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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO NO054
24 APRIL 1968
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KHE SANH MILITARY AREA
SOUTH VIETNAM
1639N 10644E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD PORTRAYS THE U.S. MILITARY CAMP AT KHE SANH, THE WESTERN ANCHOR OF THE ALLIED DEFENSE LINE ALONG THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. THE SIEGE OF KHE SANH BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCE ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 20,000 AND 40,000 MEN WAS LIFTED AT 061915Z APRIL 1968, WHEN THE 1ST ARVN TROOPS LANDED ON THE AIR STRIP.

2. LOCATION:

KHE SANH MILITARY COMPLEX IS LOCATED AT 1639N 10644E ALONG ROUTE 9 WHICH CROSSES THE LAOS/SOUTH VIETNAM BORDER APPROXIMATELY 9 NM WEST OF THE COMPLEX.

3. BACKGROUND:

OPERATION NIAGARA, A SPECIAL AIR OPERATION IN DEFENSE OF KHE SANH, WAS TERMINATED BY COMUSMACV EFFECTIVE 31 MARCH 1968. THE CUMULATIVE AIR SUPPORT SORTIES IN SUPPORT OF KHE SANH FROM 19 JANUARY 1968 TO 31 MARCH 1968 IS AS FOLLOWS:

USAF TACTICAL STRIKES	9,691
ARC LIGHT B-52'S	2,548

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USN TACTICAL STRIKES	5,337
USMC TACTICAL STRIKES	<u>7,078</u>
TOTAL STRIKES	24,654
USAF RECONNAISSANCE SORTIES	1,398
USAF FAC SORTIES	<u>1,598</u>
TOTAL STRIKE AND STRIKE SUPPORTING SORTIES	27,650
TOTAL USAF AIRLIFT SORTIES	<u>1,041</u>
TOTAL USAF AIR SUPPORT SORTIES	28,691

THE DAILY SORTIES PROGRAMMED TO SUPPORT THE NIAGARA EFFORT WERE 398; USAF TACTICAL - 150, ARC LIGHT B-52 - 48, USN - 100, AND USMC - 100.

AS OF 31 MARCH 1968 THE TOTAL ORDNANCE EXPENDED BY USAF AIRCRAFT WAS 744,100 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION AND 72,216 TONS OF MUNITIONS - 12,674 TONS BY TACTICAL AIRCRAFT AND 59,542 TONS BY B-52 AIRCRAFT.

4. MISSION READOUT:PHOTOGRAPHY

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REVEALS EVIDENCE OF EXTENSIVE B-52 STRIKES IN THE FORM OF NUMEROUS LONG STEADY LINES OF BOMB CRATERS. THESE CRATERS EXTEND GENERALLY FROM HILL 1015 WESTWARD INTO LAOS. BOMB CRATERS FROM STRIKES BY OTHER AIRCRAFT ARE DISCERNIBLE THROUGHOUT THE AREA, PARTICULARLY IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF HILLS 881 SOUTH, 861, AND THE MAIN CAMP.

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ENEMY TRENCHES WERE PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED EXTENDING TOWARD THE EASTERN END OF THE CAMP AND IN SEVERAL INSTANCES APPEARED TO HAVE REACHED THE OUTER DEFENSE AREA OF THE CAMP. SCALE AND QUALITY OF PHOTOGRAPHY PRECLUDES THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW CONSTRUCTION OF TRENCHES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

AMS SERIES JOG(G) 1501, NE 48-16, 1ST ED

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