

2/19/70

389th TFS/Lt. Hesser

"^N
D

Bill:

See page 3 of the attached. You finally made the grade.

Bill

DXI/Edwards



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION, Headquarters Seventh Air Force
TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE Republic Of Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96307

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
653

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE DAILY SUMMARY, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 1970

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

U.S. Air Force tactical fighter-bomber pilots and crews flew 152 sorties in the Republic of Vietnam yesterday (Feb. 17) bombing and strafing enemy positions, base camps, sampans, bunker complexes, storage areas and other military targets. Eighty-seven sorties assisted Allied forces conducting major ground operations.

Strike pilots flew 46 immediate sorties, six of which provided close air support for Allied forces in contact with the enemy.

Bomb damage assessment for the day included 300 bunkers, 93 fortifications and 8 sampans destroyed or damaged. Pilots reported igniting 31 sustained fires and touching off 15 secondary explosions.

In one of the most significant actions yesterday, A-37 fighter-bomber pilots from the 3d Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa Air Base helped support helicopters from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in an area 10 km (6 miles) northwest of Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province.

The helicopters received ground fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers. The enemy fire was returned with organic weapons fire. In addition, artillery fire and the Air Force tactical air strikes were directed onto the enemy location.

Contact was lost at an unreported time. Seven enemy soldiers were killed and there were no U.S. casualties.

(This was reported in the Feb. 18 MACV morning release.)

* * *

F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th TFW at Phan Rang AB struck an enemy bunker complex 38 km (24 miles) north of Tay Ninh City.

A forward air controller (FAC) credited them with destroying or damaging 25 bunkers.

One of the pilots on the strike was First Lieutenant James D. Davis II of La Crescenta, Calif.

* * *

Twenty bunkers were destroyed yesterday morning when F-100 pilots from the 31st TFW at Tuy Hoa AB hit a known enemy location 6 km (4 miles) west-northwest of Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Myers of Quindy, Ill., was one of the pilots.

* * *

An enemy bunker complex 47 km (30 miles) north of Tay Ninh City was bombed and strafed by A-37 fighter-bomber pilots from the 3d TFW at Bien Hoa AB.

The FAC credited them with killing two enemy soldiers and destroying 11 bunkers and two fortifications.

The helicopters received ground fire from an unknown number of enemy soldiers. The enemy fire was returned with organic weapons fire. In addition, artillery fire and the Air Force tactical air strikes were directed onto the enemy location.

Contact was lost at an unreported time. Seven enemy soldiers were killed and there were no U.S. casualties.

(This was reported in the Feb. 18 MACV morning release.)

* * *

F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th TFW at Phan Rang AB struck an enemy bunker complex 38 km (24 miles) north of Tay Ninh City.

A forward air controller (FAC) credited them with destroying or damaging 25 bunkers.

One of the pilots on the strike was First Lieutenant James D. Davis II of La Crescenta, Calif.

* * *

Twenty bunkers were destroyed yesterday morning when F-100 pilots from the 31st TFW at Tuy Hoa AB hit a known enemy location 6 km (4 miles) west-northwest of Loc Ninh in Binh Long Province.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Myers of Quindy, Ill., was one of the pilots.

* * *

An enemy bunker complex 47 km (30 miles) north of Tay Ninh City was bombed and strafed by A-37 fighter-bomber pilots from the 3d TFW at Bien Hoa AB.

The FAC credited them with killing two enemy soldiers and destroying 11 bunkers and two fortifications.

Lieutenant Colonel Coy L. Austin of Kailua, Hawaii, was one of the pilots on the mission.

* * *

Two F-4 Phantom crews from the 37th TFW at Phu Cat AB attacked an enemy location 26 km (16 miles) west of Tam Ky in Quang Tin Province late yesterday afternoon.

Fifteen meters of trench lines, five bunkers, four fortifications and three fighting positions were reported destroyed. In addition a sustained fire was ignited.

Three of the crewmembers were Majors Curtis P. Balke, Almena, Wis., and Robert C. Solomon, Fort Collins, Fla., and First Lieutenant William R. Hesser, Anaheim, Calif.

GUNSHIP SUPPORT

U.S. Air Force AC-119 Shadow and Stinger gunship crews from the 14th Special Operations Wing were airborne 10 times during the night providing flare illumination and fire support for Allied forces. Two missions assisted troops in contact with the enemy.

TACTICAL AIRLIFT SUMMARY

U.S. and Royal Australian Air Force tactical airlift crews, under direction of the 834th Air Division, flew 1,031 missions yesterday carrying 10,266 troops and other passengers and delivering nearly 1,575 tons of cargo. The combined payload was nearly 2,807 tons.

PSYOPS ACTIVITY

Air Force psychological operations crews from the 14th SOW flew 30 missions yesterday dropping more than eight million leaflets and broadcasting more than 20 hours of tape-recorded

messages over suspected enemy locations urging the enemy to rally to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government.

U.S. AIR FORCE B-52 MISSIONS

U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command B-52 Stratofortress crews flew three missions in the Republic yesterday, originally reported being flown Feb. 16. The targets were:

Enemy activity, base camps, bunkers, weapons positions, storage and staging areas 11, 12 and 14 km (6, 7 and 8 miles) southwest of Ben Het in Kontum Province.

OTHER AIR OPERATIONS

Forward air controllers flew 365 sorties yesterday and there were 132 training missions. Helicopter crews flew 35 missions including search and rescue, logistics and courier flights. Aerial reconnaissance crews flew 36 missions.

4

- 30 -

NOTE: This has been cleared for release by MACV.