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VC ACTIVITIES STEPPED UP IN CENTRAL VIETNAM

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The army and people of central Central Vietnam achieved many brilliant victories in the recent early spring offensive and uprising. In particular, the total destruction of enemy war materiel bases has been stepped up and has been very successful.

All three types of forces, and both the infantry and artillery have coordinated well and have applied many creative, active and abundant methods of attack to make outstanding achievements. The people's armed liberation forces have concentrated on the ammunition dumps of the United States and its lackeys, which they are substituting for their declining morale; it has also dealt them thunderous blows by damaging their airfields, artillery positions, and strategic rear service bases, despite their external and internal defenses. In 15 days (from 22 February to 9 March) 133 ammunition and fuel dumps were destroyed and burned, 299 aircraft, nearly 86 cannon and 420 military vehicles were destroyed, and 27 warships and military craft were sunk or damaged by fire.

Massive Attacks on Enemy Airfields

In close coordination with the infantry, since the night of 22 February the Liberation Army artillery has launched massive attacks on many enemy airfields: Da Nang, Nuoc Man, Chu Lai, Trung An, Dai An, An Hoa, Ngoc Bich, Quang Ngai, Qui Nhon, Go Quanh, Cam Ranh, Ba Thin, Nha Trang, Kontum, Darlac, Cu Hanh, Hoa Binh, A Ria, Pleiku and Ban Me Thuot, causing heavy losses. Many airfields have been attacked repeatedly, such as those in the Chu Lai and Nuoc Man areas.

The X Liberation Army Artillery Unit of Quang Nam has continued to manifest the tradition of "copper legs and iron shoulders," has overcome many difficulties, and has fired accurately on the enemy bases. Despite the internal and external defenses of these places, the

Liberation Army artillery has not only attacked both at night and during the day and has not only launched an attack per day, but has also launched two attacks per day. Because of this, the enemy has not been able to cope effectively with it.

The Chu Lai base has two jet airfields at Chu Lai and a helicopter field at Trung An, all of which have been shelled continuously by the Liberation Army artillery. In three major attacks on the Chu Lai airfields and one on the Trung An airfield, the Liberation Army destroyed 57 aircraft and killed nearly 400 Americans.

The Z Liberation Army Artillery Unit of Quang Nam penetrated the enemy defense lines, rained shells down on the Nuoc Man airfield, and destroyed 40 enemy aircraft in one battle (23 February).

With a small force but with skill and courage the D Unit of Binh Dinh Province penetrated the enemy's rear lines, had free access to the Qui Nhon airfield, and killed a U.S. platoon defending the airfield.

The Liberation Army artillery of Khanh Hoa Province attacked the enemy base at Cam Ranh. The artillery soldiers of Khanh Hoa had no fear of sacrifice and hardships, executed the orders of their superiors, attacked the enemy and advanced simultaneously, arrived at their set position on time, and continuously fired shells at the airfields, causing heavy losses to the enemy. The base at Cam Ranh had to close down for two days (23 and 24 February) and not one aircraft could take off or land. Before the enemy could recover, on 3 March the Liberation Army used heavy weapons to attack the base at Cam Ranh for the third time, causing many more losses. The movement to shoot down aircraft with infantry weapons developed widely in all local areas. The most outstanding feat of this movement was accomplished by the X Liberation Army Unit which shot down 48 aircraft (including six jet fighters) in the Tien Phuoc area.

At times the enemy mobilized 20 jet and armed helicopter attacks on the position of X Unit. The cadres and soldiers of this unit fought very courageously and fired back viciously at the enemy aircraft. Some men were knocked unconscious by the bombs, but when they awoke they immediately began fighting again. Some men were wounded but would not leave the battlefield as they were determined to fight as long as they could still breathe and to maintain their position until the end. They shot down five enemy aircraft in one day. In one battle two enemy aircraft were shot down in only 15 minutes.

Complete Destruction of Warehouses

The people's armed liberation forces continued to destroy the logistics bases and warehouses of the Americans.

During the night of 22-23 February, the Liberation Army infantry and artillery destroyed 17 of the enemy's largest logistics complexes, including those at Da Nang, An Don, An Hai, Chu Lai, Ba Mac and An Hoa in Quang Nam Province, the strategic rear services complexes at Deo Son in Binh Dinh Province, Dat To, Kontum and Pleiku in the Highlands and many other logistics facilities in the enemy bases such as at Nui Que and Sung May in Quang Nam Province, Go Hoi in Quang Ngai Province, and Nha Trang and Truong Ba Don in Binh Dinh Province.

The Liberation Army burned many enemy logistics bases. Some of these were the depots at An Don and An Hai, and the 11th Depot (which is 5 kilometers long) northwest of the Trinh Minh The Bridge deep in the Da Nang base area; this was regarded by the enemy as one of their safest positions. Ammunition exploded for 12 hours. The Americans mobilized many specialists to cope with this situation but they were ineffective. They had to send jets to bomb the above-mentioned warehouse complex.

