

8 JUNE

1. General Situation:

A. Friendly units continue to make progress in mop-up operations in Kontum city. At 1800 hrs. 23rd Div reported that the last pocket of enemy resistance had been eliminated and the interior of the city had been secured. There were sporadic contacts with small enemy units in Binh Dinh Province, however, no significant enemy activity was reported. A new drive to open QL 14 is being planned using elements of TF 21 and the Ranger Groups. The weather improved again today, although plebsun experienced marginal wx throughout the day. KTR was fair to good.

B. Elements of the 23rd Div started aggressive patrolling north and north-west of KTR city. There were reports of finding enemy bodies and weapons in fighting positions north of the city. Efforts are continuing to improve defensive positions as an attack is still expected in the near future.

ARVN units attempting to clean up the city are encountering considerable

able problems with the large number of decomposed NVA bodies. The smell is quite bad now and with every passing day the situation gets worse. The GCA became operational today. The A.F. is planning to send C-130's in tonight. The Taxiway and Ramp are still in bad shape and won't be able to accept any traffic until more work is done on them but these won't restrict immediate operations. There were 9 C-130's ~~in~~ drops on the NW DZ and all the loads were recovered. An A.F. FAC put two sets of fighters in on a suspected mortar position just north of the city. KTM city received 8 rounds of arty fire late this afternoon. There was no report of damage. The rounds impacted while we were on the ground checking the GCA and they hit NW of the airfield between it and the MACV compound.

C. TF 21 conducted patrols South along QL 14 from FEB 40 2A 235-830. There were no reports of enemy

contact. Tomorrow the TF will continue to patrol to the south and prepare to launch an attack south along QL 14 to link up with elements of the Ranger Command who will attack north up the highway from FSB 414. This attack is scheduled to begin on 10 June. FSB's 414 and 41 received sporadic ABF's throughout the day.

D. Binh Dinh Prov. remains relatively quiet. There was some contact in the vic of a bridge on QL #1 BR 943391 NW of AN NHON. The enemy is reported to be dug in on either side of the highway. Air strikes were called in on suspected enemy locations. Results of the A's are unknown at this time.

2. Synopsis of ops:

A. A/C commitments 40/12/8
West 15/8/5

CH-47's	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Hours</u>
East	85	139	124	16
West	82	1635	61	27

3. Air Can ops : H/17 was able to get out into the AO by 0730 hrs this morning. Initially the troop worked East and ~~NE~~ NE of the city out about 5 km. There were no indications of enemy units in this area. Some fresh fighting positions and bunkers were sighted South of the city at AR 797 852. The troop conducted VR's SW and NW of the city. Nothing fresh was found and there does not appear to be any significant enemy movement within 5-8 km of UTR. The rivers are high and it is believed that they are not fordable. The troop checked the area in the vic of a fording site west of VO Binh at ZB 109 005 late in the afternoon. The LOH received heavy automatic weapons fire from the west side of the river. A large ARVN Dump was observed in that area. The gunships expended on the target with results unknown. Two suspected artillery positions were also located in the same area. TAC air was requested, however,

The weather closed in before the strikes could be brought in.

4. Vul. : One UH-1H (65-09679) from the 57th AHC was hit by one round of small arms fire at AR 879 230. The round hit the right skid causing only minor damage.

5. TOW no op. miss.

6. Misc.

A. The WX improved today but low ceilings this morning and continuing rain showers throughout the day restricted operations. Generally, conditions were worse in the PHU area than around KTA9. We were unable to get into the C46 crash site today due to clouds hanging over the tops of the mountains around the Nam Yang pass. This operation will be attempted again tomorrow.

B. TOW training is progressing rapidly, as previously indicated. We will be able to send two crews (4 WO's), one ops sgt and one crew chief down to Bde for shipment home in the next 2-3.

days. LTC Feore will remain with one crew (2 pilots plus crew chief) to complete the training plus insure a smooth transition. I plan to send the rest of his people down to you on the 14th. You may want to keep them there at Bde for two or three days to prepare an after action report and answer specific questions. The bell tech rep is in the process of leaving now - he is no longer needed. Hugh McLarnish from MICOM and the Hughes people will continue to be required. We have organized the UH-1B/TOW group as a separate section and plan to assign it to 361st attack helicopter company. They will have six pilot/gunners (one OIC and one spare), two crew chiefs and one NCOIC, tech inspector qualified in the B model. This outfit can then be transferred or sent TDY as a complete package if it is desired at some later date to deploy the UH-1B/TOW to

some other MAR.

C. The GCH installation at UTR was completed and flight checked late this afternoon. I used my buoy to do the check since the weather was too poor at Pheasant. To get the U-21 out VFR and IFR clearance delays made that type flight impractical. I ran five complete approaches and the equipment was so well adjusted that even ~~for~~ the first run was only slightly out of tolerance. The air force will get their flight check bird over from Clark AFB tomorrow but in the meantime they will take our check and we have five C130 missions scheduled into UTR tonight.

D. Dave Rogerson and crew arrived without incident in 810 bringing the parts to repair 920. This should be completed by tomorrow morning and we will get them on their way back to brigade. Thanks for the prompt action to replace our bird. The 17th CAG is fully

committed and when I use one of their A/C for very long it really puts them in a bind.

E. Bill Kaser and I plan to get down to the Eagle Bn at An Son tomorrow to present the impact awards which you approved. The press of action here plus the war made it impossible for us to get down today. While we are down there tomorrow we will also visit Phil Kaplan, SA at the 22nd Div and check on the ops of our people who are supporting him.

F. Discussions with Rob Smith and his crew this afternoon were most helpful. We covered current structure planning as well as our immediate stationing problems at Marble Mountain / DA NANG, CAO BANH / NHA TRANG and Long Binh / Saigon Complex.