

~~TOP SECRET~~

FILE

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

24 January 1968

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

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
OPS - INT  
SUMMARY



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**WARNING**

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## OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 45 bn-size or larger opns in prog: 27 US, 17 ARVN, 1 FW. [REDACTED]

1 CTZ: BADGER CATCH, USMC 1-bn S&D opn, commenced 23 Jan, 37 nm NW Hue where est 700 en loc. [REDACTED]

On 23 Jan, USMC A-4E on close air spt msn downed by en gnd fire 2 nm NE Khe Sanh. Pilot recovered. [REDACTED]

On 21 Jan, in Opn SCOTLAND, 6 nm S of Khe Sanh, air observer directed 8 tac air strikes on en psns killing 40. On 22 Jan, 5 nm NW Khe Sanh arty and tac air strikes called in on 30-40 man en force killing 21. No US losses. [REDACTED]

On 22 Jan, 7 nm SE Quang Tri, USA trps engaged force. 52 en KIA; 1 US WIA. [REDACTED]

On 21 Jan, 28 nm S of Da Nang, USMC patrol directed arty and tac air strikes on tunnel complex killing 25 en. Patrol killed 7 more en while moving to be extracted by helo. No US losses. [REDACTED]

26 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- US: 2 KIA, 6 WIA; VC/NVA: 14 KIA, 14 pers det, 3 wpns. [REDACTED]

2 CTZ: On 22 Jan, in Opn PERSHING, USA co made contact with est 3 en cos 25 nm NNW Qui Nhon. Co reinforced by 1 USA co and contact continued for 8 hrs. Arty, armed helos, and tac air sptd. Losses -- US: 4 KIA, 19 WIA; VC/NVA: 128 KIA, 1 pers det, 17 indiv and 11 crew-served wpns. [REDACTED]

On 22 Jan, in Opn MAC ARTHUR, USA co conducted sweep of area 7 nm W of Pleiku where minor contact occurred previous day. During sweep, unit found 12 en bodies, 2 crew-served and 1 indiv wpn, 25 mines/grenades, 20 x 82-mm mortar rds, 3 B-40 rkt rds, and 300-400 rds small-arms ammo; 1 per det. On 22 Jan, 9 nm WNW Dak To, 2 USA cos made contact with en force and forced withdraw to their bn fwd spt base. En continued atk. 1 mortar rd impacted in ammo dump causing a fire which dest unk quantity 4.2-inch and 81-mm mortar ammo. En broke contact after 40 mins. Losses -- US: 7 KIA, 24 WIA; VC/NVA: 5 KIA. [REDACTED]

On 23 Jan, en force sptd by mortars atkd village 18 nm SE Ban Me Thout. Losses -- RF: 43 KIA, 46 WIA, and Dist Chief and RF co cmdr MIA; VC/NVA: unk. [REDACTED]