The strategic warehouses at Deo Son were also attacked violently. This is where a large amount of war materiel is stored to supply the U.S. forces in the Highlands Phu Yen and Binh Dinh. This zone was attacked many times by our forces in January. As a result the enemy fortified their defenses: they installed 20 rows of barbed wire, planted additional mines, installed a lighting system to burn all night, and stationed guards all around. However, on the night of 22-23 February, the liberation soldiers penetrated every defense line and wiped out an enemy company guarding the warehouses, killing over 100 men, burning a large warehouse complex comprising 29 warehouses containing artillery and mortar shells, explosives and bombs. At the same time, the nearby Mieu Lo and Truong Ba Don warehouse complexes and the Zones 1 and 6 gasoline dumps in Qui Nhon were also attacked and burned. Thus, in one night the enemy's strategic logistics warehouse complexes in the Qui Nhon area were almost completely destroyed. Fifty warehouses containing ammunition, gasoline and explosives were destroyed and over 20,000 tons of ammunition and tens of millions of liters of gasoline exploded and burned.

Many other important U.S. warehouse complexes and logistics bases at Chu Lai and An Hoa in Quang Nam Province, Go Hoi in Quang Ngai Province and Dac To, and the U.S. strategic reserve warehouse complexes at Kontum and Pleiku were also damaged heavily.

Enemy Artillery Smashed

The people's armed liberation forces also attacked many enemy artillery bases and positions. The U.S. artillery bases at An Hoa, Nui Lo, Phuoc Tuong and Con Khe, after firing tens of thousands of rounds each day on the villages, burning countless houses and killing countless numbers of our compatriots around Da Nang, were instantly paralyzed. The Liberation Army infantry and artillery wiped out three U.S. artillery battalions, destroying 41 cannon and killing nearly 600 Americans. The Liberation Army soldiers also overran and occupied for several hours the two bases at Nui Lo and An Hoa. Following this the Liberation Army launched repeated attacks against the An Hoa base, causing the enemy many losses in men and war materiel. Many other enemy artillery positions at Go Dung and Nui Que in Quang Nam, An Xuan and Tan Hoa in Binh Dinh and Bau Co in Khanh Hoa and the 39th Infantry Battalion in the Highlands were attacked and suffered heavy losses. The Korean Army artillery position at An Xuan in Binh Dinh Province suffered the heaviest losses: six cannon were destroyed and many officers and men were killed.

Enemy Communication and Supply Routes Destroyed

Destruction of enemy communication and supply routes and means of transportation was also one of the outstanding feats of the army and people of central Central Vietnam during the beginning of this spring.

Route 1 from Hai Van to Cam Ranh was damaged and severed in many places by the people and people's armed liberation forces. Over 20 bridges were destroyed in one night. The people's armed liberation forces controlled many sections of Route 1 from north of the Vinh Dien Bridge to Giap Ba and from Thang Binh to Tuan Duong in Quang Nam, and from Chau C to Lien Tri and from Mo Duc to Sa Huynh in Quang Ngai for several hours. The people on both sides of the road dug holes, piled up mounds and used all sorts of things to obstruct the road, which hampered and paralyzed enemy transportation and supply on the various sections of the road. Three military trains were derailed, three engines and ten cars carrying military supplies were destroyed and dozens of convoys were wiped out.

It is noteworthy that on 5 March the Liberation Army in Gia Lai wiped out a military convoy comprising 43 vehicles on Route 19; 120 Americans were killed. Prior to that, on 3 March, the Liberation Army of Kontum also wiped out a 17-vehicle convoy, including five trucks carrying soldiers.

From 22-24 February the liberation soldiers along Routes 14 and 19 ambushed five convoys, destroying 55 military vehicles and killing hundreds of Americans.

Along with the armed forces, the people dug holes, piled up mounds and used thousands of objects to block the roads, controlling many sections of Routes 14 and 19.

The people's armed liberation forces also attacked enemy motor pools at Quang Nam and Phu Tho in Quang Nam Province. The liberation forces at Gia Lai attacked the enemy motor pool northwest of Pleiku, destroying 12 military vehicles.

The people's armed liberation forces also attacked the enemy military ports at Son Tra, Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Qui Nhon, causing the enemy many losses. The military port at Da Nang was paralyzed for two days when four freighters (one with a tonnage of 10,000 tons) were sunk and destroyed. In only two battles the Liberation Army sank and damaged 23 ships and combat boats (two of which had tonnages of 10,000 tons) at the Chu Lai military port.

Manifesting recent victories, the people's armed liberation forces of central Central Vietnam are emulating to step up the destruction of enemy bases, warehouses and war materiel, so that the harrassed Americans will become even more harrassed.

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