

SECRET

Thursday, February 15, 1968, 8:45 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is the eleventh report on the Khe Sanh - DMZ area and covers the 24-hour period of February 14, 1968.

Significant activity yesterday in the First Corps continued to center in northern Quang Tri Province as renewed enemy shelling impacted at Khe Sanh Combat Base and outlying areas bordering the DMZ.

At Khe Sanh, elements of the 26th Marines received 65 rounds of mortars and 13 rounds of rocket scattered throughout the day and night. Friendly casualties for the period amounted to three Marines killed, 10 wounded (nine evacuated). The 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines in the vicinity of Camp Carroll counted 30 rounds of mortars during mid-day shellings. Friendly casualties were one killed, nine wounded (seven evacuated).

A noontime barrage of 13 rounds of mortar at Con Thien inflicted no casualties or damage on the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines. Twenty additional mortar rounds fell at Cl, seven kilometers south of Gio Linh, causing minor injuries to four ARVN soldiers.

Marine aircraft flew 106 tactical air sorties in support of the Khe Sanh area, the Air Force flew 98 sorties and the Navy flew 39, for a total of 243 tactical air sorties. Bomb Damage included 15 bunkers destroyed, six anti-aircraft positions destroyed, numerous secondary fires, 10 secondary explosions, 14 killed by air, one rocket position destroyed. Twenty-one B-52's flew four ARC LIGHT strikes delivering 525 tons of ordnance in the Niagara area.

Khe Sanh was resupplied with 188 short tons during the period, with 80 short tons being air dropped from Air Force C-130 aircraft. Nineteen C-123 and helicopters airlanded the additional 107.5 short tons. A total of 141 short tons of ammunition and 31 short tons of engineering equipment were included.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

Authority OSD 64 1/3/79

By up/af, NARA, Date 2-20-92

For the next 24-hour period Marine Tactical Air plans 44 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force plans 150, and the Navy 100, for a total of 294 sorties. Sixteen Marine aircraft and 120 Air Force sorties will be on call. ARC LIGHT will run 15 strikes (45 sorties) in the Niagara area, commencing the Bugle Note Program of three-aircraft strikes with time over targets' each 1 1/2 hours.

Weather at Khe Sanh throughout the period was favorable for most military operations. The visibility was greater than five miles except for a short period near midnight due to ground fog. During most of the afternoon the sky condition was 2500 foot broken. By early evening cloudiness decreased and remained scattered throughout the night. Valley stratus formed after sunrise 1500 to 2000 feet producing a broken ceiling which remained in the area throughout the morning.

Forecast for Khe Sanh during the next period is for generally good visibility in daytime. After sunset, fog and stratus will gradually form lowering the ceiling to from 200 - 500 feet and the visibility to one mile or less by sunrise. Shortly thereafter, the ceiling will gradually improve to 100 broken and the visibility to five miles.