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25 February 1968

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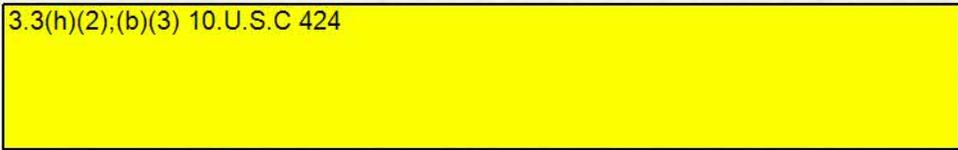
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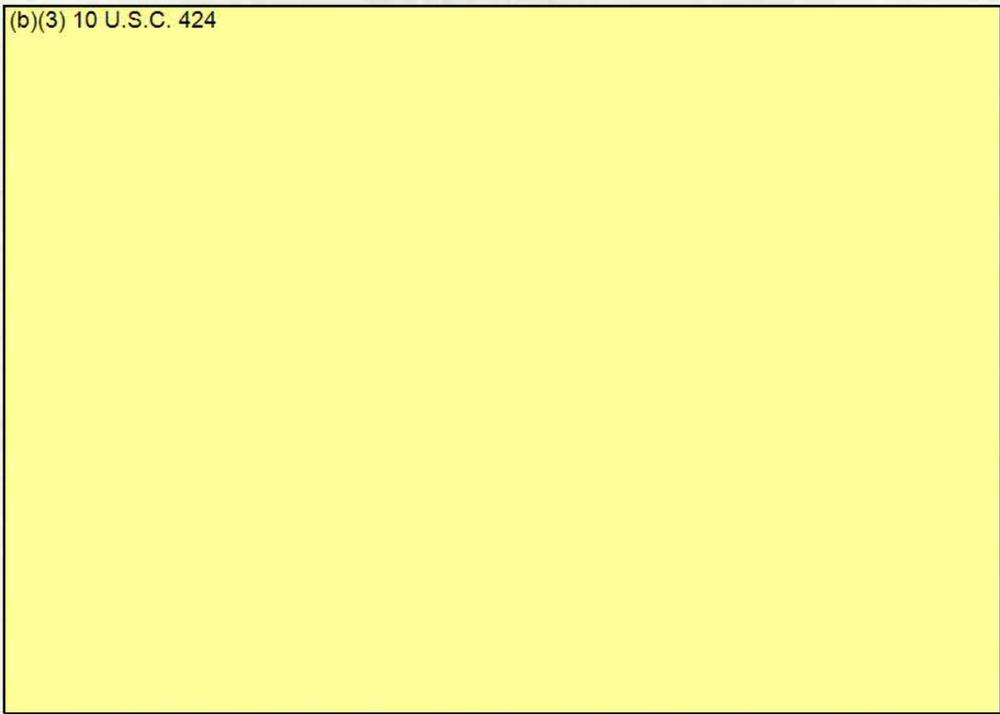
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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

5 → SUMMARY: Enemy-initiated incidents were at a relatively low level in all corps areas. ARVN units drove the final pockets of enemy resistance from the Citadel and Hue is now considered cleared by COMUSMACV. Rumors persist that attacks on Saigon are imminent. In the 4th Corps, the enemy stepped up their attacks against the US forces in the Mekong Delta area near My Tho.

3 → In the air, B-52s and tactical aircraft continued pounding enemy concentrations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh as weather again limited tactical air operations over North Vietnam.

5 → The situation in southern Laos improved early yesterday, but new attacks are expected late today.

SOUTH VIETNAM5 → 1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

5 → Ground activity in the Khe Sanh area consisted of 4 small contacts by US Marines. They engaged and killed 18 enemy with one marine killed.

5 → Late last night the last of a determined enemy force was driven from the southwest corner of the Citadel by ARVN forces and the Ancient Imperial Capital of South Vietnam was declared cleared of communists units. Encounters with the enemy throughout 23 February resulted in 3 US Army personnel killed and 52 wounded. The enemy lost 14 killed and 8 individual weapons. Meanwhile, on the river island east of the Citadel, elements of two Vietnamese Ranger battalions clearing enemy pockets of resistance continue their movement toward the south end of the island. During 24 February, these Vietnamese Rangers counted 30 enemy killed with no friendly losses reported.

