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25 FEBRUARY 1966

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AIRFIELD
DIEN BIEN PHU, NORTH VIETNAM
2123N 10301E

[Redacted]

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1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS THE RESULTS OF A RECENT AIR STRIKE AGAINST DIEN BIEN PHU AIRFIELD.

2. LOCATION:

DIEN BIEN PHU AIRFIELD IS LOCATED 0.5 NM NORTH OF DIEN BIEN PHU, JUST WEST OF THE NAM YOUN (RIVER).

3. DIMENSIONS/FACILITIES (PRE-STRIKE):

THE AIRFIELD HAD ONE SERVICEABLE 4000 X 90 FT, NNW/SSE, ASPHALT AND LATERITE RUNWAY. FACILITIES INCLUDED A WEATHER STATION, THREE BARRACKS, ONE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, TWO STORAGE BUILDINGS, AND THREE SUPPORT BUILDINGS.

4. STRIKE DATA:

DIEN BIEN PHU AIRFIELD WAS FIRST ATTACKED ON 02 JULY 1965 AND BOMBED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR. CUMULATIVE DAMAGE AS OF [Redacted] CONSISTED OF AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE BOMB CRATERS ON THE RUNWAY. PHOTOGRAPHY OF [Redacted] REVEALED

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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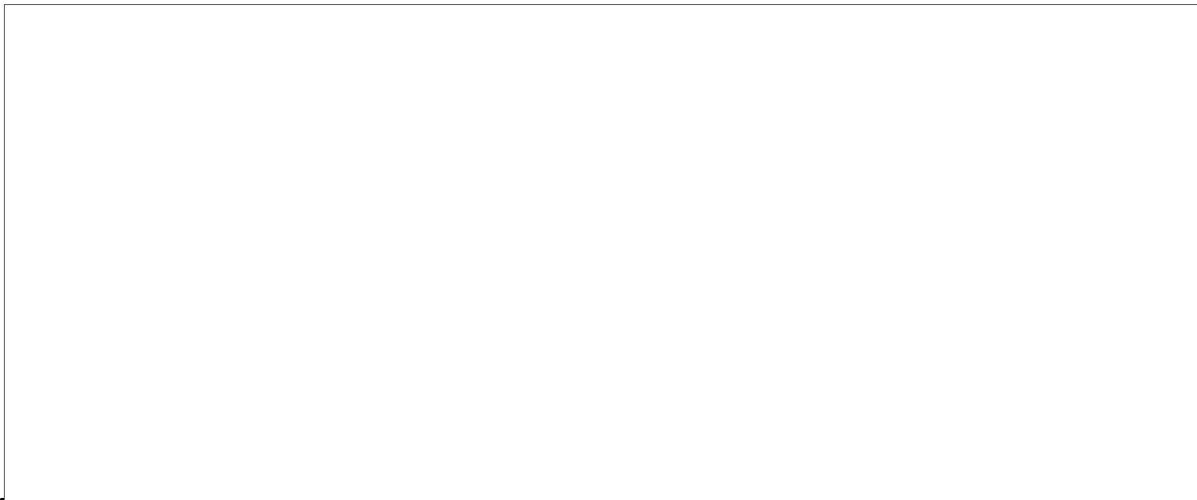
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RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT THE AIRFIELD, NOT PRESENT ON [REDACTED] PHOTOGRAPHY. FRESH GROUND SCARRING INDICATED THAT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE RUNWAY HAD BEEN EXTENDED 600 FT, AND AGGREGATE HAD BEEN SPREAD ON A 300 X 90 FT AREA OF THE RUNWAY BEGINNING 1400 FT FROM THE SSE END. AT THIS TIME A TOTAL EFFECTIVE LANDING AREA OF 2100 X 90 FT WAS AVAILABLE AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE FIELD.

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STRIKE DATA REPORTS THAT DIEN BIEN PHU AIRFIELD HAS BEEN STRUCK TWICE SINCE THIS TIME -- ONCE ON 06 FEBRUARY 1966 WHEN THE TARGET AREA WAS ALSO SEEDED WITH DELAYED-ACTION BOMBS -- SET TO GO OFF AFTER EIGHT TO THIRTY-SIX HOURS; AND AGAIN ON 11/12 FEBRUARY WHEN TWELVE USAF AIRCRAFT EXPENDED SIXTY 750-POUND BOMBS ON THE RUNWAY AND SUPPORT AREAS.



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6. MISSION READOUTS:

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REVEALS THAT

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APPROXIMATELY 3000 X 90 FT OF THE RUNWAY IS SERVICEABLE
DUE TO RECENT RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY.

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

REVEALS THAT THE

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06 FEBRUARY STRIKE AGAINST THE AIRFIELD RESULTED IN
LITTLE ADDITIONAL DAMAGE TO THE FIELD. SEVERAL NEW
BOMB CRATERS ARE OBSERVED ON AND AROUND THE RUNWAY.

