

INCLOSURE 6.

PROPOSED CITATION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

AWARD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOLLOWING UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONFIRMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 194, AR 672-5-1.

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION (AM) AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

HHC, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

DETACHMENT 1 (GS), HHC, 229th AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY A, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY B, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY D, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F TROOP, 9TH CAVALRY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F BATTERY, 79TH AFA, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

362ND AVN COMPANY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

THE CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AGAINST HOSTILE FORCES DURING THE PERIOD 5 APRIL 1972 THROUGH 7 JULY 1972 WHILE COMMITTED TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GVN DEFENDERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF AN LOC BINH LONG PROVINCE DURING THE NVA "NGUYEN HUE" OFFENSIVE. THROUGH THEIR COURAGE, DETERMINATION, AND INGENUITY THE TROOPERS OF THE 229TH OVERCAME THE DIFFICULTIES ENGENDERED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONRY BY THE ENEMY AND THE MOST INTENSIVE VOLUME OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE YET EXPERIENCED, WHILE SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING THE BELEAGUERED DEFENDERS AGAINST THE ENEMY ONSLAUGHT. THE SUCCESSFUL DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY BY THE FORCES OF GVN WOULD HAVE BEEN VASTLY MORE PROLONGED AND COSTLY WERE IT NOT FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT RENDERED BY THE 229TH AHB. THE OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO DUTY, PERSEVERANCE, AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 229TH AHB AND ATTACHED ELEMENTS UNDER THE MOST HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE ARMY, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inclosure 5 (Continued)

Part II. Units attached and recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> <u>AND DATE</u>
1. Troop F (Air) 9th Cavalry	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
2. Battery F (Aerial Artillery) 79th Artillery	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	Presidential Unit Citation 23 Oct 65 thru 26 Nov 65 DA 30 40 21 Sep 66
3. 362nd Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter)	5 Apr - Jul 72	

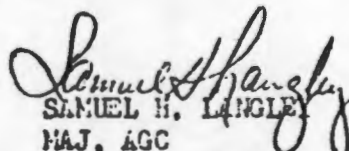
Part III. Units Assigned and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

Part IV. Units Attached and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



Inclosure 5

LISTING OF ASSIGNED & ATTACHED UNITS

PARTICIPATING UNITS

Part 1. Units assigned and recommended for Award of the Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	PUC 23 Oct 65 - 26 Nov 65 USARV GO 21 Sep 67 MUC 1 Sep 65 - 30 Nov 66 USARV GO 17 - 23 Apr 68 Cross of Gallantry w/Palm 9 Aug 65 - 19 May 69 GO #59 25 Sep 69
2. Detachment 1 (General Support) Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 15 Jun 72	PUC 27 Dec 66 USARV GO 7 - 23 Apr 70
3. Company A (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
4. Company B (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
5. Company D (Aerial Weapons) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	

Inclosure 4 (Cont'd)

4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:

Date/Time	Location	Unit	Mission	A/C Damage	Cause	Casualties
Apr 051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 KIA
061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
101400	787720	CS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
111445	732884	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
231600	765645	CS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May 071340	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
Jun 081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
081300	761779	MEDEVAC	MEDEVAC	CBL	51 Cal	Neg
130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CBL	UNK	2 KIA
211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	1 WIA
221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant



INCLOSURE 4 - (Continued)

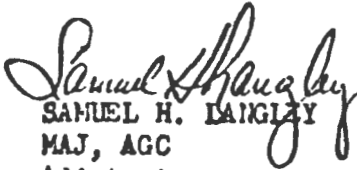
3. COMBAT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY ELEMENTS OF 229th AHB (S-2)

TIME	LOCATION	UNIT	MISSION	RESULTS
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des, VR
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 en Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755820	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 en trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des
201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May 011850	737902	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos TRAC
041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 04 Tanks des
130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2 1/2 ton trks, 01 trk des
130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
221200	757853	F/79	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH

Inclosure 4 (Continued)

205 NVA Regt - 1,250	90%
101 Regt - 760	90%
429 Sapper Gp - 1,705	90%
203 TK Regt	100%

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



# Inclosure 4 - Friendly and Enemy Strength & Casualties

## 1. Friendly (229th AHB)

<u>TOTAL TOE STR</u>	<u>XHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
1366	8	13	2	0

## 2. Enemy

<u>EST STRENGTH</u>	<u>PERCENT DESTROYED (EST)</u>
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### 5 VC Div - 9,230

Hq & Spt	4,680	
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275 Regt	1,550	
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90%

174 Regt	1,500	
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E6 Regt	1,500	
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### 7 NVA Div - 8,600

141 Regt	1,500	
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165 Regt	1,500	
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90%

209 Regt	1,500	
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Hq & Spt	4,100	
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### 9 VC Div - 9,230

271 Regt	1,500	
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272 Regt	1,500	
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90%

95C Regt	1,550	
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Hq & Spt	4,680	
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### 69 Arty Command - 4,980

Hq & Spt	1,395	
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42 Arty Regt	800	
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90%

208 Arty Regt	835	
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271 AA Regt	800	
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HQ, TASK FORCE 'GARRY OWEN' (PROVISIONAL)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

THRU: Commanding General  
Third Regional Assistance Command  
APO San Francisco 96266

TO: Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHAG-DD  
APO San Francisco 96375

1. Pursuant to authority established in AR 672-5-1, paragraph 201, and IAW USARV Reg 672-3, recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion with attached elements for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 in the vicinity of the Provincial Capital of An Loc, Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.

2. During this period, the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion provided an all out effort of both personnel and units, making a significant contribution to the ultimate defeat of the massive enemy effort in Military Region III. Faced with a multitude of sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons, the battalion operated in a mid-intensity war environment that had not heretofore been experienced. The heroism and professional competence displayed by the battalion places them in the category which deserves the highest recognition.

3. It is significant that after seven years of service in the Republic of Vietnam, the battalion's final and perhaps most significant combat support role, was one of assisting the GVN



AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

forces to defeat the enemy's greatest offensive to date without the support of U.S. ground forces. The performance of this battalion during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 could not have been surpassed by any other unit in the Vietnam conflict.

  
JOHN N. BRANDENBURG  
COL, IN  
Commanding

10 Incl

1. Summary of Recommendation
2. Narrative Recommendation
3. AO Map
4. Friendly and Enemy Casualties and Strengths
5. Listing of Units
6. Proposed Citation
7. Awards and Decorations
8. Statistical Data
9. Extract S-3 Opns Log
10. Statements of Witnesses, Letters of Commendation and News Stories

**Inclosure 1**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

**229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY**

**MISSION:** Conduct aerial support of GVN defenders of An Loc-Loc Ninh, to include armed helicopter gunship support, refugee evacuation, medical-evacuation insertion-extraction of troop units and logistics resupply.

**CONCEPT OF OPERATION:**

229th AHB provides aerial support to GVN defenders vicinity An Loc, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi, staging initially out of Song Be, displacing as necessary to Lai Khe and Bien Hoa.

**EXECUTION:**

On 5 April 1972 elements of the 229th AHB responded immediately with armed helicopter support for GVN forces in contact, began evacuation of ARVN soldiers, U.S. advisors and VN civilians from locations critically threatened by the enemy drive and commenced logistical resupply operations. Despite the heaviest curtain of anti-aircraft fire yet encountered by Army airmobile elements, the 229th flying cavalrymen maintained their support continuously throughout the 93 day period of the siege.

As this was not a separate combat operation by U.S. forces but support of an all-Vietnamese ground effort, the true story of the valiant efforts of the 229th AHB are best seen, not in body-count tallies but in more mundane, but nonetheless staggering statistics. Elements of the 229th AHB flew over thirteen thousand sorties, transported over sixteen thousand personnel, fired over five million rounds of ordnance, and hauled over 200 tons of logistical supplies in supporting the gallant GVN defenders. This resulted in the virtual destruction of four NVA Divisions and 3 NVA Regiments.

In an atmosphere approximating that of conventional warfare that saw the introduction, for the first time into MR III, of Soviet manufactured armor, 23 and 37mm AAA and the SA-7 "Strella" missile, the 229th AHB never faltered, resulting in over one thousand seven hundred awards for acts of individual and collective heroism.

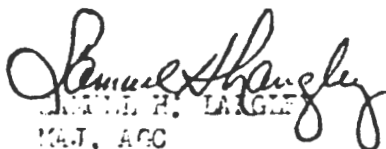
That the back of the siege had been officially broken and the enemy denied the propaganda coup inherent in his quest to capture the provincial capital was signalled by the insertion of the GVN Chief of State, President Nguyen Van Thieu, into An Loc with 229th AHB assistance on 7 July 1972.

The facts contained in the citation and this summary are a matter of record.



Inclosure 1 (Continued) Summary of Recommendation for Award of Presidential  
Unit Citation

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LAIGLE  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

229TH AHB SUPPORT OF GVN FORCES IN THE BINH LONG COUNTEROFFENSIVE

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

In early April 1972, NVA forces continued the long-expected Nguyen Hue offensive, begun earlier in MR I & MR II, with a massive thrust into MR III. The weight of the enemy drive, characterized by intense ground assaults, heavy indirect fire and armor in strength, fell first upon Loc Ninh (See Incl 3). At 0530 hours, 5 April 1972, Loc Ninh was brought under heavy attack by three regiments (275, 174 and E6) of the 5th VC/NVA Division. These attacks were supported by 5th VC/NVA DIVARTY, and 69th ARTY Command consisting of 60/82 mm mortar, 107/122 mm and 240 mm rockets. A series of ground attacks put the enemy infantry and tanks in and near the perimeter wire of Loc Ninh compound. Later in the morning the beleaguered defenders came under fire from 105/155 mm howitzers captured by the enemy in his overwhelming attacks against several small fire bases north of Loc Ninh.

At 0815 hours, 5 April 1972, F/9 Cav was diverted from 3/1 Cav AO patrol in the Bien Hoa area to Lai Khe and D Trp, 229th AHB was diverted from Tay Ninh to Quan Loi to provide support to ARVN elements in contact. All air assets of 229th AHB were placed on 15 minute alert for possible evacuation missions throughout all of MR III. Fire teams from F/79 AFA (Blue Max) were dispatched from Long Thanh to provide support in the vicinity of Loc Ninh. As the Cav Troops and Blue Max arrived on station, it became apparent that Quan Loi had been overrun and An Loc was surrounded. The Cobras employed flechette (nail) warhead rockets effectively against the vast numbers of enemy troops in the open areas of the overrun allied positions. Enemy AAA fire took its toll, however, with 1 AH1G "COBRA" and crew lost,



and 2 AH1Gs damaged. The enemy anti-aircraft fire, consisting of 37 mm, 23 mm, 51 Cal and small arms was of the highest intensity encountered in the long history of Army air operations in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, CH47 Chinooks of the 362nd (Assault Support Helicopter) aviation company and UH1 slicks of A/229 and B/229 were busily engaged in the evacuation of ARVN soldiers, US advisors and civilians from Quan Loi, as well as the delivery of 115 reinforcements and 16 tons of logistics to the defenders of An Loc.

Daylight 6 April found the defenders of Loc Ninh still hanging on but the situation had continued to deteriorate. In order to provide more time on target, the decision was made at 1100 for elements of 229th AHB to stage out of Song Be for the aerial support of Loc Ninh. S-4/229 began the shipment, by C130, of POL and Class V supplies for rearm and refuel of the 229th AHB's organic aircraft. A jump operations center was established at Song Be by S-3, 229th AHB to operate the airfield and coordinate missions for the aircraft. The re-arm, re-fuel point and airfield were fully operational by 1435 hours. Gunship operations continued throughout the Loc Ninh/Quan Loi/An Loc area with no abatement in ground to air fire.

By 7 April it was apparent that Loc Ninh would soon founder under the sheer weight of enemy numbers. By midmorning, NVA infantry and tanks had overrun the middle compound and NVA were removing captured ARVN artillery for their own future use. A life and death drama began unfolding in earnest at the now-split compound manned by American advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts. MG Hollingsworth, TRAC CG, made the decision to evacuate the U.S. advisors at Loc Ninh (Incl 10-A, LIFE Magazine Article, 21 Apr 72). His plan was to hit the enemy infested area as hard as possible with USAF TAC-Air to knock out the AAA sites, use CS gas to temporarily stun the

enemy, send in a "heavy pink team" from F/9th to check out the area for enemy resistance, and then run a combat assault of H/75th Rangers onto the strip at Loc Ninh to pick up the U.S. advisors. After the Tac Air preparation was completed, the "heavy pink team" went in. The scout approached the strip from the southeast at tree top level, with the low "cobra" above him 1,000 feet and the high "cobra" up another 1,000 feet. Approximately five kilometers out from the strip over the rubber plantation surrounding the area, the team took intensive .51 cal fire which continued the entire way into the objective. Upon reaching the strip, the scout reported intensive ground to air fire and numerous hits in his aircraft. The Tac air strikes and the CS had been ineffective against the massive blanket of AAA. Gathering dusk and worsening weather forced curtailment of further rescue efforts that day. The advisors' last radio transmission prior to being overrun stated that they would try to evade to the south.

With the fall of Loc Ninh, it became apparent that the next enemy target would be the provincial capital of An Loc. The capture of a provincial capital would be a propaganda coup for the enemy and would yield the NVA the opportunity to set up a revolutionary government in the heartland of MR III. The decision was made by GVN to hold An Loc at all costs. (See Inclosure 3).

The battle of An Loc can be characterized by five distinct periods. The first and third periods, 8-15 Apr 72 and 19-22 Apr 72 were characterized by heavy, intense attacks by fire and concentrated sustained, coordinated infantry and armor attacks. The second and fourth periods, from 15 Apr - 18 Apr 72, and 23 Apr - 11 May 72 were periods of resting, refitting, regrouping, receiving replacements, and salvaging personnel and equipment

battles. In addition to the armor support, the 69 Artillery Command and its three regiments (42, 208 and 271) supported the offensive. The 208 Rocket Regt was in general support of the 9 VC Division, and its three subordinate battalions were located approximately 7-10 km from An Loc. The 42 Rocket Artillery Regt was also in general support, with its three subordinate battalions also located around An Loc. The third regiment, which had been recently organized and equipped, was the 271 Anti-Aircraft Regt. The regiment and its subordinate battalions ringed An Loc with almost constant, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. For the first time, MR III experienced 23 mm anti-aircraft fire. SA-7 (STRELLA) missiles were also employed in the An Loc area in a general support role. Additionally during Phase I, the 429 Sapper Gp (-) participated, employing at least three sapper battalions (9, 13, and 14) in a support role. The sapper units, which were completely familiar with the Binh Long-Binh Duong area and the transshipment points, were used primarily as commo-liaison personnel, guiding the main force unit through the area.

The 229th AHB was tasked with aerial support in conjunction with USAF and VNAF TAC AIR and aerial resupply drops and B-52 strikes (Incl 10-D). In order to cut turn-around time for the task, the extensive POL/rearm facility at Song Be was dismantled by S-4 and moved south to Lai Khe for support of the An Loc defenders of the perimeter. By nightfall the Lai Khe staging area was complete and fully operational with the S-3 jump operations center.

10 - 12 April 1972 saw a continuation of the fierce contention for An Loc. Gunships of both CAV Troops and Blue Max were continuously on station providing close aerial support for the defenders in the block-by-block, house-to-house contest for control of the besieged city. AAA fire continued in ever increasing volume. While CH-47's of 362nd began the airlift of re-



fugees from Bu Dop to Song Be, lift ships of A/229 responded to the call for help at Tay Ninh. During the night the radio relay station at Nui Ba Den mountain had been overrun, with several U.S. and ARVN personnel killed or wounded. Five A/229 ships made a total of three lifts, inserting 90 ARVN reinforcements and evacuating casualties; each ship taking hits on every lift, with two A/229 crewmen wounded.

Possibly the single most heroic act of the entire Loc Ninh/An Loc operation occurred mid-morning April 8th, when a D Troop LOH, piloted by CPT John Whitehead, rescued nine personnel evading south from Loc Ninh to An Loc. (Incl 10-B). Responding to a radioed SOS from the four American advisors, CPT Whitehead landed under withering enemy fire only to have his aircraft swamped by desperate ARVN soldiers seeking to escape from the Communist foes surrounding them. With 9 people clinging to the aircraft and enemy fire increasing CPT Whitehead did the only thing possible. He skipped, bounced and literally forced his overloaded aircraft into the air with nine survivors clinging desperately to the tiny helicopter. By 2130 hours, 12 April, the evacuation of 1500 ARVN Troops, 2,000 civilians, six 105 mm howitzers and two 155 mm howitzers from Bu Dop to Song Be was completed by CH-47 Chinooks of the 362nd ASH.

13 April saw the rescue of the 11 wounded American advisors from the hotly contested soccer field at An Loc by elements of the 229th. As the enemy intensified his pressure upon the city with armor and infantry, the first tank kill was scored by F/79 AFA. This was accompanied by the kill of 21 trucks by the rocket firing Cobras of the 229th AHB. The tank-shoot continued through the 15th of April proving the deadly capabilities of the attack helicopter against armored vehicles. (Incl 10-C). While Cobra gunships

of D/229 and F/9 Cav continued to provide support to GVN forces in An Loc and to the relief column attempting to forge north from Chon Thanh up enemy controlled QL 13 to the embattled capital, Blue Max flew gunship cover in support of the VNAF insertion of troops in the vicinity of Quan Loi and Chon Thanh-Lai Khe.

