

101235 VTD 1 MAY

1. General Situation:

A. In KIM province priority of effort was directed to the defense of Kontum city. Defensive preparations do not appear to be progressing as they should. CG 23rd ARVN Div relocated his CP south of Dak Bla river in Kontum city. This move was somewhat suspect and General Hill got him to move back north of the river. Unfortunately, this shuffle back and forth has disrupted communications with 23rd Div. Five 122mm rockets hit near the airfield at 1205. At 1620 Kontum city received several rounds of reported arty fire. This was initially reported by ARVN as 130mm gun registration. At 1830 contact was lost with FSB Jan son. The defenders (Airborne + Ranger elements) spiked their 105 mm howitzers and abandoned the FSB. FSB November vic. ZA 212931 remains the only friendly position on QL-14 between Kontum city and the enemy. ARVN is still trying to organize defensive

positions in a circle 8 To 10
Kms around KTM city. Actual
defenses at this time are located in
a tight ring around the built-
up portion of the Town. The
situation at this point does not
look favorable for successful
resisting a determined attack.
Sixty-six US remain in Kanton
and of these seven are our people
running the airfield tower and
GCA. For the past two days
we have been operating on a
24 hour basis to permit
night C-130 as well as helicopter
operations.

D. L. Binh Dinh province the
major enemy activity occurred
Vic LZ English. Resupply by C-130
was successful at 0345 hrs.
but the aircraft took 5 hits.
The base received 82 mm mortar
and 122 mm rocket fire
throughout the day. at 1220 the
U.S. advisors were extracted.
During the extraction two U.S.
ships were damaged and
forced to land at Crystal.
One later flew to Lane and the
other is still at Crystal and

will be lifted out on 2 way to
lane. One door gunner was
wounded slightly. ARVN attempted
to move five 105 mm howitzers to
English. as the company entered the
main gate a direct hit on one of
the ARVN trucks destroyed three
2 1/2 ton trucks and damaged
all five howitzers.

c. At 1420 the 27th ARVN Div
reported that several ARVN
soldiers attempted to hijack
a VNAF Medevac. The hijackers
were apprehended at Bai.

D. A VNAF Medevac helicopter attempt-
ing to make an extraction at
a fire base just south of the Kanton
pass was unable to take off
when over 20 ARVN soldiers
crowded on the helicopter. The
aircraft was over torqued and
remains on the fire base
tonight. The base was under
attack and we observed this
action while firing our 105
mm howitzers in the same vicinity.
E. General DZU returned from
Saigon last night. His trip
was close held here and no
details of his visit were released.

7. Traffic was flowing freely on QL 19 today. Our aviators reported considerable more East bound than West bound vehicles. General PZU has authorized (but not directed) civilians to leave Kontum and Pleiku. Streets are jammed in Pleiku with refugee traffic. We have already evacuated several thousand from Kontum to Pleiku and this effort is continuing. Rumors are rife in Pleiku city and here at Holloway we have already lost many local nationals who have taken leave to go to the coast or Saigon. Others have just failed to report to work. Should the situation worsen we are considering measures to provide temporary on post guarded billeting for key employees whose services are vitally needed.

2. Synopsis of operations:

40/12/8

The boats flew 119 sorties, carried 2,700 PAX 65 Tons of cargo and flew 51 hours between Kontum and Pleiku.

3. Air car operations:

B/7/17 operated today north-northwest of Hantun in a box west of Q114 Extending north to fire base San San vicinity ZB 170012 and West to the river. Much activity was observed and fire received from this area which is believed to be a (possibly the) major enemy approach route for the anticipated attack on Hantun city. One C-47 was shot down and destroyed in this area but the crew was recovered immediately and received negligible injuries. B. C/7/17. West + Southwest of UTM city neg. results.

4. Major problem is lack of timely intelligence, including target acquisition.