

Mass DTD 3 May

1. General Situation:

A. The relative lull in enemy activity continued in Kontum province.

One ABF was reported south of KTM Pass at FSB 42A. The 23rd ARVN Div. conducted a recon in force approximately 5-7 Km north of KTM city with two battalions, to link up with elements of the ranger unit that had previously abandoned FSB Lam Son. The entire force returned to Kontum city. Resupply and evacuation missions were flown throughout the day.

B. The situation in NE Binh Dinh province continues to worsen.

During the night and morning of 2-3-May LZ English was evacuated by the 48th Regt, which moved on foot to the coast. Spectre provided cover. The unit rendezvoused with an LST and 2000 troops were transported to Qui Nhon - Docking at 031400 May. They will move to Ba Gi ASAP. Tac air attacked English and destroyed four 155 mm and six 105 mm howitzers and two APC's. VNAF destroyed the POC Dump. At least

15 trucks and supply stocks remain to be destroyed. The northern span of the Bong Son highway bridge was cut by TAC air and the railroad bridge was burned.

C. This afternoon (3 May) I talked with Colonel Jack Truby, SA, 23rd ARVN Div. Colonel BA, the Division commander, is having much difficulty in tying his command together. He has a hodgepodge of units consisting of one of his regiments, remnants of several 22nd Div Elements, airborne, Rangers, some tanks and other odds and ends. The attached and apiece units, particularly the airborne, are not responsive and do pretty much as they desire. Defensive preparations are continuing around Kontum, but a firm plan and implementing directives are lacking. Some foxholes and other defensive works have been prepared, but these are mostly in close proximity to the city itself. The 23rd Division has been given an AO extension north in a wedge shape encompassing QL 14 and extending up to just south of fire base Lam Son. Colonel BA is being strongly encouraged to

mount a limited attack up the highway while enemy pressure is low. ARVN Badly needs a victory of any sort at this point and this is recognized by general PZU and Colonel BA. Whether they will (or can) attack now remains doubtful..

2. Synopsis of operations:

42/10/6

EAST 16/6/4

WEST 18/8/3

sorties	PAX	tons	hours.
114	2,264	75	37

3. Air car operations

A. B/7/17: Initially the Troop conducted VR in the NW Quadrant from Kontum city. Numerous indications of foot movement were observed, fresh bunkers were detected. Vic ZA 1892 and a bridge and tank tracks were located Vic ZA 1393. A BDA of an ARC light was conducted NE of KTOR city with neg. findings.

B. C/7/17: Worked west and north of Plei during today. Relatively little activity was observed. 20 to 30 enemy soldiers were spotted in the

valley north of Polci 4 Aug.
One COH took hits. The
tgt area was turned over
to a FAC.