On 16 April an enemy round detonated the ARVN ammunition dump at Lai Khe rendering the re-arm re-fuel point at that location unuseable. S-4/229th AHB immediately shifted rearm and refuel operations to Bien Hoa and support operations continued without pause. The following morning, as soon as the conflagration had ceased, S-4/229th AHB again shifted rearm- refuel operations back to Lai Khe, accomplishing the prodigious feat of two complete shifts of facilities over a distance of 37 km in 24 hours with no pause in support operations.

Heavy enemy artillery bombardment and armor-supported infantry attack upon the city of An Loc continued through the period 17 April through 17 May with enemy penetrations by armor and infantry occurring on 18, 20 and 25 April and 11 and 14 May. In each instance ARVN forces supported by Army aviation repulsed the enemy and restored the perimeter. The fighting raged from house to house, block by block, precluding the use of USAF TAC Air within the city due to the proximity of the friendly forces. It was in this environment that the attack helicopter gunship proved its mettle. Through their ability to place pin-point fire, the Cobras of Blue Max and the two Air Cavalry Troops were able to destroy tanks in the streets of the city with friendly forces only a scant few meters away. (Incl 10-C).

During this period the increasingly poor weather conditions engendered by the rainy season often hampered USAF tactical airstrikes. However on

only two days, the 21st and 23rd of April, were 229th AHB support operations partially curtailed due to weather. 23 April was not a total loss as a Cobra of F/9 CAV found a hole in the clouds and destroyed an enemy fuel truck trying to make its way to refuel enemy tanks under cover of clouds. The 24th and 28th of April saw the first of several large exchanges of troops by 229th AHB at An Loc. Fresh troops were flown into the city and wounded and weary troops rotated to the ARVN Headquarters and staging area at Lai Khe. Numerous medical evacuation missions were handled during this period. Whenever a lull in the enemy fire occurred any of the 229th aircraft in the area would pop in and snatch the wounded. These instances were so numerous and routine as to preclude any attempt to properly document them.

On 15 April a new dimension was added to the anti-aircraft capabilities of the enemy with the appearance of the SA-7, "Strella", a man-portable, heat-seeking missile of Soviet manufacture. The first sighting of the new threat was reported by an Air Force FAC on 9 May 1972. Its appearance in ever increasing frequency coincided with the commencement of the last big enemy push against An Loc which had been announced by an intercepted enemy radio transmission. As the tanks began massing for the assault on 11 April, it became apparent that the enemy had elected to play his heretofore undetected trump card to cancel out the advantage held by the GVN forces with their overwhelming aerial support. Although the SA-7 was to claim 6 AH-1G Cobra aircraft in the following weeks, it did not force a curtailment of helicopter operations as many doubters of the airmobile concept had theorized. The advantage of the missile would be countered in mid-July as a newly developed infra-red dissipation modification was installed on 229th AHB aircraft, but for now the development of modified tactics was a matter of the utmost urgency.

The tactics employed at Loc Ninh-An Loc were initially only a variation on the Pink Team - light fire team theme which had been utilized before in high intensity AAA environments such as the A Shau Valley operation by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in 1968. These variations were the employment of heavy fire teams composed of three ships as opposed to the two ship light-fire-team used by AFA and the use of a "Heavy Pink Team" in some cases a purple team by the Air Cavalry Troop. The "Heavy Pink Team" consisted of a LOH in the low level scout role stalked by the first Cobra at 1,500 feet to his rear or flank. Upon the LOH receiving fire or spotting a target the low Cobra would roll in with immediate suppressive fire, thus enabling the scout ship to evade, and providing an immediate mark for the higher Cobra, following at 2,500 feet or higher to set up a deliberate rocket pass. As the second Cobra was executing his break, the first Cobra would be in a position to cover with a rocket run of his own, thus alternating until either destruction of the target was complete or exhaustion of fuel or ammunition necessitated relief on station by another team. Another variation was the "Purple Team" with the LOH, two Cobras and a UH-1H "slick" at a higher altitude to serve as a command control element for the team and to accomplish recovery of downed crews if needed. This beefing up of the air maneuver elements was accompanied by a shift to low level flight enroute to minimize exposure to heavy AAA weapons. This, however, increased the vulnerability to small arms fire with the loss of the element of surprise caused by daily continued operations over the same terrain. This caused the modification of tactics to encompass ever higher enroute altitudes and the use of cloud cover to good effect even before the introduction of the "Strella". The arrival of the "Strella", although a quantum jump in AAA technology, had only the effect

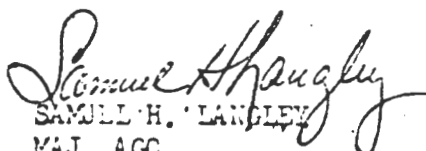


of intensifying the need for this type of tactic in a high intensity AAA environment. The need for change in standard aerial insertion and extraction tactics also became readily apparent. Whereas previously the emphasis had been upon large formations of lift ships making classic combat assaults; this was rendered suicidal because of the murderous effect of the high intensity AAA and IDF. The tactics employed to circumvent the AAA and IDF was for small flights of one or two ships to fly above cloud cover enroute to the PZ and utilize a rapidly spiraling high overhead approach to the LZ. Pathfinders of HHC, 229th AHB were responsible for LZ control, assembling outgoing payloads and moving the PZ as enemy gunners found the mark. This enabled the lift ships to spend minimum time on the PZ, often departing with deadly 105 and 155 rounds impacting on the PZ while they were on short climbout.

Dawn 17 May found the An Loc perimeter quiet for the first time in 42 days, with the calm broken only by occasional incoming artillery or mortar rounds. This lull was not to continue but it was apparent for the first time that the back of the siege had possibly been broken. Despite the lessening of the actual ground assault upon An Loc the enemy still held commanding positions along QL 13 to the south preventing ground movement between An Loc and Chon Thanh, and ringed the city of An Loc with AAA & indirect fire registered to almost pinpoint accuracy during the earlier days of the siege. This made the task of evacuation of large numbers dead and wounded and the insertion of reinforcements possible for the first time but highly hazardous. Massive troop exchanges took place on 31 May, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 22, 29 June and 1 and 5 July resulting in the total exchange of 11,153 personnel, accomplished with minimal casualties despite an undiminished curtain of AAA & IDF fire unequalled by any yet encountered in the Vietnamese conflict.

The successful defense of An Loc received official confirmation by the insertion of LTC Minh, CG of MR III, followed shortly by counter-guerrilla warfare consultant to the President, Sir Robert Thompson, and finally by the arrival of the GVN Chief of State President Nguyen Van Thieu. The successful insertion of the dignitaries, despite continual AAA fire, was accomplished jointly by elements of the 229th AHB and the rotary wing elements of the Vietnamese Air Force. (Incl 10-K).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

Inclosure 3 - AO MAP

Map Depicting Enemy Dispositions and Salient Activities of 229th AHB.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

# Inclosure 4 - Friendly and Enemy Strength & Casualties

## 1. Friendly (229th AHB)

<u>TOTAL TOE STR</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
1366	8	13	2	0

## 2. Enemy

<u>EST STRENGTH</u>	<u>PERCENT DESTROYED (EST)</u>
---------------------	--------------------------------

### 5 VC Div - 9,230

Hq & Spt	4,680
275 Regt	1,550
174 Regt	1,500
E6 Regt	1,500

90%

### 7 NVA Div - 8,600

141 Regt	1,500
165 Regt	1,500
209 Regt	1,500
Hq & Spt	4,100

90%

### 9 VC Div - 9,230

271 Regt	1,500
272 Regt	1,500
95C Regt	1,550
Hq & Spt	4,680

90%

### 69 Arty Command - 4,980

Hq & Spt	1,395
42 Arty Regt	800
208 Arty Regt	835
271 AA Regt	800

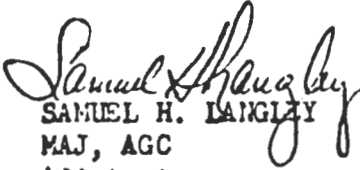
90%



Inclosure 4 (Continued)

205 NVA Regt - 1,250	90%
101 Regt - 760	90%
429 Sapper Gp - 1,705	90%
203 TK Regt	100%

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

INCLOSURE 4 - (Continued)

3. COMBAT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY ELEMENTS OF 229th AHB (S-2)

TIME	LOCATION	UNIT	MISSION	RESULTS
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des, VR
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 on Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755880	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 en trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des
201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May 011850	737902	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos TRAC
041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 04 Tanks des
130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2 1/2 ton trks, 01 trk des
130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
221200	757853	F/79	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH

Inclosure 4 (Cont'd)

4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Apr	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
	051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 MIA
	061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
	101400	787720	CS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
	111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
	111445	732824	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
	231600	765645	CS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May	071310	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
	111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 MIA
	130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
	221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
	311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
Jun	081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
	081300	761779	MED	MEDEVAC	CBL	51 Cal	Neg
	130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
	200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
	200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CBL	UNK	2 KIA
	211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	1 WIA
	221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
	241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
	241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant

Inclosure 5

LISTING OF ASSIGNED & ATTACHED UNITS

PARTICIPATING UNITS

Part 1. Units assigned and recommended for Award of the Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	PUC 23 Oct 65 - 26 Nov 65 USARV GO 21 Sep 67 MUC 1 Sep 65 - 30 Nov 66 USARV GO 17 - 23 Apr 68 Cross of Gallantry w/Palm 9 Aug 65 - 19 May 69 GO #59 25 Sep 69
2. Detachment 1 (General Support) Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 15 Jun 72	PUC 27 Dec 66 USARV GO 7 - 23 Apr 70
3. Company A (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
4. Company B (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
5. Company D (Aerial Weapons) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	



Inclosure 1 (Continued)

Part II. Units attached and recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
		<u>400-1-5</u>
1. Troop F (Air) 9th Cavalry	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
2. Battery F (Aerial Artillery) 79th Artillery	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	Presidential Unit Citation 23 Oct 65 thru 26 Nov 65 DA 30 40 21 Sep 66
3. 362nd Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter)	5 Apr - Jul 72	

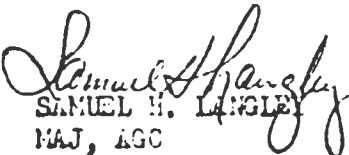
Part III. Units Assigned and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

Part IV. Units Attached and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

INCLOSURE 6.

PROPOSED CITATION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

AWARD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOLLOWING UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONFIRMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 194, AR 672-5-1.

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION (AM) AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

HHC, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

DETACHMENT 1 (GS), HHC, 229th AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY A, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY B, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY D, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F TROOP, 9TH CAVALRY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F BATTERY, 79TH AFA, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

362ND AVN COMPANY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

THE CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AGAINST HOSTILE FORCES DURING THE PERIOD 5 APRIL 1972 THROUGH 7 JULY 1972 WHILE COMMITTED TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GVN DEFENDERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF AN LOC BINH LONG PROVINCE DURING THE NVA "NGUYEN HUE" OFFENSIVE. THROUGH THEIR COURAGE, DETERMINATION, AND INGENUITY THE TROOPERS OF THE 229TH OVERCAME THE DIFFICULTIES ENGENDERED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONRY BY THE ENEMY AND THE MOST INTENSIVE VOLUME OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE YET EXPERIENCED, WHILE SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING THE BELEAGUERED DEFENDERS AGAINST THE ENEMY ONSLAUGHT. THE SUCCESSFUL DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY BY THE FORCES OF GVN WOULD HAVE BEEN VASTLY MORE PROLONGED AND COSTLY WERE IT NOT FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT RENDERED BY THE 229TH AHB. THE OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO DUTY, PERSEVERANCE, AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 229TH AHB AND ATTACHED ELEMENTS UNDER THE MOST HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE ARMY, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inclosure 7.

AWARDS & DECORATIONS FOR PERIOD 5 APRIL - 7 JULY 1972

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	
Medal of Honor		1	
DSC		3	
Silver Star	7	5	
Legion of Merit			
DFC	14	67	
Soldier's Medal	1	1	
BS W/V	6	3	
BS	204	22	
AM W/V	180	13	
AM	610	52	
ACM W/V	14	3	
ACM	210	9	
Purple Heart	40		
VN Cross of Gallantry			
W/Gold Star		8	
W/Silver Star		56	
W/ Bronze Star		157	
VN Honor Medal 1st Class		48	
TOTAL:	1286	448	GRAND TOTAL: 1734

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant

# Inclosure 8 - Statistical Data

## 1. Aviation Operational Support Statistics (S-3):

1 APRIL - 10 JULY	UH-1	AH-1	OH-6	CH-47	TOTALS
TOTAL # HOURS	3,275.6	4,275.6	1,772.5	130.4	9,851.6
TOTAL # SORTIES	6,471	5,285	1,525	177	13,458
TOTAL # PAX TRANSPORTED	14,653		196	1,863	16,712
TOTAL # CASUALTIES TRANSPORTED	49		19		68
# ACFT DAMAGED	20	19	11	2	52
# ACFT LOSSES	3	9	4	1	17
# TONS HAULED	47.4			170.5	217.9

## 2. Logistical Support Statistics (S-4):

a. During the period 7 April through 10 July 1972, the 229th AHB and attached units established and operated rearm and refuel points as indicated below:

### (1) Rearm Points

- (a) Song Be
- (b) Lai Khe
- (c) Vung Tau
- (d) Tay Ninh
- (e) Long Thanh
- (f) Lassiter

### (2) Refuel Points

- (a) Lai Khe
- (b) Song Be
- (c) Vung Tau
- (d) FSB Melanie
- (e) Long Thanh
- (f) Lassiter

b. The following logistical operations were of special significance in the battle of An Loc:

### (1) Song Be

### (2) Lai Khe

**Inclosure 8 (Continued)**

c. The logistical operation at Song Be supported the 229th AHB and attached units with 1,008,625 pounds of ammunition during the six days Song Be rearm operated. The 229th expended 22,400 rockets and well over 500,000 40mm and smaller caliber rounds. The 229th and attached units used 2,154,263 pounds of JP4 during the six days of operations at Song Be.

d. During the period 7 April through 10 July 1972, the 229th AHB and attached units consumed and expended 17,591,368 pounds of JP4 and 5,101,274 pounds of ammunition.

**(1) Total Lbs JP4 Used 7 Apr thru 10 July 72:**

<u>LT</u>	<u>LESS</u>	<u>SB</u>
7,657,000	9,014,000	920,368

**(2) Combined Total, Total Lbs JP4 Used 7 Apr thru 12 Apr in support Song Be/An Loc:**

Less -	687,895
LT -	546,000
SE -	<u>920,368</u>

2,154,263

**3. Combat Damage Inflicted By Elements of 229th AHB (S-2):**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN, VR	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2½ and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2½ and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 en Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755880	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 en trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des



**Inclosure 8 (Continued)**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May 011850	737932	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN TRAC	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos
041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 04 Tanks des
130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2½ ton trks, 01 trk des
130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
221200	757853	F/79	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH

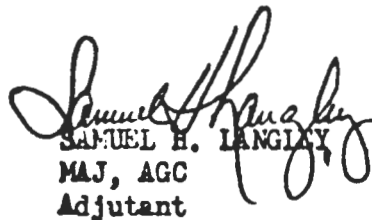
**4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Apr 051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 MIA
061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
101400	787720	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
111445	732884	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
231600	765645	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May 071340	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 MIA
130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg

Inclosure (Continued)

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Jun 081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
081300	761779	MED	MEDEVAC	CHL	51 Cal	Neg
130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CHL	SA-7	2 KIA
200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CHL	UNK	2 KIA
211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CHL	SA-7	1 WIA
221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant

**Inclosure 9 - Extract 3/1 CAV - TF "Garry Owen", S-3 Journal**

**5 April 1972:**

0815 hours - Trac moving F/9 to Quan Loi to work against ground attacks in the Loc Ninh Area. Quan Loi secure at this time.

0915 hours - TRAC: Request gunship cover work out of Quan Loi around Loc Ninh and An Loc. Sent 1 heavy section and 1 light section.

0920 hours - CG: 229th all birds on 15 minute standby alert.

0920 hours - F/79 heavy section of cobras bounced.

0945 hours - Lai Khe to be used for refuel/rearm to support TRAC.

0945 hours - D/229 put on alert by TRAC, send assets to Lai Khe.

0945 hours - F/79: Light section bounced to Lai Khe.

1005 hours - DCO-A: At XT788455 reported large traffic jam near old fire-base, activity on the base.

1055 hours - CG; TRAC: Quan Loi overrun, fuel point intact, An Loc surrounded. The 174th NVA Regt is between An Loc and Loc Ninh. The enemy is trying to cut the road between An Loc and Lai Khe.

1140 hours - D/229: 3 Pink Teams off for Lai Khe.

1240 hours - F/9: 2 Cobras hit but flying toward L.K. both A/C made it safely. 1 light damage, 2 heavy damage.

1410 hours - CG TRAC: Directed 3rd Bde to rescue 5 U.S. personnel at Quan Loi TOC. DCO-A is on the scene and talking to personnel on ground.

1515 hours - DCO-A: Prepare to send 10 UH-1H and 4 CH-47 to Quan Loi to extract 8 U.S. and 130 ARVN at Quan Loi.

1530 hours - DCO-A: Blue Max AH-1G exploded in the air, went down XT759753, no apparent survivors. Ship is Max 34.

1535 hours - DCO-A: Send 10 ships lift and 4 CH-47 ASAP, CH-47 to load first, then 10 lift ships.

1600 hours - 229th S-3 lift enroute, CH-47 arrived at 1620 hours. Evacuees taken to TSN.

