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Thursday, April 4, 1968, 9:23 a.m.

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number sixty on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ/A Shau Valley for the 24-hour period of April 3, 1968.

Yesterday at Khe Sanh, low clouds and fog persisted until early afternoon. Weather conditions remained favorable up to 5:00 p.m., when ceilings and visibility lowered to near 500 feet and one mile, respectively. These conditions continued until 9:00 a.m. this morning. A similar pattern is expected today with only slight improvement in conditions predicted.

Resupply for the reporting period amounted to 97 short tons. In addition 21 replacements were flown to Khe Sanh. Five C-130 and three C-123 aircraft conducted airdrops. Nine helicopters landed and delivered cargo and passengers.

The 1st Air Cavalry Division continued to build up artillery assets in the Operation Pegasus area of operation. Six 155mm and four 8 inch howitzers were displaced to a landing zone near Ca Lu. Currently there are 102 tubes supporting the Ca Lu - Khe Sanh complex with 39 additional 105mm howitzers and sixteen 175mm guns supporting from rock pile and Camp Carroll.

The enemy fired 75 artillery and 57 mortar rounds at Khe Sanh Combat Base yesterday. Ten Marines were wounded (one evacuated).

In Operation Pegasus, the 1st Cavalry Division continues attacks to the west of Ca Lu toward Khe Sanh. The 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division, air assaulted to positions south east of Khe Sanh yesterday afternoon. Four kilometers south east of the base, Troop "A", 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, engaged 200 North Vietnamese Army in a trench complex with gunships. This engagement killed 20 North Vietnamese Army with no friendly losses.

Yesterday afternoon I visited landing zone stud and Khe Sanh. The morale of the troops is very high and they are eagerly assuming the offensive.

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AF Guide, SAH Records 4/4/88  
By DHW/RG, NARA, Date 2/16/96

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E.O. 12356, Sec 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By DHW/RG, NARA, Date 2/16/96

Elsewhere in Quang Tri Province, the 3rd Marine Division initiated Phase II of Task Force Kile (Phase I was the deception offensive northeast of Dong Ha). In Phase II the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines, in coordination with the 2nd ARVN Regiment sweeps south from Gio Linh with final objectives along the Song Bo Dein river west of Dong Ha.

A total of 136 tactical air sorties were flown in support of Operation Pegasus. Of these, 46 were in the immediate vicinity of Khe Sanh. Three secondary explosions, damage of one trench, seven road cuts, and destruction of nine bunkers was observed.

Four ARC LIGHT strikes (24 sorties) supported Khe Sanh and Operation Pegasus. No secondary explosions were observed. Six missions are scheduled for today.

Aerial surveillance in A Shau included an early morning radar mission which showed one moving target indicator in the valley. An additional morning photo mission revealed the usual occupied anti-aircraft positions.