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PLAF MILITARY ACTION IN S. VIETNAM REPORTED

PLAF Command Awards

Liberation Radio (Clandestine) in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0900 GMT 17 Mar 69 S

[Text] The South Vietnam PLAF Command has decided to award Liberation Military Service Medals, Third Class, to the following units that achieved outstanding feats of arms:

- 1--The unit that annihilated one Thai battalion at Bau Coi, Bien Hoa Province, on the night of 28 February.
- 2--The unit that killed or wounded some 500 U.S. troops in the second attack on the U.S. positions at Ben Tranh, Thu Dau Mot Province, on the night of 24 to 25 February.
- 3--The unit that wiped out some 300 puppet troops and destroyed 35 military vehicles of the puppet 1st Battalion, 44th Regiment, and the puppet battle group 1/8 during a recent ambush on Route 1 between Song Mao and Phan Thiet.
- 4--The unit that killed or wounded some 450 U.S. aggressors in the second attack against the U.S. positions at Tra Cao, Tay Ninh Province, on the night of 24 to 25 February.

'Spring Epic' Commentary

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1554 GMT 14 Mar 69 B

[Commentary: "Spring Epic"]

[Text] South Vietnam March 14 GPA--Within the 10 days ended March 4, 1969 the PLAF attacked more than 400 enemy positions in 36 cities and provincial capitals, 35 commanding posts of the U.S.-puppets and satellites from regimental level upwards, 38 air bases, 17 big logistic areas, and more than 100 district capitals and townships, military rectors etc. Many of these targets were repeatedly struck.

The U.S. aggressors were in the past year heavily beaten and had to retreat into a defensive position. Yet, they continue to increase their troop strength and war material and step up raids in an attempt to prevent the PLAF and people's attacks keeping U.S. forces from taking further losses, and helping the puppet army and administration to rise up so that they may take the job now done by the U.S.

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By so doing, the U.S. aggressors also hoped to gain a "position of strength" favourable for them on the diplomatic field. But reality on the battlefield has baffled the aggressors.

Within the 10 days mentioned above, the South Vietnam PLAF and people killed, wounded or captured over 45,000 enemy troops including 23,000 GI's and nearly 2,000 satellite troops. This is a bright achievement in destroying enemy live force, especially U.S. live force. The record was much higher than that set early spring of last year.

The PLAF and people hit with accuracy various air bases and storages of the enemy destroying large quantities of war means including 470 aircraft, 1,170 military vehicles, among them 500 tanks and armoured cars. Hundreds of ammunition and gasoline storages, including the major ones in Long Binh, Da Nang, Deo Son, Cam Ranh, etc., were taken under fire, and burned for hours.

These big achievements testified to the PLAF determination to fight and to win, and their traditional combat skill. While fighting, all the three kinds of people's armed forces greatly increased their strength, created new ways of fighting, and raised their combat efficiency, as has been pointed out in the PLAF Command's latest communique.

"The PLAF's simultaneous actions on all the battlefields in the first days of spring 1969 have further proven their skillfull command, their high sense of organization and discipline, their high morale, their excellent sense of responsibility, and their big potential. The PLAF have applied with art a wide range of fighting methods, and achieved a very harmonious combination of the various battlefields and their various services....

"During the fight, all the three kinds of the people's armed forces have made strenuous efforts to increase and consolidate their strength rapidly, thus making themselves more endurant for sustained fighting and creating conditions for yet bigger victories."

This can be seen in the 35 minutes attack in Dong Tien area, northern Quang Tri Province, during which the PLAF wiped out three U.S. infantry and artillery companies, in the overrunning of two brigade headquarters of the American Division, in the havoc caused at the main base of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division, etc.

Besides annihilating enemy live forces, the Liberation Armed Forces and people recorded great achievements in attacks on communication lines, destruction of "strategic hamlets" or enemy "popular forces" and "Phoenix" spy teams.

In close co-ordination with the armed struggle, the people in thousands of hamlets and villages rose up in unison to assert their role as master of themselves, and set up revolutionary power. The people in the towns and the surrounding areas played an important role in troop proselyting and other propaganda activities.

These all-round victories of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces and people bare further proof to the correct line and the complete initiative of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation. They came as a stunning blow to Abram's "clear-and-hold" strategy and to the U.S. puppets vain "accelerated pacification" program.

These victories helped accelerate the collapse of the Saigon puppet administration and further shook the U.S. aggressors in their aggressive design.

Now, although heavily defeated and in tight straits, the U.S. aggressors keep acting very obdurately and brazenly. Maddened, they continue their criminal path by stepping up their war of aggression in South Vietnam. They desperately want to extricate themselves from the deep quagmire.

But, a law has been clearly proven by reality on the South Vietnam battlefield: The more the U.S. aggressors push up their war and the more they indulge in crimes, the more ignominious will be their setbacks. A nation with a glorious tradition of struggle against foreign aggression, such as Vietnam, will never submit.

The threats of the U.S. can never shake our people in their determination to fight and to win. As long as the U.S. aggressors continue their war, our people will fight on. That is Vietnam's unalienable right of self-defense.

Tay Ninh Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1655 GMT 18 Mar 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam March 18 GPA--The PLAF in Tay Ninh Province on March 16 launched fierce attacks on the cantonment of the puppet Seventh Paratroops Battalion in the Bau Bo area, Tay Ninh Province.

According to initial reports, the liberation fighters heavily decimated three puppet paratroops companies, killing or wounding 200 enemy, destroying two 81-millimeter mortars and seizing a large quantity of weapons.

Thus, within the 10 days ended March 16, the PLAF in Tay Ninh smashed the enemy's raid dubbed "Phoenix", wiping out or capturing over 1,200 U.S. and puppet troops, including 13 puppet companies wiped out or heavily decimated.

The PLAF also brought down 14 aircraft, wrecked 26 vehicles, six heavy artillery pieces and two ammunition depots, and captured a large quantity of military equipment.

Thu Dau Mot Province

LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (Clandestine) in English to East Europe and the Far East
1659 GMT 18 Mar 69 B

[Text] South Vietnam March 18 (GPA)--The PLAF in Thu Dau Mot Province on March 11 mounted a surprise attack on a U.S. commando puppet unit in the Dau Tieng area.

According to initial reports, the liberation fighters killed or wounded 145 enemy troops among them one American lieutenant and seized a large quantity of military equipment.

On the same night, the PLAF assaulted the Cau Duc position, east of Dau Tieng, wiping out 45 men and blowing up one blockhouse. The Dau Tieng base itself was shelled.

On March 13, the liberation fighters attacked by surprise an enemy encampment about 1 mile from Dau Tieng. The enemy losses amounted to over 60 men knocked down, three helicopters shattered, and a big quantity of arms and equipment seized.

According to initial reports, the PLAF in Bien Hoa province on March 11 seriously battered a company of the U.S. Third Brigade, First Air Mobile Cavalry Division, inflicting on the enemy 70 casualties.