1625 hours - First CH-47 completed 1st extraction.

1628 hours - Second CH-47 landed and completed extraction.

1640 hours - Third CH-47 sortie completed.

1700 hours - First flight of 5 slicks on the ground; 1703 hours extraction completed. Enroute to L. K. for fuel. Fourth CH-47 ordered to return W/O landing at Q. L. so that slicks could continue extraction.

1703 hours - Second flight of 5 slicks landed, extraction completed at 1705 hours enroute to L. K. for fuel.

1715 hours - TRAC G-3: F/9 and D/229 Cay Troops will remain at Lai Khe as late as possible tonight and prepare to go back tomorrow.

1815 hours - DCO-A: Retain 2 sections of MAX in Bde A.O. have released D/229 will release MAX and return W/F/9 at 1900 hours. Returning to Loc Ninh area.

1830 hours - DCO-A: All aviation elements released, ordered to B. H.

2015 hours - TRAC G-3: Plan to provide air assets tomorrow for possible extraction throughout MR II.

0735 hours - DCO-A: Song Be is out of assembled rockets. F/9 Blues are at Song Be assembling rockets. Chinook sorties of ammo being lifted, C-130 loads scheduled to arrive around 1000 hours. More rearm people being assembled.

0810 hours - TRAC: Middle compound at Loc Ninh apparently overrun by NVA, taking artillery out of compound. Contact with zippo lost for short time but regained. Tanks at compound.

0845 hours - DCO-A: Tanks have left compound and headed into Loc Ninh city. NVA control perimeter of compound, attack broken. We will try to drop NAPALM on perimeter bunker.

0915 hours - DCO-A: Attack renewed on Loc Ninh by tanks and infantry. Need heat rockets.

1030 hours - TRAC: Rescue operation for advisors at Loc Ninh. 05 UH-1H and 75th Ranger to be committed if possible to extract U.S. personnel.

1145 hours - Song Be M24, M17 Gas Masks, LAWS, M-60 ammo being passed to Song Be to be distributed to rangers and aviators.

1125 hours - TRAC: Downed UH-1H at XT 707602. D/229 covered no CAS.

1330 hours - DCO-A: Briefing at Song Be on rescue operations.

1425 hours - S-4: Estimated 8 sorties of C-130 CL V will land at S.D. DCO-B says get more.

1500 hours - TRAC: Bay run may be delayed beyond 1600 hours.

1510 hours - CG TRAC: Zippo 66 has moved position due east of warehouses on W side of strip. First Arclite at 1512 hours.

1510 hours - F/9 Cav: Request med 2 bounced to Song Be ASAP skids up 1512 hours.

1525 hours - TRAC: Bay run delayed to 1730 hours.

1550 hours - DCO-A: Rescue ops to go at 1640 hours.

1635 hours - CG TRAC: Bay run at 1650 hours.

1650 hours - D/229: CH-47 (362nd Avn Co) hit at An Loc pick up zone. Heading S to secure L.Z.

1700 hours - CG: Requested one more gunship section from B.H. We now have only 1 section of gunships at Bien Hoa.

1700 hours - An Loc advisors evacuated by 229th.

1702 hours - DCO-A: Rescue operation Loc Ninh starting.

1735 hours - DCO-A: LOH F/9 checking Loc Ninh L.Z. Took heavy 51 cal fire from E, W, SW, NE.

1745 hours - Song Be: Need two more hooks at Song Be to sling out downed aircraft.

1800 hours - F/9: LOH seriously shot up, going to Song Be.

1846 hours - CG TRAC: Contact lost with zippo 66 at 1846. He was evading into city to try to make it till morning.

8 April 1972:

0435 hours - An Loc under gas and 75 mm rr attack.

0520 hours - TRAC requests flare birk and gun section to go to Nui Ba Dinh taking incoming and suspect sapper attack F/79 bounced 1 section at 0530. Rearm and POL at TMW F/79 Cobras to cover dustoff 02 U.S. wounded at NBD.

0630 hours - Skids up for F/79 guns for An Loc.

0705 hours - Notified medevac to have ship at Song Be. Long Binh dustoff will backup with a ship at Lai Khe.

6 April 1972:

0730 hours - DCO-A: Reports Loc Ninh has held on, F/79, F/9 working around Loc Ninh and firing at rocket positions.  
0845 hours - F/9 Cav: AH-1G taking unknown GAF in all gun runs around Loc Ninh. Negative hits.  
0945 hours - F/9 Cav: At 0920 hours had spotted unk no. of 51 cal pits engaged with AH-1G with unknown results.  
0945 hours - D/229: Spotted 3 houses full of enemy. Returned to Lai Khe and picked up ARVN LNO. Returned to site near Quan Loi. At 0900 hours, 3 houses destroyed, one individual escaping engaged and killed; results 3 houses destroyed, 1 enemy KBH.  
1100 hours - CG: Establish rearm-repol point at Song Be in order to reduce turn-around time in An Loc - Loc Ninh area. Will use assets already on ground and replenish.  
1140 hours - DCO-A: Credit D/229 with 10 KBH.  
1250 hours - CG TRAC/DCO TRAC: Loc Ninh still getting heavy artillery fire. Several indirect fire positions verified and destroyed. 2 companies of 92nd Rangers w/5 APC's broke through from north into Loc Ninh and one company from the south.  
1255 hours - F/9: At 1200 hours, vicinity of XT672953 3 AH-1G took unknown amount GAF. All 3 ships took hits and landed safely at L.K. Assessment to follow.  
1400 hours - DCO-A: UHF beeps from vic XT759753 TASH checking area and will get homing bird into location.  
1435 hours - AAE: CH-47 reports Song Be POL open.  
1545 hours - CG: Loc Ninh under constant pressure, mortar attack and ground attack coming from the west. District compound penetrated but gunships broke the attack. Gunships firing final protective fires along the perimeter.  
1555 hours - CG: Cobras going to Song Be from Loc Ninh for POL/REARM.  
1615 hours - D/229: Total kills reported for D/229 is 27.  
1810 hours - F/9: XV 727132, 174 OH AH-1G received heavy 51 cal GAF at 2500 feet, 100 KTS Negative hits, engaged with org unk res.  
1855 hours - DCO-A: D/229, F/9 have been released, enroute B. H., one section F/79 will expend prior to returning, others enroute.  
1905 hours - D/229: At Quan Loi, Pink Team rolled hot at 1630 hours because Quan Loi attacked from south at the airstrip.  
1905 hours - D/229: XT818903 1815; Multiple secondary explosions from rubber on N side of airstrip, originally a 3 prong attack supported by LMG fire from hoochs east. D/229 turned back attack toward POL by using nails.  
1930 hours - D/229: XT671905 Cobra took unknown amount of fire from 51 cal, neg hits, engaged with org unk res.  
2100 hours - Late Entry D/229: AH-1G on VR took 51 cal and LMG fire eng w org rest 15 en KBH.

7 April 1972:

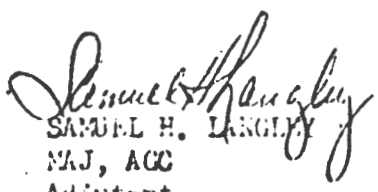
0600 hours - TRAO: F/79 gunships are to be at Loc Ninh at first light. Skids up on 5 AH-1G.  
0715 hours - TRAC: Send additional AH-1G to Loc Ninh. S-3 ops reports 1 additional section enroute at 0730 hours.



Inclosure 3 - AO MAP

Map Depicting Enemy Dispositions and Salient Activities of 229th AHB.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

The successful defense of An Loc received official confirmation by the insertion of LTC Minh, CG of MR III, followed shortly by counter-guerrilla warfare consultant to the President, Sir Robert Thompson, and finally by the arrival of the GVN Chief of State President Nguyen Van Thieu. The successful insertion of the dignitaries, despite continual AAA fire, was accomplished jointly by elements of the 229th AHB and the rotary wing elements of the Vietnamese Air Force. (Incl 10-E).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HQ, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN" (PROVISIONAL)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

THRU: Commanding General  
Third Regional Assistance Command  
APO San Francisco 96266

TO: Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHAG-DD  
APO San Francisco 96375

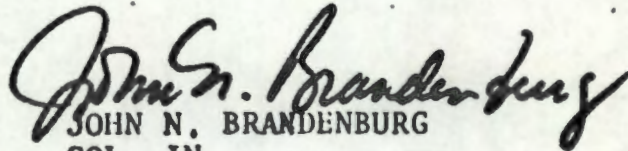
1. Pursuant to authority established in AR 672-5-1, paragraph 201, and IAW USARV Reg 672-3, recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion with attached elements for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 in the vicinity of the Provincial Capital of An Loc, Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.
2. During this period, the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion provided an all out effort of both personnel and units, making a significant contribution to the ultimate defeat of the massive enemy effort in Military Region III. Faced with a multitude of sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons, the battalion operated in a mid-intensity war environment that had not heretofore been experienced. The heroism and professional competence displayed by the battalion places them in the category which deserves the highest recognition.
3. It is significant that after seven years of service in the Republic of Vietnam, the battalion's final and perhaps most significant combat support role, was one of assisting the GVN

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

forces to defeat the enemy's greatest offensive to date without the support of U.S. ground forces. The performance of this battalion during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 could not have been surpassed by any other unit in the Vietnam conflict.



JOHN N. BRANDENBURG  
COL, IN  
Commanding

10 Incl

1. Summary of Recommendation
2. Narrative Recommendation
3. AO Map
4. Friendly and Enemy Casualties and Strengths
5. Listing of Units
6. Proposed Citation
7. Awards and Decorations
8. Statistical Data
9. Extract S-3 Opns Log
10. Statements of Witnesses, Letters of Commendation and News Stories



**Inclosure 1**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

**229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY**

**MISSION:** Conduct aerial support of GVN defenders of An Loc-Loc Ninh, to include armed helicopter gunship support, refugee evacuation, medical-evacuation insertion-extraction of troop units and logistics resupply.

**CONCEPT OF OPERATION:**

229th AHB provides aerial support to GVN defenders vicinity An Loc, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi, staging initially out of Song Be, displacing as necessary to Lai Khe and Bien Hoa.

**EXECUTION:**

On 5 April 1972 elements of the 229th AHB responded immediately with armed helicopter support for GVN forces in contact, began evacuation of ARVN soldiers, U.S. advisors and VN civilians from locations critically threatened by the enemy drive and commenced logistical resupply operations. Despite the heaviest curtain of anti-aircraft fire yet encountered by Army airmobile elements, the 229th flying cavalrymen maintained their support continuously throughout the 93 day period of the seige.

As this was not a separate combat operation by U.S. forces but support of an all-Vietnamese ground effort, the true story of the valiant efforts of the 229th AHB are best seen, not in body-count tallies but in more mundane, but nonetheless staggering statistics. Elements of the 229th AHB flew over thirteen thousand sorties, transported over sixteen thousand personnel, fired over five million rounds of ordnance, and hauled over 200 tons of logistical supplies in supporting the gallant GVN defenders. This resulted in the virtual destruction of four NVA Divisions and 3 NVA Regiments.

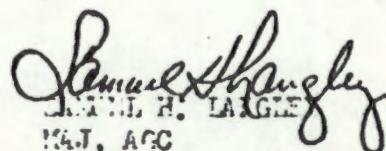
In an atmosphere approximating that of conventional warfare that saw the introduction, for the first time into MR III, of Soviet manufactured armor, 23 and 37mm AAA and the SA-7 "Strella" missile, the 229th AHB never faltered, resulting in over one thousand seven hundred awards for acts of individual and collective heroism.

That the back of the seige had been officially broken and the enemy denied the propaganda coup inherent in his quest to capture the provincial capital was signalled by the insertion of the GVN Chief of State, President Nguyen Van Thieu, into An Loc with 229th AHB assistance on 7 July 1972.

The facts contained in the citation and this summary are a matter of record.

Inclosure 1 (Continued) Summary of Recommendation for Award of Presidential  
Unit Citation

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



229TH AHB SUPPORT OF GVN FORCES IN THE BINH LONG COUNTEROFFENSIVE

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

In early April 1972, NVA forces continued the long-expected Nguyen Hue offensive, begun earlier in MR I & MR II, with a massive thrust into MR III. The weight of the enemy drive, characterized by intense ground assaults, heavy indirect fire and armor in strength, fell first upon Loc Ninh (See Incl 3). At 0530 hours, 5 April 1972, Loc Ninh was brought under heavy attack by three regiments (275, 174 and E6) of the 5th VC/NVA Division. These attacks were supported by 5th VC/NVA DIVARTY, and 69th ARTY Command consisting of 60/82 mm mortar, 107/122 mm and 240 mm rockets. A series of ground attacks put the enemy infantry and tanks in and near the perimeter wire of Loc Ninh compound. Later in the morning the beleaguered defenders came under fire from 105/155 mm howitzers captured by the enemy, in his overwhelming attacks against several small fire bases north of Loc Ninh.

At 0815 hours, 5 April 1972, F/9 Cav was diverted from 3/1 Cav AO patrol in the Bien Hoa area to Lai Khe and D Trp, 229th AHB was diverted from Tay Ninh to Quan Loi to provide support to ARVN elements in contact. All air assets of 229th AHB were placed on 15 minute alert for possible evacuation missions throughout all of MR III. Fire teams from F/79 APA (Blue Max) were dispatched from Long Thanh to provide support in the vicinity of Loc Ninh. As the Cav Troops and Blue Max arrived on station, it became apparent that Quan Loi had been overrun and An Loc was surrounded. The Cobras employed flechette (nail) warhead rockets effectively against the vast numbers of enemy troops in the open areas of the overrun allied positions. Enemy AAA fire took its toll, however, with 1 AH1G "COBRA" and crew lost,



and 2 AH1Gs damaged. The enemy anti-aircraft fire, consisting of 37 mm, 23 mm, 51 Cal and small arms was of the highest intensity encountered in the long history of Army air operations in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, CH47 Chinooks of the 362nd (Assault Support Helicopter) aviation company and UH1 slicks of A/229 and B/229 were busily engaged in the evacuation of ARVN soldiers, US advisors and civilians from Quan Loi, as well as the delivery of 115 reinforcements and 16 tons of logistics to the defenders of An Loc.

Daylight 6 April found the defenders of Loc Ninh still hanging on but the situation had continued to deteriorate. In order to provide more time on target, the decision was made at 1100 for elements of 229th AHB to stage out of Song Be for the aerial support of Loc Ninh. S-4/229 began the shipment, by C130, of POL and Class V supplies for rearm and refuel of the 229th AHB's organic aircraft. A jump operations center was established at Song Be by S-3, 229th AHB to operate the airfield and coordinate missions for the aircraft. The re-arm, re-fuel point and airfield were fully operational by 1435 hours. Gunship operations continued throughout the Loc Ninh/Quan Loi/An Loc area with no abatement in ground to air fire.

By 7 April it was apparent that Loc Ninh would soon founder under the sheer weight of enemy numbers. By midmorning, NVA infantry and tanks had overrun the middle compound and NVA were removing captured ARVN artillery for their own future use. A life and death drama began unfolding in earnest at the now-split compound manned by American advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts. MG Hollingsworth, TRAC CG, made the decision to evacuate the U.S. advisors at Loc Ninh (Incl 10-A, LIFE Magazine Article, 21 Apr 72). His plan was to hit the enemy infested area as hard as possible with USAF TAC-Air to knock out the AAA sites, use CS gas to temporarily stun the



enemy, send in a "heavy pink team" from F/9th to check out the area for enemy resistance, and then run a combat assault of H/75th Rangers onto the strip at Loc Ninh to pick up the U.S. advisors. After the Tac Air preparation was completed, the "heavy pink team" went in. The scout approached the strip from the southeast at tree top level, with the low "cobra" above him 1,000 feet and the high "cobra" up another 1,000 feet. Approximately five kilometers out from the strip over the rubber plantation surrounding the area, the team took intensive .51-cal fire which continued the entire way into the objective. Upon reaching the strip, the scout reported intensive ground to air fire and numerous hits in his aircraft. The Tac air strikes and the CS had been ineffective against the massive blanket of AAA. Gathering dusk and worsening weather forced curtailment of further rescue efforts that day. The advisors' last radio transmission prior to being overrun stated that they would try to evade to the south.

With the fall of Loc Ninh, it became apparent that the next enemy target would be the provincial capital of An Loc. The capture of a provincial capital would be a propaganda coup for the enemy and would yield the NVA the opportunity to set up a revolutionary government in the heartland of MR III. The decision was made by GVN to hold An Loc at all costs. (See Inclosure 3).

The battle of An Loc can be characterized by five distinct periods. The first and third periods, 8-15 Apr 72 and 19-22 Apr 72 were characterized by heavy, intense attacks by fire and concentrated sustained, coordinated infantry and armor attacks. The second and fourth periods, from 15 Apr - 18 Apr 72, and 23 Apr - 11 May 72 were periods of resting, refitting, regrouping, receiving replacements, and salvaging personnel and equipment.



battles. In addition to the armor support, the 69 Artillery Command and its three regiments (42, 208 and 271) supported the offensive. The 208 Rocket Regt was in general support of the 9 VC Division, and its three subordinate battalions were located approximately 7-10 km from An Loc. The 42 Rocket Artillery Regt was also in general support, with its three subordinate battalions also located around An Loc. The third regiment, which had been recently organized and equipped, was the 271 Anti-Aircraft Regt. The regiment and its subordinate battalions ringed An Loc with almost constant, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. For the first time, MR III experienced 23 mm anti-aircraft fire. SA-7 (STRELLA) missiles were also employed in the An Loc area in a general support role. Additionally during Phase I, the 429 Sapper Gp (-) participated, employing at least three sapper battalions (9, 13, and 14) in a support role. The sapper units, which were completely familiar with the Binh Long-Binh Duong area and the transshipment points, were used primarily as commo-liaison personnel, guiding the main force unit through the area.

