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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SOUTH VIETNAM

GROUND OPERATIONS: 42 bn-size or larger opns in prog: 26 US, 3 FWF, 13 ARVN.

1 CTZ: 30 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses --
US: 9 WIA; ARVN: 16 WIA; VC/NVA: 23 KIA, 5 det, 1 wpn.

2 CTZ: 9 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses --
ARVN: 1 KIA, 4 WIA; VC/NVA: 2 KIA, 2 det.

3 CTZ: USA Opn MANCHESTER, 2-bn S&D opn, init 17 Dec 26 nm NE Saigon.
USA Opn UNIONTOWN, 1-bn TAOR opn, init 17 Dec 17 nm NE Saigon.

USA Opn STRIKE/UNIONTOWN, 2-bn S&D opn not prev reported, term 17 Dec after 1 mo opn. Losses -- US: 34 KIA, 127 WIA; VC/NVA: 100 KIA, 8 det, 8 wpns.

Updated report on downed helos 23 nm WNW Saigon indicate the 3 UH-1 acft in an unsecure area were extracted. Adjusted cas figures: US: 3 WIA; CIDG: 5 KIA, 12 WIA; VC/NVA: 42 KIA, 5 wpns.

20 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- US:
1 KIA, 11 WIA, 1 MIA; ARVN: 3 KIA, 5 WIA; VC/NVA: 21 KIA.


4 CTZ: ARVN Opn LONG PHI 9/144, 3-bn S&D opn, started 17 Dec 30 nm SE Can Tho. 2 ARVN bns contacted est en co. Losses -- ARVN: 3 KIA, 12 WIA; VC/NVA: 105 KIA, 9 det, 31 wpns.

11 small-unit contacts resulted in following losses -- ARVN:
4 KIA, 16 WIA; VC/NVA: 18 KIA, 9 det, 11 wpns.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 18 DEC: 6 B-52s bombed area 21 nm NNE Tay Ninh containing major LOCs, base camps, elms of VC local force bn and mortar psns. Gnd follow-up by elms US 25th Inf Div. 6 B-52s bombed area 41 nm NW Hue containing elms of NVA 3 Bn, 803 Regt; NVA 4 Regt; stor area; gun psns; and bunkers. 9 B-52s bombed area 36 nm NNW Nha Trang containing elms of NVA 5 Div and southern front hqs.

NORTH VIETNAM

ROLLING THUNDER OPERATIONS 18 DEC: 233 sorties (109 USN, 72 USAF, 52 USMC) dest/damaged 10/9 bldgs, 9/30 trks, 6/1 WBL, 3/6 RR cars, 3/10 bridges, 10 U.S.C.424:3, 1/0 CD site, 0/29 gun psns, 0/6 stor areas, 0/6 SAM sites, 0/2 trp concs, 0/2 trk pk, 0/1 radar sites, and LOCs.
Tgts within 30-nm radius Hanoi: Hanoi RR/Hwy Bridge; Hoa Lac Afd; 10 SAM sites.

MIG ENGAGEMENTS 17 DEC: 4 USAF F-4Ds engaged 2 MIG-21s, 19 nm SSW Haiphong 17 Dec. 3 FALCONS and 2 ATOLLS fired. No damage. 5 USAF F-4Ds engaged 2 MIG-17s and 1 MIG-21, 24 nm SSW Haiphong 17 Dec. 2 F-4Ds jettisoned ord. 3 SPARROWS and 1 ATOLL fired. No damage.

SAM SIGHTINGS 17 DEC: 70 SAMs obs -- 7 vic Vinh, 8 vic Haiphong, 55 vic Hanoi.

ARC LIGHT OPERATIONS 18 DEC: 9 B-52s bombed area 48 nm NW Hue containing arty psns and elms NVA 324B Div. 9 B-52s bombed area 48 nm NW Hue containing elms NVA 270 Regt, base/stor area, and arty psns. PHUC YEN/KEP AFLDS: Tactical fighter opns were being conducted on 18 Dec from both aflds following strikes in which bombs fell "west and south" of Phuc Yen and "lots of bombs hit afd" at Kep. (Kep was struck 161933 EST; Phuc Yen, 170335 EST.) SIGINT indicates that, on 17 Dec, 4 (poss 5) NVN-piloted MIG-21s returned to NVN from Yunanni, landing at Phuc Yen about 0047 EST. No info re damage, if any, to acft at Phuc Yen or Kep. This is first detected return of MIG-21s from Yunanni; had been est 19 MIG-21s there as of 14 Dec.

NVA 304/320 DIVS: Re 304 Div, current RDF locations are: (1) Hqs plus 2 regts in general Tchepone area W of Keh Sanh; (2) 1 regt S of Vinh; (3) 1 regt N of Dong Hoi; (4) a fifth (poss arty) regt near Lao border W of Dong Hoi. Re 320 Div, late intercepts raise possibility that Hqs (last loc 7 Dec near Vinh) may soon be loc near Tchepone and that 1 regt may be near Vinh; other subords unloc. Intercepts also indicate an association of elms of both divs with NVA 559 Tpt Gp -- major NVA log hqs in southern Laos. The shipment of large ants of ordnance to 559th has been noted in commo during recent months.

REPORTED CHICOM ACFT INSIGNIA: A US pilot has reported that 2 MIG-17s involved in a 17 Dec engagement had "ChiCom markings". Have been other reports to same effect in past. Acft markings used by NVN are very similar to those of ChiComs. ChiCom acft not known to be operating in NVN.

MORE SAM SITES: Site 263 loc 6 nm SE Hanoi. Site 264 (prob occ) loc nearby. Site 265 (occ) loc 7 nm NNW Haiphong. Add depth.

LAOS

BARREL ROLL/STEEL TIGER OPERATIONS: 130 sorties (102 USAF, 24
USMC, 4 USN) dest/damaged 16/24 trks, 9/0 structures, 3/2 WBL craft, 2/15 gun sites, 0/52 road segs, 0/20 trk pks, 0/6 stor areas, 0/6 trp concs, 0/3 bridges, \textsuperscript{(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424; 3} 0/2 interdiction pts. \textsuperscript{(b)}

GROUND ACTIVITY: Friendly psn near Lima Site 85 (SW Sam Neua, in MR 2) atkd 16 Dec by NVA co, according to FAR msg. Ground observer reports continue indicate significant movements of supplies/reinforcements from NVN toward MR 2; arrival would pose serious threat to key psns in north. \textsuperscript{(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424; 3.3(h)(2)}

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