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File 9

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

26 February 1968

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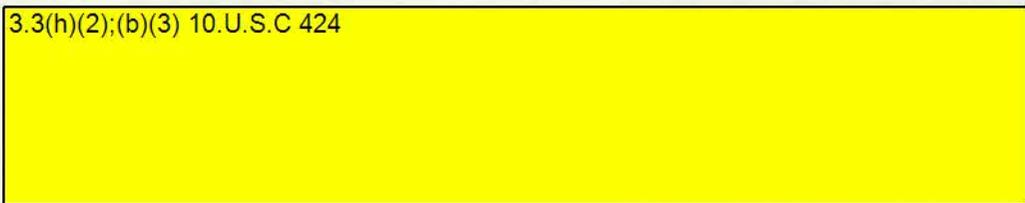
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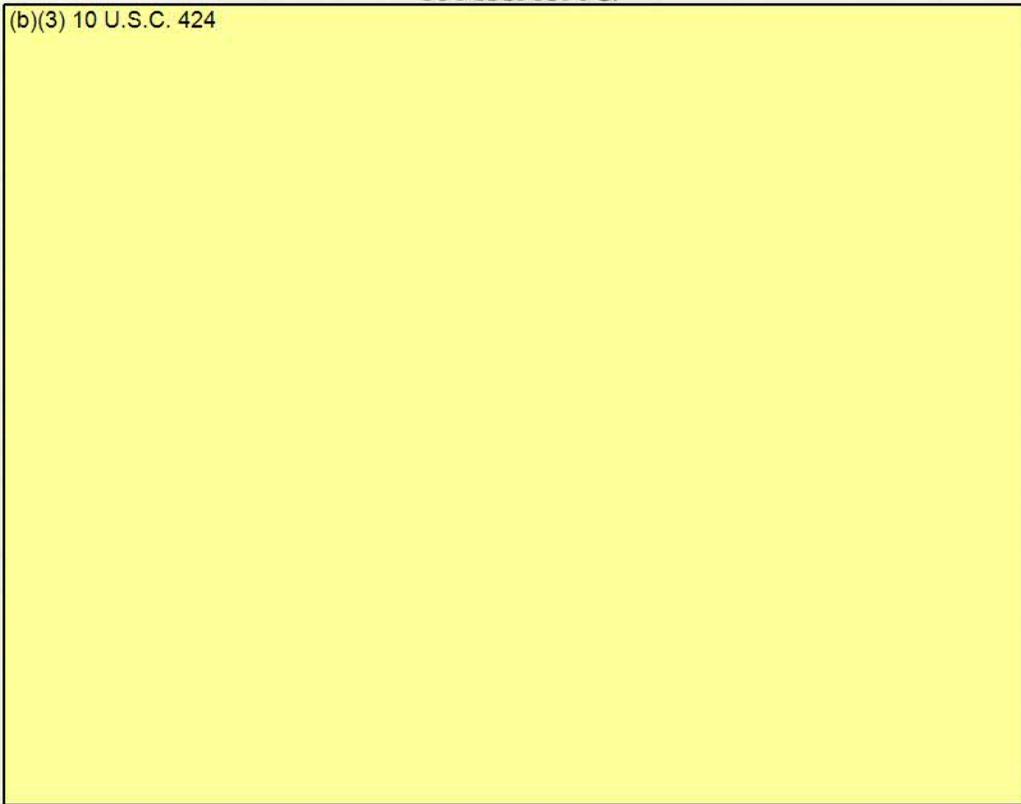
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**OPERATIONAL / INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS**



SOUTHEAST ASIA

*OP*  
SUMMARY: Enemy activity generally slackened yesterday, but there were a number of mortar and rocket attacks on US airfields. On the ground, action was concentrated around Khe Sanh in the 1st Corps area, near Saigon in the 3d Corps area, and in the Mekong Delta in the 4th Corps area. In the air, weather was a limiting factor over North Vietnam, but B-52s and tactical aircraft continued their attack on enemy concentrations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh.

*OP*  
There are indications that enemy attacks may be imminent in several widely scattered areas including the Bien Hoa and Xuan Loc areas north and northeast of Saigon; the Central Highland provinces; and the Qui Nhon area in Binh Dinh Province. The enemy is making a determined effort to provide air defense protection for the logistic and infiltration route through the A Shau Valley and an intercepted message indicates that North Vietnamese tanks may be about to move into this area.

The major enemy offensive in southern Laos continues.