The 229th AHB was tasked with aerial support in conjunction with USAF and VNAF TAC AIR and aerial resupply drops and B-52 strikes (Incl 10-D). In order to cut turn-around time for the task, the extensive POL/rearm facility at Song Be was dismantled by S-4 and moved south to Lai Khe for support of the An Loc defenders of the perimeter. By nightfall the Lai Khe staging area was complete and fully operational with the S-3 jump operations center.

10 - 12 April 1972 saw a continuation of the fierce contention for An Loc. Gunships of both CAV Troops and Blue Max were continuously on station providing close aerial support for the defenders in the block-by-block, house-to-house contest for control of the besieged city. AAA fire continued in ever increasing volume. While CH-47's of 362nd began the airlift of re-



fugees from Bu Dop to Song Be, lift ships of A/229 responded to the call for help at Tay Ninh. During the night the radio relay station at Nui Ba Den mountain had been overrun, with several U.S. and ARVN personnel killed or wounded. Five A/229 ships made a total of three lifts, inserting 90 ARVN reinforcements and evacuating casualties, each ship taking hits on every lift, with two A/229 crewmen wounded.

Possibly the single most heroic act of the entire Loc Ninh/An Loc operation occurred mid-morning April 8th, when a D Troop 10H, piloted by CPT John Whitehead, rescued nine personnel evading south from Loc Ninh to An Loc. (Incl 10-B). Responding to a radioed SOS from the four American advisors, CPT Whitehead landed under withering enemy fire only to have his aircraft swamped by desperate ARVN soldiers seeking to escape from the Communist foes surrounding them. With 9 people clinging to the aircraft and enemy fire increasing CPT Whitehead did the only thing possible. He skipped, bounced and literally forced his overloaded aircraft into the air with nine survivors clinging desperately to the tiny helicopter. By 2130 hours, 12 April, the evacuation of 1500 ARVN Troops, 2,000 civilians, six 105 mm howitzers and two 155 mm howitzers from Bu Dop to Song Be was completed by CH-47 Chinooks of the 362nd ASH.

13 April saw the rescue of the 11 wounded American advisors from the hotly contested soccer field at An Loc by elements of the 229th. As the enemy intensified his pressure upon the city with armor and infantry, the first tank kill was scored by F/79 AFA. This was accompanied by the kill of 21 trucks by the rocket firing Cobras of the 229th AHB. The tank-shoot continued through the 15th of April proving the deadly capabilities of the attack helicopter against armored vehicles. (Incl 10-C). While Cobra gunships



of D/229 and F/9 Cav continued to provide support to GVN forces in An Loc and to the relief column attempting to forge north from Chon Thanh up enemy controlled QL 13 to the embattled capital, Blue Max flew gunship cover in support of the VNAF insertion of troops in the vicinity of Quan Loi and Chon Thanh-Lai Khe.

On 16 April an enemy round detonated the ARVN ammunition dump at Lai Khe rendering the re-arm re-fuel point at that location unuseable. S-4/229th AHB immediately shifted rearm and refuel operations to Bien Hoa and support operations continued without pause. The following morning, as soon as the conflagration had ceased, S-4/229th AHB again shifted rearm- refuel operations back to Lai Khe, accomplishing the prodigious feat of two complete shifts of facilities over a distance of 37 km in 24 hours with no pause in support operations.

Heavy enemy artillery bombardment and armor-supported infantry attack upon the city of An Loc continued through the period 17 April through 17 May with enemy penetrations by armor and infantry occurring on 18, 20 and 25 April and 11 and 14 May. In each instance ARVN forces supported by Army aviation repulsed the enemy and restored the perimeter. The fighting raged from house to house, block by block, precluding the use of USAF TAC Air within the city due to the proximity of the friendly forces. It was in this environment that the attack helicopter gunship proved its mettle. Through their ability to place pin-point fire, the Cobras of Blue Max and the two Air Cavalry Troops were able to destroy tanks in the streets of the city with friendly forces only a scant few meters away. (Incl. 10-C).

During this period the increasingly poor weather conditions engendered by the rainy season often hampered USAF tactical airstrikes. However on



only two days, the 21st and 23rd of April, were 229th AHB support operations partially curtailed due to weather. 23 April was not a total loss as a Cobra of F/9 CAV found a hole in the clouds and destroyed an enemy fuel truck trying to make its way to refuel enemy tanks under cover of clouds. The 24th and 28th of April saw the first of several large exchanges of troops by 229th AHB at An Loc. Fresh troops were flown into the city and wounded and weary troops rotated to the ARVN Headquarters and staging area at Lai Khe. Numerous medical evacuation missions were handled during this period. Whenever a lull in the enemy fire occurred any of the 229th aircraft in the area would pop in and snatch the wounded. These instances were so numerous and routine as to preclude any attempt to properly document them.

On 15 April a new dimension was added to the anti-aircraft capabilities of the enemy with the appearance of the SA-7, "Strella", a man-portable, heat-seeking missile of Soviet manufacture. The first sighting of the new threat was reported by an Air Force FAC on 9 May 1972. Its appearance in ever increasing frequency coincided with the commencement of the last big enemy push against An Loc which had been announced by an intercepted enemy radio transmission. As the tanks began massing for the assault on 11 April, it became apparent that the enemy had elected to play his heretofore undetected trump card to cancel out the advantage held by the GVN forces with their overwhelming aerial support. Although the SA-7 was to claim 6 AH-1G Cobra aircraft in the following weeks, it did not force a curtailment of helicopter operations as many doubters of the airmobile concept had theorized. The advantage of the missile would be countered in mid-July as a newly developed infra-red dissipation modification was installed on 229th AHB aircraft, but for now the development of modified tactics was a matter of the utmost urgency.



The tactics employed at Loc Ninh-An Loc were initially only a variation on the Pink Team - light fire team theme which had been utilized before in high intensity AAA environments such as the A Shau Valley operation by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in 1968. These variations were the employment of heavy fire teams composed of three ships as opposed to the two ship light-fire-team used by AFA and the use of a "Heavy Pink Team" in some cases a purple team by the Air Cavalry Troop. The "Heavy Pink Team" consisted of a LOH in the low level scout role stalked by the first Cobra at 1,500 feet to his rear or flank. Upon the LOH receiving fire or spotting a target the low Cobra would roll in with immediate suppressive fire, thus enabling the scout ship to evade, and providing an immediate mark for the higher Cobra, following at 2,500 feet or higher to set up a deliberate rocket pass. As the second Cobra was executing his break, the first Cobra would be in a position to cover with a rocket run of his own, thus alternating until either destruction of the target was complete or exhaustion of fuel or ammunition necessitated relief on station by another team. Another variation was the "Purple Team" with the LOH, two Cobras and a UH-1H "slick" at a higher altitude to serve as a command control element for the team and to accomplish recovery of downed crews if needed. This beefing up of the air maneuver elements was accompanied by a shift to low level flight enroute to minimize exposure to heavy AAA weapons. This, however, increased the vulnerability to small arms fire with the loss of the element of surprise caused by daily continued operations over the same terrain. This caused the modification of tactics to encompass ever higher enroute altitudes and the use of cloud cover to good effect even before the introduction of the "Strella". The arrival of the "Strella", although a quantum jump in AAA technology, had only the effect



of intensifying the need for this type of tactic in a high intensity AAA environment. The need for change in standard aerial insertion and extraction tactics also became readily apparent. Whereas previously the emphasis had been upon large formations of lift ships making classic combat assaults; this was rendered suicidal because of the murderous effect of the high intensity AAA and IDF. The tactics employed to circumvent the AAA and IDF was for small flights of one or two ships to fly above cloud cover enroute to the PZ and utilize a rapidly spiraling high overhead approach to the LZ. Pathfinders of HHC, 229th AHB were responsible for LZ control, assembling outgoing payloads and moving the PZ as enemy gunners found the mark. This enabled the lift ships to spend minimum time on the PZ, often departing with deadly 105 and 155 rounds impacting on the PZ while they were on short climbout.

Dawn 17 May found the An Loc perimeter quiet for the first time in 42 days, with the calm broken only by occasional incoming artillery or mortar rounds. This lull was not to continue but it was apparent for the first time that the back of the siege had possibly been broken. Despite the lessening of the actual ground assault upon An Loc the enemy still held commanding positions along QL 13 to the south preventing ground movement between An Loc and Chon Thanh, and ringed the city of An Loc with AAA & indirect fire registered to almost pinpoint accuracy during the earlier days of the siege. This made the task of evacuation of large numbers dead and wounded and the insertion of reinforcements possible for the first time but highly hazardous. Massive troop exchanges took place on 31 May, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 22, 29 June and 1 and 5 July resulting in the total exchange of 11,153 personnel, accomplished with minimal casualties despite an undiminished curtain of AAA & IDF fire unequalled by any yet encountered in the Vietnamese conflict.



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NAUTB-G3

Recommendation for Award of Presidential Unit  
Citation.

Chief of Staff

ACofS, G-3

6 August 1972  
MAJ O'Donnell/fth/921-3565

1. PURPOSE: To reply to Chief of Staff request.
2. DISCUSSION: By note at TAB A the Chief of Staff asked that ACofS, G-3 review the recommendation for award of the Presidential Unit Citation for 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion for reasonable accuracy. The documentation has been reviewed and appears to be accurate.
3. RECOMMENDATION: That the Commanding General forward the documentation with his recommendation for approval.
4. COORDINATION: None required.

INCL  
as

PATRICK A. STEEL  
LTC, GS  
ACofS, G-3

44-41 (3 Aug 72) 1st Ind

Subject: Recommendation for Award of the President's

Commendation, Third Regional Assistance Command, ARVN

To: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO: 11  
ASO 90375.

Personal approval.

JAMES F. HOLLINGSWORTH  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

OF STAFF FILING FILE COPY

Recommendation for Award of Presidential Unit Citation.

NACTR-G3

Chief of Staff

ACofS, G-3

6 August 1972  
MAJ O'Donnell/fth/921-3565

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4. COORDINATION: None required.

INCL  
as

PATRICK A. STEEL  
LTC, GS  
ACofS, G-3



4-11-67 (3 Aug 72) 1st Ind

Subject: Recommendation for Award of the Purple Heart

TO: DIRECTOR, THIRD REGIONAL ASSISTANCE COMMAND, AFM 7-1

FROM: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, AFM 7-1  
AND 10375.

Recommend approval.

JAMES F. HOLLINGERWORTH  
Major General, USA  
Commanding





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HQ, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN" (PROVISIONAL)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

THRU: Commanding General  
Third Regional Assistance Command  
APO San Francisco 96266

TO: Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHAG-DD  
APO San Francisco 96375

1. Pursuant to authority established in AR 672-5-1, paragraph 201, and IAW USARV Reg 672-3, recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion with attached elements for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 in the vicinity of the Provincial Capital of An Loc, Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.

2. During this period, the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion provided an all out effort of both personnel and units, making a significant contribution to the ultimate defeat of the massive enemy effort in Military Region III. Faced with a multitude of sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons, the battalion operated in a mid-intensity war environment that had not heretofore been experienced. The heroism and professional competence displayed by the battalion places them in the category which deserves the highest recognition.

3. It is significant that after seven years of service in the Republic of Vietnam, the battalion's final and perhaps most significant combat support role, was one of assisting the GVN

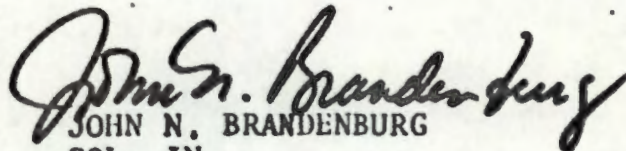


AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

forces to defeat the enemy's greatest offensive to date without the support of U.S. ground forces. The performance of this battalion during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 could not have been surpassed by any other unit in the Vietnam conflict.



JOHN N. BRANDENBURG  
COL, IN  
Commanding

10 Incl

1. Summary of Recommendation
2. Narrative Description
3. AO Map
4. Friendly and Enemy Casualties and Strengths
5. Listing of Units
6. Proposed Citation
7. Awards and Decorations
8. Statistical Data
9. Extract S-3 Opns Log
10. Statements of Witnesses, Letters of Commendation and News Stories



## Inclosure 1

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:

229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY

MISSION: Conduct aerial support of GVN defenders of An Loc-Loc Ninh, to include armed helicopter gunship support, refugee evacuation, medical-evacuation insertion-extraction of troop units and logistics resupply.

### CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

229th AHB provides aerial support to GVN defenders vicinity An Loc, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi, staging initially out of Song Be, displacing as necessary to Lai Khe and Bien Hoa.

### EXECUTION:

On 5 April 1972 elements of the 229th AHB responded immediately with armed helicopter support for GVN forces in contact, began evacuation of ARVN soldiers, U.S. advisors and VN civilians from locations critically threatened by the enemy drive and commenced logistical resupply operations. Despite the heaviest curtain of anti-aircraft fire yet encountered by Army airmobile elements, the 229th flying cavalrymen maintained their support continuously throughout the 93 day period of the siege.

As this was not a separate combat operation by U.S. forces but support of an all-Vietnamese ground effort, the true story of the valiant efforts of the 229th AHB are best seen, not in body-count tallies but in more mundane, but nonetheless staggering statistics. Elements of the 229th AHB flew over thirteen thousand sorties, transported over sixteen thousand personnel, fired over five million rounds of ordnance, and hauled over 200 tons of logistical supplies in supporting the gallant GVN defenders. This resulted in the virtual destruction of four NVA Divisions and 3 NVA Regiments.

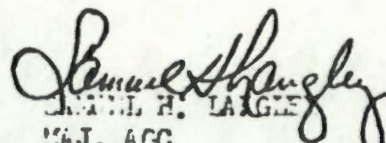
In an atmosphere approximating that of conventional warfare that saw the introduction, for the first time into MR III, of Soviet manufactured armor, 23 and 37mm AAA and the SA-7 "Strella" missile, the 229th AHB never faltered, resulting in over one thousand seven hundred awards for acts of individual and collective heroism.

That the back of the siege had been officially broken and the enemy denied the propaganda coup inherent in his quest to capture the provincial capital was signalled by the insertion of the GVN Chief of State, President Nguyen Van Thieu, into An Loc with 229th AHB assistance on 7 July 1972.

The facts contained in the citation and this summary are a matter of record.

Inclosure 1 (Continued) Summary of Recommendation for Award of Presidential  
Unit Citation

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LAGREE  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



229TH AHB SUPPORT OF GVN FORCES IN THE BINH LONG COUNTEROFFENSIVE

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

In early April 1972, NVA forces continued the long-expected Nguyen Hue offensive, begun earlier in MR I & MR II, with a massive thrust into MR III. The weight of the enemy drive, characterized by intense ground assaults, heavy indirect fire and armor in strength, fell first upon Loc Ninh (See Incl 3). At 0530 hours, 5 April 1972, Loc Ninh was brought under heavy attack by three regiments (275, 174 and E6) of the 5th VC/NVA Division. These attacks were supported by 5th VC/NVA DIVARTY, and 69th ARTY Command consisting of 60/82 mm mortar, 107/122 mm and 240 mm rockets. A series of ground attacks put the enemy infantry and tanks in and near the perimeter wire of Loc Ninh compound. Later in the morning the beleaguered defenders came under fire from 105/155 mm howitzers captured by the enemy in his overwhelming attacks against several small fire bases north of Loc Ninh.

At 0815 hours, 5 April 1972, F/9 Cav was diverted from 3/1 Cav AO patrol in the Bien Hoa area to Lai Khe and D Trp, 229th AHB was diverted from Tay Ninh to Quan Loi to provide support to ARVN elements in contact. All air assets of 229th AHB were placed on 15 minute alert for possible evacuation missions throughout all of MR III. Fire teams from F/79 AFA (Blue Max) were dispatched from Long Thanh to provide support in the vicinity of Loc Ninh. As the Cav Troops and Blue Max arrived on station, it became apparent that Quan Loi had been overrun and An Loc was surrounded. The Cobras employed flechette (nail) warhead rockets effectively against the vast numbers of enemy troops in the open areas of the overrun allied positions. Enemy AAA fire took its toll, however, with 1 AH1G "COBRA" and crew lost,



and 2 AH1Cs damaged. The enemy anti-aircraft fire, consisting of 37 mm, 23 mm, 51 Cal and small arms was of the highest intensity encountered in the long history of Army air operations in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, CH47 Chinooks of the 362nd (Assault Support Helicopter) aviation company and UH1 slicks of A/229 and B/229 were busily engaged in the evacuation of ARVN soldiers, US advisors and civilians from Quan Loi, as well as the delivery of 115 reinforcements and 16 tons of logistics to the defenders of An Loc.

Daylight 6 April found the defenders of Loc Ninh still hanging on but the situation had continued to deteriorate. In order to provide more time on target, the decision was made at 1100 for elements of 229th AHB to stage out of Song Be for the aerial support of Loc Ninh. S-4/229 began the shipment, by C130, of POL and Class V supplies for rearm and refuel of the 229th AHB's organic aircraft. A jump operations center was established at Song Be by S-3, 229th AHB to operate the airfield and coordinate missions for the aircraft. The re-arm, re-fuel point and airfield were fully operational by 1435 hours. Gunship operations continued throughout the Loc Ninh/Quan Loi/An Loc area with no abatement in ground to air fire.

