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FILE

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

19 February 1968

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
LAST
OPS - INT
SUMMARY

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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.

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WARNING

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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: There are 47 bn-size (22 US, 23 ARVN, 2 FW) or larger opns in prog. ~~(S)~~

The scope of the overall coordinated en acty on population centers and mil bases since 18 Feb cannot be interpreted as a "second wave." His widespread fire atks were accompanied but with few gnd assaults. Several reports allege, however, that atks in the "second phase" were to continue from 18 Feb to 1 March. Current atks, therefore, may be introductory to additional atks of greater intensity. ~~(S)~~

1 CTZ: At 160200 EST in Opn SALINE, USMC bn, sptd by arty, engaged unk-size en force 6 nm N of Quang Tri. Contact continued through morning 17 Feb. Losses -- US: 2 KIA, 3 WIA; VC/NVA: 24 KIA, 1 per det. ~~(S)~~

In Opn SCOTLAND, during period 152000-172000 EST, USMC elms at Khe Sanh combat base received 267 rds mixed caliber/type ordnance resulting in 1 US KIA and 18 WIA. ~~(S)~~

On 17 Feb, an en msg passed between unidentified elms in Khe Sanh area reported on Allied use of gas between 26 Jan and 14 Feb. Msg instructed that all units be issued gas masks. ~~(S)~~ Sec. 3.3

During period 15-17 Feb, USA units in Opn JEB STUART killed 36 en and seized 2 indiv wpns in 6 separate actions; US losses were 6 KIA and 9 WIA. ~~(S)~~

USMC forces operating in and around Hue reported 7 separate actions during period 142010-160600 EST. Cum losses -- US: 12 KIA, 84 WIA; VC/NVA: 82 KIA, 21 indiv and 12 crew-served wpns. At 170415 EST, USN LCM bladder boat carrying 10,000 gallons fuel on Hue River dest by RR fire. 1 US KIA and undetermined number WIA. ~~(S)~~

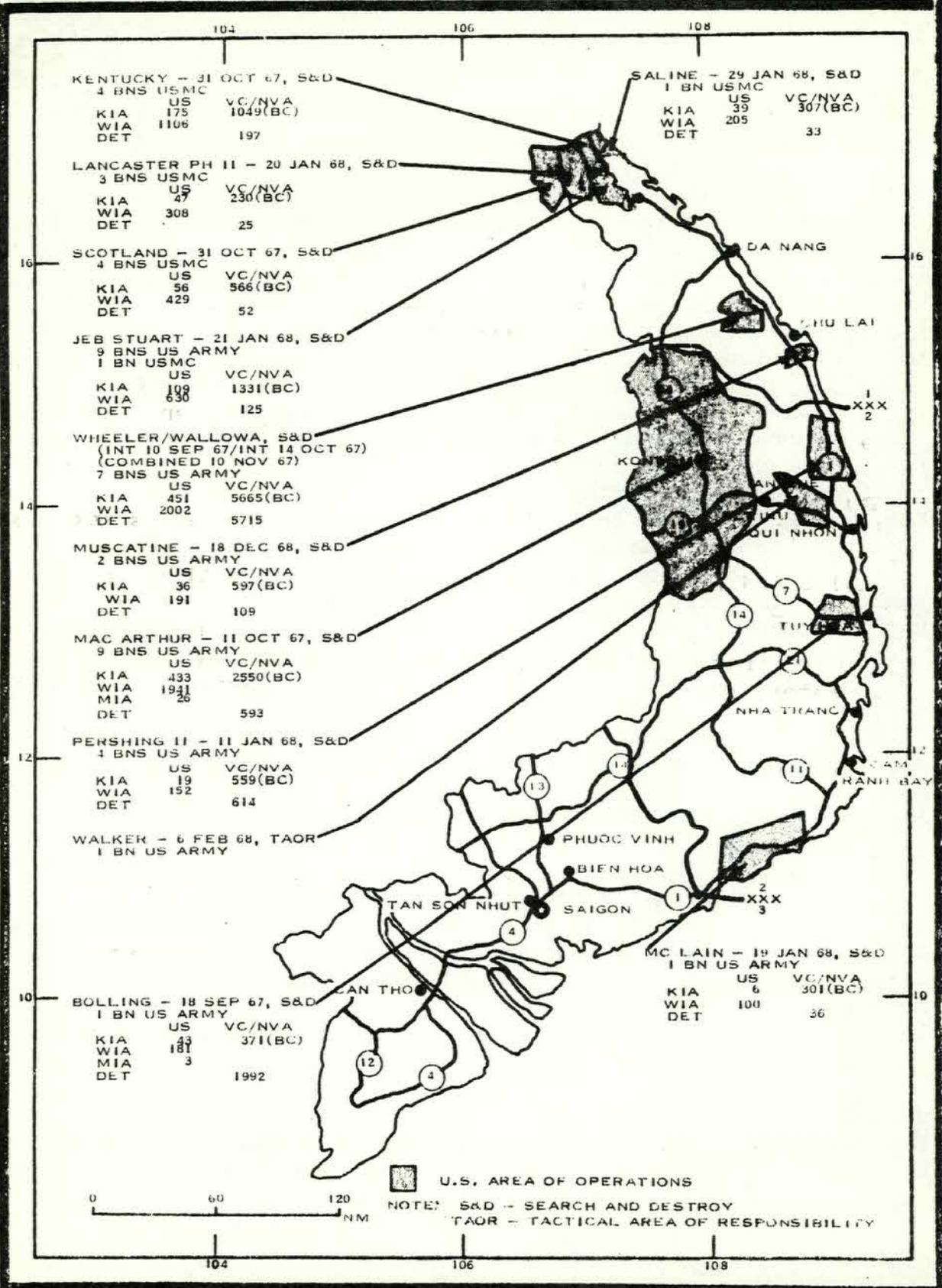
Several recent msgs reveal that en is moving to reinforce his forces in Hue. En msg of 18 Feb indicated that Hqs NVA 812 Regt along with its attached cos would be moving from Quang Tri City area to Hue region. An earlier msg suggested Hqs' 6 Bn would meet it en route. Other msgs disclose plans to resupply en units in Hue area. Above reminds that a new en command and control terminal was identified inside Citadel on 17th. ~~(S)~~ Sec. 3.3

