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AIRFIELD
NA KOUANG, LAOS
1958N 10328E

25X1

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD REVEALS NA KOUANG AIRFIELD WHILE IT IS UNDER ATTACK BY COMMUNIST FORCES.

2. LOCATION:

NA KOUANG AIRFIELD IS LOCATED 4.5 NM NORTH OF NA KOUANG, 0.5 NM SOUTHWEST OF NA KHANG, AND APPROXIMATELY 35 NM NORTH-NORTHEAST OF THE PLAINE DES JARRES.

3. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL OF 16-18 FEBRUARY 1966 REPORTS THAT THE NA KOUANG AIRFIELD AND THE SMALL VILLAGE OF NA KHANG WERE LOST TO PATHET LAO AND/OR NORTH VIETNAMESE (PAVN) TROOPS ON 18 FEBRUARY 1966.

THE BATTLE FOR THE AIRFIELD STARTED DURING THE NIGHT OF 16-17

FEBRUARY, WHEN ENEMY FORCES ATTACKED AND CAPTURED A FRIENDLY LAO POSITION

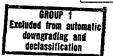
SIX KM SOUTHEAST OF THE AIRFIELD AND THEN CONTINUED TO PRESS FORWARD

TO WITHIN ONE KM OF NA KHANG. DURING THE MORNING HOURS OF THE 17TH, THE

ENEMY FORCES FIRED MORTARS INTO THE VICINITY OF THE AIRFIELD.

AUTO DEFENSE DE CHOC (ADC) AND LAO ARMED FORCES (FAR) TROOPS
REACTED WITH 105 MM AND 75 MM HOWITZERS, BUT THE ATTACKING FORCES RETAINED
THE HIGH GROUND SOUTHEAST OF THE AIRFIELD. AIR STRIKES WERE THEN CONDUCTED

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	AGAINST THEIR POSITIONS ON THE HIGH GROUND AND THEY WERE SUCCESSFULLY		
	DRIVEN BACK. AFTER THE INITIAL ATTACK ON NA KHANG, THE VILLAGERS LEFT		
	THE AREA AND STARTED WALKING IN THE DIRECTION OF MUONG HIEM (2007N 10321E).		
	ON AT 0400 HOURS, COMMUNIST FORCES LAUNCHED ANOTHE 25X		
	ATTACK AGAINST LAO POSITIONS NEAR THE AIRFIELD. THE ENEMY TROOPS CAME		
	IN FROM THE SOUTH, SOUTHEAST, AND THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF NA KHANG. BY		
	NOON, THE ATTACKERS HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK TO THE HILLS SOUTHEAST OF THE		
	AIRSTRIP. AIR STRIKES WERE CALLED IN TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND TO COVER		
	THE LAO TROOPS AS THEY WITHDREW FROM THE AIRFIELD. THE DEFENDERS MOVED		
	BACK TO THE HILLS NORTHWEST OF THE AIRFIELD, AND FROM THAT POSITION		
	FIRED 3.5 INCH PHOSPHORUS ROCKETS INTO THE GRASS COVERED AREAS AROUND		
	THE AIRFIELD WHERE SOME ENEMY FORCES WERE THOUGHT TO BE HIDING. THE		
	WIND CHANGED DIRECTION, HOWEVER, AND THE SMOKE AND FLAMES FORCED SOME		
	LAO POSITIONS TO WITHDRAW FURTHER BACK FROM THE AIRFIELD. ON THE NIGHT		
	OF THE 18TH THE LAO FORCES REPORTEDLY HELD A POSITION TWO KMS NORTHWEST		
	OF NA KHANG.		
	DURING THE BATTLE FOR THE NA KOUANG AIRFIELD, THE ENEMY FORCES		
	WERE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY TROOPS (PAVN).		
	ONE REPORTED PAVN SOLDIER WAS CAPTURED.		
4.	MISSION READOUT:		
	PHOTOGRAPHY OF REVEALS THE 25X		
	AREA OF THE NA KOUANG AIRFIELD TO CONTAIN NUMEROUS GROUND FIRES AND		

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DAMAGED AND DESTROYED BUILDINGS (NOT ALL ANNOTATED ON GRAPHIC). THREE DESTROYED LIAISON AIRCRAFT ARE OBSERVED, AND TWO LIAISON AIRCRAFT (ONE NOT DEPICTED ON GRAPHIC) ARE FLYING NEAR THE AIRFIELD. LARGE QUANTITIES OF OPEN STORED MATERIALS AND POL DRUMS ARE NOTED. NUMEROUS PERSONNEL ARE LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST END OF THE RUNWAY.

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