

CBJ# L

~~TOP SECRET~~

File 4

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

28 February 1968

OIB 9-68

PRESIDENTIAL OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEF



PROPERTY OF DIA LIBRARY

ATTENTION:

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

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

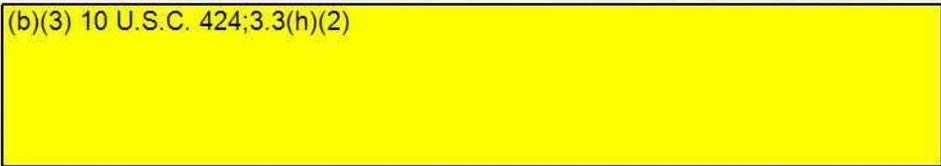
COPY NO.

802015 62

~~TOP SECRET~~

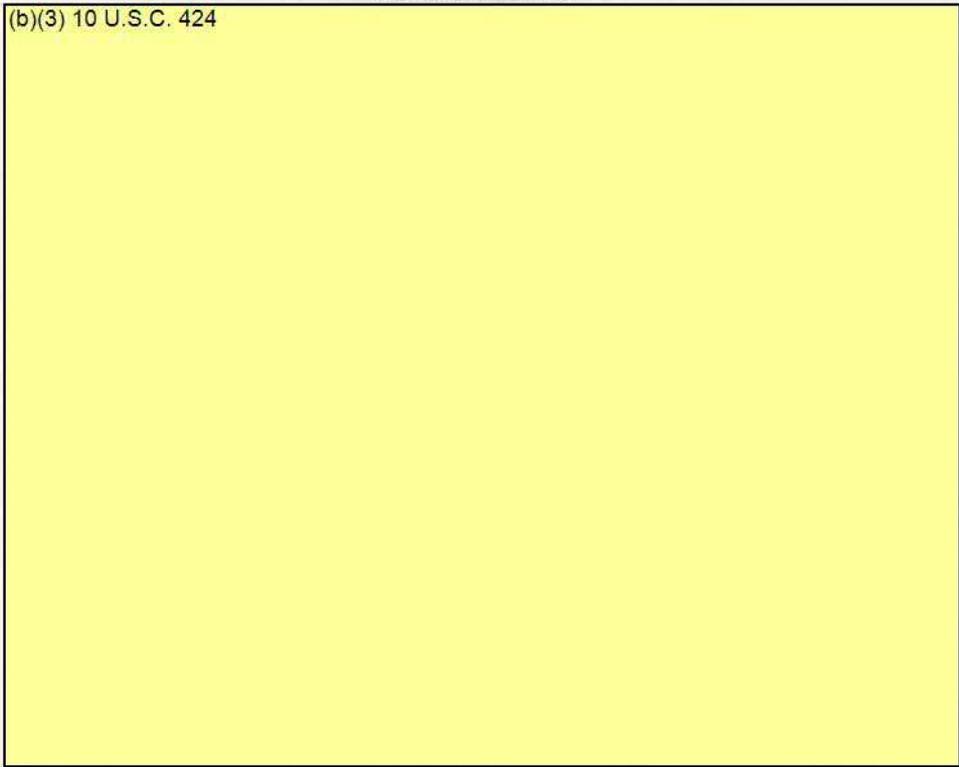
The PRESIDENTIAL OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEF is a digest of selective operational and intelligence reports which is produced by the National Military Command Center, Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

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



WARNING

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





OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTHEAST ASIA

SUMMARY: There was a sharp increase in enemy activity in the 3d and 4th Corps areas of South Vietnam culminating in mortar and rocket attacks against US and ARVN installations and one city in the Mekong Delta region during a 2-hour period at about noon yesterday. No significant enemy activity was reported in the northern 1st Corps area, but there may be an increase in night-time artillery attacks. The enemy continues with preparations for attacks in the western Highlands, but the timing of these actions is not known.

SOUTH VIETNAM1ST CORPS

The enemy is continuing his detailed reconnaissance in the Khe Sanh area, reporting on allied air strikes and ground activity as well as on the construction and repair of fortifications and fences at the combat base. Intercepts indicate the enemy may now begin to step up his attacks by fire during hours of darkness.

Meanwhile, to the east, intercepts indicate that the enemy plans to conduct an artillery bombardment of Camp Carroll on Friday and there is every indication that attacks by fire, route interdictions, and ambushes will be continued against allied bases and lines of communication in the eastern DMZ area.

Two US cavalry troops engaged an unknown size enemy force three miles west of Tam Ky. In a sharp four-hour battle 148 enemy were killed, while US losses were only two killed and 14 wounded.

Movements of at least 3 major communist elements to the coastal area of Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces about mid-way between Da Nang and Tam Ky have been carried out since about Monday. These movements may presage further offensive operations against key targets in this area.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MILITARY CASUALTIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

28 FEBRUARY 1968

	(1) 24 Hrs Ending 11 AM EST 27 FEB 68	(2) Current Week 11 AM EST 24 FEB 68 Through 11 AM EST 26 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 ^a					
Killed	15	180	2,867	12,032	18,889
Wounded Not Hosp	110	195	7,406	37,060	54,181
Wounded Hosp	119	211	8,381	40,752	61,369
Captured	0	0	7	142	238
Missing	3	5	311	582	958
SOUTH VIETNAM					
Killed	21	98	3,157	14,037	56,327
Wounded	91	399	9,580	39,028	124,370
Missing/Captured	6	31	1,135	3,475	28,479
OTHER ALLIED					
Killed	2	1	238	1,343	1,941
Wounded	4	18	510	2,828	4,558
Missing/Captured	0	0	2	5	22
VIET CONG/NVA					
Killed	669	1,978	48,209	136,290	295,443
Wounded (estimate ^b)	1,004	2,967	72,314	204,436	443,165

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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2ND CORPS

Late Monday night the enemy attacked US Army defensive positions, 12 miles west-northwest of Dak To. After a 10-hour fight the enemy force was driven off, leaving behind 50 dead. US Army casualties were placed at 4 killed and 22 wounded.

