

~~TOP SECRET~~

File 3

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

6 January 1968

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

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

OPS - INT SUMMARY



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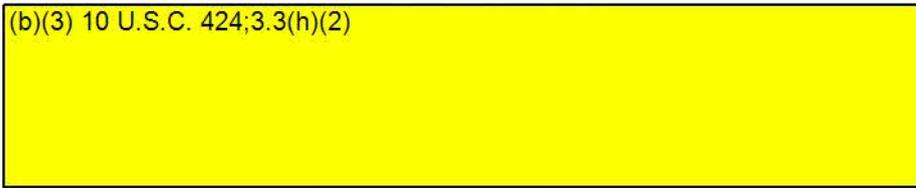
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WARNING

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OPERATIONAL/INTELLIGENCE BRIEFS

SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 37 bn-sized or larger opns in progress: 25 US, 11 ARVN, 1 Thai. (S)

1 CTZ: On 4 Jan in Opn KENTUCKY, USMC bn, 1 nm W of Con Thien, sustained 5 rds 120-mm mort and 32 rds 82-mm mort fire, resulting in 1 US KIA, 8 WIA. (S)

Update of en atk on Hau Duc Dist Hqs 25 nm W of Chu Lai (OIS 5 Jan) -- 26 ARVN, 1 civ KIA vice 0 ARVN; 46 ARVN, 3 civ WIA vice 60 ARVN; 6 ARVN MIA vice 0; 59 indiv, 1 crew-served wpns, 1 radio lost vice 0. VC/NVA: 56 KIA vice 35. En equip losses were 11 indiv, 5 crew-served wpns; 30 cases SA ammo, 62 RPG-2 rds; 50 rds 60-mm mort ammo, 270 grenades, 100 blocks TNT, 12 Bangalore torpedoes. (S)

26 small unit contacts resulted: 19 VC/NVA KIA, 3 wpns seized. 18 US WIA. (S)

2 CTZ: 8 sections of POL pipeline damaged by unk en force 20 nm NW Qui Nhon on 2, 3 Jan. Atk by satchel charges resulted in loss of 4400 gals. SA fire resulted in loss of 1,400 gals. (S)

RF co sustained 11-hr atk by en co 9 nm SE Ban Me Thuot on 4 Jan. 6 VC/NVA KIA; 5 RF KIA, 8 WIA, 15 MIA. (S)

Duc Trong Subsector MACV compound, 58 nm SSE Ban Me Thuot, received 25 rds 82-mm mort fire plus rifle grenade/SA fire from 40 VC/NVA. 14 US, 6 civ WIA. (S)

8 small-unit contacts resulted: 12 VC/NVA KIA, 4 wpns seized. 10 ARVN KIA 22 WIA, 15 MIA. (S)

3 CTZ: In Opn YELLOWSTONE, USA co air assaulting 54 nm NNW Saigon, engaged unk en force in bunkers near landing zone. An additional plat reinforced; contact lasted 6 hrs. 31 VC/NVA KIA. 10 US KIA, 14 WIA. 2 UH-1D helos sptg the opn were downed and destroyed by gnd fire. Crews not injured. 5 nm further south, US patrol base received 50 rds 60-/82-mm mort fire on 5 Jan. 11 US WIA. (S)

Airstrip at Phu Loi, 12 nm N of Saigon, received 60-80 rds 82-mm mort fire on 5 Jan. 7 US WIA; 9 O-1, 6 CH-47, 1 UH-1C sustained light, repairable damage.

