

S T A T E M E N T

(1) Warrant Officer Richard J. Todd, [REDACTED], flew my first Search and Rescue mission for the downed pilots on 19 May 71.

(A) The area directly up the mountain from the crash site had bunkers and spider holes, as well as trails. Moving farther up the ridge, there were a few more trails and trees that had been chopped down (enemy activity). Moving down the mountain, toward the stream, there was still more activity. There is a trail that runs along the stream all the way through the valley.

(B) Moving along the stream toward the Da Krong River, we found at least four fish traps and one pole type object as well as a bag lying next to the stream. Moving along the stream toward the Da Krong River, on the left bank we found construction under some trees made from logs with a semi-walk-in entrance. About the second bend up from the Da Krong, next to the stream, there were several hootches concealed under trees and brush.

(C) Moving the other direction along the stream N.W. away from the crash site, there was still enemy activity; trails, crossed clearings in many places. At one point we found new construction along the stream, but were unable to locate it the next day. When we had flown up the valley almost to its end we found one fresh .51 cal pit and two hootches. Also we located a large double entrance bunker.

(D) Moving across the valley from the crash site, there are many cultivated corn fields. I think we located two hootches. The bunkers were much more spread out in this area, but trail activity was about the same. Throughout the valley you could find cut wood and logs; trails were frequent.

In my opinion the downed crew is probably captured because they could have moved in any direction from the crash and still run into some enemy operating in the area.

Richard J. Todd
[REDACTED]

EXB "B"