

commented in his log were being evacuated to
states. he compared it with combat wounds
very effective comparison.

2-3 June

1. General Situation:

a. The wx has been poor for the last two days. It curtailed operations yesterday and completely stopped us today. KTM remains relatively quiet with ARVN continuing sweep operations in the city. Binh Dinh Prov has become very active in the past two days around LZ Crystal. Friendly units are being hard pressed. A TAC E was declared for that area this afternoon. The Q14 operation is still not moving in the pass, however, the end run with TF 21 is stirring the enemy up to the west. No great forward progress was made today but it seems like the enemy is going to react sharply to the TF 21 movement which should bring him out in the open where we can get to him with our gunships and tac #12.

B. Friendly units have been conducting sweep operations in KTM. There have been sporadic ABF's for the past two days. The enemy conducted probing attacks last night on the northern portion of the perimeter. It is believed these were to assist his own units with drawing from the city. At 2A 213 918 NW of KTM an enemy unit withdrawing today ran into another enemy unit dug

into positions. A firefight ensued with friendly arty supporting both sides by fire. Troops sweeping in the SE and NE are continuing to find enemy soldiers KBA. The last organized pocket of resistance in the SE Quadrant was a church occupied by an estimated NVA squad. M41 tanks on line fired into the building until all resistance was ended. On the NW perimeter 9 EN KBA were found near an ARC light strike. One Hoi Chan was reported by 1/44th. The Hoi Chan reported that his company, C-10, from B-3 BN, has dwindled from 80 men to 30. He states that his unit is being replaced by the 66th Regt, who have new weapons and tanks. He also stated that the NVA have a wire guided missile, D-72, which is 122 mm, at 30 kilo and max range about 3000 meters. This missile was employed against Tan Can and Ben Hat but has not been used at Kontum. B163rd arty located on the south side of the FOB pad was attacked by sappers throwing handgrenades. There was no report of material damage and only four friendly wounded. C130's using shy spots dropped five loads into KTR city today. Four of the loads landed in the DZ and one was lost.

Late this afternoon it was reported that an eleven man ARVN squad that went to check a rice storage area in the Northern part of the city are MIA.

It is believed that they were captured. One ARVN MIA; oneCapt, and nine enlisted men were in the group.

C. For the past two days the QL14 operation in the pass has not made any progress. Yesterday a 57th UH-1H proceeding south on QL14 received intense small arms fire. The A/C was hit, crashed and burned. The pilot was MIA. The Charlie troop (C) attempted a rescue, however, the A/C was hit by 51 cal. The A/C commander was hit and later died in the hospital.

The rescue of the survivors was completed after friendly units searched the area. FSB's 41 A and 42 have had several A/B's. TF 21 continues to make progress. The small road NE of Plei M'rong is being cleared. Today light contact was made with no results yet.

D. Yesterday morning a satchel charge was detonated in or near the Binh Dinh Prov. TOC. The TOC was badly damaged with 3 U.S. WIA, 1 VN KIA and 4 VN WIA. The U.S. casualties were not serious. LZ Crystal came under attack by an

unknown size enemy force. There were ABF's throughout the day yesterday. One C Troop 114-14 attempted to land at Crystal was shot down. The A/C rolled on impact, however, the crew escaped without injury. An LOH attempting a rescue of the downed crew was shot up and had to return to AN son. The crew was picked up later by the SOA, 22nd Div. Col Kaplan's C+C. A road clearing operation on QL ~~19~~ had reached within 1000 of LZ Crystal by late this afternoon. It was planned to send a convoy to resupply and reinforce friendly units at Crystal. An enemy counterattack on the road clearing operation prevented the convoy from getting through. So far ARVN are reporting 15 EN KIA in that operation. A group of 40-50 enemy soldiers were spotted 3 KM N of Qui Nhon today. Gunships were sent to engage this target, results are unknown. E. QL 19 was closed for a short while today when an enemy unit constructed a road block via many Yang pass. Elements of the 2/19th Cav and 201st Eng Co cleared the road block, however, one ARVN bulldozer and one truck were damaged by enemy mines.

The road was open late today.

2. Synopsis of operations 42/16/8
west 14/8/5.

CH-47 support

<u>2 June</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Pax</u>	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Hours</u>
East	65	58	97	12
West	71	957	92	31

3 June

East	65	139	92.0	14.8
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West (Did not fly due to weather)

3. Air Cav ops:

2 June:

A. H/17: as usual the wx prevented the troop from working in the morning. In the afternoon they worked NW of UTM city. Heavy fire was received from Vic of the COH that was shot down

29 May ZA198965. This area continues to be very hot. Large bunkers with heavy overhead cover have been observed in this area. New fighting positions and small groups of people were observed in the area NW of UO Vinh. In the Vic ZB157,70 the troop located 48 U.S. M16 Rifles, M79's and carbines laying on the ground. A Team was put in and the weapons were picked up and returned to Holloway. In the same area two large tin buildings were located with 201 drums near the buildings. Gunships rocket fire failed to destroy the buildings and there were no secondary

explosions.

