

18 MAY

1. General situation:

A. The lull in apparent enemy activity continued during the early part of Today in Binh Dinh, Kontum and Phu Provines. Late in the afternoon and evening activity began to build around UTM city. Weather conditions hampered air operations in UTM area during the morning hours. UTM airfield was open to traffic at 1030 hrs; However, no fixed wing AC landed all day. The helicopter refueling point was reestablished and open at 1600.

B. UTM airfield had an ABF this afternoon of 15 unidentified rounds resulting in negative casualties or damage. At 181145 4KM South of UTM city the 1/45 LF made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 3 enemy KIA. Hawk's Claw knocked out a T-54 tank and 23MM AA weapon. Dak Reang ~~was~~ was resupplied by an air drop from a CH-47 this afternoon.

C. In Phu Prov. the 62nd Rangers 3KM North and Southwest of Plei Maong were hit by an ABF from 180130 to 0600 consisting of 48 X 82MM mortar rounds and seven 75 MM RA fire with negative casualties or damage. At 181215 A C-130 on final approach to runway 27 at PHU AB received small arms fire one mile East of the field from 5

individuals - neg. casualties or damage.

D. All signs late this afternoon and evening pointed to an imminent ground attack on KTM city. Numerous groups of enemy soldiers were seen north, Northwest, and SW of KTM in the open moving south along roads and tracks later in the day. Sporadic small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire picked up during the early evening primarily around the northern ARC of the city's defenses. I observed the flashes from enemy weapons at many points around the northern perimeter.

Occasionally flashes could be seen to the south and southwest. Spectre was on station and was employed along with gunships and TAC air to strike at enemy positions identified from weapon flashes. Information from a usually reliable source tends to confirm the enemy's intentions and indicated that he will launch an attack against KTM city in the very near future. All of our assets are being prepared for commitment to assist the ARVN defenders. At 2130 hours this evening an emergency resupply of 3 truck loads of arty ammunition was flown into KTM city.

2. Synopsis of ops.

40/10/7

West 151614

	A. Hook support			
	sorties	par	Tons	Hoos
EAST	70	150	77	13
WEST	43	563	43	18

B. Pak being resupply: The air drops from a CH-47C consisted of three 2100 pound pallets of food + ammo. The three passes were made at 6000' AGL. The chutes were rigged to open 1000' AGL. The crew had mortar flares to determine the wind drift. One chute failed to open but still landed within 200 meters of the camp. The other two landed within the near proximity (200-300 meters) of the camp. All equipment and supplies dropped were recovered by the rangers from the camp.

3. Air Car ops.: Low clouds and ground fog reduced visibility and hampered car ops during the morning.

A. B/7/17: The troop flew VR missions Vic KTM city. A BDA of an ARC light strike NW of the city revealed several bodies and one 51 cal MG. The scouts took fire from the area. A VR West of KTM city disclosed no significant findings. In the area SE of Vo Binh and North of KTM city many groups of enemy personnel were sighted; the largest group was estimated to be 25 individuals.

C. C/7/17: The troop flew VR missions SE of Camp Enam and N-NW of KTM city.

In an area SE of Enari there were no significant findings. North of PHA the Troop flew a route recon of TL 60-06194 to determine the trafficability of the alternate Route to Konton city. Without a major engineer effort this route is impassable. The Troop was diverted to the east of PHA air-base in response to a C-30 receiving ground fire while on final approach. No enemy were sighted. From there the Troop was diverted 20Kra South of Enari for an enemy contact which did not exist upon their arrival. This shadow chasing wasted considerable blade time. Finally the troop was then diverted back to the North Vic UTM Pass on the SAR mission which Bravo Troop was already on.

C. I discussed the problem of car utilization again with Gen Bell today, and we are still seeking better means of controlling our car assets to gain the most effectiveness.

4. TOW DATA

RKT	COORD	TGT	RNG	ALT (AGL)	RESULT
1	2A108986	TSY	2500M	2000	None
2	DO	DO	2500M	2000	Blew off camouflage
3	"	"	"	"	Blew off sand bag
4.	"	"	"	"	DEST. TANK
5	2A109983	Susp. TSY	1700	2000	UNK.
6.	2A078923	23MM	3300	3000	MISS
7.	"	"	2750	3000	DEST.

5. Misc. Everyone here is busy getting ready for the big attack if it comes as scheduled in a couple of hours.