SOUTH VIETNAM

1ST CORPS

*OP*  
Action in the Khe Sanh area was characterized by continued enemy shelling, small-unit patrols and numerous air attacks. In a 2½ hour engagement 400 meters north of the Khe Sanh Combat Base perimeter, a Marine patrol met stiff enemy resistance. On termination of the engagement the Marine losses were 1 killed, 21 wounded, and 25 missing. Enemy losses at this time are unknown. Close air support aircraft during this period attacked 3 enemy tanks close to the Khe Sanh Combat Base, 3 enemy self-propelled guns which were sighted 11 miles northwest of the base, and an unknown number of vehicles 1 mile south of the base. Specific assessment has not been reported, although several secondary explosions were noted in the area south of the base.

*M*  
While searching the palace grounds at Hue, US Marine and Vietnamese forces uncovered the graves of 140 North Vietnamese soldiers.

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MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

26 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
	25 Feb 68	11 AM EST	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	24 Hrs	Through	1 Jan 68	1 Jan 67	1 Jan 61
	11 AM EST	11 AM EST			
	25 Feb 68	24 Feb 68			
UNITED STATES <sup>a</sup>					
Killed	19	497	2,714	11,879	18,736
Wounded Not Hosp	85	836	6,702	36,356	53,477
Wounded Hosp	92	910	7,770	40,121	60,738
Captured	0	7	7	142	238
Missing	0	26	390	661	1,037
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	46	423	3,097	13,977	56,267
Wounded	152	1,157	9,315	38,763	124,005
Missing/Captured	10	135	1,107	3,447	28,451
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	0	11	237	1,342	1,940
Wounded	8	28	494	2,812	4,542
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	620	6,887	46,849	134,930	294,083
Wounded	930	8,831	70,274	202,396	441,125
(estimate <sup>b</sup> )					

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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An A-4E on a close air support mission was hit by ground fire and crashed 10 miles southeast of Da Nang. The pilot ejected and was recovered.

Recent aerial photographs reveal a number of occupied anti-aircraft positions along Route 548 in the A Shau Valley. This activity, coupled with road construction and improvement efforts on Routes 547 and 548, indicates the importance the enemy attaches to the protection of this important logistical and infiltration route. Route 547 is an east-west road running from the Lao border area north of the A Shau Valley, becoming a limited all-weather, loose surface road west of Hue. Intercepts indicate that camouflaged "tanks" would possibly move eastward today along Route 547 to a point some 18 miles west of Hue.

### 2D CORPS

The threat of a major attack continues in the Central Highland provinces of Kontum, Pleiku, and Darlac. Dak To may be an early target. To the east along the coast, the enemy's determined defense of fortified positions north of Qui Nhon suggests plans to conduct an offensive in that area.

### 3D CORPS

After 78 days, combined Operation YELLOWSTONE was successfully completed on Saturday. This operation was of the search-and-destroy variety and took place in an area north of Tay Ninh near the Cambodian border. Casualty totals for this operation were 135 US and 5 ARVN killed, 1,094 US and 67 ARVN wounded, with 3 ARVN missing. Enemy losses were 1,254 killed, 1,438 detained, as well as 214 individual and crew-served weapons captured. Some 1,128 close air support sorties and 117 B-52 missions were flown as part of this operation.

Yesterday, 2 enemy forces were encountered near Saigon. In the first engagement, 2 US Army companies met an unknown-size enemy force 5 miles north of the city. After a fierce 25-minute battle the enemy broke contact leaving 32 dead on the battlefield; US casualties were 2 killed and 10 wounded.

In the second contact, an ARVN airborne battalion engaged an enemy force late Saturday 8 miles northwest of the city. During sporadic firing which lasted for 12 hours, the friendly forces called in helicopter light fire teams and tactical air to support their efforts. Twenty enemy soldiers were killed

and 8 were detained, while the ARVN paratroopers lost 2 killed and 23 wounded.

2 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424 an attack on Xuan Loc in central Long Khanh Province may be imminent. There are other indications pointing to a possible attack on Bien Hoa Airbase by elements of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment as early as tomorrow morning.

#### 4TH CORPS

8 The enemy continued attacks on base camps, when on Saturday the MACV compound in Phong Dinh City was assaulted by an estimated battalion of troops. The defenders immediately called in artillery, armed helicopters, and AC-47 aircraft to support. Although the battle was brief, the enemy lost 35 killed while friendly force casualties were 7 Regional Force troops and 6 civilians killed; additionally, 21 ARVN were wounded, as was one US soldier.