[Redacted]

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REVEALS THAT THE

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STRIKE OF 11/12 FEBRUARY HAS RESULTED IN APPROXIMATELY
FORTY NEW CRATERS IN AND AROUND THE AIRFIELD, RENDERING
IT UNSERVICEABLE. THE MAJORITY OF THE DAMAGE IS
CONFINED TO THE SOUTHEAST PORTION OF THE RUNWAY WHICH
HAS BEEN UNDER RECENT RECONSTRUCTION.

[Redacted]

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NO AIRCRAFT ARE OBSERVED ON THE ABOVE MISSIONS.

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PREPARED BY: NPIC/CSD

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- 7 - TCO/NAVY [Redacted]
- 8 - IAD
- 9 - PAG (ATTN [Redacted])
- 10 - NSB/RB/CSD

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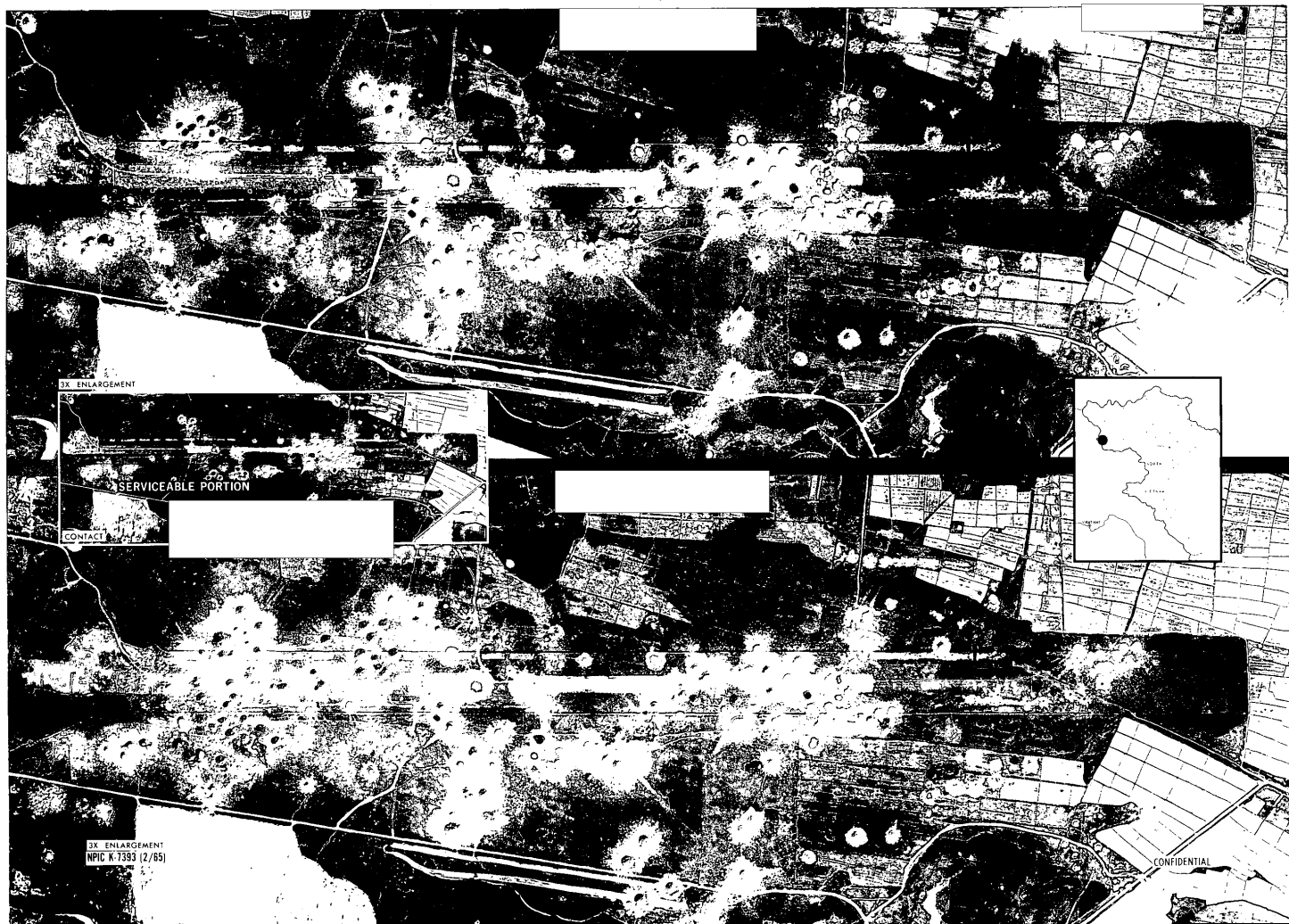
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