

TOW

SS-11

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AVHAB-OPT

24 November 1972

FACT SHEET

SUBJECT: Helicopter Mounted Missile System Data (U)

PURPOSE: To present a summary of operational results of the Airborne TOW Anti-tank Missile System

FACTS:

1. (C) TOW data for 13-19 November 1972.

a. Two missiles were fired in combat on 16 November 1972. The missiles were fired at an enemy bunker complex at XT375178 but both missiles malfunctioned and fell short of their targets by 500 meters.

b. One missile was fired in training on 16 November 1972. The missile, with HAWK 6 serving as gunner, scored a direct hit on a previously destroyed tank at XT955455.

c. Four missiles were fired on 19 November. Two rounds scored hits on a five ton truck at XT10752S and a 2½ ton truck at YT203511 respectively. Secondary explosions continued for 30 minutes after the 5 ton truck was hit. Both vehicles were destroyed. The remaining two rounds were misses at enemy vehicles heavily camouflaged in dense jungle. Target detection was very difficult until the aircraft was fairly close to the target (less than 1000 meters). This minimum range, together with the target detection problem, proved too close for the gunner to obtain a missile capture (lock-on) and engage the target successfully.

2. (U) GDS declassification date 31 December 1978.

Submitted by:

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