

21
INFORMATION

SECRET

Tuesday, February 20, 1967
10:10 a. m.

Pres file

Mr. President:

Herewith Westy's Khe Sanh-DMZ report:

- rather heavy shelling;
- the first report on effectiveness of COFRAM;
- aerial resupply, 126 tons;
- weather continues bad at Khe Sanh.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rin

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By 129, NARA, Date 2-24-92

~~SECRET~~

24a

Tuesday, February 20, 1968, 9:10 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number sixteen on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 19, 1968.

Enemy shelling intensified yesterday in First Corps zone as a total of 576 rounds of mixed mortar, artillery, and rockets landed among friendly unit positions throughout the reporting period. Northern First Corps bore the brunt of the shelling as units from Khe Sanh to the Cua Viet received 291 rounds of artillery, 125 rounds of mortar and 30 rocket rounds. Moving along the DMZ, Khe Sanh Combat Base received 60 rounds of mixed shelling; Camp Carroll counted a mixture of 104 rounds. Seventy-two artillery rounds impacted in areas within and surrounding Dong Ha Combat Base. Con Thien and A-3 received 56 and 20 rounds of mixed incoming respectively. Friendly elements at Gio Linh took nine rounds of artillery, and at the Cua Viet, in the vicinity of the 1st Amtracs Command Post, a total of 92 rounds of artillery fell during four mid-day barrages.

Ground activity during the reporting period was limited to small unit contacts. In three observed fire missions yesterday, friendly forces accounted for 18 North Vietnamese Army killed. Casualty figures for northern First Corps for the reporting period were: friendly, six killed, 58 wounded (38 evacuated). Enemy: 18 killed. All friendly casualties were attributed to enemy incoming fire.

The first 20 rounds of incoming artillery at Dong Ha landed outside the Camp perimeter in a neighboring village killing three civilians and injuring 31.

Damage as a result of the period's activity was moderate including a direct hit on the tower at Khe Sanh that damaged the ground control. At Cua Viet, artillery rounds struck five 10,000 gallon fuel tanks setting them on fire.

At 2:20 PM on February 19, the Marines at Con Thien fired six rounds of 105MM COFRAM on 15 North Vietnamese Army in the open, resulting in 13 North Vietnamese Army killed. An additional 30 rounds of COFRAM were fired in five other missions with undetermined results.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1989

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By NARA Date

Aerial resupply for the reporting period amounted to 126 short tons. In addition, 20 passengers were landed by helicopter at the airfield. Nine C-130 sorties were flown providing seven air drops. Three helicopters delivered both cargo and passengers.

A total of 306 tactical air sorties were flown in support of the Khe Sanh area during the period. The Marines flew 70 sorties, the Air Force flew 166 sorties, while the Navy flew 70. Marine Bomb Damage Assessment reports include four roads cut, and two secondary explosions. The weather continued to be bad and suitable only for combat sky spot sorties in the Niagara area.

There were 12 ARC LIGHT strikes (35 sorties) run in the Niagara area.

For the next 24-hour period the Marines plan 44 tactical air sorties, the Air Force will fly 144 sorties and the Navy plans 100 sorties for a total of 288 sorties. The Marines will have 16 additional aircraft on call for the Khe Sanh area while the Air Force will have 120 sorties on call for the same purpose.

The weather at Khe Sanh during the period February 19 - 20 continued to be bad. Low clouds and dense fog reduced the ceiling and visibility to near zero except from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM when the ceiling improved to 400 - 600 foot broken and the visibility to 4 - 7 miles in fog. The forecast for Khe Sanh for February 20 - 21 is for little change. The sky will be obscured by low clouds and fog. The ceiling and visibility will be near zero except from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM on February 20 when the ceiling will improve to 500 foot broken and the visibility to two miles. Intermittently periods will occur when the ceiling will increase to 1200 foot broken and the visibility to seven miles.

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

246

20 February 1968
7:00 AM EST

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Supply Status at Khe Sanh as of 8:00 PM EST,
19 Feb (9:00 AM 20 Feb, SVN time)

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

	<u>DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND</u>	<u>PREVIOUS STATUS 8:00 PM 18 Feb EST (9:00 AM 19 Feb SVN)</u>
Class I (Rations)		
Meal, Combat		2 days
Individual	2	8 days
B Rations	9	
Class III (Fuel)		
Aviation Gas (AVGAS)	9	9 days
JP-4 (Jet Fuel)	3.6	2.5 days
Motor Gasoline (MOGAS)	2.6	2 days
Diesel	6	2.5 days
Class V (Ammunition)		
a. High explosive:		
60-mm mortar	20	25 days
81-mm mortar	17	18 days
90-mm (Tank)	93	87 days
4.2" mortar	24	30 days
105-mm howitzer	21	20 days
155-mm howitzer	16	17 days
b. Anti-Tank		
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 HEAT		20
106-mm recoilless rifle (HEP-T)		927
3.5" rocket		690

Rounds on Hand

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo. Jan. 5, 1988

By 12 NARA, Date 2-28-92

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DAYS SUPPLY
ON HAND

PREVIOUS STATUS
8:00 PM 18 Feb EST
(9:00 AM 19 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 19 February Khe Sanh was resupplied with 126 tons as follows:

Class I	17.5 tons
Class II	1 ton
Class III	36 tons
Class IV	15 tons
Class V	56.5 tons

DISTRIBUTION

SECDEF
DEPSECDEF
CJCS (3)
DJS (3)
J-30
J-31
J-32
J-33
J-4
AWR
MCCC
DDO
ADDO
CCOC
PAC DIV
CT FORCE
PAC DESK

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

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