At 171600 EST, base at Phu Bai, including MACV Forward, sustained 70 rkt/mortar rds. Counterbattery plan executed and tac air strikes sptd. En broke contact after 45 mins. Losses -- US: 4 WIA, 1 billet dest, and 2 billets, 2 mess halls, and 1 commo structure damaged; VC/NVA: unk. ~~(S)~~

At 181215 EST, USMC recon team atkd by unk-size en force employing CS gas 12 nm SSW Da Nang. AC-47s and armed helos are

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supporting as contact continues. No results reported. (S)

USA UH-1D on combat assault msn hit by gnd fire 14 nm S of Da Nang on 18 Feb. Acft crashed and was dest; 10 US MIA. (S)

Aerial recce of 16 Feb discloses that all 3 aflds in A Shau Valley are unusable. Aflds could, however, be used as drop zones. (S)

49 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- US: 53 WIA; VC/NVA: 47 KIA, 10 wpns. (S)

2 CTZ: At 171030 EST, Kontum Afld sustained 50 mortar rds. No cas or damage reported. (S)

ARVN outpost 6 nm W of Kontum sustained mortar and gnd atk by unk-size en force at 171030 EST. One-half of outpost was overrun. Gunships sptd. Results unk. Also, RF outpost 6 nm E of Kontum atkd at 171440 EST resulting in 15 RF KIA; en losses unk. (S)

Gia Nghia Afld received 5 mortar rds. Results unk. (S)

On 17 Feb, Dalat sustained mortar and gnd atk by 2 en cos. Also, power plant SE of city mortared but not damaged. As of 172300 EST, contact was light and sporadic. Cum losses are 12 ARVN KIA and 20 WIA; en unk. (S)

CIDG outpost 5 nm S of Dalat sustained en atk. Results unk. (S)

Di Linh district hqs sustained mortar/AWs atk with unk results. (S)

At 171330 EST, Phan Thiet sustained mortar atk followed by light gnd probes by est reinforced en bn. At 172055 EST, unk-size en force occupied 20% of town including province jail and hospital; est 500 prisoners were released. Arty, gunships, and naval gunfire sptd. Later, jail was retaken and unk number prisoners apprehended. At 180945 EST, helo landing zone occupied by elms of USA bn received 5 x 60-mm mortar rds heavily damaging CH-47 helo. As of 181030 EST, there was only light and sporadic contact with unk-size en el elms. Cum losses -- Friendly: 5 ARVN KIA, 35 WIA (1 US, 34 ARVN), 1 CH-47 damaged; VC/NVA: 102 KIA, 6 pers det, 39 indiv and 5 crew-served wpns. (S)

