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TMC-T APL-260  
-T CCD-17  
-T CRF-1 DET D.T.  
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AT 1500Z

ORIGINAL

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DAILY INTERNAL INFORMATION SUMMARY NO. 03-23

THE MRR RECEIVED THE SEVEREST ATTACK IN ITS YEAR OF OPERATIONS IN THE DELTA EARLY FRIDAY MORNING WHEN A TOTAL OF NINE ROCKET AND MORTAR ROUNDS WERE FIRED FROM THE SOUTH BANK AT THE BENEWAH AND WASHTENAW COUNTY.

MODERATE DAMAGE WAS INFILCTED ON BENEWAH WHICH TOOK TWO 75MM RECKLESS ROCKET HEAT ROUNDS ON THE PORT SIDE FORWARD. THREE OTHER ROCKETS OR MORTARS EXPLODED CLOSE TO THE SHIP, BUT, FORTUNATELY, THERE WERE NO PERSONNEL CASUALTIES AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK.

ONE OF THE ROCKETS PENETRATED THE BULKHEAD ON THE FORWARD MESS DECKS, RUPERTING A STEAM LINE AND AIR VENT, DAMAGING A FAN ROOM AND SPRAYING THE AREA WITH SIZEABLE CHUNKS OF SHRAPNEL.

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THE SECOND ROCKET STRUCK JUST FORWARD OF THE PORT ACCOMMODATION LADDER ABOUT ONE FOOT BELOW THE WATERLINE. THIS PLAST OPENED A HOLE 12 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUPTURED TWO BALLAST TANKS, CAUSING MINOR FLOODING. THE TANKS WERE PUMPED OUT TO FACILITATE REPAIRS, AND THE SHIP WAS LISTED FIVE DEGREES TO STARBOARD TO EXPOSE THE HOLE.

THE WASHTENAW REPORTED RECEIVING A TOTAL OF FIVE MORTAR ROUNDS FROM ANOTHER LOCATION ON THE SOUTH BANK JUST AFTER THE ATTACK ON THE BENEWAH. SEVERAL OF THE ROUNDS FELL CLOSE TO THE SHIP BUT THERE WERE NO DIRECT HITS AND NO DAMAGE.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ATTACK, TWO ASPBS ON BID PATROL ALONG THE SOUTH BANK TOOK THE AREAS FROM WHICH THE ROUNDS ORIGINATED UNDER FIRE WITH 22MM CANNONS AND 82MM MORTARS. WASHTENAW, BENEWAH AND ASKARI ALSO STRAFED THE SOUTH BANK WITH 40 MM AND 3 INCH FIRE WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. THE TWO ASPB'S, COLLETION AND BENEWAH HAD BEEN CONDUCTING H&I FIRE ON THE SOUTH BANK THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.

THE ATTACK ON THE MRR WAS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED BY ONE OF THE HEAVIEST MORTARINGS OF DONG TAN IN WEEKS. SEVENTY-THREE 100MM AND 82MM ROUNDS WERE COUNTED AND THREE PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED IN THE 40 MINUTE ATTACK.

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TWO ONE AND ONE HUNDRED TRUCKS WERE ALSO DROPPED, ALONG WITH SEVERAL PACKED CASES, CABLES AND COMMUNICATION WIRES.

RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON 11 BOATS IN I CORPS ARE CONTINUING TO ESCORT CONVOYS BETWEEN CUA VIET AND THE DONG HA SUPPLY CENTER WITHOUT INCIDENT. HEAVY LIFT PROBLEMS HAVE HINDERED REPAIR OF SEVERAL DAMAGED UNITS, HOWEVER, AND ONLY 10 OF THE 14 BOATS ARE OPERATIONAL AT THIS TIME.

TOM GREEN COUNTY (LST-1159) JOINED THE MRF FRIDAY AND BEGAN PREPARING TO RELIEVE THE WASHTENAW COUNTY AS MRF SUPPORT LST.

THE MRF WAS VISITED THURSDAY BY NEWSPAPER REPORTERS FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, THE LONDON DAILY MIRROR AND THE LONDON DAILY MAIL.

BT

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TOD/ 22/1443 NFLX /14412 NDNU/ 1440Z NUIV

TOD: 1505Z TMC -T- APL 2G/CCD-17/CTU 117.0.1 /CO 2ND BDE

WU/JWD/SUPV.: 

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