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POST-TET OFFENSIVE DESTROYS U.S. SUPPLIES

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[Text] Hanoi VNA March 10--By destroying a large quantity of enemy war materials in this post-Tet offensive, the South Vietnam Peoples Liberation Armed Forces have proved their increased capacity of operating behind enemy lines with great efficiency, said the Hanoi daily QUAN DOI NHAN DAN (PEOPLE'S ARMY) in a recent article.

The paper recalled that since the start of the new drive of generalized offensive on February 22 the armed forces and people in South Vietnam have repeatedly attacked the supply bases of the U.S. and puppet forces across South Vietnam, from the high plateaux to the seacoast of central Vietnam and down to the Mekong River Delta.

The paper noted that enemy war material storages in Saigon, Da Nang, Hoi An, Tam Ky, Kontum, Quy Nhon, Phuoc Long and My Tho towns, and many airfields have come under heavy and repeated artillery and ground attacks. Even the heavily defended Bien Hoa airbase, accommodating a large quantity of modern war equipment situated nextdoor to Saigon, was many times hit by big gun barrages which caused extensive damage to the aircraft and storages.

The Nha Trang airbase and the U.S. logistical base in the Cam Ranh military port were bombarded on February 22 and 23.

U.S. and puppet storage complexes throughout South Vietnam also took heavy losses. The Dong Du storage area, main basecamp of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, took particularly serious losses, with the wiping out of 1,270 Americans and the destruction of 179 military vehicles, 39 aircraft, four ammunition depots and a large quantity of military supplies.

This highlights the PLAF capacity of striking at various war means of the enemy at any time, and increases the U.S.-puppet dilemma between spreading their materials and concentrating them in big storage areas, the paper said.

Besides, it added, the PLAF have hit many U.S. and puppet battalion, regiment and division headquarters, among them the headquarters of the Americal and U.S. 1st and 25th Infantry Division hqs, taking a heavy toll of their communication as well as combat means, including heavy guns, tanks, radar positions, fuel dumps and food storages, for instance, at the basecamp of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division at Dau Tieng, the PLAF burned down two fuel storages, destroyed two power stations, the central signal centre, a gunnery station and several aircraft... At the headquarters of the puppet's 49th Regiment in Long An Province, besides killing or wounding 72 enemy troops, the PLAF destroyed eight GMC lorries, an ammunition depot, a fuel dump, a food storage....

The paper went on: A thing worthy of note is that the PLAF have attacked and destroyed enemy bases with increasing rapidity. For instance, the attacks on the headquarters of the U.S. 196th and 198th Light Infantry Brigades lasted only 10 minutes during which the PLAF destroyed all the enemy war means there.