The SECRETARY OF DEFENSE OPS-INT SUMMARY 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
SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 42 bn-size or larger opns in prog: 28 US, 2 FW, 12 ARVN.

1 CTZ: PHI PHUNG 65, ARVN 3-bn S&D opn began 272005 EST 9 nm S of Da Nang in coord Opn AUBURN. 2 bns contacted en within hrs after commencement and were reinforced by 3d bn and APC co. Hwy contact continued thruout day and was broken by en after 15 hrs. US tac air, gunships, flareships and arty sptd. Losses -- ARVN: 5 KIA, 47 WIA; VC/NVA: 52 KIA, 2 pers det, 9 indiv and 1 crew-served wpn.

AUBURN, coord USMC S&D opn (1 USMC bn, 2 USA cos) began 272005 EST, 10 nm S of Da Nang. Est 460 en in area of opns. USMC co moving into blocking psns from landing zone came under fire ½ hr after commencement. Losses -- US: 5 USMC KIA and 7 WIA; VC/NVA: unk.

In Opn WHEELER/WALLOWA on 27 Dec, USA co sptd by arty and tac air strikes engaged en force in day-long contact. Losses -- US: 5 WIA; VC/NVA: 13 KIA, 15 indiv wpns.

12 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- US: 2 KIA, 15 WIA; VC/NVA: 2 KIA, 3 pers det, 1 wpn.

2 CTZ: On 27 Dec, 6 nm NNE Pleiku, hamlet atkd by en force employing mortars, rkts, small-arms, and AWs. En broke contact when reaction force of elms USA bn and SVN bn committed. Losses -- Friendly: 21 KIA (10 RF, 11 civs), 15 WIA (13 RF, 2 RD), 33 RF MIA, ammo dump and bunker dest; VC/NVA: 3 KIA, 6 indiv wpns.

20 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- Friendly: 18 KIA (17 ARVN, 1 ROK), 27 WIA (26 ARVN, 1 ROK); VC/NVA: 31 KIA, 3 indiv wpns.


On 28 Dec, ARVN bn engaged en bn 12 nm NNW Saigon. Losses -- Friendly: 6 ARVN KIA, 20 ARVN and 1 US WIA; VC/NVA: 5 KIA.

15 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- Friendly: 4 ARVN KIA, 13 ARVN and 3 US WIA; VC/NVA: 10 KIA.


On 28 Dec, ARVN rece co seized en wpns cache containing 33 indiv wpns 20 nm NE Can Tho.

On 23 Dec, 38 nm NE Can Tho, PF ambush patrol killed 4 en identified as CO, 514th Local Force Bn, My Tho (VC) Prov Chief, a senior doctor, and the Rear Services Chief. Identification made.

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by doc on bodies and detainee at scene. Other doc disclosed plans for atks on US and SVN installations. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424.3(c)

On 27 Dec, 30 nm W of Can Tho, RF co on patrol established hvy contact with en force. En broke contact after 4 hrs when ARVN bn committed as reaction force. Air strikes and armed helos sptd. Losses -- RF: 10 KIA, 7 WIA, 12 indiv wpns; VC/NVA: 19 KIA, 1 indiv wpn.

On 27 Dec, 27 nm SE Can Tho, PF outpost came under atk by en force. USN 1t fire team sptd. 11 en KIA; no friendly cas.

**ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 28 DEC:** At 281515 EST, 6 B-52s (ROMEO 90) struck en opn area 23 nm NE Saigon. Gnd follow-up by 199 Inf Bde sked. 9 B-52s (QUEBEC 21) bombed en trps and stor areas 20 nm ESE Pleiku at 281950 EST.

**NORTH VIETNAM**

**ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 28 DEC:** 168 sorties (98 USAF, 38 USMC, 32 USN) dest/damaged 10/3 bunkers, 4/6 bldgs, 1/23 trks, 1/4 WBL craft, 1/2 AAA sites, 0/21 stor areas, 0/19 gun psns, 0/6 ferries, 0/6 bridges, 0/3 RR cars, 0/2 trp concs, 0/2 SAM sites, 0/1 trk pk, 0/1 radar sites, 0/1 CD site, 0/1 afd, and LOCs.

Tyts within 30-nm radius Hanoi: SAM Site 234, Hoa Lac Afd.

**AIRCRAFT LOSS:** USN F-4B downed by gnd fire 43 nm E of Haiphong at 282040 EST. Both crewmembers recovered.

**POL:** Dec deliveries of POL are expected to reach more than 30,000 MT -- 2d only to the 35,000 received in May. Yearly total will be about 249,000 MT, 48,000 more than for 1966.

**LAOS**

**BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 28 DEC:** 207 sorties (181 USAF, 22 USN, 4 USMC) dest/damaged 83/66 trks, 3/9 gun sites, 0/29 trk pk, 0/15 stor areas, 0/10 trp concs, 0/3 bridges, 0/3 bldgs, 0/1 CP, and LOCs. (s)

**AIRCRAFT LOSS:** USAF F-4D downed by gnd fire 54 nm WSW Dong Hoi at 280715 EST. Both crewmembers recovered. (s)

**COMMUNIST THREAT/LAOS-N. THAILAND:** Recent atk on Muong Phalane reminds that there are 3 other navigation sites in Laos vulnerable to atk -- Phou Pha Thi, Ban Hang Khang, and Saravane. Phou Pha Thi (STOL Site 85) SW of Sam Neua, most endangered of 3. Mil observers in Vientiane believe, however, that en is incapable of taking Site 85 at this time. Site at Ban Hang Khang near Plaine des Jarres seems in no immediate danger, although en acty has increased in and around Plaine. At Saravane, govt forces have been alerted because large conc of NVNese have been reported around city. A well-organized def plan has been drawn up, and US Mission expects probing atks rather than a full-scale offensive.
Meanwhile, a press report that 3 enemy battalions are poised on Thai northern border seems overdrawn. A Thai-Border Patrol Police sweep in northern Thailand against est 200 insurgents is now in progress. The insurgents were forced to flee from NW Laos during a similar sweep in Nov. Current opn has been coordinated with Lao Army, which has trps in blocking psn on its side of border.

CAMBODIA: Sihanouk has apparently qualified his psn on any Allied hot pursuit opn into his country. He cabled a Western newsman yesterday that his troops would not try to stop US forces (SVNese forces taboo) if they pursued Communists fleeing into uninhabited areas which are difficult for govt to control. The previous day, Cambodia's mil forces along SVNese frontier were placed on alert because of "serious skirmishes" between US-ARVN and VC trps along the border (area of Snoul on Rte 13). Another msg stated US-ARVN trps penetrated Cambodia but withdrew after "intervention by our trps."

Non Responsive