1 Near My Tho, a two-battalion ARVN force accounted for 33 enemy killed with no friendly casualties. No other information is available on this contact.

0 On Sunday, for the second day in a row, the enemy struck Binh Thuy Airfield, this time with 35 rounds of 75-mm recoilless rifle fire in a brief 5-minute period. Friendly casualties were nominal with 1 VNAF being killed and 5 wounded. There was no material damage to the airfield, which remains operational.

2 Increased enemy activity in the southern Mekong Delta area is indicated by communications intelligence. The enemy is holding near Can Tho and will likely continue his attacks against the city and nearby military installations. Meanwhile, there is evidence suggesting that the enemy is exploiting his position in the countryside while maintaining his pressure against major urban areas; there are reports from the 3d Corps to the same effect.

0 ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: Twenty-seven B-52s struck enemy base camps, concentrations, artillery positions, and supply areas within an 8-mile radius of Khe Sanh.

0 Thirty-five additional aircraft hit enemy infiltration routes and troop concentrations near Pleiku and Saigon.

NORTH VIETNAM

6 ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: The vast majority of the 85 sorties flown over North Vietnam yesterday were employed on armed reconnaissance missions; however, 4 A-6A aircraft, using radar weapons release techniques, struck the Phu Ly railroad yard near Hanoi, the Haiphong railroad yard, the Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant northwest of Haiphong and the Bai Thuong air-field 70 miles south of Hanoi. In all cases, darkness prevented bomb damage assessment.

4 AIR ACTIVITY IN SOUTHERN NORTH VIETNAM: 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10 damage to Vinh Airfield caused by US radar bombing strikes last Thursday and Friday prevented use of the airfield on those days and caused Hanoi to cancel an unidentified air operation. Hanoi's repeated inquiries concerning the condition of the airfield indicates its interest in maintaining at least a limited operational capability at the base.

LAOS

0 BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Of the 145 sorties flown in Laos yesterday, 63 were in the sector adjacent to Khe Sanh. Thirty-five trucks were reported destroyed.

1 MAJOR ENEMY OFFENSIVE CONTINUES IN SOUTH: Heavy fighting has been reported at Attopeu, with the enemy apparently making a major effort to capture the town. Two Lao companies that were engaged in hand-to-hand combat northwest of Attopeu suffered many casualties before withdrawing toward town. At last reports the garrison there was still holding. Saravane town is still under attack; reports have indicated that some 4 enemy battalions were in the area. Friendly positions at Muong Phalane, east of Savannakhet, have reportedly fallen to the enemy. The offensive may be designed to further demoralize Lao military forces and, possibly, to permit expansion of the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" to the west.

CAMBODIA

1 VIET CONG SANCTUARIES: Intercepts reveal that the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has turned over to the Armed Forces certain US maps and photographs concerning Viet Cong sanctuary areas in Military Regions I and V adjacent to the South Vietnamese border. The Armed Forces are to "verify these incriminating areas and to furnish, above

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everything else, estimates for the eventual decision of the Royal Government". 3.3(h)(2);(b)(3) 10.U.S.C 424 no clues concerning the time schedule to be followed or the ways and means to be used.

LATE ITEM

SOUTH VIETNAM

Yesterday, enemy shelling of military installations in Northern Quang Tri Province persisted as 689 rounds of mixed artillery, mortar, and rocket fire impacted in the area. Khe Sanh Combat Base received 350 rounds which killed 3 and wounded 52 US Marines. Two helicopters were destroyed and 2 were damaged by the shelling. The runway at Khe Sanh was reported to be in poor condition. Con Thien received 285 rounds with no casualties reported. The remaining 54 rounds impacted at Camp Carroll, Dong Ha, and Cua Viet resulting in serious wounds to one US Marine, and damaging 3 helicopters and 4 observation aircraft.

A total of 230 tactical air sorties were flown in support of the Khe Sanh area during the period from 8:00 PM EST 24 February (9:00 AM 25 February Saigon time) to 8:00 PM EST 25 February (9:00 AM 26 February Saigon time). Pilot reports on the results of these strikes included numerous secondary explosions and fires.

An Air Force F-100D on a close air support mission was shot down by enemy ground fire 7 miles northwest of Can Tho. The pilot was recovered in good condition within 7 minutes after ejecting from the downed aircraft.

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