesterday, US and ARVN units killed 60 enemy. US casualties were 2 killed and 14 wounded while the ARVN lost 12 killed and 14 wounded.
ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Yesterday 42 B-52s struck enemy
troop concentrations, artillery positions, and fortifications
within a 7-mile radius of Khe Sanh. An additional 18 B-52s
hit base camps and enemy positions near Hue and Saigon.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: US tactical aircraft flew
104 sorties over North Vietnam yesterday. An A-6 aircraft
successfully attacked the Haiphong Railroad and Highway
Bridge west of Haiphong yesterday afternoon. The pilot
reported all ordnance in the target area; however, damage
assessment was not possible due to darkness. Other strikes
scheduled against ALFA targets last night and this morning
were cancelled because of poor weather conditions in the
target areas.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Yesterday 223
sorties were flown over Laos of which 111 were in the area
adjacent to Khe Sanh. Twenty-five trucks were destroyed.

Lao military officers have found what they believe to be
140-mm rocket fragments following an attack Friday near Lao
Ngam in southwestern Saravane Province. If the identification
is confirmed, this would be the first known tactical use of
this rocket in Laos and would be indicative of the importance
attached by the enemy to his current offensive.

LATE ITEM

Poor weather conditions and accompanying reduced visi-
bility at Khe Sanh yesterday precluded visual close air
support strikes by tactical aircraft although 219 sorties
were flown under radar guidance with good effect. Damage
assessment included 6 secondary explosions, 20 secondary
fires, 4 bunkers destroyed and 1 bridge destroyed. Enemy
ground activity subsided yesterday and no probing attacks
were reported. A total of 157 rounds of mixed mortar, ar-
tillery and rocket fire impacted in the area. Two Marines
were killed and 23 were wounded by the shelling. At other
installations along the DMZ 161 rounds of incoming mortar
and artillery fire wounded 4 Marines.

A US Marine battalion sweeping Mai Xa Thai Village,
northeast of Dong Ha, fought a day-long battle with NVA
forces and killed 36 enemy. US Marine casualties were
placed at 22 killed, 87 wounded and 7 missing.