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

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

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

2 CTZ: On 22 Jan, in Opn PERSHING, USA co made contact with est 3 en cos 25 nm NNW Qui Nhơn. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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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 wpons; 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 wpons. (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 wpons. (C)

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

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 23 JAN: 18 B-52s bombed tghts 53 and 55 nm WNW Hue containing ammo stor, poss NVA regt, and supply area. 6 B-52s bombed tght 44 mm WNW Hue containing stor area and transship pt. 5 B-52s bombed tght 50 nm W of Hue containing elms of NVA regt and staging area. Above tghts 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. (C)

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 Afd on 20 Jan claims that Hanoi considers mil effort in Quang Tri so important that Div is personally directing it. (C)

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
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. TRIP THIEN MR/CENTRAL HIGHLANDS: Indications continue that pop
centers and mil installations in Tri Thienn MR and central
highlands will be atkd shortly. Numerous reports from Tri
Thienn MR claim 3 en bns and Hue City "Municipal Unit" are
near Hue and may be preparing to atk city. In central high-
lands, hvy fighting will prob be renewed. On 20 Jan, an
ARDF fix on Hqcs NVA 24 Regt placed it in a new psn that
significantly increases threat to Kontum City and to friendly
units traveling on hwys in area. A msg sent by a prob NVA 1
Div hqcs 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.

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, 0/2 RR segs, 0/56 RR cars, 0/1 rkt launchers, 0/3
ferries, 0/2 transship pts.

Tgtcs within 30 nm Hanoi: Thai Nguyen Barracks.

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

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.

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.

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