

16 MAY

1. General situation:

A. With the exception of sporadic ABF in various areas MAR 2 was again relatively quiet. As far as enemy induced activity is concerned the ABF were used in Binh Dinh, KTM, and Phu Prov.

B. KTM city and airfield were hit by 82 mm mortar, 122 mm rockets, and possibly 105 mm Howitzer or 120 mm mortar off and on during the day. At 161500 5 U.S. crewmen (17th CAB) were lightly wounded during an ABF on the airfield. Also, two AC were damaged. During the period 1740-1800 31 rounds impacted on the airfield. Two VNAF C-123's were destroyed (one had been damaged approx. three weeks ago) and one hole was made in the runway, (Early repairable). One of our tower operators was wounded slightly by flying plexi-glass when fragments hit the tower. Hawk's Claw was quite successful today destroying 3 APC, 2 Trucks, one 105 mm howitzer, one Rocket, and an Ammo Dump.

C. In Pleiku Province the 47th Recon Co, 22nd Div (inserted on 15 May) made contact 8 KM NE of LE TRUNG (AR 945543) with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 5 enemy KIA. Early this morning F-5B 42A had an ABF and zipper penetration resulting in three M113.

destroyed, 16 KIA, 22 WIA, and 3 MIA (incl. 10 Cndr). There were 47 enemy killed. ARVN anticipates that QL19 will be open on 17 May. Today's action in repairing and clearing the road resulted in 7 friendly wounded and 10 enemy killed. One of the wounded was major Morrissey, an armor advisor, whose jeep struck a mine.

2. synopsis of operations: 39/14/5
West 14/8/2

The hooks flew 43 sorties, carried 591 PAX, and moved 4 tons for a total of 11 hours between Kontum and Pleiku. Hooks support to the ROK consisted of Flying 36 sorties, carrying 72 PAX and moved 42 tons for a total of 8 hours.

3. air car ops:

A. B/7/17: The Troop spent most of the day North and North west of UTM city. Numerous targets were acquired for Hawk's Claw and TAL AIR. AT AR 792796 NVA soldiers were observed digging fighting positions and bunkers. The Cobras engaged. From AR 798982 to AR 792976 NVA Troops were observed eating and lying around. This complex has been recommended for an ARCC light strike. During a loager period at KMA airfield the Troop had 5 WIA and two ACC damaged by an ABT.

B. C/7/17 The troop flew VR missions.

SE and E of PHU with no significant findings. During the afternoon the troop worked north of UTM and sighted Tiger tracks. SW of Vo Ninh. During a route recon of the road from PHU to Plei Maong bunkers were sighted along the road. The road was in good condition.

4. Vulnerability Data:

an ABF at KTM airfield on 161500 May.

UNIT	MOS	SN	DAMAGE	STATUS
B/7/17	OH-6A	67-11304	Eng + Tailboom	NO fly
D/7/17	UH-1H	67-17856	Main Rotor	no fly.

5. Tow DATA:

RKT	Time	Coords	T&T	ALT (AGL)	Results
1	161025	AR775923	Tank hootch/hit	2000'	NO Tank hood dest (sec)
2.	161158	ZA185046	2 1/2 TH/hit	2000'	DEST
3	161357	ZB101162	APC 1 hit	2800'	"
4. 11		ZB101161	" / "	2500'	"
5.	161512	ZB098176	" / "	1800'	DAM
6.	161515	"	"	"	DEST
7.	161737	ZB134053	3/4 TTKU/hit	2000'	DEST w/sec
8.	161740	"	105mm howit/miss	1800'	MINA
9.	161745	"	" 1 hit	1800'	DEST w/sec
10.	161750	ZB108038	Artillery Pump/hit	2000'	"

NOTE: 3+4 were fired on single approach to Targets.

NOTE: all Targets were engaged between 1000-3000 meters (range)

6. Misc.

A. Representatives from the JARAC from MACV conducted a two hour class on SAR/E&E this evening. Attendance for all aviators was mandatory. It was a worthwhile class.

B. Things are still continuing to shake down here as a result of the change of corps commanders. The two major Gen Deputies (Phong and Quang) have been reassigned. A new Brigadier Gen (Mannix Type) deputy, whose name I believe is H&H, made his appearance this morning at the staff meeting. A brigadier reported by the name of Cha has taken over at B&G, and we understand he is the deputy for the five coastal prov. Gen Toan did not fire his G-4 this morning so apparently he made some progress in meeting the General's desires.

C. ROK Gen's H&H and H&KIM visited the HQ's today. No specific purpose for their visit was announced. Relations between the ROKS and the ARVN, always chilly at the best, seem to have gotten considerably colder with Gen. Toan's arrival. MA. V&H had to intervene

H. personally with Gen. Toan to even get the ARVN to provide an honor guard for the ROKS arrival.

D. General Toan spent the night again tonight in K&M. MA V&H

accompanied him and they intended to discuss and inspect the 23rd Div. preparations for the def. of UTM city.

E. SRAO put on their standard briefing for General Roseborough today. I hope he found something of value in it although I was not much impressed. It was too routine, concentrated too much on wiring diagrams, and failed to get down to the real crunch points facing the ARVN (and our effort) here. Gen. Roseborough asked several questions regarding the ASE and the

Vagueness of the SRAO answers seemed to indicate that they are not too sure exactly how this thing is going to work either. As a practical matter, from first hand observation, everything seems to be getting done without too much difficulty, but I can see little change from the way things operated in PARZ prior to 1 May and the way they are operating now.

F. Unfortunately today's Hawk down firings were mainly a clean-up the battlefield operation. All of the vehicles and other material struck had been abandoned by ARVN except for one APC which appeared to be the Soviet type mounted on the PT-76 chassis. All were point targets and the material was judged to be either usable or

being used) by the enemy but did not justify the effort required to destroy it by TAC AIR. The feasibility of employing two missiles on one run was demonstrated successfully today.