By 7 April it was apparent that Loc Ninh would soon founder under the sheer weight of enemy numbers. By midmorning, NVA infantry and tanks had overrun the middle compound and NVA were removing captured ARVN artillery for their own future use. A life and death drama began unfolding in earnest at the now-split compound manned by American advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts. MG Hollingsworth, TRAC CG, made the decision to evacuate the U.S. advisors at Loc Ninh (Incl 10-A, LIFE Magazine Article, 21 Apr 72). His plan was to hit the enemy infested area as hard as possible with USAF TAC-Air to knock out the AAA sites, use CS gas to temporarily stun the

enemy, send in a "heavy pink team" from F/9th to check out the area for enemy resistance, and then run a combat assault of H/75th Rangers onto the strip at Loc Ninh to pick up the U.S. advisors. After the Tac Air preparation was completed, the "heavy pink team" went in. The scout approached the strip from the southeast at tree top level, with the low "cobra" above him 1,000 feet and the high "cobra" up another 1,000 feet. Approximately five kilometers out from the strip over the rubber plantation surrounding the area, the team took intensive .51 cal fire which continued the entire way into the objective. Upon reaching the strip, the scout reported intensive ground to air fire and numerous hits in his aircraft. The Tac air strikes and the CS had been ineffective against the massive blanket of AAA. Gathering dusk and worsening weather forced curtailment of further rescue efforts that day. The advisors' last radio transmission prior to being overrun stated that they would try to evade to the south.

With the fall of Loc Ninh, it became apparent that the next enemy target would be the provincial capital of An Loc. The capture of a provincial capital would be a propaganda coup for the enemy and would yield the NVA the opportunity to set up a revolutionary government in the heartland of MR III. The decision was made by GVN to hold An Loc at all costs. (See Inclosure 3).

The battle of An Loc can be characterized by five distinct periods. The first and third periods, 8-15 Apr 72 and 19-22 Apr 72 were characterized by heavy, intense attacks by fire and concentrated sustained, coordinated infantry and armor attacks. The second and fourth periods, from 15 Apr - 18 Apr 72, and 23 Apr - 11 May 72 were periods of resting, refitting, regrouping, receiving replacements, and salvaging personnel and equipment



battles. In addition to the armor support, the 69 Artillery Command and its three regiments (42, 208 and 271) supported the offensive. The 208 Rocket Regt was in general support of the 9 VC Division, and its three subordinate battalions were located approximately 7-10 km from An Loc. The 42 Rocket Artillery Regt was also in general support, with its three subordinate battalions also located around An Loc. The third regiment, which had been recently organized and equipped, was the 271 Anti-Aircraft Regt. The regiment and its subordinate battalions ringed An Loc with almost constant, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. For the first time, MR III experienced 23 mm anti-aircraft fire. SA-7 (STRELLA) missiles were also employed in the An Loc area in a general support role. Additionally during Phase I, the 429 Sapper Gp (-) participated, employing at least three sapper battalions (9, 13, and 14) in a support role. The sapper units, which were completely familiar with the Binh Long-Binh Duong area and the transshipment points, were used primarily as commo-liaison personnel, guiding the main force unit through the area.

The 229th AHB was tasked with aerial support in conjunction with USAF and VNAF TAC AIR and aerial resupply drops and B-52 strikes (Incl 10-D). In order to cut turn-around time for the task, the extensive FOL/rearm facility at Song Be was dismantled by S-4 and moved south to Lai Khe for support of the An Loc defenders of the perimeter. By nightfall the Lai Khe staging area was complete and fully operational with the S-3 jump operations center.

10 - 12 April 1972 saw a continuation of the fierce contention for An Loc. Gunships of both CAV Troops and Blue Max were continuously on station providing close aerial support for the defenders in the block-by-block, house-to-house contest for control of the besieged city. AAA fire continued in ever increasing volume. While CH-47's of 362nd began the airlift of re-



fugees from Bu Dop to Song Be, lift ships of A/229 responded to the call for help at Tay Ninh. During the night the radio relay station at Nui Ba Den mountain had been overrun, with several U.S. and ARVN personnel killed or wounded. Five A/229 ships made a total of three lifts, inserting 90 ARVN reinforcements and evacuating casualties, each ship taking hits on every lift, with two A/229 crewmen wounded.

Possibly the single most heroic act of the entire Loc Ninh/An Loc operation occurred mid-morning April 8th; when a D Troop LOH, piloted by CPT John Whitehead, rescued nine personnel evading south from Loc Ninh to An Loc. (Incl 10-B). Responding to a radioed SOS from the four American advisors, CPT Whitehead landed under withering enemy fire only to have his aircraft swamped by desperate ARVN soldiers seeking to escape from the Communist foes surrounding them. With 9 people clinging to the aircraft and enemy fire increasing CPT Whitehead did the only thing possible. He skipped, bounced and literally forced his overloaded aircraft into the air with nine survivors clinging desperately to the tiny helicopter. By 2130 hours, 12 April, the evacuation of 1500 ARVN Troops, 2,000 civilians, six 105 mm howitzers and two 155 mm howitzers from Bu Dop to Song Be was completed by CH-47 Chinooks of the 362nd ASH.

13 April saw the rescue of the 11 wounded American advisors from the hotly contested soccer field at An Loc by elements of the 229th. As the enemy intensified his pressure upon the city with armor and infantry, the first tank kill was scored by F/79 AFA. This was accompanied by the kill of 21 trucks by the rocket firing Cobras of the 229th AHB. The tank-shoot continued through the 15th of April proving the deadly capabilities of the attack helicopter against armored vehicles. (Incl 10-C). While Cobra gunships



of D/229 and F/9 Cav continued to provide support to GVN forces in An Loc and to the relief column attempting to forge north from Chon Thanh up enemy controlled QL 13 to the embattled capital, Blue Max flew gunship cover in support of the VNAF insertion of troops in the vicinity of Quan Loi and Chon Thanh-Lai Khe.

On 16 April an enemy round detonated the ARVN ammunition dump at Lai Khe rendering the re-arm re-fuel point at that location unuseable. S-4/229th AHB immediately shifted rearm and refuel operations to Bien Hoa and support operations continued without pause. The following morning, as soon as the conflagration had ceased, S-4/229th AHB again shifted rearm- refuel operations back to Lai Khe, accomplishing the prodigious feat of two complete shifts of facilities over a distance of 37 km in 24 hours with no pause in support operations.

Heavy enemy artillery bombardment and armor-supported infantry attack upon the city of An Loc continued through the period 17 April through 17 May with enemy penetrations by armor and infantry occurring on 18, 20 and 25 April and 11 and 14 May. In each instance ARVN forces supported by Army aviation repulsed the enemy and restored the perimeter. The fighting raged from house to house, block by block, precluding the use of USAF TAC Air within the city due to the proximity of the friendly forces. It was in this environment that the attack helicopter gunship proved its mettle. Through their ability to place pin-point fire, the Cobras of Blue Max and the two Air Cavalry Troops were able to destroy tanks in the streets of the city with friendly forces only a scant few meters away. (Incl 10-C).

During this period the increasingly poor weather conditions engendered by the rainy season often hampered USAF tactical airstrikes. However on



only two days, the 21st and 23rd of April, were 229th AHB support operations partially curtailed due to weather. 23 April was not a total loss as a Cobra of F/9 CAV found a hole in the clouds and destroyed an enemy fuel truck trying to make its way to refuel enemy tanks under cover of clouds. The 24th and 28th of April saw the first of several large exchanges of troops by 229th AHB at An Loc. Fresh troops were flown into the city and wounded and weary troops rotated to the ARVN Headquarters and stagings area at Lai Khe. Numerous medical evacuation missions were handled during this period. Whenever a lull in the enemy fire occurred any of the 229th aircraft in the area would pop in and snatch the wounded. These instances were so numerous and routine as to preclude any attempt to properly document them.

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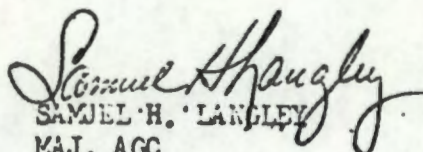
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The successful defense of An Loc received official confirmation by the insertion of LTC Minh, CG of MR III, followed shortly by counter-guerrilla warfare consultant to the President, Sir Robert Thompson, and finally by the arrival of the GVN Chief of State President Nguyen Van Thieu. The successful insertion of the dignitaries, despite continual AAA fire, was accomplished jointly by elements of the 229th AHB and the rotary wing elements of the Vietnamese Air Force. (Incl 10-E).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

Inclosure 5

LISTING OF ASSIGNED & ATTACHED UNITS

PARTICIPATING UNITS

Part 1. Units assigned and recommended for Award of the Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	PUC 23 Oct 65 - 26 Nov 65 USARV GO 21 Sep 67 MUC 1 Sep 65 - 30 Nov 66 USARV GO 17 - 23 Apr 68 Cross of Gallantry w/Palm 9 Aug 65 - 19 May 69 GO #59 25 Sep 69
2. Detachment 1 (General Support) Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 15 Jun 72	PUC 27 Dec 66 USARV GO 7 - 23 Apr 70
3. Company A (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
4. Company B (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
5. Company D (Aerial Weapons) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	



Inclosure 5 (Continued).

Part II. Units attached and recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION</u> <u>AND DATE</u>
1. Troop F (Air) 9th Cavalry	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
2. Battery F (Aerial Artillery) 79th Artillery	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	Presidential Unit Citation 23 Oct 65 thru 26 Nov 65 DA 30 40 21 Sep 66
3. 362nd Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter)	5 Apr - Jul 72	

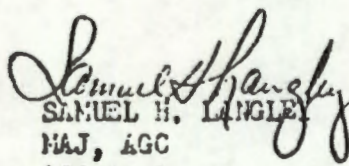
Part III. Units Assigned and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

Part IV. Units Attached and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LINGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



Inclosure 4 (Cont'd)

4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Apr	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
	051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 KIA
	061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
	101400	787720	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
	111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
	111445	732884	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
	231600	765645	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May	071310	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
	111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
	221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
	311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
Jun	081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
	081300	761779	MED	MEDEVAC	CBL	51 Cal	Neg
	130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
	200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
	200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CBL	UNK	2 KIA
	211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	1 WIA
	221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
	241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
	241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant



INCLOSURE 4 - (Continued)

3. COMBAT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY ELEMENTS OF 229th AHB (S-2)

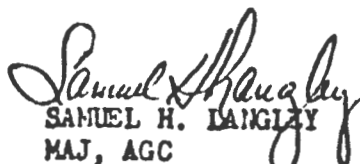
TIME	LOCATION	UNIT	MISSION	RESULTS
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des, VR
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 en Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755880	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 en trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des
201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May 011850	737902	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos TRAC
041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 04 Tanks des
130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2 1/2 ton trks, 01 trk des
130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
221200	757853	F/79	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH



Inclosure 4 (Continued)

205 NVA Regt - 1,250	90%
101 Regt - 760	90%
429 Sapper Gp - 1,705	90%
203 TK Regt	100%

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

# **Inclosure 4 - Friendly and Enemy Strength & Casualties**

## **1. Friendly (229th AHB)**

<u>TOTAL TOE STR</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
1366	8	13	2	0

## **2. Enemy**

### EST STRENGTH

### PERCENT DESTROYED (EST)

#### **5 VC Div - 9,230**

Hq & Spt	4,680
275 Regt	1,550
174 Regt	1,500
E6 Regt	1,500

90%

#### **7 NVA Div - 8,600**

141 Regt	1,500
165 Regt	1,500
209 Regt	1,500
Hq & Spt	4,100

90%

#### **9 VC Div - 9,230**

271 Regt	1,500
272 Regt	1,500
95C Regt	1,550
Hq & Spt	4,680

90%

#### **69 Arty Command - 4,980**

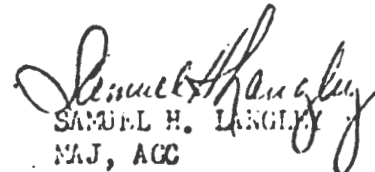
Hq & Spt	1,395
42 Arty Regt	800
208 Arty Regt	835
271 AA Regt	800

90%

Inclosure 3 - AO MAP

Map Depicting Enemy Dispositions and Salient Activities of 229th AHB.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HQ, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN" (PROVISIONAL)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

THRU: Commanding General  
Third Regional Assistance Command  
APO San Francisco 96266

TO: Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHAG-DD  
APO San Francisco 96375

1. Pursuant to authority established in AR 672-5-1, paragraph 201, and IAW USARV Reg 672-3, recommend that the Presidential Unit Citation be awarded to the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion with attached elements for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 in the vicinity of the Provincial Capital of An Loc, Binh Long Province, Republic of Vietnam.

2. During this period, the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion provided an all out effort of both personnel and units, making a significant contribution to the ultimate defeat of the massive enemy effort in Military Region III. Faced with a multitude of sophisticated anti-aircraft weapons, the battalion operated in a mid-intensity war environment that had not heretofore been experienced. The heroism and professional competence displayed by the battalion places them in the category which deserves the highest recognition.

3. It is significant that after seven years of service in the Republic of Vietnam, the battalion's final and perhaps most significant combat support role, was one of assisting the GVN

AVDACO

3 August 1972

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Presidential  
Unit Citation

forces to defeat the enemy's greatest offensive to date without the support of U.S. ground forces. The performance of this battalion during the period 5 April 1972 through 7 July 1972 could not have been surpassed by any other unit in the Vietnam conflict.

  
JOHN N. BRANDENBURG  
COL, IN  
Commanding

10 Incl

1. Summary of Recommendation
2. Narrative and Citation
3. AO Map
4. Friendly and Enemy Casualties and Strengths
5. Listing of Units
6. Proposed Citation
7. Awards and Decorations
8. Statistical Data
9. Extract S-3 Opns Log
10. Statements of Witnesses, Letters of Commendation and News Stories

Inclosure 1

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD OF PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:

229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION, U.S. ARMY

MISSION: Conduct aerial support of GVN defenders of An Loc-Loc Ninh, to include armed helicopter gunship support, refugee evacuation, medical-evacuation insertion-extraction of troop units and logistics resupply.

CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

229th AHB provides aerial support to GVN defenders vicinity An Loc, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi, staging initially out of Song Be, displacing as necessary to Lai Khe and Bien Hoa.

EXECUTION:

On 5 April 1972 elements of the 229th AHB responded immediately with armed helicopter support for GVN forces in contact, began evacuation of ARVN soldiers, U.S. advisors and VN civilians from locations critically threatened by the enemy drive and commenced logistical resupply operations. Despite the heaviest curtain of anti-aircraft fire yet encountered by Army airmobile elements, the 229th flying cavalrymen maintained their support continuously throughout the 93 day period of the siege.

As this was not a separate combat operation by U.S. forces but support of an all-Vietnamese ground effort, the true story of the valiant efforts of the 229th AHB are best seen, not in body-count tallies but in more mundane, but nonetheless staggering statistics. Elements of the 229th AHB flew over thirteen thousand sorties, transported over sixteen thousand personnel, fired over five million rounds of ordnance, and hauled over 200 tons of logistical supplies in supporting the gallant GVN defenders. This resulted in the virtual destruction of four NVA Divisions and 3 NVA Regiments.

In an atmosphere approximating that of conventional warfare that saw the introduction, for the first time into MR III, of Soviet manufactured armor, 23 and 37mm AAA and the SA-7 "Strella" missile, the 229th AHB never faltered, resulting in over one thousand seven hundred awards for acts of individual and collective heroism.

That the back of the siege had been officially broken and the enemy denied the propaganda coup inherent in his quest to capture the provincial capital was signalled by the insertion of the GVN Chief of State, President Nguyen Van Thieu, into An Loc with 229th AHB assistance on 7 July 1972.

The facts contained in the citation and this summary are a matter of record.



229TH AHB SUPPORT OF GVN FORCES IN THE BINH LONG COUNTEROFFENSIVE

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS

In early April 1972, NVA forces continued the long-expected Nguyen Hue offensive, begun earlier in MR I & MR II, with a massive thrust into MR III. The weight of the enemy drive, characterized by intense ground assaults, heavy indirect fire and armor in strength, fell first upon Loc Ninh (See Incl 3). At 0530 hours, 5 April 1972, Loc Ninh was brought under heavy attack by three regiments (275, 174 and E6) of the 5th VC/NVA Division. These attacks were supported by 5th VC/NVA DIVARTY, and 69th ARTY Command consisting of 60/82 mm mortar, 107/122 mm and 240 mm rockets. A series of ground attacks put the enemy infantry and tanks in and near the perimeter wire of Loc Ninh compound. Later in the morning the beleaguered defenders came under fire from 105/155 mm howitzers captured by the enemy in his overwhelming attacks against several small fire bases north of Loc Ninh.

