

INFORMATION

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Wednesday, March 6, 1968
1:45 p.m.

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh:

- 184 tons delivered;
- enemy fire relatively light;
- we fired 2146 rounds plus
312 sorties plus 41 B-52
sorties;
- 2 tracked vehicles at DMZ
turn out to be decoys.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rlm

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

White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983

By 19, NARA, Date 3/26/92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By 19, NARA, Date 3/26/92

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Wednesday, March 6, 1968, 12:40 PM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-one on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 5, 1968.

Weather conditions at Khe Sanh eased yesterday as afternoon high ceilings and broken clouds provided good visibility for controlled fixed wing strikes. Fire support elements were also aided by the break in the weather as 2146 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar were fired on known and suspected enemy positions, with excellent target coverage. Enemy anti-aircraft interference was light as resupply aircraft offloaded 184 tons of supplies and equipment.

At 7:20 AM, the Marines had four enemy command detonated devices explode blowing holes in their defensive wire, causing two minor injuries. An air observer controlled air strike on 10 - 15 North Vietnamese Army moving west on a trail 14 kilometers southwest of Khe Sanh confirmed two killed. At 6:25 PM, a controlled air strike on a possible enemy rocket site 6 1/2 kilometers south of Khe Sanh resulted in one North Vietnamese Army killed. Six North Vietnamese Army were observed in the open 200 meters west of Khe Sanh. Scout snipers took them under fire, killing two of them. Enemy incoming during the period amounted to 70 mortar, 20 artillery and 15 rocket rounds. Casualties attributed to the shelling were 12 wounded (eight evacuated).

At positions bordering the DMZ, enemy activity followed a pattern similar to that at Khe Sanh. Seven mortar rounds impacted at Cau Lu with no resulting damage or injuries. Elements from the 9th Marines, near Camp Carroll, received a total of 15 rounds of mortar during the day causing minor injuries to two Marines. A company of the 3rd Marines in Operation Napoleon/Saline received 10 mortar rounds resulting in five Marines wounded and evacuated. Early this morning, 50 artillery rounds impacted at positions occupied by the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines in the vicinity of Mai Xa Thi village. There were no casualties or damage.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
AF Guide, SEA Records, 4/1/88

By 125 NARA, Date 3-26-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3
DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988
By 119 NARA, Date 3-26-92

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In ground contact yesterday, another Cua Viet to Dong Ha river convoy was attacked north of Dong Ha. A landing craft received minor damage when hit by a recoilless rifle round and suffered one killed and three wounded. Gunships retaliated quickly, the convoy continued to its destination. A reaction force sent to clear the area received fire from an estimated enemy platoon. Artillery and air strikes provided support. Friendly casualties were five killed and 14 wounded. Nine North Vietnamese Army were killed. An observation post at Con Thien spotted 20 North Vietnamese Army in bunkers. An air observer spotted what appeared to be two tracked vehicles in the DMZ, eight kilometers north of Con Thien. A mission was fired and the two objects were destroyed. Closer inspection determined the objects to be prefabricated decoys.

There was one COFRAM mission fired, expending five rounds and resulting in five enemy killed.

The Marine aircraft wing flew 155 tactical air sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 112, and the Navy 45, for a total of 312 sorties. Bomb damage included 11 secondary explosions, 13 secondary fires, four trucks destroyed, three mortar positions destroyed, one rocket position destroyed, nine roads cut, and six enemy killed. There were seven ARC LIGHT strikes (41 sorties) flown in the Niagara area. Of the seven sorties flown, four were close-in (within three kilometers) to friendly forces. Secondary explosions were reported from three of the close-in strikes. A total of six secondary explosions and several large fires were reported on all seven strikes.

During the period 184 short tons of supplies and 73 personnel were flown into Khe Sanh. There were a total of 34 resupply sorties. Ten C-130's and two C-123's completed 12 air drops. Three C-123's and 19 helicopters air landed cargo and passengers.

For the next period, 272 tactical air sorties are scheduled to support Khe Sanh. There will be seven ARC LIGHT strikes (42 sorties).