On 23 February, a US Army company 6 miles northeast of Quang Ngai received automatic weapons, mortar, and recoilless rifle fire from an unknown-size enemy force. Tactical aircraft came to the support of the friendly forces and in the ensuing fire fight which lasted 8 hours, 68

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

25 FEBRUARY 1968

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	24 Hrs	Current Week	Cumula-	Cumula-	Cumula-
	Ending	11 AM EST	tive	tive	tive
	11 AM EST	17 FEB 68	From	From	From
	24 FEB 68	11 AM EST	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	24 FEB 68	23 FEB 68			
UNITED STATES ^a					
Killed	30	428	2,645	11,810	18,667
Wounded Not Hosp	97	731	6,597	36,251	53,372
Wounded Hosp	105	796	7,656	40,007	60,624
Captured	0	7	7	142	238
Missing	0	12	376	647	1,023
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	38	385	3,059	13,939	56,229
Wounded	134	1,023	9,181	38,629	123,871
Missing/Captured	3	132	1,104	3,444	28,448
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	0	11	237	1,342	1,940
Wounded	2	26	492	2,810	4,540
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	618	6,269	46,231	134,312	293,465
Wounded	927	7,904	69,347	201,469	440,198
(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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enemy were killed and 5 individual weapons captured. Two US were killed and 13 wounded.

5 2D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

5 A US Army OH-6A helicopter crashed and burned on 23 February when hit by enemy fire 7 miles southwest of Kontum. One US was killed and one wounded.

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enemy preparations for attacks in the Dak To and Kontum City areas. Intensive enemy reconnaissance is being carried out in the vicinity of both places. The North Vietnamese have up to 9 effective battalions in the Dak To area and 3 to 5 that could be directed against Kontum City.

5 3D CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

5 Yesterday, the base camp of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Phuoc Vinh received an estimated 36 rounds of 82-mm mortar and 122-mm rocket fire. The counter-mortar plan was executed resulting in 4 secondary explosions. US casualties were one killed, 2 wounded, and one UH-1H helicopter damaged. One rocket round impacted in the town killing 2 civilians and wounding 3 others.

Contact with communist units around Saigon continue to be light. There are fresh unconfirmed reports indicating that the enemy is about to launch new attacks this week against Saigon. 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424 no indication as to the timing of a communist attack, although there is evidence that some enemy main force elements are infiltrating into Saigon. Airborne sensors fixed a Viet Cong radio terminal of the 273d Regiment in the northern suburbs on 22 February, and on the 23d three unidentified terminals were similarly located in the city. On the 24th, a terminal serving a battalion of the Viet Cong's 274th Regiment was fixed 6 miles east of Saigon.

5 4TH CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

5 A US Army battalion fire support base, 9 miles west-northwest of My Tho, was attacked by an estimated enemy battalion late yesterday. An additional Army battalion was committed to the action and after an intense 2 hour fire

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fight the enemy withdrew leaving 94 dead and 24 weapons. Nineteen US were killed and 43 wounded while 9 US armored personnel carriers were destroyed and two 155-mm howitzers damaged.

5 → Earlier in the day, an ammunition storage area adjacent to the Binh Thuy Airfield was struck by mortar fire. As a result of the explosions and consequent fires, 223,000 20-mm aircraft cannon rounds and 10,000 40-mm grenade rounds were destroyed. Two SVN soldiers were wounded.

A US Army battalion 35 miles northeast of Can Tho, received a mortar and ground attack from an unknown-size enemy force yesterday. Another US battalion reinforced while artillery, armed helicopters, and tactical air supported. The enemy broke contact after 2 hours and withdrew to the south leaving 51 dead. One US was killed and six wounded.

Yesterday afternoon the airfield at Can Tho received approximately 8 rounds of 81-mm mortar and an undetermined amount of small-arms, automatic weapons, and rocket fire. The enemy broke off the attack after 10 minutes with unknown losses. Two US were killed, 10 wounded, and 1 U-1A and 1 OV-1 were damaged.

5 → ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Thirty B-52s struck enemy concentrations, artillery positions, and supply areas within a 9 mile radius of Khe Sanh.

An additional 22 aircraft struck enemy concentrations near Hue, Kontum, and Saigon.

NORTH VIETNAM

5 → ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: There were only 61 sorties flown over North Vietnam yesterday. One A-6 aircraft using radar weapons release struck Cat Bi Airfield. Darkness prevented an assessment of damage.

5 → Twenty-four surface-to-air missiles were observed within a 20 mile radius of Hanoi. One downed an A-6A near Hoa Lac Airfield.

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LATE ITEM

SOUTH VIETNAM -- 1ST CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

5 | Yesterday, the enemy shelling activity in Quang Tri Province decreased to 532 rounds of mixed artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. Khe Sanh Combat Base received approximately 268 rounds, resulting in 7 US personnel killed and 20 wounded. At Con Thien, 237 rounds were counted which killed 2 and wounded 5 US Marines. The remaining 27 rounds impacted at Camp Carroll, Dong Ha, and Cua Viet, wounding 8 US Marines. Five enemy were killed by friendly artillery about 4 miles southeast of Camp Carroll.

Tactical air sorties flown in support of the Khe Sanh Combat Base during the period 8:00 PM EST 23 February (9:00 AM 24 February Saigon time) to 8:00 PM EST 24 February (9:00 AM 25 February Saigon time) totaled 294.

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