

INFORMATION

Pres. file

11

Friday, February 16, 1968  
9:15 a. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

In DMZ:

- scattered shelling;
- an incredible number of secondary explosions (p. 2);
- 119 tons delivered.

We have a firm report that one enemy unit around Khe Sanh has 193 combat-ready men from an original 289. How they lost 96 is not indicated.

W. W. Rostow

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11a

Friday, February 16, 1968, 8:40 am

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the twelfth report on the Khe Sanh - DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 15, 1968.

Enemy shelling continued throughout much of northern First Corps yesterday as Khe Sanh Combat Base and neighboring areas in proximity to the DMZ received scattered incoming rocket, artillery and mortar rounds. Latest information received indicates that the enemy fired 14 rocket rounds and 110 rounds of mixed caliber mortar at the Khe Sanh Combat Base, resulting in two Marines killed, 28 wounded (16 evacuated). While Khe Sanh bore the heaviest barrage, moderate concentrations fell upon other friendly locations, as Marine elements at Camp Carroll received five mid-afternoon mortar rounds and 9 rounds of 152 artillery. Fifty-two additional mortar rounds impacted four kilometers southwest of Gio Linh, in the area occupied by the 3d Battalion, 3d Marines. The 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, in the vicinity of Quang Tri Airfield, received five mortar rounds and at noon, the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, at Con Thien, received 30 rounds of mortar.

In Operation Lancaster, elements of K Company, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines engaged an unknown size enemy force 12 kilometers northeast of Khe Sanh. Relief force of I Company, 3d Battalion, 9th Marines arrived to render support. Contact broke at 3:45 PM but resulted in 12 Marines killed, 107 wounded (37 evacuated). Enemy casualties are unknown at this time.

In other action in northern Quang Tri Province, small unit contacts in Operation Kentucky accounted for three North Vietnamese Army killed; two additional North Vietnamese Army were confirmed as a result of mortar mission on an enemy location. No significant contacts were reported in either the Napoleon or Saline Operations.

Disposition of friendly forces and allied armament in the Khe Sanh area did not change during the period.

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Authority OSD Dec 1/3/79

By SP/12, NARA, D

In all, there were 317 tactical air sorties flown in support of the Khe Sanh area and the adjacent Niagara area. Marine aircraft flew 111 sorties in support of Khe Sanh delivered 282 tons of ordnance. Bomb Damage Assessment included five structures damaged, (3 - 50 caliber machine gun position destroyed, and two tanks destroyed. The Air Force flew 166 sorties and the Navy flew 40, reporting the attack on two major supply areas. One supply area six nautical miles south of Tchepone had a total of 89 sorties with over 500 secondary explosions and fires. A second storage area had 23 sorties with the Forward Air Control reporting over 1000 secondary explosions. B-52's flew 15 ARC LIGHT strikes (45 sorties) on Niagara targets.

Khe Sanh was resupplied with 119 short tons during the period. A total of 19 sorties (Air Force: five C-130 air drops; 11 - C-123 airlanded) (Marines: one C-130; two CH-53 airlanded) delivered the material.

For the next 24 hours the Marine Tactical Air Sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area will total 44. The Air Force plans 202, and the Navy plans 100. ARC LIGHT planning calls for 15 strikes (45 sorties) continuing the Bugle Note Series in the Niagara area.

Regarding the weather for the period in the Khe Sanh area, the sky was mostly cloudy with ceilings near 2000 feet during the daylight hours of February 15 but lowering to 1500 feet broken after sunset, and remaining so throughout the night. For the next 24-hour period, the morning visibility will be restricted to 1 - 3 miles with ground fog beginning about 6 AM, and will gradually improve to 7 miles by noon. The sky will be mostly cloudy with the lower ceiling near 1000 feet, but improving to 1000 feet scattered, 2500 feet broken from 1 PM to 7 PM.



THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

16 February 1968  
7:00 AM EST

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Supply Status at Khe Sanh as of 8:00 PM,  
15 February EST (9:00 AM 16 February, SVN Time)

1. The Khe Sanh Dump and Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) status  
as of the above time is as follows:

|  | PREVIOUS STATUS        |  |
|--|------------------------|--|
|  | DAYS SUPPLY<br>ON HAND | 8:00 PM 15 FEB EST<br>(9:00 AM 14 FEB SVN) |

Class I (Rations)

|                         |   |        |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| Meal, Combat Individual | 7 | 8 days |
| B Rations               | 9 | 9 days |

Class III (Fuel)

|                        |   |         |
|------------------------|---|---------|
| Aviation Gas (AVGAS)   | 9 | 10 days |
| JP-4 (Jet Fuel)        | 2 | 3 days  |
| Motor Gasoline (MOGAS) | 4 | 4 days  |
| Diesel                 | 2 | 4 days  |

On-hand amounts do not include 22 short-tons  
delivered during this period.

Class V (Ammunition)

a. High Explosive

|                 |    |             |
|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 60-mm mortar    | 15 | 15 days     |
| 81-mm mortar    | 19 | 18 days     |
| 90-mm (Tank)    | 87 | 87 days     |
| 4.2" mortar     | 32 | 33 days     |
| 105-mm howitzer | 12 | 11 1/2 days |
| 155-mm howitzer | 21 | 20 days     |

b. Anti-Tank

Rounds on Hand

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 90-mm HEAT                      | 385   |
| 66-mm rocket (LAW)              | 1,226 |
| Anti-tank mines (M-15)          | 48    |
| Anti-tank mines (M-19)          | 334   |
| Anti-tank mines (M-21)          | 100   |
| 106-mm recoilless rifle (HEP-T) | 520   |
| 3.5" rocket                     | 690   |

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1988

By rg, NARA Date 2-20-92

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|              | PREVIOUS STATUS      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| DAY'S SUPPLY | 8:00 PM 13 FEB EST   |
| ON HAND      | (9:00 AM 14 FEB SVN) |

Class V (COFRAM)

|                        |    |         |
|------------------------|----|---------|
| 105-mm howitzer        | 5  | 5 days  |
| 155-mm howitzer        | 5  | 5 days  |
| 40-mm grenade launcher | 5  | 5 days  |
| Hand grenades          | 10 | 10 days |

2. On 15 February Khe Sanh was resupplied with 114 tons as follows:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Class I       | 5 tons  |
| Class II & IV | 18 tons |
| Class III     | 22 tons |
| Class V       | 69 tons |

*Marshall B. Garth*  
MARSHALL B. GARTH  
Brigadier General, USA  
Deputy Director for  
Operations (NMCC)

DISTRIBUTION

SECDEF  
DEPSECDEF  
CJCS  
DJS  
VDJS  
J-4  
J-30  
J-31  
J-32  
J-33  
CT FORCE  
AWR  
MCCC  
DDO  
ADDO  
CCOC  
PAC DIV  
PAC DESK

SECRET