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File C

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

3 March 1968

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424:3.3(h)(2)

**PRESIDENTIAL
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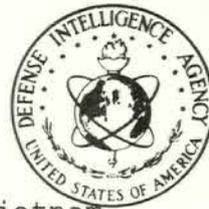
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS



SOUTHEAST ASIA

SUMMARY: No significant enemy attacks in South Vietnam were reported during the night. US and ARVN forces continue to locate and engage enemy units in the vicinity of Saigon where US infantry units were heavily engaged with an enemy company yesterday. There is little new information on enemy military preparations or plans in the 3rd and 4th Corps areas. Yesterday 3 convoys moved between Da Nang and Hue over National Route 1 without incident. There are, however, strong indications of enemy preparations for imminent widespread offensive actions in the eastern sectors of northern 1st Corps and in the western highlands of 2nd Corps.

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS

Yesterday US Marine units conducted a sweep of Mai Xa Thai village, northeast of Dong Ha, where a Marine battalion fought a heavy engagement with enemy forces on the previous day and found 45 enemy dead. A final report places total enemy killed in the engagement at 81, while US Marine losses were 22 killed and 87 wounded. There were no significant enemy contacts in the 1st Corps area yesterday. Enemy activity was limited primarily to sporadic harassing fire against Khe Sanh and other defensive positions along the DMZ.

Four possible tanks were sighted yesterday moving toward the Khe Sanh combat base from the northwest. Intense enemy reconnaissance continues.

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

the enemy is preparing for imminent offensive activity -- possibly beginning as early as today -- at several places in the Corps area: (1) Northeastern Quang Tri and around Cam Lo (reconnaissance, recruitment, logistical movements); (2) Hue (redispositioning of forces since Friday; movement of regimental elements from Phu Loc to the east of the city; frogman activity on the coast; continued influx of supplies and heavy weapons into the A Shau Valley; recent reconnaissance to within 12 miles west of the city); (3) Hoi An-Tam Ky (movement of the forward element of NVA 2nd Division to within 10 miles west of Tam Ky under conditions normal to the division's pre-attack posture); (4) Da Nang (as reported earlier, the positioning of the NVA 31st Regiment southwest of the city and

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

3 MARCH 1968

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	24 Hrs	Current Week	Cumula-	Cumula-	Cumula-
	Ending	11 AM EST	tive	tive	tive
	11 AM EST	24 Feb 68	From	From	From
	2 Mar 68	1 Mar 68	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	23	462	3,149	12,314	19,171
Wounded Not Hosp	64	946	7,157	37,811	54,932
Wounded Hosp	70	1,024	9,194	41,565	62,182
Captured	0	2	9	144	240
Missing	0	16	292	563	939
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	59	225	3,284	14,164	56,454
Wounded	196	774	9,955	39,403	124,745
Missing/Captured	60	79	1,183	3,523	28,527
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	8	8	245	1,350	1,948
Wounded	18	48	540	2,858	4,588
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	659	4,343	50,574	138,655	297,808
Wounded	989	6,466	75,813	207,935	446,664
(estimate ^b)					

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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its preparations for a new mission "after 1 March"). Yesterday there was a large volume of high-precedence message traffic from Military Region 5 to Hanoi High Command -- similar activity preceded the Tet offensive. Meanwhile, there are continuing reports in NVN rear services communications relating to the movement within southern NVN of munitions destined for the DMZ area (as well as for the western highlands and Laos).

2ND CORPS

The only action reported in the 2nd Corps area occurred yesterday when a US mechanized infantry company, conducting search-and-destroy operations near the coast, engaged a reinforced enemy company 30 miles north of Qui Nhon. In an 8-hour battle 30 enemy were killed and 3 prisoners were taken. US casualties were 1 killed and 6 wounded.

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(2) preparations for heavy weapons attacks on undisclosed targets in western Kontum and Pleiku. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(2) strike time for this morning and military intelligence units near Dak To have put special emphasis on communications schedules for today. A rallier says elements of the NVA 66th Regiment had been planning to attack Dak To Airfield and Ben Het Special Forces camp today. Elsewhere, elements of the NVA 174th Regiment have closed to within 3 miles of the Plei Mrong Special Forces Camp. There is also stepped up activity reported around Phan Rang on the coast as well as indications of impending attacks in Binh Dinh Province and on the Nha Trang Airfield; both areas had been destinations for Thursday's abortive sea infiltration effort, however, and any enemy timetable may have been upset.

3RD CORPS

A US infantry company on a reconnaissance mission was heavily engaged by an enemy company 4 miles north of Tan Son Nhut yesterday. Two additional US infantry companies were committed and the enemy force withdrew leaving 20 dead behind. US Army casualties were 48 killed, 26 wounded and 10 missing.

A US infantry company made a heliborne assault of an area 23 miles north of Saigon yesterday and engaged an enemy

unit near the landing zone. In a 9-hour fight the enemy lost 34 killed while US casualties were 1 killed and 1 wounded.

There is no new information available concerning possible imminent offensive action. But up to 8 regiments remain in the area generally north of Saigon. Attacks by fire on key targets such as Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa Air Bases can occur at any time. In the only new development reported, elements of an enemy regiment have moved to within 10 miles of Xuan Loc, indicated, along with the Long Binh military complex, as a target for imminent attack.

4TH CORPS

No significant enemy activity was reported. US Riverine forces continued search-and-destroy operations southwest of Can Tho and in light, sporadic contact yesterday killed 12 enemy and detained 1 suspect. US losses were placed at 1 killed and 24 wounded. Main force enemy elements are located near Can Tho. A large Viet Cong buildup has been reported near Cao Lanh; the people are expecting further attacks. There is an agent report of a possible attack in Bac Lieu Province (near which the enemy had tried to infiltrate munitions by trawler Thursday).

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Enemy fortifications, troop concentrations, and artillery positions in the vicinity of Khe Sanh were bombed by 42 Air Force B-52s. Six sorties struck a target 1 mile from the perimeter of the combat base. In addition, 18 B-52s struck enemy positions in the Hue, Pleiku, and Saigon areas.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: US tactical aircraft flew 109 sorties over NVN yesterday. All strikes scheduled against ALFA targets were cancelled because of poor weather conditions over the target areas and nearly all armed reconnaissance strikes were limited to the panhandle region of NVN.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Yesterday 256 armed reconnaissance sorties were flown over Laos, 139 of which struck targets in the area adjacent to Khe Sanh.

LATE ITEM

For the second successive day, enemy activity at Khe Sanh was limited to small probes of perimeter defenses and comparatively light shelling of the defensive positions and the Khe Sanh Combat Base. A total of 182 rounds of enemy mortar and artillery fire impacted in the area resulting in 5 US Marines killed and 7 wounded. An afternoon break in the weather permitted effective close air support by tactical aircraft which flew a total of 316 sorties yesterday. Two enemy bunkers were destroyed and 30 secondary explosions and fires were observed in enemy positions.

Elsewhere along the DMZ enemy activity was limited to sporadic shelling of US Marine positions and small unit contacts. A total of 237 rounds of mortar and artillery fell on these positions wounding 5 Marines. US Marines engaged a small enemy force near Con Thien and killed 10 enemy while sustaining no friendly casualties.

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