

10-11 JUNE

1. Gen Situation:

A. The past two days have been little enemy initiated activity. There is still an uneasy calm in UTM. Elements of the 23rd Div made contact with enemy units along in NE of UTM. The QL 14 operation continued into its second day. Contact was made on the NW and SE sides of the Chu Pao Mountain. There was action in Phu My District Binh Dinh Prov. this afternoon when a large enemy force was encountered. Ten sets of TAC air were called in on the target. Efforts continued today to recover the remainder of the bodies of personnel killed in the crash of a C46 which occurred several days ago in the vic of the Mang Yang pass.

B. Elements of the 23rd Div received some minor probes in the early morning of the 10th. There were sporadic ABF's of 3-4 rounds throughout the day and night. No serious damage was reported. Today,

the 44th Regt made contact with enemy units dug in north of KTM. The friendlies pulled back and called in artillery. 3/45th conducted a BDA of an ARC light NW of KTM at 241839Z. They found 16 KBA and captured 7 SA and 2 B40 Rocket launchers. Friendly units continued pushing out from KTM in efforts to clear the area and locate enemy positions. The logistical buildup effort continues and the 23rd Div SA reports that the supply situation has greatly improved in KTM. The CH-47's were able to work fairly well yesterday but poor wx limited operations more severely today. The CH-47's have been hauling ammo, food, and POL. Last night 8 C-130's landed at KTM, however, one 122 mm rocket landed in the vicinity of the airfield and that terminated A.F. operations for the night. The BCA is operational and more C-130's were scheduled for tonight. Yesterday there was a report of a surface to air missile

or rocket being fired at an F4 NW of UTM. Today three more objects of some type were observed being fired at an F-4. The missile/rockets were tracked by the large orange flare coming apparently from the motor. They overtook the fighter, however, they missed the A/C and went up into the clouds at about 5000' MSL. The Pak Peh ranger camp received a heavy ABF last night consisting of 82 mm Mortars, and HK fire. An attack on Pak Peh is anticipated in the near future.

C. On 10 June TF 21 elements of the 2nd RNG GP and the 3rd Cav kicked off the latest attempt to open QL 14. The units made contact today in the vic of Chu Pao mountain. TF 21 made contact on the NW side of the mountain while elements of the 2nd Rng Group made contact in the Pass on the SE side. It appears that it will be difficult fighting against a small but well dug-in enemy force.

D. There have been sporadic ABF's and contacts in Binh Dinh Prov. both yesterday and today. It was reported that Qc 1 between Phu CAT and Qui Nhon is open and the area cleared. Today a team from 4 TAP 10th CAV located a larger enemy force in the vic BR 890632. Elements of the 40th Regt made contact with the enemy, however, the friendly's broke contact and appeared to be moving South (i.e. Fled the area). Air strikes were called in and there have been reports of numerous enemy soldiers KBA.

E. The efforts to recover the bodies of the crash victims from the wreckage of a C46 near the Mang Yang Pass continued today. The recovery team did not find any survivors and it appears from the mangled bodies and twisted wreckage that the A/C hit at a high rate of speed. The extraction of the bodies should begin tomorrow.

2. Synopsis of ops:

11 June 39/14/18 West 116/8/5

	CH 47's	sorties	Load	tons	hours
10 June	East	77	157	113	16.1
	West	58	896	73	24.0
17 June	East				
	West	54	701	45.5	12.9

3. Air Car ops:

10 June:

A. H/17 The troop worked NE of KTM initially. Troops were observed moving into new fighting positions and bunkers. There were indications of movement in the area and work being done to improve old or damaged bunkers. NW of KTM there was evidence of vehicle traffic and troop movements. When the COA approached the CH-47 that has been sitting on QL14 at ZA 192987 for over a month several enemy troops were observed running away from the ACC. An APC was also sighted in the ~~vic~~vic of the Chinook. It is believed that the old APC and Chinook are possibly being used by the enemy as storage areas. Gunships engaged the APC with 20mm. There

were no secondaries. No fire was placed on or near the CH-47.

B. H/10: The Troop supported operations to recover the bodies of 1st Douglas and 1st Robertson from the area of MR. VAMN's OH-58 crash. Later in the day the Troop conducted VR's for PHU Prov. with no significant observations reported.

11 June

C. H/17 The Troop was only able to work late in the afternoon due to poor wx in the AO. They conducted VR's NE and SE of Udon city. There are indications of recent troop movement in these areas, however, there is no evidence of vehicle traffic and no troops were observed.

D. H/10: The unit conducted VR's for PHU Prov. to the NW of the city. The Troop was restricted by poor wx and there were no significant observations.