A US infantry company, on a search-and-destroy mission, was hit by mortar and automatic weapons fire 5 miles north-northeast of Kontum and 24 men were wounded. Tactical aircraft were called in and they struck the enemy positions. Twenty-three secondary explosions were observed, but enemy casualties are unknown.

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(2) enemy forces in the western Highlands area are preparing to launch attacks in at least 3 different areas there -- Le Thanh (southwest of Pleiku City), Kontum City, and, further south, Ban Me Thuot. There are no firm indications as to the precise timing of these attacks.

Intelligence reports indicate that the Viet Cong may be attempting to establish a base camp in the area just north of Qui Nhon in coastal Binh Dinh Province, in order to launch attacks against allied installations in the area. Last Saturday friendly forces made day-long contact with enemy forces in strongly dug-in positions there. How soon the enemy might be able to attempt large-scale offensive action is not clear; it is known, however, that elements of the North Vietnamese Army's 18th Regiment in the area suffered considerable losses in recent engagements.

3RD CORPS

The final report of the enemy rocket attack on Bien Hoa Air Base at noon yesterday states US casualties were 12 killed and 21 wounded. One F-100F aircraft received major damage and 4 F-100D aircraft sustained minor damage. On bunker, one large barracks, and 7 small hut-type barracks were destroyed. The airfield is fully operational. This attack was probably conducted by elements of the Viet Cong 5th Division. Further attacks by fire against this key target can be expected, possibly in coordination with actions against Xuan Loc, some 30 miles east of Bien Hoa and also on Route 1.

At about the same time as the attack on Bien Hoa Air Base, the enemy also launched brief mortar and rocket attacks against two US Army compounds, one US Army fire support base, and one ARVN camp in Bien Hoa and Long An Provinces. US Army casualties were 4 killed and 13 wounded, while 3 ARVN were wounded. Damage to the installations and equipment was light.

Early yesterday morning a US tank battalion engaged an unknown-size enemy force 18 miles northwest of Saigon and killed 36 enemy in a 5-hour fight. US Army casualties were one killed and 7 wounded.

A US infantry battalion attacked an enemy unit approximately 4 miles north-northeast of Tan Son Nhut. The enemy abandoned his positions leaving 4 dead, three 122-mm rocket tripods, two 122-mm rocket tubes, one 122-mm rocket motor section, and assorted supporting equipment. US Army casualties were 5 killed and 20 wounded.

A US C-130 aircraft was hit yesterday evening by ground fire during its take-off from Song Be Airfield, 75 miles north-northeast of Saigon. The aircraft circled and crash landed at the airfield. The crewmen were not injured but the aircraft was destroyed by fire.

4TH CORPS

Vinh Long City was hit twice yesterday with enemy mortar fire. The second mortar attack, at about noon, was accompanied by small-arms fire from an estimated enemy company. There were no friendly casualties.

Shortly after noon yesterday the Soc Trang Airfield, 40 miles south of Vinh Long, was hit by 33 rounds of 75-mm recoilless rifle fire in a ten-minute attack. One man (US) was killed and three UH-1D helicopters sustained moderate damage.

Most of the other incidents occurring yesterday were attacks on isolated posts through the Corps area, but the enemy is continuing his almost nightly harassing fire against selected city targets in the lower Delta area. Vinh Long and Cao Lanh are 2 such targets. At the same time, the enemy is continuing his propaganda activity amongst the rural populace. Guerrilla units are now unusually active around Vinh Long City and it is reported that some guerrillas have sophisticated

weapons (possibly large-caliber recoilless rifles, for example). Meanwhile, there are reports that South Vietnamese military forces have not been very active in dispersing the enemy, seemingly preferring to remain in static defense at night. It is also reported, however, that Gen Thang, the new 4 Corps commander, intends to assign specific attack missions to every ARVN unit in the Delta, with targets near the cities being hit first and with emphasis on local guerrilla forces.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: USAF B-52s continued to pound the enemy around Khe Sanh yesterday, as 39 aircraft struck enemy troop concentrations, fortifications, and artillery positions.

Fifteen additional B-52s struck enemy troop concentrations, supply storage areas, and artillery positions near Hue, Pleiku, and Saigon.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS: One hundred and seventy-six sorties were flown over North Vietnam yesterday. One A-6 aircraft using radar release techniques struck Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant, north-northeast of Haiphong. Darkness precluded damage assessment. Two F-4C aircraft struck Dong Hoi Airfield, vicinity of Dong Hoi. Pilots estimate runway cratered. Early last night 4 F-4D aircraft struck the Chuc Son Barracks, 10 miles southwest of Hanoi, using radar release techniques. Poor weather conditions prevented bomb damage assessment.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL AND STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: Of 263 sorties flown in Laos yesterday, 155 were in the sector adjacent to Khe Sanh. A total of 36 trucks were reported destroyed.

LATE ITEM

AIRCRAFT DOWN

At 3:30 AM EST today (4:30 PM 28 February - Saigon time) a US Air Force F-105D went down from unknown causes 20 miles southwest of Dong Hoi. Voice contact has been established with the pilot who indicates he may have a broken leg. Rescue efforts are in progress.

~~TOP SECRET~~

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING: DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

~~NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION~~
~~CONTROLLED DISSEMINATION~~

~~TOP SECRET~~