

INFORMATION

54

Pres file

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Thursday, March 14, 1968 -- 9:50 a.m.

Mr. President:

Khe Sanh-DMZ:

- weather marginal;
- 205 incoming rounds;
- 1935 outgoing;
- 371 tactical sorties plus 36 B-52's;
- further evidence the ARVN 2d Regiment did well fighting near DMZ: 305 enemy versus 45 ARVN killed in action.
- 201 tons delivered.

W. W. Rostow

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WWRostow:rln

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.2(l)
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1972
By jj, NARA, Date 4/4/92 By jj, NARA, C

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E.O. 12356,
DA Memo. Jc

Report 39

SECRET

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Thursday, March 14, 1968, 9:23 AM

TEXT OF CABLE FROM GENERAL WESTMORELAND

This is report number thirty-nine on the situation in the Khe Sanh/DMZ area for the 24-hour period of March 13, 1968.

Khe Sanh weather on March 13 remained marginal. Early morning ceiling was 600 feet with four miles visibility and fog. Ceiling improved to 800 feet during the day with other factors remaining unchanged.

During the period, Khe Sanh received 160 rounds of mortar, 35 rounds of artillery and 10 rounds of rocket for a total of 205 rounds. The incoming fire resulted in two killed and 16 wounded. In counter-action, artillery in support of Khe Sanh fired 77 missions in which a total of 1935 rounds of artillery were expended. The majority of the missions were unobserved. Twenty-four rounds of 105mm and two rounds of 155mm COFRAM were fired in two missions against enemy targets north of the DMZ. Five-hundred Breu refugees were helilifted from the Khe Sanh area to Quang Tri during the day. Their destination will be Cam Lo.

There was no change in Marine deployment or the enemy situation at Khe Sanh. Along the remainder of the DMZ, enemy contact was light, except northeast of Dong Ha where two companies from the 4th Marines made contact with an unknown size force in the late afternoon. The action continued until last light and resulted in one Marine killed and 33 wounded (25 evacuated). The enemy lost 30 killed in the action. Further information on the 2nd ARVN Regiment action that was mentioned in yesterday's report, revealed that the ARVN forces continued a sweep of the battle area southeast of Gio Linh and discovered an additional 111 enemy bodies presumed to have been killed by artillery and air. In addition, four individual and 12 crew-served weapons were captured. This brings the total casualties for the ARVN contact to 45 ARVN killed, 127 wounded. In this fight there now have been 305 enemy killed, 11 detained, 54 individual and 19 crew-served weapons captured.

A total of 371 tactical air sorties were flown in support of Khe Sanh; One hundred and twenty-four by Marine aircraft, 95 by Navy and 152 by Air Force. Bomb damage assessment included 23 road cuts, four trucks destroyed, 250 meters of trench destroyed, one bridge destroyed, seven structures and three bunkers destroyed, 18 secondary explosions, 38 secondary fires, and nine enemy killed by air. Six ARC LIGHT strikes (36 sorties) were scheduled, one

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

AF Guido, SEA Records, 4/1/88

By ly NARA, Date 4-14-92

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1988

By ly NARA, Date 4-14-92

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as an emergency target within 1100 meters of friendly forces. Bomb damage assessment from two strikes flown in the preceding period recorded a total of 37 secondary explosions.

Two hundred and one short tons of supplies were airlifted to Khe Sanh on the thirteenth. No passengers were landed. Seventeen resupply sorties were flown.

A total of 304 tactical air sorties are scheduled for the next 24-hour period. The Air Force will continue to have 120 alert sorties on call, the Marines 16 aircraft for sorties as required. Eight ARC LIGHT strikes (48 sorties) are scheduled.

The forecast for the next period is for improving conditions with four miles visibility and 1500 foot ceiling by 1:00 PM. Conditions should remain good until fog and low clouds begin to lower ceilings after 8:00 PM. By 2:00 AM on the 15th, conditions will again be marginal.



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

546

14 March 1968
0600 EST

THE JOINT STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

Subject: Supply Status at Khe Sanh as of 8:00 PM EST
13 Mar (9:00 AM 14 Mar, SVN time)

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

DAYS SUPPLY ON HAND	PREVIOUS STATUS	
	8:00 PM 12 Mar EST (9:00 AM 13 Mar SVN)	

CLASS I (Rations)

Meal, Combat, Individual	19	18 days
B Rations	9	9 days

CLASS III (Fuel)

Aviation Gas (AVGAS)	3	3 days
JP-4 Fuel (Jet Fuel)	10.6	10.6 days
Motor Gasoline (MOGAS)	9.8	9.8 days
Diesel	4.2	4.2 days

CLASS V (Ammunition)

a. High explosive

60-mm mortar	46	47 days
81-mm mortar	21	20 days
90-mm (Tank)	108	108 days
4.2" mortar	35	37 days
105-mm howitzer	29	29 days
155-mm howitzer	17	17 days

b. Antitank

	<u>ROUNDS ON HAND</u>
90-mm AP-T	329
90-mm HEAT	1,202
66-mm rocket (LAW)	3,335
Antitank mines (M-15)	429
Antitank mines (M-19)	668
Antitank mines (M-21)	0
105-mm HEAT	812
106-mm recoilless rifle (HEP-T)	2,210
3.5" rocket	2,222

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E.O. 12856, Sec. 3.3

DA Memo, Jan. 5, 1989

By 4 NARA Date 4-14-92

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<u>PREVIOUS STATUS</u>
8:00 PM 12 Mar EST
(9:00 AM 13 Mar SVN)

c. Antipersonnel

106-mm BEEHIVE

ROUNDS ON HAND

1,307

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 13 March, Khe Sanh was resupplied with 201 tons as follows:

CLASS I	32 tons
CLASS II	3 tons
CLASS IIP	31 tons
CLASS IV.	21 tons
CLASS V	114 tons

James A. Shannon
JAMES A. SHANNON
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director for
Operations (NMCC)

Distribution

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