

INFORMATION

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Tuesday
March 5, 1968 -- 9:50 a.m.

Mr. President:

A relatively quiet day at Khe
Sanh and the DMZ:

- 211 tons delivered;
- enemy harassing fire
relatively light.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rlh

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4(b)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By Ag, NARA, Date 3-26-92

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

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36a

Tuesday, March 5, 1968, 9:20 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 4, 1968.

The weather at Khe Sanh continued with low ceilings and ground fog throughout much of the period, with only intermittent breaks in the cloud cover. No change in the weather is forecast for March 5.

While weather limitations affected close air support in the area, supporting arms expended 2756 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar. Fifty percent of the missions were observed. Enemy anti-aircraft activity was light as resupply aircraft off-loaded 211 tons of supplies and equipment with minimal interference.

A total of 151 rounds of mixed incoming rounds fell in the Khe Sanh area. Three Marines were killed and 24 were wounded, 13 of whom required evacuation. At 10:00 AM, an observation post located an active enemy mortar site two kilometers southwest of Khe Sanh. A mortar mission was fired with excellent target coverage. At 1:00 PM, a mortar mission was fired on an enemy 50 caliber gun position two kilometers northwest of Khe Sanh, destroying the gun and its crew. Eight kilometers southeast of Khe Sanh, an air strike on an enemy trench resulted in five North Vietnamese Army killed. At 1:30 AM, Marines heard movement in their wire and employed fire, silencing the movement.

Elsewhere in northern Quang Tri Province, enemy activity increased. A sharp contact took place in the vicinity of Con Thien where a platoon from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, engaged an unknown size enemy force which broke contact in the late afternoon. Eleven North Vietnamese Army were killed in action. Friendly casualties were three killed, and five wounded and evacuated. Four weapons were captured. At 12:45 PM, 15 North Vietnamese Army were observed four kilometers north of Con Thien, a controlled air strike killed four of the enemy. The enemy fired 129 rounds of mixed artillery and mortar at positions along the DMZ. A company of the 4th Marines at C-2 received 30 rounds of mortar and four artillery rounds

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

AF Guide, SEA Records, 4/1/83

By 49 NARA, Date 3-26-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By 179 NARA, Date 3-26-92

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- 2 -

resulting in three killed, and 16 wounded and evacuated. Camp Carroll received seven mortar rounds and 19 artillery rounds, resulting in two killed and 10 wounded (seven evacuated). The 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines in Operation Napoleon/Saline received 30 artillery rounds and 26 mortar rounds, with no casualties or damage.

There were two COFRAM missions fired expending 19 rounds and resulting in four enemy killed.

The Marine aircraft wing flew 150 sorties in support of Khe Sanh, the Air Force flew 147, and the Navy flew 27, for a total of 324 sorties. Bomb damage included one secondary explosion, 13 secondary fires, six bunkers destroyed, four structures destroyed, two mortar positions destroyed, and 17 enemy killed. There were eight ARC LIGHT strikes (48 sorties) in the Niagara area. Four of the eight strikes reported a total of 31 secondary explosions. Seven of the eight strikes were against targets within three kilometers of friendly forces.

During the period 211 short tons of supplies were flown into Khe Sanh. One hundred and twelve passengers constituted the remainder of the lift. There were a total of 41 sorties. Ten C-130 and four 123's completed air drops while three C-123's landed. Twenty-seven helicopters delivered passengers and cargo.

For the next period, 270 tactical air sorties are scheduled to support Khe Sanh. There will be seven ARC LIGHT strikes (42 sorties).

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