

NO REFERENCE SHOULD BE
MADE TO THIS MESSAGE IN
OTHER THAN USASSD CHANNELS
Z 060207Z APR 72

FM MG HOLLINGSWORTH CG TRAC LBN RVN
TO GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV SGN RVN

ARV 0743 EYES ONLY

SUBJECT: DAILY COMMANDER'S EVALUATION 051000H - 061000H APR 72

1. (C) ENEMY ACTIVITY:

A. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN MR III REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL DURING THE 24 HOUR PERIOD, WITH 34 ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED (1 DIR FIRE, 5 GND ATKS, 28 ABF). THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT UNIT IDENTIFICATIONS OR RELOCATIONS DURING THIS PERIOD. ENEMY ACTIVITY IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN AT THIS HIGH LEVEL DURING THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

B. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, THERE WERE 2 ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS INVOLVING US PERSONNEL, RESULTING IN 5 US WIA AND 2 MIA. ON 050152H APR, 3 KM SOUTH OF LOC NINH (XU 747056), A COBRA GUNSHIP WAS SHOT DOWN BY GAF. THE TWO CREWMEN ARE LISTED AS MIA AND THE G/S IS A COMBAT LOSS. ON 051115H APR, A CO, 1/12 CAV DETONATED A BBT WHILE DEPLOYING DURING A COMBAT ASSAULT (YT 126252) 4 KM NW OF BEAR CAT. 5 US WERE WOUNDED.

C. ALTHOUGH ARVN REPORTS ARE SLOW AND RELATIVELY INACCURATE, THESE ARE MY OBSERVATIONS OF THE BATTLE OF LOC NINH. AT ABOUT 0530 HOURS ON 5 APR, LOC NINH WAS BROUGHT UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY WHAT I ESTIMATE TO BE A REINFORCED REGIMENT (PROBABLY FROM THE 5 VC DIV). THERE WERE

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OF GROUND ATTACKS WHICH, AT TIMES, PUT THE ENEMY IN
NEAR THE WIRE. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, THE ENEMY POUNDED THE
AREA WITH HEAVY FIRES (60/82 MORTARS AND 107 ROCKETS. THERE
WERE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF 105^{MM} HOW AND 76MM TANK GUN
FIRES). GROUND TO AIR FIRES PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD -
MOSTLY SMALL ARMS BUT SOME .51 CAL. THE ENEMY WAS PRESSING FROM
THE WEST, SOUTHWEST AND, LATER IN THE DAY, REPORTEDLY FROM THE
NORTH. THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THAT LOC NINH WOULD HAVE
FALLEN IN THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY EARLY IN THE DAY HAD IT NOT
BEEN FOR THE MAGNIFICANT SUPPORT OF THE 7TH AF AND THE BRILLIANT
FIRE DIRECTION EFFORTS OF A YOUNG ARMY CAPTAIN, SMITH.
AS IT NOW STANDS, LOC NINH REMAINS IN FRIENDLY HANDS, AND THE
ENEMY THRUST HAS BEEN BLUNTED. IT REMAINS FOR ARVN TO BEGIN
THE MANEUVER TO DRIVE HIM OUT OF THE PROVINCE. ASIDE FROM THE
COBRA CREW OF TWO, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF CASUALTIES
AT LOC NINH. THIS IS DUE TO THE PAUCITY OF THE REPORTING SYSTEM,
SINCE I FEEL THAT OTHER CASUALTIES HAVE OCCURRED.

2. (C) FRIENDLY SITUATION:

A. DISPOSITION OF FORCES: NO CHANGE.

B. FRIENDLY ACTIVITY: IN THE III CORPS AREA OF OPERATION FRIENDLY
ELEMENTS CONTINUED TO REACT TO ENEMY ATTACKS, PRIMARILY WITH US
AIR FORCE GUNSHIP, TAC AIR, AND HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SUPPORT. AS OF
THIS HOUR ALL MAJOR AREAS REMAIN UNDER FRIENDLY CONTROL WITH PRESSURE
ON LOC NINH STILL REMAINING CRITICAL. ALTHOUGH QUAN LOI WAS SUB-
JECTED TO ABF AND GROUND PROBES YESTERDAY, THE HELICOPTER REFUEL
AND REARM POINT REMAINS UNDER ARVN CONTROL. IN THE 5TH DIVISION AREA
OF OPERATIONS NUMEROUS SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS WERE REPORTED. AT 0645

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YESTERDAY THE 5TH DIVISION RECON COMPANY REPORTED ENGAGING AN ESTI-
MATED COMPANY VIC XT 7851 (12 KM N LAI KHE) KILLING 21 ENEMY AND
CAPTURING 01 AK47 WHILE FRIENDLY LOSSES WERE 2 KILLED, 06 WIA AND 03
WEAPONS MIA INCLUDING 01 M-60 MG. DURING THE AFTERNOON ELEMENTS OF
THE 52ND REGIMENT SWEEP THE AREA IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR FRONT VIC XT
6399 (12 KM SW LOC NINH) WHERE HEAVY CONTACT HAD BEEN REPORTED WITH
AN UNKNOWN SIZE FORCE FINDING 12 VC KIA AND 2 AK47 CIA. AT 1345
HOURS ELEMENTS OF THE 986 AND 987 RF COMPANY ON SEARCH OPERATION EN-
GAGED AN ENEMY FORCE VIC XT 7668 (20 KM S AN LOC) KILLING 07 ENEMY
AND CAPTURING 01 AA MG AND 02 MGS. AT 1420 HOURS VIC XT 5843 (20 KM
W LAI KHE) THE 3/43 INFANTRY WHILE ON SEARCH OPERATIONS FOUND 25
ENEMY BODIES AND CAPTURED 03 B-40 RL'S FRIENDLY FORCES ALSO REPORTED
DESTROYING 01 ENEMY TANK BY ARTILLERY DIRECT FIRE WHILE VNAF REPORTED
DESTROYING 01 ENEMY 105MM HOW VIC XU 655035. NO SIGNIFICANT FRIENDLY
CONTACTS IN THE 25TH DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS WERE REPORTED. THE
4TH, 5TH AND 6TH RGR GPS CLEARED MR3 YESTERDAY.

C. FUTURE PLANS: LAST NIGHT I DISCUSSED PLANS FOR TODAY WITH GEN
MINH. HE PLANS TO AIR LIFT THE 3D RANGER GROUP WITH THE 31, 36 AND
52 BNS TO AN LOC. IN ADDITION, HE PLANS TO MOVE THE 3D ACB WITH
THE 18TH ACR, 2-8 INF AND 1 CAV TRP TO CHON THANH, CLEARING
THE ROAD, THEN RETURNING TO THE SOUTH OF LAI KHE. AS THESE MOVES
TAKE PLACE, THE PLAN IS TO CONSTITUTE A RESERVE WITH ELEMENTS OF THE
50TH REGT AND POSSIBLY TWO BORDER RGR BNS AND POSITION THEM IN THE VIC
OF TAY NINH.

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