

13 MAY

1. General situation

A. A relative lull continues in Binh Dinh, KTM, and PHU prov. Sporadic ABF's were reported throughout MAR. Most of the activity centered in KTM prov.

B. In KTM prov there was the daily ABF on KTM airfield with negative damage or casualties. Yesterday (12 MAY) an ARVN master sergeant from the 52 section 42 regt returned to UOM city after EXE for an unreported number of days. He reported the following: an enemy BN is dug in VIC ZA 192954 to ZA 202955; ammo dump at ZA 199968; and four camouflaged Tanks at ZA 200960. There was a field gun being carried by a buffalo in the same area. An AKC light nearby on 121500 caused secondary explosions in an ammo dump for several hours.

C. The Ben Het rebellion mentioned previously is still in progress. However, the 71st rangers (mutineers) were being evacuated to Pleiku today by VNAF. The aircraft flew in replacements to Dak Seang and picked up 56 of the Ben Het PAX on the Bachland.

D. AT 130410 3 Km North of KTM city an MA was detonated killing 4 NVN. Many documents, several SA, much other paraphernalia, and a large AM

Radio were captured. This was apparently a long range FO party.

E. ARVN had the following reported casualties during the period 1 APR - 5 MAY in KTM PROV.

UNIT	KIA	WIA	MIA
42 Regt	31	127	1,304
47 Regt	60	335	127

RIF/PF NOT AVAILABLE

F. There were two road interdiction in PKU prov. at 130400. 10 KM. NW ~~my~~ my Thach QL 14 was cratered with a ditch 30 meters long and one meter deep. Later at 0600 4 KM SE FSB 14 on QL 19 a road block closed the road until 1230 when ARVN Engineers finally leveled the road.

G. Binh Binh had several ABF. One occurred in the Qui Nhon area (4 unk Rds) with negative casualties or damage. Also, The Binh Xhe district HQ received six 82 MM mortar rounds with negative casualties and damage. The ARVN moved 212 male PW from Qui Nhon to Phuoc Quoc Island, a large number of youth and women PW will be evacuated in the next few days.

H. MR. VANN reported this evening that at approx. 1700 hrs today the commander of the 45th Regt in KTM was wounded by an ARVN soldier. LTC Cha attempted to break up a drunken brawl between

several soldiers from the 53rd Regt. When the soldiers attempted to attack him he shot one between the eyes, but another fired at and wounded him Five Times. He then pistol whipped this soldier into submission breaking up the brawl. LTC CHA got in his vehicle and drove himself to the aid station where he was treated and evacuated. to the hospital in PHU, he is not believed to be in serious condition.

I. KTM has many (estimated to be several hundred) ARVN soldiers who have deserted their units in the confusion of the battles for TAO CANH, DAT TO and subsequent engagements. ARVN authorities have been reluctant to round up these people and return them to their units. SRA G has developed an ingenious plan to release a false agent report that many NVA are in KTM in captured uniforms masquerading as ARVN Troops. This should force the authorities to act.

2. Synopsis of operations: 38/14/17
West 15/6/4

The hooks flew 52 sorties, carried 1,133 Pax (ARVN from UVTH and refugees) and moved 27 Tons for a total of 20 hours between KTM & PHU. Additionally, a CS mission was flown NE of Pali U-Lang. The drop area was vic a ford

site (ZA 095996 to ZA 108984) The A/C dropped 2000 lbs of CS and two XM15 dispensers with excellent coverage.

3. Air car operations:

A. B/7/17: The Troop devoted nearly the entire day to torch hunting operations east of Vo Binh and North of UTM city. In vic of ZB 227068 they spotted a personnel carrier (probably the type mounted on the PT 76 chassis) and later in the afternoon a T54 Tank. In the same area during a BDA of an AAC light numerous bunkers, hootches, dug outs (large enough for Tanks), and OD clothes hanging in the trees were spotted. The Troop has kept FSB Bravo (ZB 150 070) on QL 14 North of UTM city under surveillance for several days. It is apparent that the NVA are using it for stockpiling AOMMO and POL. The Car has noted an increase in number of AOMMO cases from day to day. Moreover, today for the first time 55 gal drums were sighted in the FSB. Late this evening we had our first report of what might have been an SA-7 vic UTM pass. The crew chief saw the firing and advised the pilot who berked the aircraft as the object passed by. All aircrew members flying on this

area have been warned to be especially alert.

B. (1/11/17) The Troop flew VR missions SE and SW of KTM City. To the SE the Troop spotted a recently used squad size bivouac area (AR 875532).

Numerous fighting positions were spotted at AR 020478. In vic of Plei Meang they reconnoitered for a 300 man unit reported to be in the area - neg. findings.

4. Vul. Data. 6 It Report thru 12 May.

<u>Type A/C</u>	<u>Minor</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Nest</u>
OH6A	4	3	2	3
OH-58	0	0	0	0
UH-1H	4	0	0	0
AH-1G	0	1	0	3
CH-47H	1	1	0	0
TOTAL (22)	9	5	2	6

5. TOW

A. Reporting error: The report for 12 MAY was incorrect concerning the number of rounds fired. There were seven rounds fired: NO 1 hit the tread of the T54; NO 2 hit a Tree just in front of the tank; NO 3 hit the tank displacing the turret and causing a secondary explosion which caused it to burn; 4-7 were fired at bamboo camouflaged positions which appeared to conceal vehicles. As of

12 May there were 184 missiles at Halloway.

B. Op. Miss. This afternoon two missiles were fired at a personnel carrier (previously mentioned) uncovered by an AHC light. It was covered with dirt and not moving but appeared to be operational. The first hit went through the open door and apparently detonated on the floor. The second round hit the top and started a fire. Later in the afternoon the scouts spotted a T54. However, due to the camouflage and canopy a steep approach angle was necessary in order to acquire the target. As a consequence the pilot nearly exceeded the safe flight envelope and had difficulty in pulling out of his dive. The missile overshot the target, another shot was attempted without success by firing at a WP grenade dropped by one of the scouts. Subsequently the air was requested to attempt to uncover the target, but before this could be accomplished it got dark and the Bank Claw package was forced to return to base.

6. MAINT & supply.

9. Nine C130 sorties supported the 604th move to Can Rank today (13 May)

7. Misc.

A. General Toan continues to impress all here. He is energetic, quite fearless, knowledgeable and his manner inspires confidence. He is bringing in a new C/S and he has changed quite a few procedures and already shaken up the corps staff considerably. It is too early yet to tell if he will be able to reverse the current unfavorable trends in the Corps.

B. MACV Provided new guidance to SDA6 today regarding the UH-1B equipped with TOW. We are to allow photographers to take pictures of the H/C, but no statements or discussions by our people are allowed. Tomorrow morning we will have one H/C at the base of the tower on the Hot spot so that it can be photographed.