22 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- ARVN: 6 KIA, 18 WIA, 3 MIA; VC/NVA: 9 KIA, 5 pers det, 10 wpns. (S)

3 CTZ: USA 1-bn S&D opn, MANCHESTER, term 16 Feb after 78 days. Cum losses -- US: 37 KIA, 210 WIA; VC/NVA: 456 KIA, 85 pers det, 57 indiv and 28 crew-served wpns, 100 tons rice, 63 tac air sorties sptd. (S)

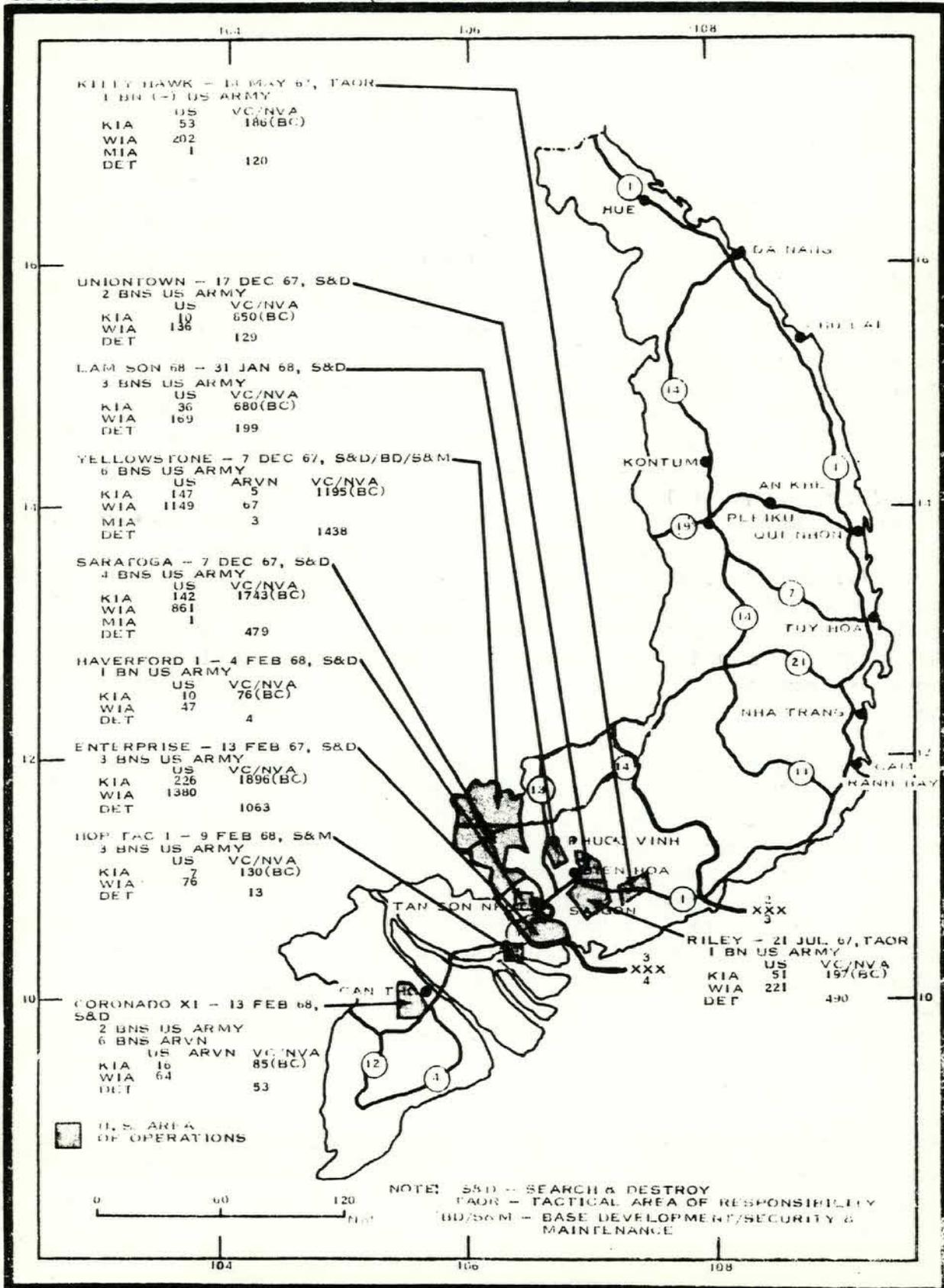
At 171215 EST, 14 nm NNW Saigon, ARVN bn sustained rkt/mortar sptd gnd atk from est en bn. Losses -- Friendly: 8 ARVN KIA, 1 US and 18 ARVN WIA; VC/NVA: 25 KIA, 5 indiv and 4 crew-served wpns. (S)