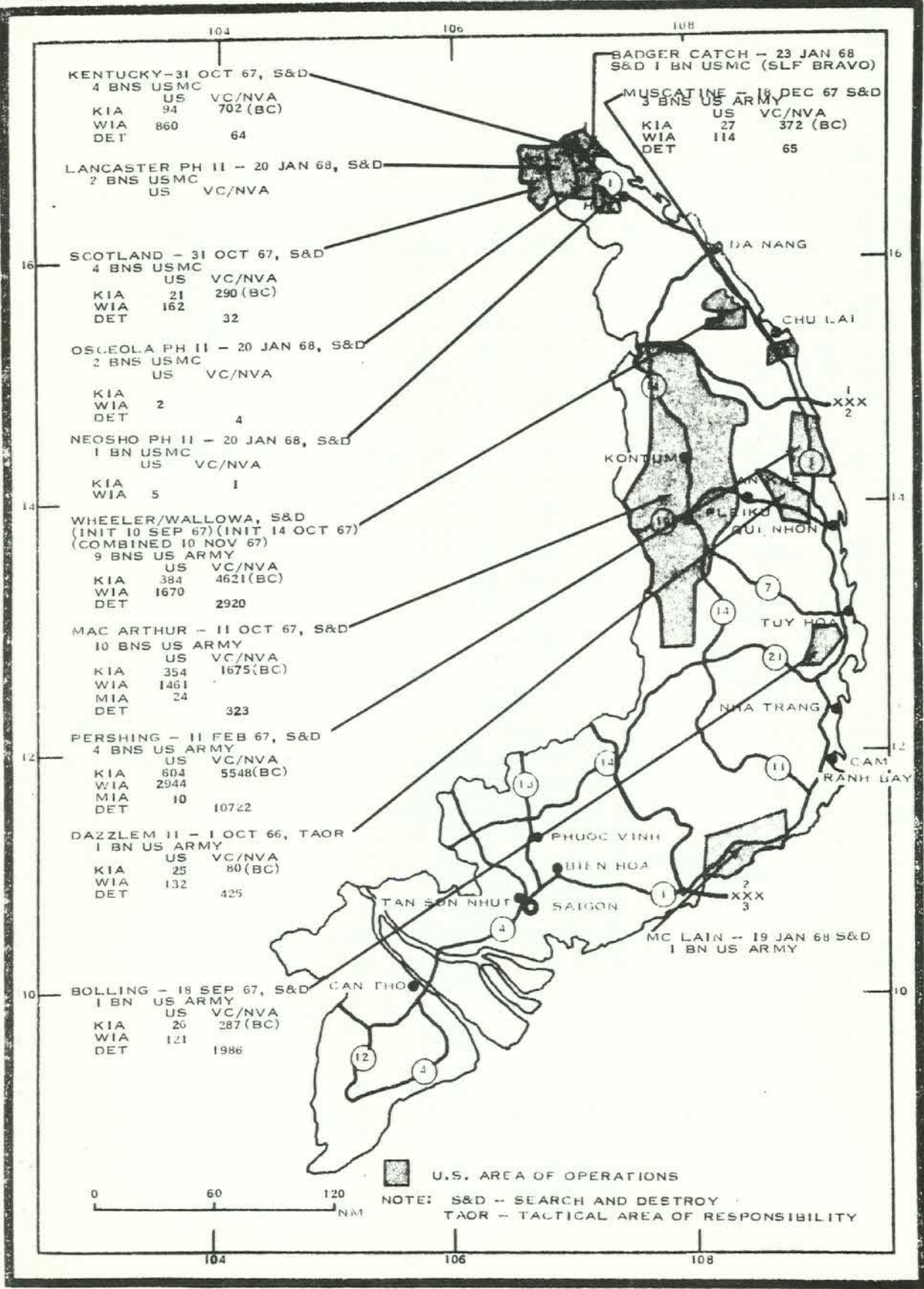
Hamlet of Go Boi, 5 nm W of Phan Thiet was atkd by est 2 en cos 22 Jan. Hamlet defended by RF co, sptd by arty. En broke contact after 4 hrs. Losses -- Friendly: 23 KIA (20 RF, 2 RD, 1 civ), 32 WIA (18 RF, 14 RD), 2 RF MIA, 7 wpns; VC/NVA: unk. [REDACTED]

8 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- ARVN: 3 KIA, 4 WIA, 2 wpns; VC/NVA: 1 KIA, 4 indiv wpns. [REDACTED]



**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM  
WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES  
(1ST & 2D CORPS)**

24 JANUARY 1968



KENTUCKY - 31 OCT 67, S&D  
4 BNS USMC  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 94 702 (BC)  
WIA 860 64  
DET

LANCASTER PH II - 20 JAN 68, S&D  
2 BNS USMC  
US VC/NVA

SCOTLAND - 31 OCT 67, S&D  
4 BNS USMC  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 21 290 (BC)  
WIA 162 32  
DET

OSCEOLA PH II - 20 JAN 68, S&D  
2 BNS USMC  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 2 4  
WIA  
DET

NEOSHO PH II - 20 JAN 68, S&D  
1 BN USMC  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 5 1  
WIA  
DET

WHEELER/WALLOWA, S&D  
(INIT 10 SEP 67) (INIT 14 OCT 67)  
(COMBINED 10 NOV 67)  
9 BNS US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 384 4621 (BC)  
WIA 1670 2920  
DET

MAC ARTHUR - 11 OCT 67, S&D  
10 BNS US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 354 1675 (BC)  
WIA 1461 24  
MIA 24  
DET 323

PERSHING - 11 FEB 67, S&D  
4 BNS US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 604 5548 (BC)  
WIA 2944 10  
MIA 10  
DET 10722

DAZZLE II - 1 OCT 66, TAOR  
1 BN US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 25 80 (BC)  
WIA 132 425  
DET

BOLLING - 18 SEP 67, S&D  
1 BN US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 26 287 (BC)  
WIA 121 1986  
DET

BADGER CATCH - 23 JAN 68  
S&D 1 BN USMC (SLF BRAVO)

MUSCATINE - 18 DEC 67 S&D  
3 BNS US ARMY  
US VC/NVA  
KIA 27 372 (BC)  
WIA 114 65  
DET

MC LAIN - 19 JAN 68 S&D  
1 BN US ARMY

U.S. AREA OF OPERATIONS  
NOTE: S&D - SEARCH AND DESTROY  
TAOR - TACTICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