Ambush of RF convoy 29 nm ENE Saigon on 4 Jan by en plat resulted 3 RF KIA, 4 WIA, 1 radio lost, 2 ½-ton trk and ½-ton trailer damaged. (S)

Opn FORREST, 2-Aust-Bn S&D, 22 Nov-5 Jan, term. 5 Aust KIA, 33 WIA. 50 VC/NVA KIA; 3 crew-served, 114 indiv wpns seized. (S)

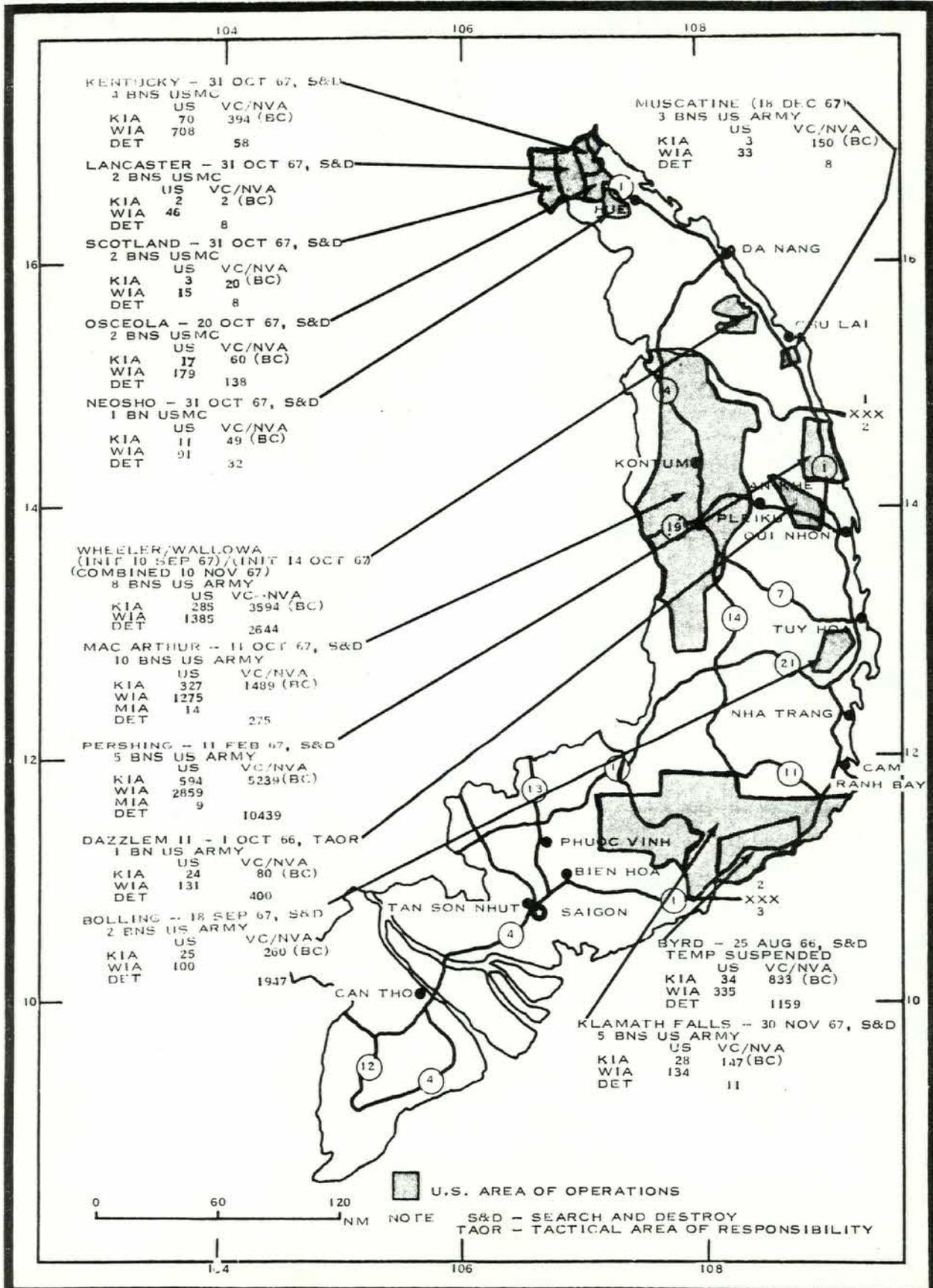
10 small-unit contacts resulted: 5 VC/NVA KIA. 1 US, 4 ARVN KIA; 6 ARVN, 1 civ WIA; 1 US, 5 ARVN MIA. (S)

