

FACT SHEET

AVHAY-OPT

30 November 1972

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 20-26 November 1972.

a. Seven missiles were fired in combat on 22 November 1972. Targets were three 2½ ton trucks loaded with supplies and being used by enemy forces. Each truck was engaged by TacAir prior to engagement by the TOW, but each was undamaged.

b. The first truck located at YT225585 was hit with the first missile and destroyed with numerous secondary explosions.

c. The second truck was discovered at YT225635 in very dense jungle. Four missiles were fired at this target. The first two missiles were misses due to the heavy cover concealing the vehicle, the short engagement range, and failure of the gunner to achieve an adequate missile lock-on to guide the missile to the target. The third missile resulted in a hit, but the load remained intact. Therefore, one final missile was employed to destroy the truck load of POL/ammunition. This final run resulted in a hit with secondary explosions and total destruction of the truck and its load.

d. The third vehicle at YT225600 was engaged with two missiles. The first TOW missile hit the truck, but the supplies remained intact. A second missile was fired and scored a hit resulting in additional secondary explosions, totally destroying the vehicle and its contents.

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

Submitted by:

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