3 CTZ: On 22 Jan, 23 nm ENE Saigon, ARVN co made contact with en force in bunker complex. Armed helos, arty, and tac air sptd. USA bn reinforced and en broke contact. Losses -- Friendly: 7 KIA (6 US, 1 ARVN), 11 US WIA; VC/NVA: 37 KIA. (C)

On 22 Jan, PF outpost 10 nm E of Saigon atkd by est 2 en cos. Armed helos and AC-47s sptd. En occupied outpost for several hrs then broke contact. Royal Thai ready reaction force en route to outpost had brief contact with est en co in same general area. Losses -- Friendly: 6 KIA (5 PF, 1 civ), 2 PF WIA, 5 PF MIA, 2 radios, 9 wpns; VC/NVA: unk. (C)

14 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- Friendly: 2 ARVN KIA, 1 US and 19 ARVN WIA; VC/NVA: 10 KIA, 3 wpns. (C)

4 CTZ: On 23 Jan, ARVN 3-bn security opn of 1 day duration 50 nm S of Rach Gai had light contact with en. Losses -- ARVN: 1 KIA; VC/NVA: 12 KIA, 5 indiv wpns. (C)

2 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- Friendly: none; VC/NVA: 21 KIA, 10 pers det, 4 wpns. (C)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 23 JAN: 18 B-52s bombed tgts 53 and 55 nm WNW Hue containing ammo stor, poss NVA regt, and supply area. 6 B-52s bombed tgt 44 nm WNW Hue containing stor area and transship pt. 5 B-52s bombed tgt 50 nm W of Hue containing elms of NVA regt and staging area. Above tgts threat to Khe Sanh; all strikes flown in spt Opn NIAGARA. No gnd follow-up sked. (C)

KHE SANH AREA: Hqs NVA 320 Div was loc by ARDF 3 nm NE of US Marine base at Than Son Lam "Rockpile" on 22 Jan. A terminal associated with 320th was also detected on 22d near "Rockpile." No change in loc of 3 regts NVA 304 Div, 95C Regt of NVA 325C Div, and 90 Regt, NVA 324B Div as reported in yesterday's OIS. As pressure mounts on Khe Sanh, a general increase is expected in level of en acty in countryside, esp in 1 CTZ. ~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

COMMAND AND CONTROL: Hanoi is apparently using maj NVNese Army hqs detected recently in Laos near western end of DMZ to control acty in western Quang Tri Prov and near DMZ (OIS 19 Jan). Hqs was some 40 km NW of Khe Sanh on 21 Jan and now communicates with elms of 4 NVA divs in 2 areas -- 304, 320, 324B, and 325C. New hqs was prob active in directing recent fighting in vic of Khe Sanh. A NVNese officer from 325C Div who rallied at Khe Sanh Afld on 20 Jan claims that Hanoi considers mil effort in Quang Tri so important that *Ministry of Defense* ~~DefMin~~ is personally directing it. ~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

