

28 May

1. General Situation:

A. The situation in UTRM has not changed much today. The enemy penetration that existed last night have not been reduced. Although there were sporadic ABF's throughout the day no major ground attack was launched. The Qc14 operation remains stymied in the face of stiffened enemy resistance. There was no significant enemy action in the MR today other than vic. UTRM.

B. The enemy commenced ground attacks on UTRM city again this morning beginning about 0530 hrs. The attacks were minor and were quickly repulsed. ABF's continued throughout the day with the majority of the rounds again landing in the Vic of the 44th Regt. CP. The attacks today were lighter than they have been for the previous three days. Scattered contacts continued throughout the day however a major enemy assault never materialized. Hawk's claw was launched at 0935 to engage an enemy 51 cal position mounted on top of a water tower in the north central part of town at AR 786 899. The position was attacked at 1010 hrs. Five missiles were fired in an attempt to knock out the gun and destroy the water tower. The gun was destroyed

and the tower was damaged to the point where it was leaning badly to one side. Another 5 cal position at the base of the tower was knocked out by 105 arty fire. At 1145hrs 100 enemy troops were located at ZA 235899 just west of the city. TAC Aia and gunships engaged the troops. The attack lasted about one hour. Later in the day friendly elements found 70 en KBA, captured 1 PW, 2 AK's, 2 radios and 1 B40 Rocket launcher. The CH-47's were able to work all day today into the soccer field. Air Force C-130's made air drops into a DZ vic ZA 240875. There were four A/C making the drops each carrying about 16 bundles. The drop appeared to go well with all bundles landing in fairly close prox. to the DZ. Late in the afternoon our CH 47's carried 374 troops of 3147th Regt from PHU to KTM. One hundred more will be flown up tomorrow. These reinforcements are to counterattack from the North of the airfield to the South. In conjunction with this attack it is planned that ARVN units will pull back in closer to the city tonight and tomorrow to form a better defensive position. The KTM district HQ out to the west of the

city was given up late in the afternoon. Once all units are back close to the city AEC light strikes will be brought in closer to the perimeter. Hawk's clan was launched again at 1745 hrs. at Gen. Hills' direction. Two more missiles were fired at the legs of the water tower. Both missiles were direct hits, however the tower is still standing. We plan to harass the tower area tonight with Spectre and then hit it early tomorrow morning with Cobras to prevent its use again as a firing platform.

C. The Qc 14 operation is still moving very slowly. Advancing units received numerous ABF's. The 3rd Cav was supposed to attack and seize Obj 7 (high ground across Qc 14 to the East of the rockpile). The attacking forces encountered heavy indirect fire and were halted without making any significant gains.

D. A POC and rear point has been established at arty hill. One of our two operators maintains air traffic control with a PRC 25 radio. This facility saves about 10-15 min. turn around time on the AEC. We are attempting to put a POC and rear point back into operation at the FOB just South of KVM.

However, difficulties have been encountered with ARVN operating the POC equipment and the rearm point. We operated for about five hrs this afternoon and by tomorrow we will have the FOB point operating full swing. This saves us 35 to 40 minutes of blade time on each A/C which does not have to return to the PKU area for rearm / refuel.

7. Synopsis of ops: 39/18/8
west 15/10/4

	<u>sorties</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>TONS</u>	<u>hours</u>
CH 41 (west)	90	473	80	49

3. Air car operations:

A H/10: The troop initially worked for Pleiku prov today. They conducted a VR SW of PKU city near the village of Than An 2A122288. There were no indications of recent enemy activity in the area. Later in the morning they worked west of Chu Xang Mt NW of PKU. There was evidence of recent activity by a force of about 200 men. The troop commander believes they were MVA because of the numerous boot prints. The indications are that the force is moving to the East. We plan to put the troop out to look at this area again tomorrow morning. One of the Brave troop cobras took eight small arms, hits from this area.

while returning to PMU to refuel /
rearm late this morning.

B. H/17: For most of the morning
the car troop guns were used to
provide fire support for troops in
contact. This precluded normal car
operations until early afternoon. The
troop was sent out to locate an
enemy arty piece firing from NW.
of the city. Puffs of smoke were
observed at 24 205928. These puffs
were observed just before a round
impacted in the city. TAC A1K was
called in on the position. The A1K
silenced the gun. While conducting
a VR on the East side of QL14 North
of KTM9 intense automatic weapons fire,
to include 5.1 cal., was directed at a
LOH. The A1C immediately broke
out to the west and received more
heavy fire from the west side of the
road.

4. Vulnerability Data - an AH-1G (68-17043)
belonging to H/17 was hit by small
arms fire at 1030 hrs. The A1C sustained
hits in the cockpit, hydraulic compartment,
main rotor blade and the tail boom.
The A1C was flown back to camp Holway
without further incident. The crew
was not injured in this incident.

5. TOW DATA:

WASL	Coordinates	TGT	Range	ALT	RESULT
1	AR 786 899	WATER TWR	2800M	3500'	DAM
2	"	51 CAL	2600	3500	DEST
3	"	WATER TWR ^{Leg}	2850	3500	DAM
4	"	"	"	"	"
5	"	"	Side 2800	"	"
6	"	Leg	2300	3200	"
7	"	"	2400	3200	"

— seven rounds were fired today
104 rds remain at Holloway.

6. Supply — 2.75" rockets of all types are in short supply and the units will start using out of their basic loads tomorrow if the present rate of use continues. Over 1300 rockets were fired yesterday and 2137 were fired today an increase of about 500%, over the previous weeks average per day.

A CE mission will be requested tomorrow for emergency resupply if we shoot again as we did today.

7. Misc.

A. The UTM situation remains critical. The SW / NE penetration has spread so that the enemy essentially holds the eastern half of the city. Some friendly elements remain in this position but basically the area belongs to the enemy. The northern and N.W. penetrations are smaller but also

serious since they put enemy forces between ARVN units manning the outer perimeter and those located on the edges of the city. ARVN is attempting to reposition those elements from the outer perimeter in to ~~move~~ up with friendly forces on the inner perimeter so that a more defensible line can be established. Gen Toan said this evening that he plans to reinforce the USMC garrison with a second inf. bn tomorrow. He also plans to continue attacking up QL 14 with the Rng groups currently involved in that operation but will pull the 3rd Cav out to the west and attempt an armored attack from North of Plei Meong NE to HCM city. This should cause some enemy forces to be diverted to counter this threat but the ARVN armor will have to perform better than it has ever performed before, if this attack is to be successful. John VANH said this evening that he believes the next two days will decide the fate of HCM.

B. The wx was very poor this morning with rain, low clouds and fog in the valleys in the HCM area. We used the car but it was unable to operate in many areas around

KTM due to the low clouds which prohibited the Cobras from getting enough altitude to properly cover the COH's. (Our tactic of using the Cobra from altitude like a dive bomber is one which needs serious questioning and reexamination since it seriously limits our capability to operate in adverse weather conditions. Nevertheless, at this point it has become accepted doctrine, and has been used over here since the Cobra was first introduced in the fall of 1967.) TAC Air was unable to operate effectively in the KTM area until about noon today.

C. Gen Hill credits the aviation support rendered by our people as having saved KTM city thus far. Guns, cars, rocks, and slicks have all done yeoman service. John Vann asked me this evening about medals for our people and then answered his own question by saying that he knew everyone I was too busy fighting right now to get the paperwork done. We are making every effort to keep the required information jotted down so that recommendations can be submitted later. This is poor, I realize, but it seems the best we can do at the moment.