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH INVOLVE PARTICIPATION BY US FORCES

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4 CTZ: 5 small-unit contacts resulted: 10 VC/NVA KIA, 6 wpns seized. 2 ARVN KIA; 2 US, 3 ARVN WIA: 1 wpn lost. ~~(S)~~
ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS: 9 B-52s in support of WHEELER/WALLOWA bombed en assembly area 28 nm SSW Da Nang at 050254 EST. At 051610 EST, 9 B-52s struck regt-size en force 28 nm NW Kontum in spt of Opn MACARTHUR; gnd follow-up by 4th Inf Div sked for this msn. ~~(S)~~

KHE SANH: Extensive recon of psns N of Khe Sanh being conducted by elms NVA 325C Div -- the same elms which conducted recon vic Con Thien Aug/Sep 67 (OIS 5 Jan). A 4 Jan msg stated that a recon elm had "completed survey of stipulated mil terrain features and (had) coordinated (with an unident elm) in looking for route to enter Ta Tuc (vic Khe Sanh).

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

COMUSMACV ANALYSIS OF 1 JAN TAY NINH ATTACK: Regt-size atk on US base camp was poss directed by COSVN, prob on assumption that, being lightly defended, it offered chance annihilate an entire US unit/gain major psych victory. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3(h)(

Noted that, since late Nov, at least 3 NVA bns have deployed from B3 Front area to MR 10 (3 provs in northern 3 CTZ bordering on Cambodia). (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424.

EXAMPLE OF ENEMY PROBLEMS: Plight of this subord of NVA 3 Div (loc Binh Dinh Prov) indicated by following excerpts from cptrd 4 Nov msg (prob file cy) sent to Hqs MR 5: "unavoidable losses" from B-52 raids and arty atks; regt unable launch concentrated regtl-level atk; at times trps had to do without meals and to eat gruel, owing lack of rice or money to buy it; dispensary bombed and equip/material destroyed; there was shortage of medicine and increase in number wounded/sick, with incidence of malaria -- also dysentery -- rising to 20-25% per company. ~~(S)~~ Sec. 3.3

SVN POLITICAL: (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424;3.3 Gen Thang has submitted resignation, which now in Thieu's office. Thieu expressed his preference that Thang be told to stay on job of revamping RF/PF.