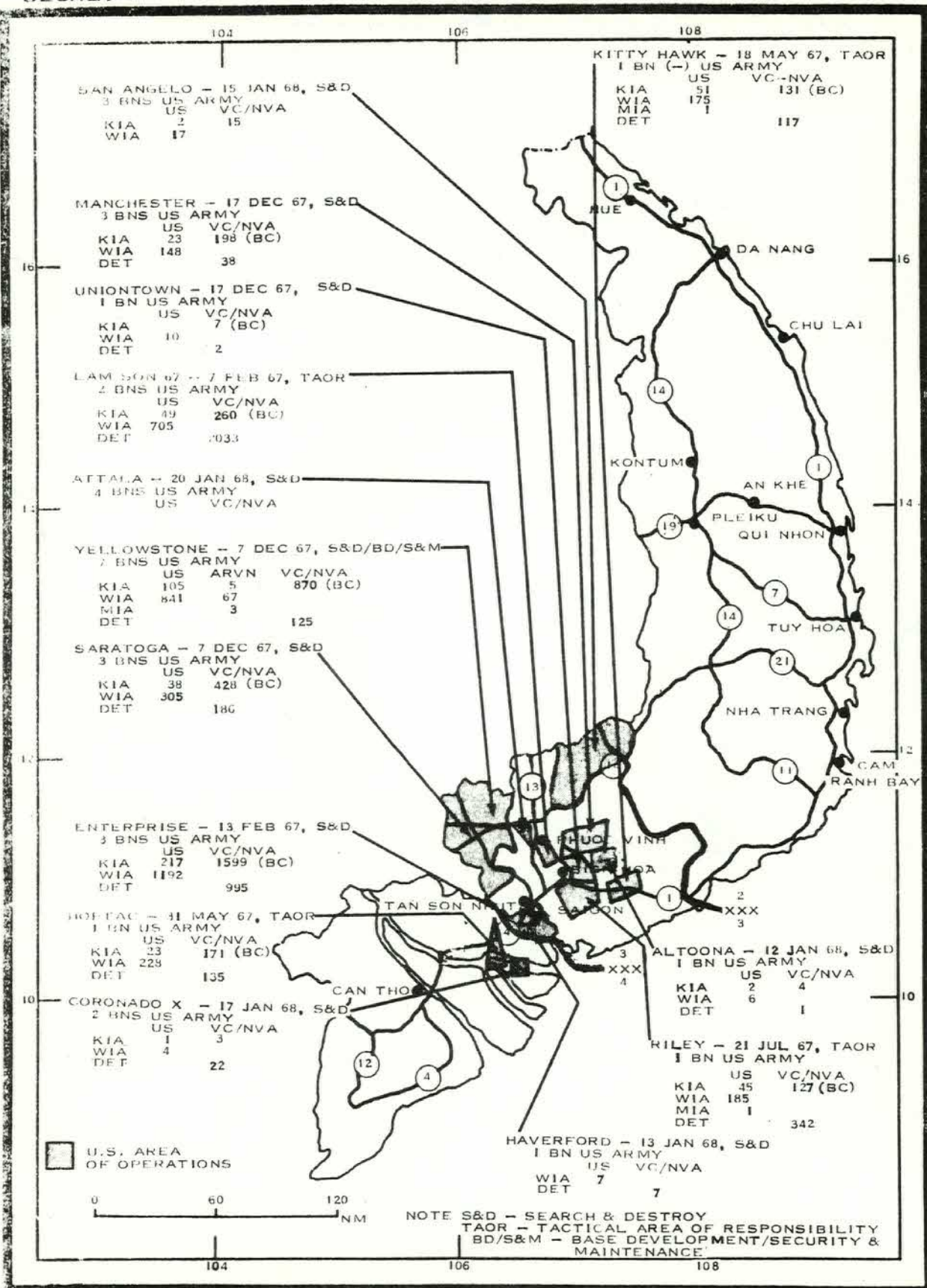
DEFECTOR: NVNese officer who turned himself in at Khe Sanh (brief above) said basic plan of 325C Div was to overrun every US base between Lao border and Con Thien before Tet. Quang Tri was to be liberated, he said, so as to achieve a powerful negotiating psn. Locs, msns, and recent actions of

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**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM  
WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES  
(3D & 4TH CORPS)**

24 JANUARY 1968



OIS 21-68

325C subordinates in Khe Sanh area point to an increase in pressure on base and an attempt to seize high terrain. Doubtful, however, that en expects to seize well-defended psns in Khe Sanh area with only 2 regts of 325C that defector said were engaged in area. ~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

TRI THIEN MR/CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: Indications continue that pop centers and mil installations in Tri Thien MR and central highlands will be atkd shortly. Numerous reports from Tri Thien MR claim 3 en bns and Hue City "Municipal Unit" are near Hue and may be preparing to atk city. In central highlands, hvy fighting will prob be renewed. On 20 Jan, an ARDF fix on Hqs NVA 24 Regt placed it in a new psn that significantly increases threat to Kontum City and to friendly units traveling on hways in area. A msg sent by a prob NVA 1 Div hqs to an NVA B-3 Front authority on 20th indicated that at least 3 inf bns were to conduct offensive opns in Duc Co area of Pleiku Prov. ~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

#### NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 23 JAN: 141 sorties (79 USN, 51 USAF, 11 USMC) dest/damaged 4/2 structures, 0/7 road segs, 0/8 gun psns, 0/2 RR sidings, 17/35 WBLC, 0/4 radar sites, 0/1 barracks area, 0/5 stor areas, 1/3 trks, 0/1 trk pk, 0/7 bridges, 0/4 RR segs, 0/56 RR cars, 0/1 rkt launchers, 0/3 ferries, 0/2 transship pts. ~~SECRET~~

Tgts within 30 nm Hanoi: Thai Nguyen Barracks. ~~SECRET~~

DOWNED AIRCRAFT: USN A-6A on armed recce in Rte Package 2 down to unk causes. 1 crewmember recovered, SAR continues for other crewmember. ~~SECRET~~

DECEPTION: On 20 Jan, air controllers at Phuc Yen and Hanoi staged a fake MIG air atk on US acft, poss to deceive US COMINT pers who provided MIG warnings to US pilots. ~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

#### LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 23 JAN: 360 sorties (281 USAF, 79 USAF) dest/damaged 3/18 stor areas, 0/3 bivouac areas, 0/22 trp concs, 50/60 trks, 4/15 road segs, 0/17 trk pks, 7/16 AAA sites, 0/3 gun sites, 4/1 bunkers, 0/4 fords. ~~SECRET~~

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