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File 4

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

2 March 1968

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424;3.3(h)(2)

**PRESIDENTIAL  
OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE  
BRIEF**



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## OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

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 VIETNAM1ST 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 redistribution 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.

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

2 MARCH 1968

	(1) 24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST 1 MAR 68	(2) Current Week 11 AM EST 24 FEB 68 Through 11 AM EST 29 FEB 68	(3) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 68	(4) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 67	(5) Cumula- tive From 1 Jan 61
UNITED STATES <sup>a</sup>					
Killed	26	405	3,092	12,257	19,114
Wounded Not Hosp	68	911	7,122	37,776	54,897
Wounded Hosp	73	986	9,156	41,527	62,144
Captured	0	2	9	144	240
Missing	0	0	276	547	923
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	46	179	3,238	14,118	56,408
Wounded	135	639	9,820	39,268	124,610
Missing/Captured	0	79	1,183	3,523	28,527
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	3	5	242	1,347	1,945
Wounded	14	34	526	2,844	4,574
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	719	3,624	49,855	137,936	297,089
Wounded (estimate <sup>b</sup> )	1,079	5,387	74,734	206,856	445,585

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.

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

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424:3.3(h)(2) 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 visibility 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, artillery 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.

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