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

NORTH VIETNAM

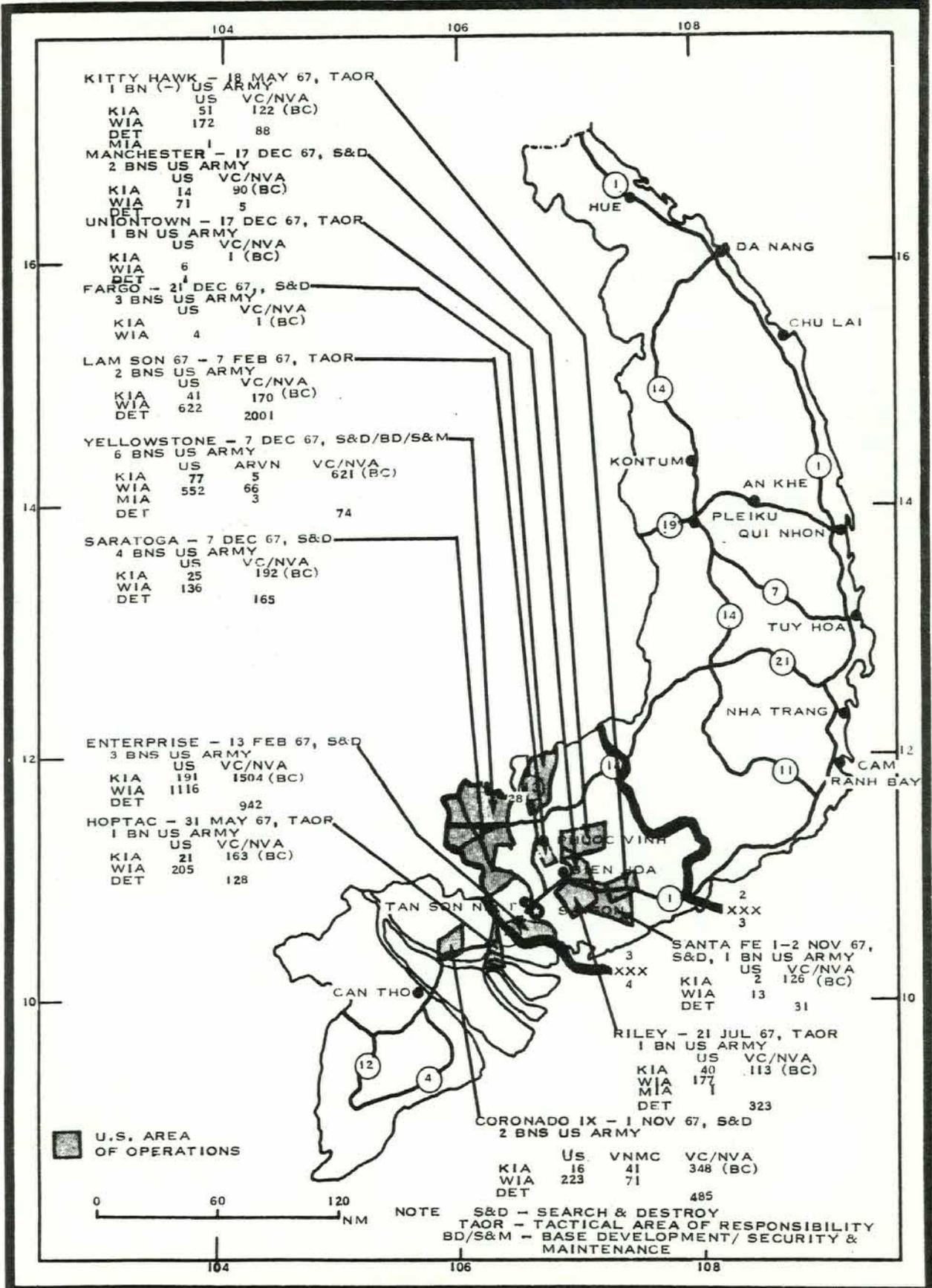
ROLLING THUNDER 57 OPERATIONS 5 JAN: 319 sorties (155 USN, 130 USAF, 34 USMC) dest/damaged 24/85 trks, 22/66 WBLC, 8/0 bldgs, 6/19 AAA sites, 5/10 bridges, 3/41 RR cars, 1/30 stor areas, 0/13 radar sites, 0/7 gun sites, 0/4 transship pts, 0/3 trk pks, 0/2 stag areas, 0/2 SAM sites, 0/1 trp concs, 0/2 RR yds, 0/1 afld, and LOCs. ~~(S)~~

Tgts 30 nm Hanoi: SAM site 5; Ke Sat hwy bridge. ~~(S)~~

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

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Other Significant Tqts: Dong Muc RR Bridge; Kep afd; SAM site 260; Lang Son RR hwy bridge bypass; Lang Giai RR yd. (S)
ACFT LOSS: USN A-4E downed unk cause 3 nm S of Haiphong at 050305 EST. Pilot believed cptrd. (S)