At 0815 hours, 5 April 1972, F/9 Cav was diverted from 3/1 Cav AO patrol in the Bien Hoa area to Lai Khe and D Trp, 229th AHB was diverted from Tay Ninh to Quan Loi to provide support to ARVN elements in contact. All air assets of 229th AHB were placed on 15 minute alert for possible evacuation missions throughout all of MR III. Fire teams from F/79 AFA (Blue Max) were dispatched from Long Thanh to provide support in the vicinity of Loc Ninh. As the Cav Troops and Blue Max arrived on station, it became apparent that Quan Loi had been overrun and An Loc was surrounded. The Cobras employed flechette (nail) warhead rockets effectively against the vast numbers of enemy troops in the open areas of the overrun allied positions. Enemy AAA fire took its toll, however, with 1 AH1G "COBRA" and crew lost,

and 2 AH1Gs damaged. The enemy anti-aircraft fire, consisting of 37 mm, 23 mm, 51 Cal and small arms was of the highest intensity encountered in the long history of Army air operations in South Vietnam. Meanwhile, CH47 Chinooks of the 362nd (Assault Support Helicopter) aviation company and UH1 slicks of A/229 and B/229 were busily engaged in the evacuation of ARVN soldiers, US advisors and civilians from Quan Loi, as well as the delivery of 115 reinforcements and 16 tons of logistics to the defenders of An Loc.

Daylight 6 April found the defenders of Loc Ninh still hanging on but the situation had continued to deteriorate. In order to provide more time on target, the decision was made at 1100 for elements of 229th AHB to stage out of Song Be for the aerial support of Loc Ninh. S-4/229 began the shipment, by C130, of POL and Class V supplies for rearm and refuel of the 229th AHB's organic aircraft. A jump operations center was established at Song Be by S-3, 229th AHB to operate the airfield and coordinate missions for the aircraft. The re-arm, re-fuel point and airfield were fully operational by 1435 hours. Gunship operations continued throughout the Loc Ninh/Quan Loi/An Loc area with no abatement in ground to air fire.

By 7 April it was apparent that Loc Ninh would soon founder under the sheer weight of enemy numbers. By midmorning, NVA infantry and tanks had overrun the middle compound and NVA were removing captured ARVN artillery for their own future use. A life and death drama began unfolding in earnest at the now-split compound manned by American advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts. MG Hollingsworth, TRAC CG, made the decision to evacuate the U.S. advisors at Loc Ninh (Incl 10-A, LIFE Magazine Article, 21 Apr 72). His plan was to hit the enemy infested area as hard as possible with USAF TAC-Air to knock out the AAA sites, use CS gas to temporarily stun the

enemy, send in a "heavy pink team" from F/9th to check out the area for enemy resistance, and then run a combat assault of H/75th Rangers onto the strip at Loc Ninh to pick up the U.S. advisors. After the Tac Air preparation was completed, the "heavy pink team" went in. The scout approached the strip from the southeast at tree top level, with the low "cobra" above him 1,000 feet and the high "cobra" up another 1,000 feet. Approximately five kilometers out from the strip over the rubber plantation surrounding the area, the team took intensive .51 cal fire which continued the entire way into the objective. Upon reaching the strip, the scout reported intensive ground to air fire and numerous hits in his aircraft. The Tac air strikes and the CS had been ineffective against the massive blanket of AAA. Gathering dusk and worsening weather forced curtailment of further rescue efforts that day. The advisors' last radio transmission prior to being overrun stated that they would try to evade to the south.

With the fall of Loc Ninh, it became apparent that the next enemy target would be the provincial capital of An Loc. The capture of a provincial capital would be a propaganda coup for the enemy and would yield the NVA the opportunity to set up a revolutionary government in the heartland of MR III. The decision was made by GVN to hold An Loc at all costs. (See Inclosure 3).

The battle of An Loc can be characterized by five distinct periods. The first and third periods, 8-15 Apr 72 and 19-22 Apr 72 were characterized by heavy, intense attacks by fire and concentrated sustained, coordinated infantry and armor attacks. The second and fourth periods, from 15 Apr - 18 Apr 72, and 23 Apr - 11 May 72 were periods of resting, refitting, regrouping, receiving replacements, and salvaging personnel and equipment



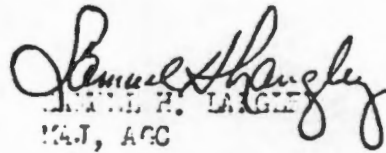
battles. In addition to the armor support, the 69 Artillery Command and its three regiments (42, 208 and 271) supported the offensive. The 208 Rocket Regt was in general support of the 9 VC Division, and its three subordinate battalions were located approximately 7-10 km from An Loc. The 42 Rocket Artillery Regt was also in general support, with its three subordinate battalions also located around An Loc. The third regiment, which had been recently organized and equipped, was the 271 Anti-Aircraft Regt. The regiment and its subordinate battalions ringed An Loc with almost constant, intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire. For the first time, MR III experienced 23 mm anti-aircraft fire. SA-7 (STRELLA) missiles were also employed in the An Loc area in a general support role. Additionally during Phase I, the 429 Sapper Gp (-) participated, employing at least three sapper battalions (9, 13, and 14) in a support role. The sapper units, which were completely familiar with the Binh Long-Binh Duong area and the transshipment points, were used primarily as commo-liaison personnel, guiding the main force unit through the area.

The 229th AHB was tasked with aerial support in conjunction with USAF and VNAF TAC AIR and aerial resupply drops and B-52 strikes (Incl 10-D). In order to cut turn-around time for the task, the extensive POL/rearm facility at Song Be was dismantled by S-4 and moved south to Lai Khe for support of the An Loc defenders of the perimeter. By nightfall the Lai Khe staging area was complete and fully operational with the S-3 jump operations center.

10 - 12 April 1972 saw a continuation of the fierce contention for An Loc. Gunships of both CAV Troops and Blue Max were continuously on station providing close aerial support for the defenders in the block-by-block, house-to-house contest for control of the besieged city. AAA fire continued in ever increasing volume. While CH-47's of 362nd began the airlift of re-

Inclosure 1 (Continued) Summary of Recommendation for Award of Presidential  
Unit Citation

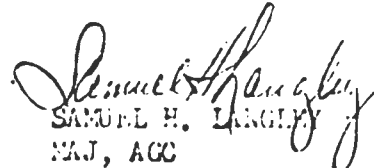
FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

Inclosure 3 - AO MAP

Map Depicting Enemy Dispositions and Salient Activities of 229th AHB.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



# Inclosure 4 - Friendly and Enemy Strength & Casualties

## 1. Friendly (229th AHB)

<u>TOTAL TOE STR</u>	<u>KHA</u>	<u>WHA</u>	<u>MHA</u>	<u>CAP</u>
1366	8	13	2	0

## 2. Enemy

<u>EST STRENGTH</u>	<u>PERCENT DESTROYED (EST)</u>
---------------------	--------------------------------

### 5 VC Div - 9,230

Hq & Spt	4,680	
----------	-------	--

275 Regt	1,550	
----------	-------	--

174 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

E6 Regt	1,500	
---------	-------	--

90%

### 7 NVA Div - 8,600

141 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

165 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

209 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

Hq & Spt	4,100	
----------	-------	--

90%

### 9 VC Div - 9,230

271 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

272 Regt	1,500	
----------	-------	--

95C Regt	1,550	
----------	-------	--

Hq & Spt	4,680	
----------	-------	--

90%

### 69 Arty Command - 4,980

Hq & Spt	1,395	
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42 Arty Regt	800	
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208 Arty Regt	835	
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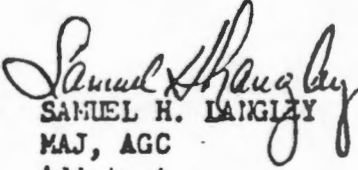
271 AA Regt	800	
-------------	-----	--

90%

Inclosure 4 (Continued)

205 NVA Regt - 1,250	90%
101 Regt - 760	90%
429 Sapper Gp - 1,705	90%
203 TK Regt	100%

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

INCLOSURE 4 - (Continued)

3. COMBAT DAMAGE INFLICTED BY ELEMENTS OF 229th AHB (S-2)

TIME	LOCATION	UNIT	MISSION	RESULTS
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des, VR
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2 1/2 and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 on Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755880	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 on Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 on trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des
201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May 011850	737902	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos TRAC
041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 on Tanks, 04 Tanks des
130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2 1/2 ton trks, 01 trk des
130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
221200	757853	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH



Inclosure 4 (Contid)

4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Apr	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
	051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 MIA
	061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
	101400	787720	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
	111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
	111445	732884	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
	231600	765645	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May	071130	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
	111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 MIA
	130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
	221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
	311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
Jun	081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
	081300	761779	MEDEVAC	MEDEVAC	CBL	51 Cal	Neg
	130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
	200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
	200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CBL	UNK	2 KIA
	211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	1 WIA
	221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
	241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
	241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLAY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant

LISTING OF ASSIGNED & ATTACHED UNITS

PARTICIPATING UNITS

Part 1. Units assigned and recommended for Award of the Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>PREVIOUS UNIT DECORATIONS AND DATES</u>
1. Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	PUC 23 Oct 65 - 26 Nov 65 USARV GO 21 Sep 67 MUC 1 Sep 65 - 30 Nov 66 USARV GO 17 - 23 Apr 68 Cross of Gallantry w/Palm 9 Aug 65 - 19 May 69 GO #59 25 Sep 69
2. Detachment 1 (General Support) Headquarters, 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 15 Jun 72	PUC 27 Dec 66 USARV GO 7 - 23 Apr 70
3. Company A (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
4. Company B (Assault Helicopter) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
5. Company D (Aerial Weapons) 229th Aviation Battalion (Composite) (Assault Helicopter) (Airmobile Brigade - Separate)	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	

Enclosure (Continued)

Part II. Units attached and recommended for award of Presidential Unit Citation:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> <u>DATE</u>
1. Troop F (Air) 9th Cavalry	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	
2. Battery F (Aerial Artillery) 79th Artillery	5 Apr - 7 Jul 72	Presidential Unit Citation 23 Oct 65 thru 26 Nov 65 IS 30 40 21 Sep 66
3. 362nd Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter)	5 Apr - Jul 72	

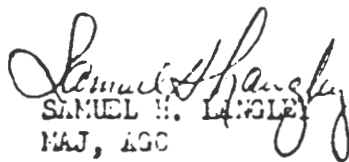
Part III. Units Assigned and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

Part IV. Units Attached and Not Recommended for Award of Presidential Unit Citation:

N/A

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



INCLOSURE 6.

PROPOSED CITATION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

AWARD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FOLLOWING UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES IS CONFIRMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 194, AR 672-5-1.

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION (AM) AND ASSIGNED AND ATTACHED UNITS:

HHC, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

DETACHMENT 1 (GS), HHC, 229th AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY A, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY B, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

COMPANY D, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F TROOP, 9TH CAVALRY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

F BATTERY, 79TH AFA, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

362ND AVN COMPANY, 229TH AHB, TASK FORCE "GARRY OWEN", 1ST CAV DIV (AM)

THE CITATION READS AS FOLLOWS:

THE 229TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER BATTALION DISTINGUISHED ITSELF BY OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF DUTY AGAINST HOSTILE FORCES DURING THE PERIOD 5 APRIL 1972 THROUGH 7 JULY 1972 WHILE COMMITTED TO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GVN DEFENDERS OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF AN LOC BINH LONG PROVINCE DURING THE NVA "NGUYEN HUE" OFFENSIVE. THROUGH THEIR COURAGE, DETERMINATION, AND INGENUITY THE TROOPERS OF THE 229TH OVERCAME THE DIFFICULTIES ENGENDERED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONRY BY THE ENEMY AND THE MOST INTENSIVE VOLUME OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE YET EXPERIENCED, WHILE SUPPORTING AND SUSTAINING THE BELEAGUERED DEFENDERS AGAINST THE ENEMY ONSLAUGHT. THE SUCCESSFUL DEFEAT OF THE ENEMY BY THE FORCES OF GVN WOULD HAVE BEEN VASTLY MORE PROLONGED AND COSTLY WERE IT NOT FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT RENDERED BY THE 229TH AHB. THE OUTSTANDING DEVOTION TO DUTY, PERSEVERANCE, AND EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF THE MEMBERS OF THE 229TH AHB AND ATTACHED ELEMENTS UNDER THE MOST HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS ARE IN KEEPING WITH THE FINEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON THEMSELVES, THE ARMY, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inclosure 7.

AWARDS & DECORATIONS FOR PERIOD 5 APRIL - 7 JULY 1972

<u>AWARD</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	
Medal of Honor		1	
DSC		3	
Silver Star	7	5	
Legion of Merit			
DFC	14	67	
Soldier's Medal	1	1	
BS W/V	6	3	
BS	204	22	
AM W/V	180	13	
AM	610	52	
ACM W/V	14	3	
ACM	210	9	
Purple Heart	40		
VN Cross of Gallantry			
W/Gold Star		8	
W/Silver Star		56	
W/ Bronze Star		157	
VN Honor Medal 1st Class		48	
TOTAL:	1286	448	GRAND TOTAL: 1734

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Samuel H. Langley*  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant

# **Inclosure 8 - Statistical Data**

## **1. Aviation Operational Support Statistics (S-3):**

<b>1 APRIL - 10 JULY</b>	<b>UH-1</b>	<b>AH-1</b>	<b>OH-6</b>	<b>CH-47</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>TOTAL # HOURS</b>	<b>3,275.6</b>	<b>4,275.6</b>	<b>1,772.5</b>	<b>130.4</b>	<b>9,851.6</b>
<b>TOTAL # SORTIES</b>	<b>6,471</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>13,458</b>
<b>TOTAL # PAX TRANSPORTED</b>	<b>14,653</b>		<b>196</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>16,712</b>
<b>TOTAL # CASUALTIES TRANSPORTED</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>68</b>
<b># ACFT DAMAGED</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>
<b># ACFT LOSSES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
<b># TONS HAULED</b>	<b>47.4</b>			<b>170.5</b>	<b>217.9</b>

## **2. Logistical Support Statistics (S-4):**

a. During the period 7 April through 10 July 1972, the 229th AHB and attached units established and operated rearm and refuel points as indicated below:

### **(1) Rearm Points**

- (a) Song Be
- (b) Lai Khe
- (c) Vung Tau
- (d) Tay Ninh
- (e) Long Thanh
- (f) Lassiter

### **(2) Refuel Points**

- (a) Lai Khe
- (b) Song Be
- (c) Vung Tau
- (d) FSB Melanie
- (e) Long Thanh
- (f) Lassiter

b. The following logistical operations were of special significance in the battle of An Loc:

- (1) Song Be

- (2) Lai Khe



**Inclosure 8 (Continued)**

c. The logistical operation at Song Be supported the 229th AHB and attached units with 1,008,625 pounds of ammunition during the six days Song Be rearm operated. The 229th expended 22,400 rockets and well over 500,000 40mm and smaller caliber rounds. The 229th and attached units used 2,154,263 pounds of JP4 during the six days of operations at Song Be.

d. During the period 7 April through 10 July 1972, the 229th AHB and attached units consumed and expended 17,591,368 pounds of JP4 and 5,101,274 pounds of ammunition.

**(1) Total Lbs JP4 Used 7 Apr thru 10 July 72:**

<u>LT</u>	<u>LAAS</u>	<u>SB</u>
7,657,000	9,014,000	920,368

**(2) Combined Total, Total Lbs JP4 Used 7 Apr thru 12 Apr in support Song Be/An Loc:**

Less -	687,895
LT -	546,000
SE -	<u>920,368</u>

2,154,263

**3. Combat Damage Inflicted By Elements of 229th AHB (S-2):**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
Apr 060800	815905	D-Trp	VR	Ob 01 ind evad, eng, 1KBH
061130	822907	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng en held Ammo dumps, 02 Ammo dumps dest, 10KBH
061402	818903	D-Trp	VR	16KBH
101740	703769	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Eng 01 en, 1KBH
130935	641706	D-Trp	Spt of 5th ARVN, VR	Eng 02 en trks, 02 trks des
131330	811899	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 13, 2½ and 5 ton trks
131330	765882	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 06, 2½ and 5 ton trks secondary explosions
131500	755883	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 Tank
131500	775905	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Des 01 75MM RR
151030	755885	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 en Tanks, 01 Tank dam, 02 Tanks des
151400	755880	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 03 Tanks dam, 01 Tank des
171400	778818	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 05 en trks, 03 trks dam, 02 trks des
191040	764887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs UNK type en A/A site, 01 A/A site des

# Inclosure 8 (Continued)

	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
	201040	756887	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 75MM RR
	221139	685736	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en evad, 01KBH
	231245	675995	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 en POL trk, des 01 en POL trk
	241645	720973	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 01 UNK size trk, eng and des
	270655	777874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos
	271015	760886	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and des 01 en 51 Cal pos, 03 en KBH
May	011850	737902	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN TRAC	Obs and des 01 en 37MM pos
	041430	715768	D-Trp	Spt TRAC	Obs and eng 01 en, 01 KBH
	061335	712568	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind hiding, eng, 02 en KBH
	071530	721571	F/9	Spt TRAC	Obs 01 en, 01 en KBH
	071610	773721	MAX	Spt TRAC	Obs 02 ind in open, eng, 02 en KBH
	071118	759885	MAX	Spt TRAC, Close Air Spt	25 en KBH, equip des
	111000	755874	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 04 en Tanks, 04 Tanks des
	130925	686872	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs and eng 01 ind, 01 en KBH
	130930	700875	F/9	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 02 2½ ton trks, 01 trk des
	130955	752884	MAX	Spt of 5th ARVN	Obs 03 ind fleeing Tank, 03 en KBH
	221200	757853	F/79	Spt TRAC	Obs UNK no of Tanks and ind, eng, 20 en KBH

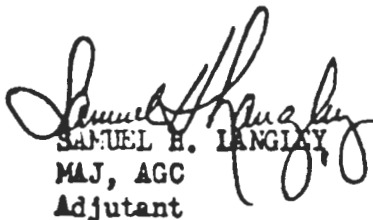
## 4. Combat Damage and Casualties Sustained 5 April 1972 - 8 July 1972:

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Apr	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy, 2 Hits	51 Cal	Neg
	051230	725065	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	51 Cal	Neg
	051530	759753	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL, Exploded	SA-7	2 MIA
	061200	672572	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt, 1 Hit	Sm Arms	Neg
	101400	787720	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	1 WIA
	111350	758883	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	105, 82	Neg
	111445	732884	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	1 WIA
	231600	765645	GS	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
May	071340	723571	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Mod	Sm Arms	Neg
	111205	755872	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 MIA
	130930	700875	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	131515	739872	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg
	221040	765785	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CBL	SA-7	2 KIA
	230650	755844	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg
	311230	758871	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	51 Cal	Neg

Inclosure (Continued)

	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>A/C Damage</u>	<u>Cause</u>	<u>Casualties</u>
Jun	081315	745785	MAX	Spt of MEDEVAC	Mod	51 Cal	Neg
	081300	761779	MED	MEDEVAC	CHL	51 Cal	Neg
	130905	758865	A-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	UNK	Sm Arms	1 WIA
	191400	750780	F/9	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Lt	30 Cal	Neg
	200820	769770	F/9	Spt 1st ARVN ABN	CHL	SA-7	2 KIA
	200830	785764	MAX	Extract Mission	Hvy	51, 30 Cal	Neg
	200830	783762	MAX	Extract Mission	CHL	UNK	2 KIA
	211510	758773	MAX	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	CHL	SA-7	1 WIA
	221200	808848	B-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Neg	51 Cal	1 WIA
	241042	824795	D-Co	Spt TRAC and 5th ARVN	Hvy	51 Cal	Neg
	241135	824795	362	Extraction of Aircraft	Lt	Sm Arms	Neg

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
 SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
 MAJ, AGC  
 Adjutant



Inclosure 9 - Extract 3/1 CAV - TF "Garry Owen", S-3 Journal

5 April 1972:

0815 hours - Trac moving F/9 to Quan Loi to work against ground attacks in the Loc Ninh Area. Quan Loi secure at this time.

