



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

JCSM-687-67

9 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Military Operating Authorities During Subject: Holiday Standdowns for Christmas 1967 and

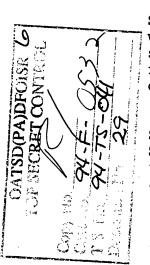
New Year's and Tet 1968 (U)

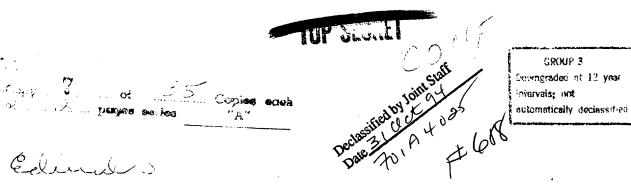
1. (The Reference is made to:

a. American Embassy, Saigon, message to State, 11714/ 221700Z November 1967, JCS IN 32691, in which Ambassador Locke presented the GVN position for holiday standdown periods of 36-36-72 hours and recommended that, if acceptable from a military standpoint, the proposal be accepted.

b. Joint State/Defense message to American Embassy, Saigon, 74877, 260205Z November 1967, JCS IN 38981, in which the Secretaries of State and Defense desired to limit standdown periods to 24-24-48 hours and provided quidance for the Ambassador in his negotiations with the Government of Vietnam and the Seven-Nation Ambassadors.

- c. JCSM-567-67, dated 23 October 1967, subject: "Holiday Standdowns in Vietnam (U)," in which the Joint Chiefs of Staff opposed any holiday standdowns and further opposed a total freeze on logistics, force repositioning, and rotation and replacement of personnel.
- d. JCS message to CINCPAC and CINCSAC, 3879/281441Z April 1967, which provided the military instructions to be followed during the standdown for Buddha's birthday on 23 May 1967.
- 2. The Joint Chiefs of Staff note that the Government has made a decision to institute standdowns of military activity of 24 hours at Christmas and New Year's and 48 hours at Tet.







In the past, the enemy has demonstrated to our detriment his ability to capitalize on military standdowns; therefore, the rules of engagement promulgated last year should be modified in accordance with the draft message contained in the Appendix hereto.

3. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend your approval of the attached draft message.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON
Acting Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment



APPENDIX

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FROM:	JCS LISTRIBUTION:	
TO:	CINCPAC DJS J-3 CINCSAC SJCS J-4 CSA J-5	
INFO:	COMUSMACV CNO AMEMB SAIGON CSAF AMEMB VIENTIANE CMC AMEMB BANGKOK SECDEF WHITE HOUSE DEPSECDEF STATE DEPT ASD/ISA ASD/PA	
TOP SECRET JCS JCS send.		
Subj:	Military Operating Authorities During Holiday Standdown for Christmas 1967 and New Year's and Tet 1968 (U)	
1.	Following instructions will govern military	1
operations in SEA during any agreed upon holiday standdown		
for Christmas 1967 and New Year's and Tet 1968. Exact dates		
and times will be promulgated when firm.		
	a. <u>In SVN</u>	5
	(1) Initiate no military offensive operations except	6
	in response to:	7
	(a) Enemy initiatives endangering the safety of	8
	US/RVN/FWMA forces.	9
	(b) Significant enemy resupply or infiltration	10
	into the southern part of the DMZ and the area	11
	immediately south thereof.	12
	(c) Major enemy resupply activities other	13
	than in subpara ls(l)(b), sbove, which fulfill any of	14
	the following criteria:	1.5

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<u>I</u> . Are in such proximity to irlendly units	Ţ
and/or installations as to constitute a direct	2
threat to friendly forces.	3
$\underline{2}$. Are taking place in a well-known established	ed 4
enemy base area.	5
3. In other locations, involve supplies in	6
quantities sufficient to indicate major resupply	7
operations.	8
(2) CINCPAC is authorized to react to the above	9
enemy actions in accordance with his existing	10
authorities. Report actions taken under this	11
authority immediately to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.	12
(3) Assume full alert posture and continue all	13
security precautions, to include patrol activity.	14
Be prepared with ready reaction forces to	15
respond to any VC/NVA initiative.	16
(4) Forces in contact with VC/NVA forces will	17
not break contact unless VC/NVA effort to withdraw	18
is clearly evident or until the operation concerned	19
is otherwise concluded.	20
(5) Continue MARKET TIME and GAME WARDEN.	21
(6) Conduct intensified aerial reconnaissance	22
throughout period, and continue search and rescue	23
operations as required.	24
(7) If deemed necessary for security of	25
US/RVN/FWMA forces, appropriate air and/or naval	26
operations are authorized in support of the above	27
operations. For this purpose, ARC LIGHT may be	28
requested through normal channels.	29



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(8) Operations conducted pursuant to foregoing will	1
avoid, whenever possible, hamlets and villages in order	2
to minimize impact on civilian population.	3
b. In NVN	4
(1) Suspend normal armed reconnaissance, air strikes,	5
and SEA DRAGON operations during period.	6
(2) South of 20°N latitude, CINCPAC may authorize	7
SEA DRAGON operations, air strikes, and artillery fire	8
against observed substantial military resupply and	9
against any activities that pose a direct threat to	10
friendly forces. SEA DRAGON ships will not deliver	11
fire against fixed shore targets except in self-	12
defense.	13
(3) North of 20°N latitude, CINCPAC may authorize	14
air strikes against any targets that pose an immediate	15
and direct threat to our forces, such as movement of	16
SAMs to extend additional SAM defenses south of 20°N	17
latitude.	18
(4) Conduct intensified aerial reconnaissance and	19
continue search and rescue operations as required.	20
(5) High-priority FRANTIC GOAT operations may be	21
conducted at discretion of CINCPAC.	22
(6) Report immediately to the Joint Chiefs of Staff	23
results of any reconnaissance which discloses substantial	24
military resupply activity in NVN and any actions taken	25
under the authorities of subparagraph $1b(2)$ or (3) above.	26
2. (B) Continue normal operations in Laos and Cambodia.	27
3. (US commanders, for the safety of their forces, have	28
full authority to act to protect them, including reinstitution	29
as necessary of any military actions suspended by these	30
instructions.	31
4. Report fully and immediately on VC/NVA hostile	32
acts during period.	33



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5. (c) Resume all normal operations at conclusion of each	
period.	:
6. (16) Be prepared to resume all normal operations at any	3
time, without delay, during the standdown period, should enemy	ı
initiated attacks and/or incidents reach such proportions as	5
to cause the RVN, United States, and their allies to terminate	6
the standdown for cause.	7
7. Coordinate any public comment relating to these	8
instructions with US Ambassador, Saigon. GP-3	9

WRITER:

Captain W. L. Spann, USN Pacific Division, J-3 Extension 57008

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Appendix