

MOSS DTD 4 MAY

1. General situation:

A. In Kontum province the general low level of enemy activity continued. There were several enemy ABT's against Paki K Lung. B/7/17 had two LOH's hit by small arms and 57 cal fire at 1600 hrs via 28210000. There were no injuries. The AC were extracted; one will probably be retrograded.

B. Weather and coordination problems delayed the air mobil. operation into the rock pile area in the Kontum pass. The initial airlift was completed at 1145 hours. It was planned to subsequently relieve the airborne units in place by elements of the 23rd ARVN Div. The airborne battalions will move south along QL-14 to Pleiku. Enroute they will link up with elements of the 45th regt moving north on the East of QL-14. The purpose of this operation is to open QL-14 between Pleiku and KTM.

C. Defensive Preparations, resupply, and refugee evacuation continued throughout the day. The construction of fighting positions along the FEBA trace around Kontum city is readily apparent from the air. However, much remains to be done.

It does not appear that any barrier plan has been developed. Moreover, the COPL exists only on planning maps; consequently, any prior warning will depend upon air Recce. The ranger bus moved out of KTM today about seven kilometers northwest and secured objectives to the southwest to fire base November. No opposition was encountered. These units may move farther northwest tomorrow, but plans are uncertain. Two battalions of the 53rd regt moved north today East of QL-14 about seven kilometers and completed the link-up with Ranger elements formerly on FSB Lam Son. Thirty to sixty wounded were extracted and later air lifted out of Kontum. After the link-up all elements returned to positions in and immediately around Kontum city.

This action was reported by ARV's yesterday but actually was not accomplished until today.

D. In Pleiku and Binh Dinh provinces there was very little enemy activity. There were several ABF's in Pleiku Province (FSB 41, FSB 42, and GVN outpost VIC 2A 181409) In all cases there were negative results

available. The exodus of refugees and others out of the Pleiku area continues without let up. The majority of the traffic flow is toward BAN ME THOUT rather than QUIN NHON. Most of those departed in the last day or so seem interested in proceeding on to either the NHA TRANG or SAIGON areas rather than QUIN NHON.

E. General P2U went to SAIGON this morning by U-21 for further conferences with President THIEU.

Mrs. UHANN accompanied him and they returned mid afternoon. No specifics regarding the trip were discussed.

2. Synopsis of operations:

A. The 17th LAG committed

42/14/7

West 16/6/4

East 18/8/3

	Sorties	Pass	Tons	Hours
PKU-KTM	89	934	72	31
ROK	48	213	116	11

3. Air car operations:

A. B/7/17: VR missions were flown north of Plei K. Ling; numerous wheeled vehicle tracks were sighted. Several small groups of individuals

were observed NW of Kontum city. An estimated company was detected North of Kontum city and 2-4 KM East of FSB Jan Son. This is the area where the two LOHs were hit. The enemy was engaged with unknown results. B C/7/17: During the morning the troop supported the airborne operation vic the Rock pile in Kontum pass. The Troop conducted A VR 360° around Plei Wong out to approximately 8 KM. Numerous old men and new fighting positions and trails were sighted. No personnel were observed. Subsequently, the troop moved SW of Pleiku to check out a reported sighting of an enemy battalion. They received AK-47 fire vic ZA 158378 with negative hits and engaged and killed two enemy.

4. The jitters continue to plague the ARVN. Although there have been no actual tank sightings for over a week numerous false reports occur daily. Tube artillery appears to be another bugaboo with many false reports regarding the occurrence of this type fire.

The ARVN/VNAF assault on the rock pile vicinity Konton pass today was a complete Fiasco as far as planning and execution were concerned. Little coordination was accomplished last night and mass confusion existed this morning (4 May). The operation finally got off four hours late and a total of 70 troops were air assaulted on the mountain. On the plus side any attack is a gain and I was most impressed that ARVN insisted on VNAF support for the combat assault part of the operation and that VNAF did do a creditable job putting the troops in on the rocks. They took some fire but lost no aircraft.