On 16 Feb, 100 sampans sighted 26 nm W of Saigon. 79 dest by tac air, gunships, and AC-47s; 23 secondary explosions observed. (S)

At 171200 EST, Tan Son Nhut AB sustained 100 mixed mortar/rkt rds resulting in 2 US KIA and 82 WIA. Equip losses -- USAF: 1 F-4C dest, 12 damaged (2 maj, 10 minor); 1 RF-101 dest, 8 damaged

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(1 maj, 7 minor); 2 RB-57s damaged (minor); 1 C-130 dest, 6 damaged (2 maj, 4 minor); 3 C-123s damaged (1 maj, 2 minor); 2 U-3Bs damaged (1 maj, 1 minor); 10 EC-47s damaged (3 maj, 7 minor); 1 R2 refueler dest; 3 vehicles dest; 5 buildings damaged (1 maj, 4 minor). USN: 1 C-117 damaged (minor). VNAF: 1 C-47 dest; 1 C-119 dest; 1 C-45 dest, 1 damaged (maj); 1 bldg dest, 6 damaged (4 maj, 2 minor). (S)

At 171220 EST, MACV compound on Tan Son Nhut sustained 6 mortar rds wounding 4 US and damaging 3 busses and a transformer. At 172317 EST, base received 3 x 122-mm rkt rds killing 1 US and wounding 4. No report of damage. 2 more rkts impacted at 180200 EST resulting in 2 US WIA. Afld remains open. (S)

On 18 Feb, 11 rkts hit Tan Son Nhut in 4 separate atks. 1 rd hit civ terminal. Cum losses -- 1 US KIA, 12 WIA (8 US, 4 unidentified), and 1 VNAF fire trk dest. (S)

At 171745 EST, Saigon Municipal Police Dept bldg received 30 x 82-mm mortar rds resulting in 7 Nat Police killed, 34 wounded, and 10 barrels of gasoline dest. (S)

VNMC bn engaged unk-size en force 1 nm E of Saigon at 171200 EST. Losses -- VNMC: 5 KIA, 11 WIA; VC/NVA: 80 KIA, en trk with 2 .50 cal machine guns and quantity small-arms ammo. (S)

At 171145 EST, 5 nm E of Saigon, Cat Lai ammo offloading berth sustained mortar/rkt atk. There were 2 MSTC contract ships, SS ANEVA WEST and SS EXPLORER, at the berth. 2 barges alongside ANEVA WEST received majority rkt rds. There was a fire, but no secondary explosions. SS EXPLORER received majority of mortar rds. Results were 19 merchant seamen wounded and minor damage to EXPLORER and 2 barges. (S)

At 171200 EST, 2 nm NW Tan Son Nhut, elms of ARVN bn received 20 mortar rds and the ARVN unit engaged unk-size en force. Contact continues. Losses -- ARVN: 7 KIA, 32 WIA; VC/NVA: 75 KIA, 13 indiv and 16 crew-served wpns, 20 grenades. (S)

Between 171430-171830 EST, elms of USA cav sqdn engaged unk-size en force 5 nm W of Tan Son Nhut killing 40. 2 US WIA. (S)

In Saigon, Opn TRAN HUNG DAO PHASE I term, and PHASE II began at 162300 EST. Opnl control all ARVN forces, less selected units, passed to CG III CTZ. Under PHASE II, secure areas of Saigon, Cholon, and Gia Dinh Prov were turned over to Nat Police, except for important installations where mil presence necessary. 3 ARVN abr and 1 ranger bn will gradually withdraw from Saigon to secure area around city. (S)

ARVN co ambushed by est en bn 10 nm S of Saigon on 17 Feb. Arty sptd and en broke contact after 2½ hrs. Losses -- ARVN: 36 KIA, 47 WIA; VC/NVA: 19 KIA, 8 indiv and 4 crew-served wpns. (S)