0915 hours - TRAC: Request gunship cover work out of Quan Loi around Loc Ninh and An Loc. Sent 1 heavy section and 1 light section.

0920 hours - CG: 229th all birds on 15 minute standby alert.

0920 hours - F/79 heavy section of cobras bounced.

0945 hours - Lai Khe to be used for refuel/rearm to support TRAC.

0945 hours - D/229 put on alert by TRAC, send assets to Lai Khe.

0945 hours - F/79: Light section bounced to Lai Khe.

1005 hours - DCO-A: At XT788455 reported large traffic jam near old fire-base, activity on the base.

1055 hours - CG; TRAC: Quan Loi overrun, fuel point intact, An Loc surrounded. The 174th NVA Regt is between An Loc and Loc Ninh. The enemy is trying to cut the road between An Loc and Lai Khe.

1140 hours - D/229: 3 Pink Teams off for Lai Khe.

1240 hours - F/9: 2 Cobras hit but flying toward L.K. both A/C made it safely. 1 light damage, 2 heavy damage.

1410 hours - CG TRAC: Directed 3rd Bde to rescue 5 U.S. personnel at Quan Loi TOC. DCO-A is on the scene and talking to personnel on ground.

1515 hours - DCO-A: Prepare to send 10 UH-1H and 4 CH-47 to Quan Loi to extract 8 U.S. and 130 ARVN at Quan Loi.

1530 hours - DCO-A: Blue Max AH-1G exploded in the air, went down XT759753, no apparent survivors. Ship is Max 34.

1535 hours - DCO-A: Send 10 ships lift and 4 CH-47 ASAP, CH-47 to load first, then 10 lift ships.

1600 hours - 229th S-3 lift enroute, CH-47 arrived at 1620 hours. Evacuees taken to TSN.

1625 hours - First CH-47 completed 1st extraction.

1628 hours - Second CH-47 landed and completed extraction.

1640 hours - Third CH-47 sortie completed.

1700 hours - First flight of 5 slicks on the ground; 1703 hours extraction completed. Enroute to L. K. for fuel. Fourth CH-47 ordered to return W/O landing at Q. L. so that slicks could continue extraction.

1703 hours - Second flight of 5 slicks landed, extraction completed at 1705 hours enroute to L. K. for fuel.

1715 hours - TRAC G-3: F/9 and D/229 Cav Troops will remain at Lai Khe as late as possible tonight and prepare to go back tomorrow.

1815 hours - DCO-A: Retain 2 sections of MAX in Bde A.O. have released D/229 will release MAX and return W/F/9 at 1900 hours. Returning to Loc Ninh area.

1830 hours - DCO-A: All aviation elements released, ordered to B. H.

2015 hours - TRAC G-3: Plan to provide air assets tomorrow for possible extraction throughout MR II.

6 April 1972:

0730 hours - DCO-A: Reports Loc Ninh has held on, F/79, F/9 working around Loc Ninh and firing at rocket positions.  
0845 hours - F/9 Cav: AH-1G taking unknown GAF in all gun runs around Loc Ninh. Negative hits.  
0945 hours - F/9 Cav: At 0920 hours had spotted unk no. of 51 cal pits engaged with AH-1G with unknown results.  
0945 hours - D/229: Spotted 3 houses full of enemy. Returned to Lai Khe and picked up ARVN LNO. Returned to site near Quan Loi. At 0900 hours, 3 houses destroyed, one individual escaping engaged and killed; results 3 houses destroyed, 1 enemy KBH.  
1100 hours - CG: Establish rearm-repol point at Song Be in order to reduce turn-around time in An Loc - Loc Ninh area. Will use assets already on ground and replenish.  
1140 hours - DCO-A: Credit D/229 with 10 KBH.  
1250 hours - CG TRAC/DCO TRAC: Loc Ninh still getting heavy artillery fire. Several indirect fire positions verified and destroyed. 2 companies of 92nd Rangers W/5 APC's broke through from north into Loc Ninh and one company from the south.  
1255 hours - F/9: At 1200 hours, vicinity of XT672953 3 AH-1G took unknown amount GAF. All 3 ships took hits and landed safely at L.K. Assessment to follow.  
1400 hours - DCO-A: UHF beeps from vic XT759753 TASH checking area and will get homing bird into location.  
1435 hours - AAE: CH-47 reports Song Be POL open.  
1545 hours - CG: Loc Ninh under constant pressure, mortar attack and ground attack coming from the west. District compound penetrated but gunships broke the attack. Gunships firing final protective fires along the perimeter.  
1555 hours - CG: Cobras going to Song Be from Loc Ninh for POL/REARM.  
1615 hours - D/229: Total kills reported for D/229 is 27.  
1810 hours - F/9: XV 727132, 174 OH AH-1G received heavy 51 cal GAF at 2500 feet, 100 KTS Negative hits, engaged with org unk res.  
1855 hours - DCO-A: D/229, F/9 have been released, enroute B. H., one section F/79 will expend prior to returning, others enroute.  
1905 hours - D/229: At Quan Loi, Pink Team rolled hot at 1630 hours because Quan Loi attacked from south at the airstrip.  
1905 hours - D/229: XT818903 1815; Multiple secondary explosions from rubber on N side of airstrip, originally a 3 prong attack supported by LMG fire from hoochs east. D/229 turned back attack toward POL by using nails.  
1930 hours - D/229: XT671905 Cobra took unknown amount of fire from 51 cal, neg hits, engaged with org unk res.  
2100 hours - Late Entry D/229: AH-1G on VR took 51 cal and LMG fire eng w org rest 15 en KBH.

7 April 1972:

0600 hours - TRAO: F/79 gunships are to be at Loc Ninh at first light. Skids up on 5 AH-1G.  
0715 hours - TRAC: Send additional AH-1G to Loc Ninh. S-3 ops reports 1 additional section enroute at 0730 hours.

0735 hours - DCO-A: Song Be is out of assembled rockets. F/9 Blues are at Song Be assembling rockets. Chinook sorties of ammo being lifted, C-130 loads scheduled to arrive around 1000 hours. More rearm people being assembled.

0810 hours - TRAC: Middle compound at Loc Ninh apparently overrun by NVA, taking artillery out of compound. Contact with zipo lost for short time but regained. Tanks at compound.

0845 hours - DCO-A: Tanks have left compound and headed into Loc Ninh city. NVA control perimeter of compound, attack broken. We will try to drop NAPALM on perimeter bunker.

0915 hours - DCO-A: Attack renewed on Loc Ninh by tanks and infantry. Need heat rockets.

1030 hours - TRAC: Rescue operation for advisors at Loc Ninh. 05 UH-1H and 75th Ranger to be committed if possible to extract U.S. personnel.

1145 hours - TRAC: M24, M17 Gas Masks, LAWS, M-60 ammo being passed to Song Be to be distributed to rangers and aviators.

1125 hours - TRAC: Downed UH-1H at XT 707602. D/229 covered no CAS.

1330 hours - DCO-A: Briefing at Song Be on rescue operations.

1425 hours - S-4: Estimated 8 sorties of C-130 CL V will land at S.B. DCO-B says get more.

1500 hours - TRAC: Bay run may be delayed beyond 1600 hours.

1510 hours - CG TRAC: Zipo 66 has moved position due east of warehouses on W side of strip. First Arclite at 1512 hours.

1510 hours - F/9 Cav: Request med 2 bounced to Song Be ASAP skids up 1512 hours.

1525 hours - TRAC: Bay run delayed to 1730 hours.

1550 hours - DCO-A: Rescue ops to go at 1640 hours.

1635 hours - CG TRAC: Bay run at 1650 hours.

1650 hours - D/229: CH-47 (362nd Avn Co) hit at An Loc pick up zone. Heading S to secure L.Z.

1700 hours - CG: Requested one more gunship section from B.H. We now have only 1 section of gunships at Bien Hoa.

1700 hours - An Loc advisors evacuated by 229th.

1702 hours - DCO-A: Rescue operation Loc Ninh starting.

1735 hours - DCO-A: LOH F/9 checking Loc Ninh L.Z. Took heavy 51 cal fire from E, W, SW, NE.

1745 hours - Song Be: Need two more hooks at Song Be to sling out downed aircraft.

1800 hours - F/9: LOH seriously shot up, going to Song Be.

1846 hours - CG TRAC: Contact lost with zipo 66 at 1846. He was evading into city to try to make it till morning.

8 April 1972:

0435 hours - An Loc under gas and 75 mm rr attack.

0520 hours - TRAC requests flare birk and gun section to go to Nui Ba Dinh taking incoming and suspect sapper attack F/79 bounced 1 section at 0530. Rearm and POL at TMW F/79 Cobras to cover dustoff 02 U.S. wounded at NBD.

0630 hours - Skids up for F/79 guns for An Loc.

0705 hours - Notified medevac to have ship at Song Be. Long Binh dustoff will backup with a ship at Lai Khe.



fugees from Bu Dop to Song Be, lift ships of A/229 responded to the call for help at Tay Ninh. During the night the radio relay station at Nui Ba Den mountain had been overrun, with several U.S. and ARVN personnel killed or wounded. Five A/229 ships made a total of three lifts, inserting 90 ARVN reinforcements and evacuating casualties; each ship taking hits on every lift, with two A/229 crewmen wounded.

Possibly the single most heroic act of the entire Loc Ninh/An Loc operation occurred mid-morning April 8th, when a D Troop LOH, piloted by CPT John Whitehead, rescued nine personnel evading south from Loc Ninh to An Loc. (Incl 10-B). Responding to a radioed SOS from the four American advisors, CPT Whitehead landed under withering enemy fire only to have his aircraft swamped by desperate ARVN soldiers seeking to escape from the Communist foes surrounding them. With 9 people clinging to the aircraft and enemy fire increasing CPT Whitehead did the only thing possible. He skipped, bounced and literally forced his overloaded aircraft into the air with nine survivors clinging desperately to the tiny helicopter. By 2130 hours, 12 April, the evacuation of 1500 ARVN Troops, 2,000 civilians, six 105 mm howitzers and two 155 mm howitzers from Bu Dop to Song Be was completed by CH-47 Chinooks of the 362nd ASH.

13 April saw the rescue of the 11 wounded American advisors from the hotly contested soccer field at An Loc by elements of the 229th. As the enemy intensified his pressure upon the city with armor and infantry, the first tank kill was scored by F/79 AFA. This was accompanied by the kill of 21 trucks by the rocket firing Cobras of the 229th AHB. The tank-shoot continued through the 15th of April proving the deadly capabilities of the attack helicopter against armored vehicles. (Incl 10-C). While Cobra gunships

of D/229 and F/9 Cav continued to provide support to GVN forces in An Loc and to the relief column attempting to forge north from Chon Thanh up enemy controlled QL 13 to the embattled capital, Blue Max flew gunship cover in support of the VNAF insertion of troops in the vicinity of Quan Loi and Chon Thanh-Lai Khe.

On 16 April an enemy round detonated the ARVN ammunition dump at Lai Khe rendering the re-arm re-fuel point at that location unuseable. S-4/229th AHB immediately shifted rearm and refuel operations to Bien Hoa and support operations continued without pause. The following morning, as soon as the conflagration had ceased, S-4/229th AHB again shifted rearm- refuel operations back to Lai Khe, accomplishing the prodigious feat of two complete shifts of facilities over a distance of 37 km in 24 hours with no pause in support operations.

Heavy enemy artillery bombardment and armor-supported infantry attack upon the city of An Loc continued through the period 17 April through 17 May with enemy penetrations by armor and infantry occurring on 18, 20 and 25 April and 11 and 14 May. In each instance ARVN forces supported by Army aviation repulsed the enemy and restored the perimeter. The fighting raged from house to house, block by block, precluding the use of USAF TAC Air within the city due to the proximity of the friendly forces. It was in this environment that the attack helicopter gunship proved its mettle. Through their ability to place pin-point fire, the Cobras of Blue Max and the two Air Cavalry Troops were able to destroy tanks in the streets of the city with friendly forces only a scant few meters away. (Incl 10-C).

During this period the increasingly poor weather conditions engendered by the rainy season often hampered USAF tactical airstrikes. However on

only two days, the 21st and 23rd of April, were 229th AHB support operations partially curtailed due to weather. 23 April was not a total loss as a Cobra of F/9 CAV found a hole in the clouds and destroyed an enemy fuel truck trying to make its way to refuel enemy tanks under cover of clouds. The 24th and 28th of April saw the first of several large exchanges of troops by 229th AHB at An Loc. Fresh troops were flown into the city and wounded and weary troops rotated to the ARVN Headquarters and staging area at Lai Khe. Numerous medical evacuation missions were handled during this period. Whenever a lull in the enemy fire occurred any of the 229th aircraft in the area would pop in and snatch the wounded. These instances were so numerous and routine as to preclude any attempt to properly document them.

On 15 April a new dimension was added to the anti-aircraft capabilities of the enemy with the appearance of the SA-7, "Strella", a man-portable, heat-seeking missile of Soviet manufacture. The first sighting of the new threat was reported by an Air Force FAC on 9 May 1972. Its appearance in ever increasing frequency coincided with the commencement of the last big enemy push against An Loc which had been announced by an intercepted enemy radio transmission. As the tanks began massing for the assault on 11 April, it became apparent that the enemy had elected to play his heretofore undetected trump card to cancel out the advantage held by the GVN forces with their overwhelming aerial support. Although the SA-7 was to claim 6 AH-1G Cobra aircraft in the following weeks, it did not force a curtailment of helicopter operations as many doubters of the airmobile concept had theorized. The advantage of the missile would be countered in mid-July as a newly developed infra-red dissipation modification was installed on 229th AHB aircraft, but for now the development of modified tactics was a matter of the utmost urgency.



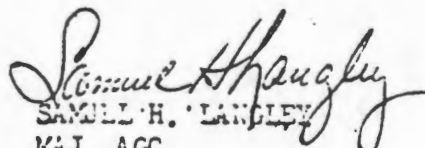
The tactics employed at Loc Ninh-An Loc were initially only a variation on the Pink Team - light fire team theme which had been utilized before in high intensity AAA environments such as the A Shau Valley operation by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in 1968. These variations were the employment of heavy fire teams composed of three ships as opposed to the two ship light-fire-team used by AFA and the use of a "Heavy Pink Team" ~~f~~ in some cases a purple team by the Air Cavalry Troop. The "Heavy Pink Team" consisted of a LOH in the low level scout role stalked by the first Cobra at 1,500 feet to his rear or flank. Upon the LOH receiving fire or spotting a target the low Cobra would roll in with immediate suppressive fire, thus enabling the scout ship to evade, and providing an immediate mark for the higher Cobra, following at 2,500 feet or higher to set up a deliberate rocket pass. As the second Cobra was executing his break, the first Cobra would be in a position to cover with a rocket run of his own, thus alternating until either destruction of the target was complete or exhaustion of fuel or ammunition necessitated relief on station by another team. Another variation was the "Purple Team" with the LOH, two Cobras and a UH-1H "slick" at a higher altitude to serve as a command control element for the team and to accomplish recovery of downed crews if needed. This beefing up of the air maneuver elements was accompanied by a shift to low level flight enroute to minimize exposure to heavy AAA weapons. This, however, increased the vulnerability to small arms fire with the loss of the element of surprise caused by daily continued operations over the same terrain. This caused the modification of tactics to encompass ever higher enroute altitudes and the use of cloud cover to good effect even before the introduction of the "Strella". The arrival of the "Strella", although a quantum jump in AAA technology, had only the effect

of intensifying the need for this type of tactic in a high intensity AAA environment. The need for change in standard aerial insertion and extraction tactics also became readily apparent. Whereas previously the emphasis had been upon large formations of lift ships making classic combat assaults; this was rendered suicidal because of the murderous effect of the high intensity AAA and IDF. The tactics employed to circumvent the AAA and IDF was for small flights of one or two ships to fly above cloud cover enroute to the PZ and utilize a rapidly spiraling high overhead approach to the LZ. Pathfinders of HHC, 229th AHB were responsible for LZ control, assembling outgoing payloads and moving the PZ as enemy gunners found the mark. This enabled the lift ships to spend minimum time on the PZ, often departing with deadly 105 and 155 rounds impacting on the PZ while they were on short climbout.