B H/10: The troop worked NW of Plei Mroy on a screening mission for TF 21. Numerous trails were observed. at ZA 182763 a group of 10-15 NVA were sighted. They were wearing new green uniforms and had cooking fires going. When the COB First observed them their weapons were laying on the ground. Several tents were also sighted in that area. Charlie Troop lost their XO, Gpt Fred Suttle, today when he attempted to rescue the crew of the 5779 A/C.

3 June:

C. H/17: Due to extremely poor wx the troop did not get out into the AO. The Troop operations officer, Gpt Raymond Dell received seven hits from SA fire while conducting a wx check. He was low level about 7400 NW of PKU.

D. H/10 The Troop did not fly in the PKU area today due to bad wx.

4. Vulnerability Data 2 June

A. CTRp UH-1H (67-19260) hit by 2 rds of 50 cal fire at ZA 201695. the A/C Gpt Fred Suttle was hit in the leg. The round also went into his stomach. The A/C was immediately flown to the hospital. (Fred died 1 hr later)

B. 129th AH-1G (68-15157) received 2 hits from 50 cal fire BR 904657. The controls and the tail boom were damaged. The A/C safely returned to base and there were no crew injuries.

C. 129th AH-1G (66-15304) was hit by two rounds of SA fire at BR 901658. The A/C was hit in the main rotor blade and was able to complete its mission without further difficulty.

D. 13 TRF OH-6A (66-17828) hit by one round of SA fire in the main rotor blade at ZA 190950. There were no crew injuries and the A/C was able to return without difficulty.

E. 13 TRF OH-6A (65-92944) hit at BR 892663 by two rounds SA Fire while on a VR. Both rounds hit the main rotor blades. A/C returned without incident.

F. 13 TRF UH-1H (67-194889) was shot down at BR 892663 by SA fire. The A/C rolled over on impact. There were no crew injuries to the crew.

G. 201st UH-1H (69-15614) received two hits from SA Fire vic BQ 9170. The tail rotor and tail boom were damaged. There were no injuries to the crew.

H. 57th UH-1H (71-20089) received damage to the main rotor blade from mortar fragment at ZA 235862, The FOB pad. There were no injuries.

I. 57th UH-1H (67-17446) was shot down at ZN 189689. The A/C received a heavy volume of SA fire from the east side of QL 14 while traveling south low level. The A/C turned to the west and was hit with 50 cal fire causing the A/C to start spinning and burning. The A/C impacted several hundred meters from F5841. The pilot, Lt Joseph Ewbank was killed in the crash. The A/C commander, WO Bruce E. Delon sustained a back injury. The crew chief and gunner sustained minor bruises and burns. Two US and two VN PAX were badly burned and otherwise injured in the crash. One of the U.S. PAX, MAJ; Jones, USAF 23rd DIV ACO died of injuries on 3 June.

3 June:

J. BTRP UH-1H (69-15665) received seven hits from SA while conducting a vox check at ZN 160530. The A/C Lt Pell was hit in the chicken plate. The rounds hit the cockpit, passenger compartment, main rotor and tail boom. The A/C was flown back to camp hallway without further incident. Lt Pell has a bruised chest and a few nicks in his chin from scabbing but otherwise is in good shape.

5. Tow - Home Plan Today

6. Misc.

A. The Question of whether to operate at altitude or MAP - of - the earth is obviously a complex one and I am sure that no simple or universal solution will work, given the strella threat which Jim Leslie has up north there is probably nothing to be done at this point but down on the deck. The techniques reported and problems being encountered seem fairly standard and I am sure it would apply here if we were to have to start low - leveling it. Thus far our threat has been primarily heavy small arms and 51 cal fire with a sprinkling of 23 mm and larger. No positively identified strella threat has been identified in this area only two rather nebulous sightings being reported so far. Thus, given the intense small arms fire which is almost everywhere in this area we have to continue to operate at altitude watching for strellas and coming down only when necessary (and then using rapid turning descents and ascents to minimize exposure). The methods of operation being used here would obviously not work in a radar directed environment

and would require modification should strata be used to any significant degree.

D. As previously indicated, the Wx here today was several orders of magnitude worse than miserable, to say the least. When I landed with the U21 the ceiling was 600' with 3 miles of visibility in rain which was apparently the only time all day that it got that good, since I've been back it has only stopped raining for about 15 min. -
once.