En commo of 16 Feb indicate that a terminal serving a high-level command elm is loc about 5 nm from Saigon. A prisoner cptrd in nearby Binh Duong Prov on 18 Feb said he was from 2 Bn, NVA 141

Regt. He claimed 1 and 3 Bns of Regt had departed for Saigon. This is first suggestion that elms NVA 141 Regt are loc in capital area. Above reports, alongside with current firings on and skirmishes in outlying areas of Saigon, are indicative that increased mil pressure on Saigon is in offing. ~~SECRET~~ Sec. 3.3

At 172133 EST, en bn atkd Song Be, 60 nm NNE Saigon. USA co reinforced by USA bn defended and en broke contact after 10 hrs. Losses -- US: 5 KIA, 26 WIA; VC/NVA: 25 KIA. Estimated 100 en still in city. ~~SECRET~~

At 171530 EST, Tay Ninh City sustained 40-50 rds 82-mm mortar fire. Armed helos sptd. Losses -- US: 5 WIA, 1 UH-1C damaged (minor); VC/NVA: unk. ~~SECRET~~

At 171057 EST, Chu Chi sustained 46 mortar and 5 x 122-mm rkt rds. Losses -- 30 US WIA, 2 UH-1Cs, 2 UH-1Ds, and 1 OH-23 damaged (minor). ~~SECRET~~

At 171200 EST, Bien Hoa Afld received 25 rds 122-mm rkt and 21 rds 82-mm mortar fire. Arty and gunships sptd. 1 F-100F and 1 bldg dest. 1 HH-43B, 1 C-130E, 3 MA-2 starting units, 1 J-57 jet engine, and 1 veh damaged. Center ramp and 1 taxiway cratered. All flying opns are normal. No friendly cas. ~~SECRET~~

At 171208 EST, Long Binh received a mortar/rkt atk followed by gnd probes by the en who penetrated 2 outer fences; they were repulsed at 3d defensive fence. Fires in ammo dump dest 7 pads of ammo. 5 US were injured while fighting fires; en losses were 3 KIA, 1 per det, and 4 wpns and small quantity demolitions. ~~SECRET~~

At 171327 EST, 8 nm NE Saigon, ARVN Quang Trung trning center at Thu Due came under en atk. Losses -- ARVN: 12 KIA, 101 WIA, 5 MIA, 1 indiv wpn; VC/NVA: 16 KIA, 1 crew-served wpn. (6)

17 other locs received mort or rkt atks on 17 Feb, for which no results are available. ~~SECRET~~

4 CTZ: At 161035 EST in Opn HOPTAC I, 2 nm NW My Tho, USA co on ambush msn engaged 100-man en force. 2 light fire teams sptd. At 161330 EST, same en force was again obs and was taken under fire by arty and light fire team. At 162200 EST, a USA co sweep of battle area disclosed 21 en bodies. Also, 4 .50 cal AA machine guns (on wheels) and 100 lbs small-arms ammo found. ~~SECRET~~

At 171210 EST, following locs sustained simultaneous en atks: (1) Can Tho received 30-40 rds RR fire resulting in 7 US WIA and 3 bldgs damaged (2) Binh Thuy Afld received 15 x 57-mm RR rds in billeting area resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 US and 1 ARVN WIA. No acft damage and runway remains open (3) Cao Lanh received est 60 x 82-mm mortar rds. 2 US KIA, 12 WIA, and MACV compound was 10% dama damaged; 7 en were KIA and 2 indiv wpns seized; (4) Soc Trang Afld received mortar and small-arms fire resulting in 1 US KIA, 7 US WIA, 2 warehouses and 1 x 3/4-ton trk and 2 unk-type helos damages; en losses are 45 KIA, 4 det, and 16 indiv wpns seized. Later at 181250 EST, Soc Trang Afld received 35 rds RR fire. Friendly losses were

