KHE SANH MILITARY COMPLEX
SOUTH VIETNAM
1639N 10644E

(SEE NPIC BRIEFING BOARD L-4809)

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

   THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE KHE SANH MILITARY COMPLEX,
   WHICH IS USED AS A BASE FOR OBSERVATION AND INTERDICATION OF ENEMY
   INFILTRATION ACTIVITIES.

2. LOCATION:

   KHE SANH MILITARY COMPLEX IS LOCATED AT 1639N 10644E ALONG
   ROUTE 9 WHICH CROSSES THE LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER APPROXIMATELY 9NM
   WEST OF THE COMPLEX.

3. BACKGROUND:

   THE ANTICIPATED ACTION AT KHE SANH BEGAN WITH ROCKET AND
   MORTAR SHELLING OF THE AIR BASE ON THE MORNING OF THE 21ST. 1

   THE BASIC PLAN, AS RECOUNTED BY THE RALLIER, WAS "TO FORCE
   U.S. TROOPS OUT OF SOUTH VIETNAM THROUGH NEGOTIATION.
   BEGINNING WITH KHE SANH, EVERY U.S. BASE BETWEEN THE LAOS
   BORDER AND CON THIEN IS TO BE TAKEN BY TET.  BY LIBERATING QUANG TRI
   PROVINCE A POWERFUL NEGOTIATING POSITION WILL BE ACHIEVED." THE EFFORT
   WAS "SO IMPORTANT" THAT IT WAS CONTROLLED DIRECTLY BY THE NORTH

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VIETNAMESE DEFENSE MINISTRY. 2

THE THREAT TO THE KHE SANH AREA REMAINS SERIOUS. ENEMY OPERATIONS ON 27 AND 28 JANUARY, HOWEVER, WERE RELATIVELY MINOR, CONSISTING OF SOME MORTAR FIRE ON THE BASE AND ABOUT 20 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKET FIRE ON U.S. MARINES OPERATING IN THE VICINITY. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT. 3

4. MISSION READOUT:

[Image of a map depicting the Khe Sanh military complex. The insertions describe the area around Khe Sanh, which includes Xom Cham Airfield and the collocated U.S. military base.]

INSERT, [Image insert] DEPICTS THE KHE SANH VILLAGE. INSERTS, FRAMES RESPECTIVELY, DEPICT HILLS 881 AND 861. BOMB CRATERS AROUND BOTH OF THESE OUTPOSTS INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED VERY CLOSE AIR SUPPORT.

25X1

1 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 15-68, 22 JANUARY 1968 (SECRET)
2 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 17-68, 24 JANUARY 1968 (SECRET)
3 DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 20-68, 29 JANUARY 1968 (SECRET)