

INFORMATION

41

~~SECRET~~

Friday, March 15, 1968 - 9:15 am

Pres file

Mr. President:

At Khe Sanh-DMZ:

- weather and weather outlook good;
- 85 rounds incoming;
- 1499 rounds outgoing;
- 319 sorties plus 48 B-52's;
- 206 tons delivered.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rln

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E.O. 12856, Sec. 3.4(b)

White House: Gold Vault, R.R. 24, 205

By rg, NARA, Date 4-14-92

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E.O. 12856, Sec 3.3

DA Mem. Jan. 5, 1986

By rg, NARA Date 9-14

Report 60

44

Friday, March 15, 1968, 8:20 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number forty on the situation in the Khe Sanh/ DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 14, 1968.

Early morning fog burned off and Khe Sanh weather remained clear with 2000 feet and broken ceilings plus ten miles visibility throughout the day. During the period, Khe Sanh received 85 rounds of mixed artillery, rocket and mortar fire resulting in two killed and 20 wounded (one evacuated). The airstrip was closed briefly at 11:30 AM because of incoming enemy fire. It was re-opened, with ground control nonoperational, shortly after noon. In artillery fire support, Khe Sanh expended 1,499 rounds in 141 missions. No CAFRAM ammunition was fired. There was no change in Marine dispositions or the enemy situation at Khe Sanh.

Elsewhere along the DMZ, 3rd Marine Division units received 128 rounds of incoming fire. Enemy indirect fire and light ground contact resulted in nine Marines killed and 33 wounded (13 evacuated). Enemy losses were 37 killed and 39 individual weapons captured.

The most significant action in northern I Corps occurred at Quang Tri City. The airfield was struck by enemy mortars and rockets damaging ten bombers.

Three hundred and nineteen tactical air sorties were flown during the period. Of these, the Air Force flew 102, the Navy 91, and the Marines flew 26. Bomb damage assessment revealed 13 road cuts, 41 enemy killed by air, six secondary fires, four secondary explosions, one bunker and five military structures destroyed. Eight ARCAIR strikes (48 sorties) were scheduled, five against emergency targets 1200 to 2200 meters from friendly forces. Four aircraft were diverted to secondary targets due to beacon malfunction. Bomb damage assessment included 32 secondary explosions.

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

AM Guido, SEA Records, 4/1/88

By AM Guido, Date 4/14/92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By AM Guido, Date 4/14/92

Aerial resupply for the fourteenth amounted to 206.5 short tons. In addition, 117 passengers (replacements) were landed. In all, 46 sorties were flown. Fixed wing aircraft conducted fourteen air drops. Marine helicopters flew the remaining 32 sorties delivering passengers and cargo.

Three hundred and four tactical air sorties are scheduled for the next 24 hour period. The Marines will have 16 aircraft on call for sorties as required. The Air Force will have 120 alert sorties on call. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) are scheduled.

Weather forecast for the next 24-hour period shows generally favorable conditions with 1000-2000 feet ceilings and 3 - 5 mile visibility in fog before noon. Conditions will improve in the afternoon, but deteriorate by midnight. Fog and low ceilings are expected in the early morning hours of the sixteenth.