

12 June 72

1. General situation

A. There were several light ADF's at KTM today as sweep operations continued. Friendly elements continued to find enemy dead and weapons. The QL 14 operation is proceeding slowly as enemy resistance stiffens. Binh Dinh Prov. was quiet, however, Thanh Hoa prov. picked up when sappers attacked Cam Ranh Bay last night. The Cav Troops working in KTM and PK4 provinces reported that there are indications of another build up around KTM city and in the vic of Plei Krong. The extraction of the bodies from the C46 was completed today except for one body which should be recovered tomorrow.

B. Elements of the 23rd Div continued sweep operations around the city of KTM. Several BPA's were conducted and there are reports of more enemy bodies and weapons being found. 145th made contact with an unknown size enemy force north of the city in the vic of an ARVN light strike. Enemy antiaircraft weapons were used

in a ground role against advancing friendly units. The 44th regt CP and 23rd Div CP received sporadic ABF's from enemy artillery pieces.

Our CH-47's continued to carry replacements, food and ammo to UTM and bringing back refugees. The WX, as usual, was poor in the morning and improved in the afternoon. There were no reports of enemy fire against our ALC in UTM today.

The A.F. flight checked our BCA facilities today and everything appears to be satisfactory. The POC point at the UTM airfield was operational today so now we have POC available at both the airfield and the FOB pad.

C. TF 21 received an ABF from enemy 82mm mortars today as they continued moving South in the vic. of Chu Pao mountain. Elements of the 2nd Ranger Group are meeting stiff resistance on the South side of the mountain. It appears that the enemy has been cleared out of the area in the pass from FSB 42 to vic. 41A, however, small enemy units continued to

infiltrate back in near the highway and ambushed friendly units from old fighting positions. The bulk of the enemy forces are believed to be around the base of Chu Pas Mt. From these positions they control the northern portion of the pass.

D. Cam Rach Bay was attacked last night at about 2330 hours. by an enemy sapper unit. It was reported here that 4 POC storage tanks containing 5,000,000 gal were destroyed. There have been no friendly casualties reported however, one POW was captured attempting to escape in a boat. It is believed that some of the attackers were wounded by a mechanical ambush as they made their escape.

2. synopsis of ops.

	43/14/8	West	17/8/5	
CH-47's	<u>sorties</u>	<u>Pox</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Hours</u>
East	46	72	64	9.5
West	39	1496	31	19.8

3. Air Car ops

A. H/17 : The troop initially conducted

ed VR's NW of Vo Binh in response to reports of enemy tank movement in that area. There were no indications of recent tank movement; However, there was evidence of wheeled vehicles moving through the area in the past 24 hrs. Working to the East a large bunker was located about 4KM East of Vo Binh. It is believed that the bunker is a command post. Several air strikes were put in on the position. The air strikes exposed what appeared to be an extensive tunnel complex. The troop will go back into that area again tomorrow. A VR of an area East of KTM city show indications of troop movement and it is believed a build up is taking place.

B. H/10th. The troop conducted reconnaissance around Plei Mrong.

NW of Plei Mrong the trail showed evidence of troops moving through the area toward the East. These troops may be reinforcing enemy units in the KTM pass. One COA drew fire 2KM West of Chu Pao MT. The AIC did not receive any hit.

It is believed that a company sized unit is in that area. The most significant finding of the trap was evidence of vehicle traffic and possibly tracked vehicle movement 10-15 KM NE of PKU city. (later proved false) The trap will investigate these tracks first thing tomorrow.

4. Vul Data: One UH-1H from the 57th AHC (68-16363) was hit by two rounds of 50 cal fire at AR 900150 SE of PKU. Both rounds went through the sync elevator w/o causing much damage.

4. Misc.

A. The weather was poor again this morning but improved gradually all day eventually turning into the best flying we have had in over a week. Except for the effects of a few rain showers in the mid-afternoon operations were almost unrestricted which was a welcome change.

B. I observed the AF C130 and ground crew flight check the UTM GCA this afternoon and they did an excellent job. The system checked

out well within allowable tolerances and the A.F. Team was very complimentary about the job our people and our facility at WTM. The tower equipment you are sending us will help but the temporary rig we have set up now is functioning well and getting the job done.

C. We sent six of the TDY TOW people down to you today. The write-ups for their awards are not quite finished yet but I will get them to you ASAP, hopefully when Pat Feore comes down later in the week with the rest of his people. I have thanked the people here and recommended that you give them a personal thank you and hearty well-done prior to their departure. Then we can forward their medals to them at their units in the states for presentation which will probably mean much more to the individual than if they were presented here. We will need a current list of their units and addresses to make sure that the awards get there.

D. Bill Waser went down to the coast this afternoon to visit the 60th, 201st, and the 604th. He will also discuss personnel problems with the personnel services company at NHA Trang while he is down there and plans to return tomorrow morning.

E. General Healy and I finally found time to get together this evening. After dinner we had the nightly intelligence briefing and following this we sat in his Quarters and talked for about three hours. We covered the water front but concentrated on the battle up here thus far and the part our aviation has played. Bob Kingston came in and sat with us for the last hour or so. It was most interesting and I believe that we have established an excellent rapport. This should help us in providing aviation support to MR II in the future.

F. The A.F. finally agreed today to continue C130 lifts into KTON Airfield during the hours of darkness.

(since we have continued our flying perhaps they were shared into it) Twenty-four sorties are planned for tonight and as of midnight we had gotten in 9 sorties.