

26 May 72

1. General situation:

A. Again the focus of attention in MR 2 was on the battle for KTM city. During the early morning hours the NVA launched a combined arms attack against the city. The operation to open QL 14 continues to be stagnated. Reported enemy activity in Binh Binh and Pleichu show, was almost nil today.

B. Enemy pressure was exerted against the FEBA on all sectors at KTM city early this morning. However, the main attack, which was supported by 10-12 tanks, was directed against the NE Quadrant of the city. Remnants of a sapper company and possibly elements of a BN were still in the SE. Part of the city from the previous evening. For some unknown reason the NVA ceased all supporting fires by 0430 hours. Also, by this time an unknown size NVA force had penetrated behind the FEBA of the 1/53 and 3/53 Bn. The 44th Regt was also heavily engaged. Tanks with supporting infantry penetrated into the city as far as the NVA sector post (about 400 meters North of the runway). Hawk's Claw was scrambled at 0615; the Turkey Shoot began at 0646 with the first T54. Local contacts continued throughout the

morning with a gradual restoration of the FEBA in most sectors. At 1030 the 2/44 bf made contact with an unknown size enemy force 500 meters south of the airfield. A counter-attack by elements of the 44th Regt supported by 8 Tanks was bogged down trying to eject the enemy from old friendly positions (FEBA) early this evening. As of 1730 the status of the 23rd Div arty was: 15 X 105 mm pieces (19,000 rds) and 4 X 155 mm pieces (1,600 rds). The CO states the 105 ammo is sufficient for three days but needs 3,000 of the 155 AMRAO.

c. The KTRM PROV PF captured an NVA medic at noon today just south of the city. He is a member of C-11 CO, D-3 Bn, 1st Regt 2nd NVA Div. According to him C-11 is presently in KTRM city and the Bn is supposed to be there, also. The bishop's house is the Bn CP. The CO CMOR was killed 25 MAY and the Bn strength is 200; many have been KIA or MIA. Allegedly, the 1st Regt is responsible for the offensive from the South and the 320th Div is to attack from the west.

2. Synopsis of operations: 43/17/8
west 15/10/4

CH - 47	SORTIES	PAX	TONS	HOURS
East	101	176	147	18
West	34	374	42	10

- This afternoon hostile anti-A/C fire diminished significantly at KTRM city. As a consequence, bombs were launched. The following are indications of the loads carried:

331 WIA were extracted; 24 tons of AMMO, 18 tons of POL, and 43 replacements were brought into KTRM city.

F. Air Cav operations:

A. H/17: The Troop conducted VR operations in the polei Klong area, North and East of KTRM city, and along the southern part of Rocket ridge NW of the city. There appears to be a major enemy staging area near Polei Klong. The Troop took intense 51 cal. fire and possible 23 mm fire North of highway 511 East of the abandoned camp. The Troop destroyed four Soviet trucks several km East of the camp. At 24 221976 a large arty piece was observed firing. A VR East of KTRM city disclosed no significant findings, similarly a Reece box East of VO Dinh and North of KTRM was cold.

B. H/10: The Troop concentrated its operations in the KTRM gas area. Apparently, the multitude of air strikes was somewhat effective as ARVN has been uncovering many mutilated bodies and unsecured supply caches. One of the latter had over 6000 B40s

and an assortment of other types of
 ammo. at AR 185715 the scouts
 found 30 new bumper and signs of a
 major bivouac area: Paper, trash,
 garbage, NVA "C" rations, etc. The
 troop did not receive any hostile fire
 in their recon zone throughout the
 day. The troop devoted considerable
 time checking the area WSW out to
 a distance of approximately 20 KM
 from KTM city with no significant
 findings.

c. Evaluation: LTC Anderson believes
 there is a major enemy force staying
 in the Poley Klong area. This is based on
 recent UR data. supply caches, heavy
 vehicle traffic, concentration of
 ADA positions, etc. ARC light boxes
 have been targeted against the area.

4. Tow Data.

A. Operational data. Both a/c respon-
 ded to tpts in KTM city area today.

MSL	Coord.	Target	Range	ALT (AGL)	Results
1	AR 781903	T54	3000	3000	Dest
2	AR 780902	T54	2500	3000	Dest
3	AR 779903	T54	1800	3000	Dest
4	AR 778902	T54	2200	2000	"
5	AR 787899	PT76	2200	2000	"
6	AR 780899	PT76	2200	2000	"
7.	AR 780902	MG ON WATER JWR	1800	2000	DAM
Note 8.	AR 787899	PT76	2500	2000	Miss

	9.	SAME	SAME	2200	2000	DEST
Note 2	10	AR788899	PT76	2200	2000	DAM
	11	AR786897	TRUCK	2200	3000	DEST
Note 3	12	AR788899	SuspTK	UNK	UNK	MISS
		(SAME MSL 10)				
	13	AR788899	PT76	2500	3000	DEST
	14	AR787896	SuspTANK	2000	3000	TANK
	15.	AR778900	T54	2200	3000	DEST
	16	AR777899	BUNKER	UNK	UNK	DEST
	17	AR778899	BLD/SuspTK	UNK	UNK	MISS
		NOTE 3				
	18.	SAME	SAME	"	"	DAM
	19	"	"	"	"	DEST
	20	AR780902	M604	"	"	MISS
		WATER TWR				
	21	"	"	"	"	DEST

Recapitulation: 9 Tanks, two MG, one truck and one bunker

NOTE 1: missile lost due to High angle of attack and loss of control of A/C.

NOTE 2: Previously reported as M41 Tank

NOTE 3: Missile lost due to IR sensor failure

NOTE 4: missile flight motor failed to ignite.

Ammo status: there were 21 missiles fired on 26 MAY. There are 55 missiles remaining at Camp Holloway. Sixty more are scheduled to arrive on 27 MAY.

END of message.