MIG SIGHTINGS: No ord jettisoned and no engagements involved in following: 4 USAF F-4Ds obs 1 MIG-21, 38 nm N Hanoi at 042000 EST. 4 USAF F-105Ds obs 3 MIG-21s, 26 nm NNE Hanoi at 041949 EST. 4 USAF F-4Ds obs 1 MIG-17, 18 nm NE Hanoi at 040325 EST. 4 USAF F-4Ds obs 3 MIG-21, 85 nm WSW Hanoi at 041931 EST. (S)

4 USAF F-105Fs exchanged cannon fire with 6 MIG-17s, 36 nm NNE Hanoi at 041952 EST. 1 US acft downed (OIS 5 Jan). (S)

16 USAF F-105Ds obs 2 flights of 4 MIG-21s at 041942 and 041954 EST, 36 nm NNE Hanoi. 4 of the US acft were engaged by 4 MIG-17s at 041951 EST. 2 MIGs damaged by cannon fire. No US damage; 42 MK 117s jettisoned. (S)

SAM SIGHTINGS: 12 abn SAMs obs in 18 nm radius of Hanoi on 4, 5 Jan. (S)

POSSIBLE COASTAL DEFENSE MISSILE SITES: On 5 Jan, ORISKANY acft twice photoed subject sites (described below), then struck Site 1, extensively damaging it; Site 2 was empty, based on 5 Jan photos. Both sites were to be struck again at 3:30 AM EST 6 Jan. (TOP SECRET, RFD)

Prelim examination of 19 Dec low-level aerial photos revealed 2 revetted, 6-psn prob CD missile sites loc 3.4 nm apart (7 and 10 nm) SE Thanh Hoa and a few hundred ft from sea. Both sites contained camouflaged equip: (1) Site 1 contained what appeared to be 1 prob SS-N-2/STYX naval SSM, poss mounted on truck, and 2 poss launchers; STYX' effective ship-mounted range is about 20 nm; not detected in land-based [redacted]

[redacted] but evidence exists that it adaptable thereto (with poss range to about 30 nm); (2) Site 2 contained camouflaged poss launchers plus unident equip. Both sets of launchers appear similar to, but shorter than, SSC-2/SAMLET CD msl launcher. (b)(3) 10

(Independent of -- but conceivably related to -- above are following items of poss interest: (1) Prelim Watch Cmte agenda item noting that on 12 Dec Wilfred Burchett said that Hanoi had placed (date not stated) complete ban on all visitors, incl himself (no other info); (2) [redacted]

[Large redacted block]

MIG-21s: 2 returned Phuc Yen from Yunnani 5 Jan. Est MIG-21s NVN 13, largest number there in several months. NVN may be encouraged by recent combat successes -- MIG-21s have downed 13 of 16 US acft since last Jun. We may poss see more KorComs flying MIG-21s and more atks by mixed KorCom-NVN forces. 8-10 MIG-17s believed NVN. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424.3.3(h)(2)

[Redacted]

SOV MERSHIP: PERESLAVL ZALESSEKIJ disabled 4 Jan, allegedly as result US air strikes Haiphong area. Skipper reported 8 bombs dropped -- 7 impacting 10-30 meters from ship, with 8th hitting an alongside barge, detonating 25 minutes later and causing much damage to engine room/punctures in hull. [Redacted]

[Redacted] 3 grps USN acft atkd bridges/ferries/waterways W/SW of Haiphong port during time of incident. Analysis of opreps, however, fails confirm skipper's claim. 7 SAMs fired at US acft during raids - 3 during time of incident; 2 of 7 not obs detonate; none seen to hit ground. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424.3.3(h)(2)

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424.3.3(h)(2) [Redacted]

LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS 5 JAN: 130 sorties (114 USAF, 16 USMC) dest/damaged 11/23 trks, 2/1 structures, 1/2 (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 1/0 bunker, 0/29 road segs, 0/19 trk pks, 0/16 stor areas, 0/10 gun sites, 0/7 trp concs, 0/4 fords, 0/1 bivouac area. (S)

* * *

[Redacted]

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