4. Vulnerability Data:

10 June

A. An AH-1G (70-16025) from H/17 received incidental damage

when it was hit by one 50 cal.
round ZA 068 918.

b. The 57th AHC had an AH-16
(67-15490) hit by one 50 cal.
round at ZA 1956 95. The damage was
minor and the AHC completed
its mission.

c. A CH-47 (67-18548) from the
180th ASHC was hit by two rounds
of SA Fire at CRO 20240 and
sustained incident damage. The

AHC returned to base w/o further
incident.

5. Tow - No ops:

6. Misc

A. 10 June

(1) scheduled activity continued today
but even the war seemed to operate
at a subdued pace due to MR
VARN's death. Most of the key people
were up most of last night and all
(including me) were pretty well beat
today. Most staff activity centered
around getting MR VARN's body moved
to Saigon and the changes brought
about by his death. Gen Weyand

came up this morning with several key MACV civilians to personally supervise and approve the arrangements. He departed about noon taking Gen Hill with him in his T39 so that he would not miss his flight to Clark. Gen Healy, who had arrived in the morning, plunged immediately into the business of getting his feet on the ground and keeping things moving.

(2) A very impressive plane-side ceremony for MR VANN was held at 1600 hrs. at Camp Holloway. An Honor guard of Vietnamese soldiers and MP's, Montagnard cadets, and U.S. soldiers formed a lane from the fence at the Holloway VIP ramp to the waiting C130 A/C. MR VANN's body was moved from an ambulance in a Vietnamese Plain box (at the request of Gen Toan) covered with a U.S. Flag. The pall bearers were mixed U.S. and Vietnamese soldiers. The casket was placed on saw-horses, halfway to the waiting A/C. A short service was conducted by the SRAC chaplain and Gen Toan.

on the province chief, Col VABN, placed wreaths on the casket.

Gen Toan made some remarks on behalf of the Vietnamese and he was obviously moved. He and MR VANN had become quite close and admired each other very much even in the short period General Toan has been here. Sgt Black, MR VANN's personnel secretary, and MR VANN's fiancée accompanied his body on the A-1C to Saigon.

(3) The WX continued to restrict operations all day. The usual pattern was repeated with low ceiling, fog, and drizzle in the morning, rising ceilings in the late morning and early afternoon with rain showers and lowering ceilings in afternoon and evening.

Close air support was possible only on a limited basis for a few hours and most of the fighter sorties had to be put in using the radar directed shyspot technique.

B. 11 June.

(1) WX today was almost an exact duplicate of yesterday.

maximum effort was made to get the most from our assets during the few hours this afternoon when the wx was flyable.

(2) Gen Healy and Col. Kingston spent most of the day getting briefed and read into the situation. We had a memorial service this afternoon at the T/M 21 highlander chapel for MA VANN, Cpt Robertson and LT Doughtie. Everyone attended. At 1600 Gen Healy had the SAAG staff and commanders assembled and made a short, hard-hitting, effective talk explaining his policies and asked for everyone's support in accomplishing the mission.

(3) As mentioned previously we had three firings of what appeared to be missiles or rockets at a flight of F4's near KTM putting in one of the few close air support strikes of the day. As observed, the firings did not completely fit the SA-7 pattern but the information as reported was sufficient to cause the air force to cancel tonight's missions for the C130's into KTM. I can understand

their concern (and I am concerned too for our people) but I am afraid I have to agree with John Hill's often expressed view on the subject. "It is a war; we are soldiers; and we do receive extra money for flying plus something called hostile fire pay. In view of this we should be prepared to take some reasonable risks and even now and then earn some of this extra compensation we are getting." We haven't curtailed any of our flying yet and as you can see I am a little bitter about the AF's reaction. Thus far their only significant personnel losses around KTRM occurred when the C-130 crew panicked and tried to take off with a full load of ammo during a rocket attack on the airfield.

(4) I got up to KTRM late this afternoon and early evening and visited the 23rd Div TOC and our GCA and tower site at the airfield. Everything was extremely

quiet with Bill Brucher in charge while Kottenberg is gone on a hand clasp to Clark. A couple of days ago I had asked that the 23rd Div Engineers assist our people in sand-bagging our GCH tower installation. They did a good job and our people are well set up there now. I flew the GCH pattern once and then had them vector me back to Plei M song (through some heavy rain showers) and on to Pleiku. The weather wasn't really that bad and I had visual reference most of the time but I wanted to give our people the practice and assure myself that they could get me back and forth in case I really needed it.

(5) ~~The~~ As I am writing this, it is ~~pouring~~ literally pouring down outside (and inside) The operations shop leaks just slightly and it is almost as wet in here as it is outside. I can assure you at this point that the P4U/HAAF water shortage is definitely over.