10 US WIA, 3 bldgs, 4 UH-1s, 1 O-1, 1 fuel trk, and 1 x 2½-ton trk damaged. En losses unk. As of 181505 EST, afd is opnl; (5) Rach Gia sustained a 2-hr mortar/gnd atk. Friendly losses are 7 WIA (2 PF, 1 Nat Police, 4 civs); en losses unk. No report of damage; (6) My Tho received small arms/AWs, and B-40 rkt fire followed by gnd atk by est 3 en plats. Friendly losses are 15 WIA (9 US, 6 ARVN); en losses unk; (7) Cai Lay sustained mortar and gnd atk. Est 1-2 VC bns are reported on northern edge of city as contact continues. 3 RF were WIA; en losses unk; (8) Dong Tam received mortar and RR fire resulting in 28 US WIA; (9) Ben Tre received small arms/AWs, mortar, and B-40 rkt fire resulting in 3 ARVN WIA; (10) Chau Phu received mortar atk wounding 1 ARVN; (11) Dinh Dai sustained mortar atk with unk results; (12) Vinh Long received est 75 rds B-rkt and 50 rds 81-mm mortar fire. Unk number VC infiltrated into city and, as of 180500 EST, held cathedral. Contact is continuing. Losses -- Friendly: 10 ARVN KIA, 30 WIA (4 US, 26 ARVN); VC/NVA: 45 KIA, 12 det, 2 sampans dest, 25 wpns (23 indiv, 2 crew-served), and 5 B-40 rkts.

At 180615 EST, Vinh Long Afd received est 45 x 82-mm mortar rds. Losses -- Friendly: 1 US KIA, 23 WIA (20 US, 3 ARVN), 8 helos and 3 hangars damaged. (S)

USAF F-100F on close air spt msn hit by gnd fire and crashed 6 nm SW Can Tho at 161925 EST; both pilots rescued. (S)

USA UH-1B on combat assault msn 1 nm SW Soc Trang hit by gnd fire at 172040 EST. Helo crashed and was dest; 4 US are MIA. (S)

During period 151900-161900 EST, 11 en-initiated incidents reported resulting in 12 friendly pers KIA and 17 WIA; 2 en KIA and 1 indiv wpn seized. (S)

During period 151900-161900 EST, 2 small-unit contacts reported. Losses -- Friendly: 13 KIA, 41 WIA; VC/NVA: 27 KIA, 29 pers det, 1 PRC-10, 31 indiv wpns. (S)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 16-18 FEB: 14 B-52 msns (41 sorties) bombed tgts 3 to 17 nm from Khe Sanh containing trp concs, fortified psns, and supply/stor areas. 12 additional msns (48 sorties) struck other areas in SVN containing trp concs, base camps, and other spt elms. (S)

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 17, 18 FEB: 218 sorties (116 USAF, 58 USN, 44 USMC) dest/damaged 17/85 trks, 0/33 gun psns, 0/22 stor areas, 0/11 LOCs, 0/8 ferries, 0/7 trk pks, 0/6 trp concs, 0/3 AAA sites, 0/3 bridges, 0/2 SAM sites, 0/1 radar site. (S)

Tgt within 10 nm Haiphong: Cat Bi Afd. (S)

Other tgts: Bai Thuong and Vinh Aflds. (S)

SAM SIGHTINGS: On 17 Feb, 2 SAMs obs 51 nm WNW Hanoi. On 18 Feb, 5 SAMs obs vic Hanoi and 2 obs vic Haiphong. (S)

STATUS OF IL-28s: Two NVNese IL-28s returned to Phuc Yen from China yesterday. An IL-28 that was damaged by US air strikes in early Feb is still believed to be at Phuc Yen. There have been no firm indications that NVNese plan to use IL-28s in tactical acty.

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

LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 17, 18 FEB: 503 sorties (408 USAF, 72 USN, 23 USMC) dest/damaged 30/61 trks, 9/0 structures, 1/20 gun sites, 0/60 stor areas, 0/44 mil complexes, 0/35 trk pks, 0/29 LOCs, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3 (S)

AIRCRAFT LOSS: USAF F-105 on BARREL ROLL msn hit by gnd fire. Crew ejected 10 nm S of Udorn and were recovered uninjured. (S)

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 17, 18 FEB: 24 B-52s bombed tgts consisting of trp concs, fortified psns, and arty psns. (S)

CINCPAC

KOREAN SITUATION: On 18 Feb, 18 F-106s of 318th FIS closed Osan, Korea. On 18 Feb, 24 F-102s of 82nd FIS closed Naha, Okinawa. 1 F-102 aborted and remains at Suwon, Korea. (S)

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COMMUNIST CHINA: Naval motor torpedo boats based at Hainan Island were reflected in prob search acty off island's E coast shortly after the shutdown of a USN A-1H acft on 14 Feb. Chinese naval commo acty did not reveal if search opn was successful.

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