Dawn 17 May found the An Loc perimeter quiet for the first time in 42 days, with the calm broken only by occasional incoming artillery or mortar rounds. This lull was not to continue but it was apparent for the first time that the back of the siege had possibly been broken. Despite the lessening of the actual ground assault upon An Loc the enemy still held commanding positions along QL 13 to the south preventing ground movement between An Loc and Chon Thanh, and ringed the city of An Loc with AAA & indirect fire registered to almost pinpoint accuracy during the earlier days of the siege. This made the task of evacuation of large numbers dead and wounded and the insertion of reinforcements possible for the first time but highly hazardous. Massive troop exchanges took place on 31 May, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 22, 29 June and 1 and 5 July resulting in the total exchange of 11,153 personnel, accomplished with minimal casualties despite an undiminished curtain of AAA & IDF fire unequalled by any yet encountered in the Vietnamese conflict.

The successful defense of An Loc received official confirmation by the insertion of LTC Minh, CG of MR III, followed shortly by counter-guerrilla warfare consultant to the President, Sir Robert Thompson, and finally by the arrival of the GVN Chief of State President Nguyen Van Thieu. The successful insertion of the dignitaries, despite continual AAA fire, was accomplished jointly by elements of the 229th AHB and the rotary wing elements of the Vietnamese Air Force. (Incl 10-E).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

0830 hours - CG: S-3 will rescue personnel from Nui Ba Dinh DCO-A, D/229, 75th Rangers will rescue cornish 67 from Cat Lo brigade, COL/21, F/9 Cav will move 2 DCO ARVN from Bu Dop to Song Be.

1045 hours - DCO-A: Bay run on ground at Cat Lo Bridge, putting CBU around advisors position checking with LOH after CBU.

1055 hours - DCO-A: LOH received GAF vicinity of XT7297, unk dam. AH-1G also hit from D/229.

1130 hours - DCO-A: 3 advisors at Cat Lo Bridge rescued by D/229 and 75th Rangers. Critically wounded update to follow.

1115 hours - Fuel at SB critical. TACE to G-3 TRAC. By 1140 21,500 at Song Be.

1115 hours - S-3: Yellow flight bounced to TNE at 1142 for reenforcing NBD by one RF company, 1 CH-47 bounced W/Chemical people and MSN. To TNE.

1215 hours - DCO-A: LOH used for extraction at Cat Lo took 4 hits SA and 51 cal. Carried 3 U.S., 4 ARVN, pilot and gunners total 9 people. Pilot CPT Whitehead, Gunner SGT Waits.

1235 hours - DCO-B: Fuel situation critical at S.B. 6000 gal used between 1115 and 1225 must request resupply. 15,000 requested earlier not enough.

1255 hours - Yellow flight present at TM. LOH checking out mountain, if everything is OK will put in RF Co.

1310 hours - S-3: First lift into NBD LZ Green. First lift taking off, last ship took fire UH-1H dam pilot wounded.

1345 hours - DCO-A: Sitrep An Loc; PAC putting in airstrikes. Destroyed village XT 805765 with EST in BN. Now attacking 122mm positions XT 719910.

1340 hours - D/229: 34th Avn Bn received GAF vicinity Trung Hup XT 622315 gunships and medevac covering ship down unk units aircraft at XT 6131.

1450 hours - 229th Avn: CH-47 and C123's moving heavy equipment report personnel will finish in 90 minutes.

1500 hours - DCO-A: D/229 situation is 3 AH-1G and 1 LOH operational and needed for fire support.

1531 hours - S-3: LOH from GS Flt received unknown # of GAF at Nui Ba Dinh. 1 hit, neg injuries.

1545 hours - Nui Ba Dinh: Last lift complete; 90 replacements on mountain will clear top of mountain so that wounded can be extracted and resupply can go in. Last lift received GAF.

1545 hours - DCO-A: 31CS aircraft completely destroyed and burning no need to secure aircraft.

1605 hours - ARTY INC: F/9 LOH down at XV 971290 cause unk GAF in area; Pilot trapped in A/C, gunner wounded and trying to get pilot out DCO-A enroute with gunships.

1625 hours - 1/21: All Arty out of Ba Dop: Another home to move people.

1627 hours - S-3: 2 UH-1H and 1 AH-1G took hits on last lift into NBD. 1 UH-1H will have to be slung out. No replacement A/C required. Expect complete about 1800 3-500 VC reported SW of NBD.

1645 hours - DCO-A: Pilot of F/9 LOH KIA, going in W/Medevac now complete at 1700.

1705 hours - CH-47 enroute to b.H. from S.B. Landed on road due to mechanical difficulty. Continued flight W/Cobra cover.

1800 hours - S-3: In 30 minutes resupply an exacuation of NBD will begin.

1805 hours - S-3: Going in after 6 U.S. wounded, 11 ARVN wounded. 7 U.S. okay.



1820 hours - S-3: 1st medevac going in taking fire all the way.  
 1835 hours - DCO-A: Song Be has 2 CH-47's on the ground. One needs engine replacement, other, battle damage, needs blade. POL has an air lock and is down.  
 1900 hours - POL open at Song Be. Trying to fix CH-47's to fly out tonight. Security being coordinated with Prov Chief.  
 1845 hours - S-3: All U.S. and 11 ARVN wounded out of NBD.  
 2130 hours - COL Jones: Extraction from BV DOP: 1500 ARVNs, 2000 civilians, 6 X 105 HQWS, 2 X 155 HQWS. All remaining is some ARVN's with their families and about 500 Montagnards.

9 April 1972:

0555 hours - Hvy section F/79 skids up for Lai Khe.  
 0605 hours - F/9 skids up for Lai Khe  
 0900 hours - DCO-B: Remove U.S. equipment from S.B. Airfield and back haul 17 lb rockets and heat rockets.  
 1215 hours - F/9: At XT 721863 engaged possible regiment HQ, numerous secondary expl.  
 1225 hours - F/9: UH-1H down XT 7187, F/79 AFA section conduct VR to check situation received intense GAF SA; UH-1H is VNAF.  
 1315 hours - D/229: XT 993567 large number of people, tank tracks, possible camouflaged vehicle, PT reports much traffic moving S.. RASH 5 W 3 FOX 4's supported BDA. 100% of ordinance on target.  
 1630 hours - 229th POL and rearz people extracted from S.B. All heat rockets have been extracted from S.B. Still remaining are 1380 X 17 lb rockets, 912 aircraft flares.  
 1850 hours - F/9: 1745H XT 087818 3 X UH-1H took heavy 51 cal fire from Tinh Ngan compound while on short final to pad neg hits or casualties.

10 April 1972:

0420 hours - C/S: TRAC requesting on Air Cav. Troop to VR road N of Chon Thanh to An Loc. Contact 5th ARVN Div and 5th ABN Bn. Troop is to stay south of the 80 E-W grid line. DCO-A to meet TRAC C/S at plantation for a mission briefing.  
 0925 hours - DCO-A: Instruct F/9 to stage out of Lai Khe they are to rept to 5th ARVN TOC for update and wait for DCO-A.  
 0958 hours - D/229: BDA of YT 051236 reveals extensive tunnel complex. One 20' X 15' bunker uncovered. EST recent use by 50-60 people.  
 1015 hours - DCO-A: Have F/9 meet me on the strip at Lai Khe. S-3 will have mission of resupplying barrier and commo material to NED using TRAC CH-47 and should contact G-4 TRAC verify position of downed VNAF UH-1H yesterday and advise DCO-A prior to passing info to TRAC. Pass to Avn Bn "all aviators monitor guard at all times."  
 1140 hours - F/9: Taking GAF, 51 cal, at XT 762713. Confirmed location of downed VNAF UH-1H at XT 765715.  
 1220 hours - D/229: YT 034263, tracks of possible enemy squad moving into woods to east with pos. Rendezvous spot at YT 032258 with additional possible tracks of 14 indiv moving S at YT 022267 50 fighting positions all destroyed but recently rebuilt. Recent activity. Arty being employed. Spot sighted at 1030. Passed to S-3 at 1220. Arty shot this area at night, airstrikes went into YT 051236 at 0815.

1245 hours - D/229: BDA of airstrike at YT 051236 destroyed ZL 15' X 20' bunkers with tunnels going out to 20 to 30 feet. 6 - 8 fighting positions and several bunkers with tin roofs in the area. 200 M of trench around bunker.  
 1245 hours - AAF: 3 ships from yellow flight bounced to Tay Ninh to pick up ARVN "Briars" to work for F/9 Cav at Lai Khe.  
 1355 hours - F/9 LNO: DCO-A's helicopter has been hit and DCO-A wounded. Enroute to Lai Khe.

11 April 1972:

0720 hours - D/229: GAF at YT 063296 high bird engaged with organics with unk results. Arty to be employed.  
 0725 hours - D/229: LOH in item 4. Spotted 3 individuals on edge of bomb crater.  
 0830 hours - Late Entry: UH-1H from Med Company received 51 cal GAF-vic XT 7953 date time group 101630.  
 0900 hours - TRAC: D/229 tasked to go to Tay Ninh west and work for 24th ARVN W/azn to find 271 NVA Regt and 24th NVA Regt. Men comp at 0930.  
 1050 hours - F/79 AFA: Yellow flight and Blue Max took 20 - 25 rds SA/GAF at YT 033265. Eng w/organics. Artillery to be employed VR being set up by S-2 to cover XT 033285 and XT 068296.  
 1100 hours - CG: F/9 Cav LOH at XT 6867 spotted footprints estimated 100 individuals in possible staging area using trails. LOH F/9 spotted fresh cuttings at XT 615745 EST 10 ind in the last 24 hours at XT 7388 F/9 Cobras engaging tank.  
 1250 hours - F/9 57mm rr at XT 778822.  
 1300 hours - Item 12 tank damaged.  
 1335 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift off from Dau Tieng to An Loc.  
 1355 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift from Dau Tieng is at An Loc: Took indirect fire from 82mm and 105mm. 1 bird hit will check at Dau Tieng.  
 1415 hours - DCO-A: See item 20. One bird hit. Minor damage, flyable 2nd lift enroute to An Loc.  
 1410 hours - F/9 LNO: Medevac enroute to L.K. to meet DCO-A. Gustoff with DCO-A enroute to 24th Evac.  
 1440 hours - ARTY LNO: DCO-A's A/C was at 1500' vic XT 7872 when it received 10 - 15 rds of GAF. DCO-A hit between elbow and wrist. May lose forearm below the wound. DCO-A now in operating room.  
 1545 hours - CG: AC-130 engaging possible 51 cal site at XT 776722 Bda of GVN site by F/9 reveals possible 51 cal position, pieces of body. Air-strikes going into area.  
 1620 hours - TRAC: Provide 2 cobras to provide cover landing of 2 - 8 ARVN at An Loc. F/9 covering EIA vic An Loc 1300H.  
 1630 hours - 1/7 Cav: Ca: complete to XT 939365 LZ green.  
 1450 hours - DCO-A: 2nd lift in at An Loc received no indirect fire but did receive 51 cal GAF coming out at XT 732644. F/79 Cobras (24 section engaged and possibly received hit. F/79 Serpent crashed at Lai Khe but both pilots got out. One had been shot and MEDEVACED. Another MEDEVAC bounced to operation).  
 1515 hours - F/9 at XT 703915 spotted 82mm and 105mm being camouflaged, also company of troops. Fox 4's on the way. LOH took GAF no hits.

1600 hours - White Flight lifted off, 4 ships enroute to Dau Tieng.  
 1625 hours - 1 additional aircraft enroute to Dau Tieng.  
 1635 hours - CG: Yellow Flight is at An Loc with 3rd lift, Red Flight in at 1637 out at 1638. Spectre fire suppressed.  
 1700 hours - At XT 691955 F/9 found 1 tank in brush, type unknown. At XT 690952 observed 1 APC moving into brush area. AH-1G took fire, UNK number of 51 cal at 100kts. Fac and Spectre on start to engage targets, Neg hits, neg damage.  
 1755 hours - Yellow Flight is at An Loc with 4th lift.  
 1755 hours - F/9: Reported 2 rocket sites firing from XT 702428.  
 1755 hours - 4th lift into An Loc complete.  
 1800 hours - F/9: At XT 699997 howitzer firing from firebase.  
 1820 hours - F/9: XT 702928, 1750H observed 04 X 122mm rockets being fired eng & organics, UNK results.  
 1830 hours - TRAC G-3: XT 7663 ARVN ABN in hvy contact; rec. 122mm rockets, lost 2 tanks, need gunships. Gunships to go to aid from An Loc.  
 1920 hours - F/9: XT 768697, 1900H Pink Team spotted numerous 51 cal and 23mm A.A. positions. Took intense GAF at 4500' and 6000'.

12 April 1972:

0900 hours - 229th: First lift in at An Loc. Maj Davidson picked up and delivered to Red Carpet Pad.  
 1030 hours - D/229th: Cobra took UNK number of GAF at XT 783935. Neg hits. Air strike conducted with UNK results.  
 1050 hours - TRAC: F/79 heavy section bounced from Lai Khe to XT 3475 to support 8th ARVN ABN Bn in contact.  
 1115 hours - DCO-A: 3 X F/79 Cobras are OPCON to D/229  
 1135 hours - TRAC: Request MAX to escort MEDEVAC to YS 565680 msn complete at 1420H.  
 1235 hours - TRAC: F/79 AFA section supporting other elements of ARVN ABN in contact at XT 764668.  
 1750 hours - D/229: Spotted one man running in open area, engaged by Cobra UNK results.  
 2230 hours - S-2: F/79, YS 6166, YS 6267, while in support of USARV individual training group (UITG) contact, engaged unknown size in force. 03 X UTIG killed, 14 UTIG wounded 4 In KIA.  
 2300 hours - Nighthawk airborne.  
 2325 hours - YT 05542053 IOS spotted lights on heading of 0547 Mils, distance 5890 meters. Arty to fire in area. Nighthawk will check.

13 April 1972:

0655 hours - TRAC: Need immediate assistance in An Loc. Request 1 Cav Trp and 1 heavyfire team ASAP. Heavy contact SW of An Loc. FAC reports heavy AA on 51 cal and 23mm type. Skids up D/229, F/79 at 0745.

1020 hours - Ca of D 1-7 complete at 1010. Began at 0230.  
 1030 hours - 127 heat rockets delivered to Lai Khe. Will be used for tank-killer missions only.  
 1030 hours - D/229: IT 641706 Pink Team spotted 2 trucks. Received GAF from AK-47. Eng w organics. 2 trucks destroyed.  
 1200 hours - D/229: IT 695729 spotted individual running into treeline carrying AK-47 heading S. Engaged w organic, res UNK.  
 1200 hours - S-4: Heat rocket status: Lassiter 496: Lai Khe 228: Long Thanh 118; 3rd Ord 300: combat emergency to Da Nang approved. 1000 heat rockets to be delivered tomorrow.  
 1350 hours - TRAC: Request gunship section to escort Long Binh Dustoff in Phouc Tuy Province. Approved.  
 1415 hours - 2/8 Cav: 6 bunkers discovered during extraction at YS 279999 Cobra engaged and blew top off bunkers and started papers burning.  
 1440 hours - DCO-A: Bounce heavy section of F/79 to Lai Khe to support TRAC  
 1520 hours - TRAC: Request all guns we can send to An Loc. We sent one light fire team at 1525H with another ship to follow when it comes out of maintenance. 2nd light section bounced at 1550H. Red Flight with 75th Rangers bounced at 1550H. 11 Americans at soccer field in An Loc prepared for snatch operation.  
 1615 hours - S-3: 1 heavy MAX section now supporting Rangers. 1 section covering insertion of 32nd ARVN Regt. D/229 has expended in N part of An Loc, now on strip alert at Lai Khe. Rangers on alert at Lai Khe.  
 1815 hours - 1/7: E Recon, XT 945335, while setting up ambush, flank security sighted 5 individuals: engaged w SA and AV 2 Cobras of F/9 supported and 2 Cobras F/79 supported. Results 1 WIA taken to 24th EVAC 1 M-79 CIA.

14 April 1972:

0715 hours - TRAC: Request we bounce Cav Troop to work designated boxes (D/229). Heavy fire team (F/79) to report to An Loc and work for Tunnel 10A  
 0730 hours - TRAC: Request gun cover for Dustoff (Long Binh) in Phouc Tuy Province. Skids up at 0740H.  
 0730 hours - D/229: Skids up for Lai Khe. Arrived at 0750.  
 0845 hours - TRAC: Request another heavy section of guns to Lai Khe. Skids up at 0910H.  
 1010 hours - DCO-A: Cav assets in An Loc area will be used mostly as a VR and support role until 1105H when they will support VNAF airmobile operation around Quan Loi.  
 1045 hours - DCG TRAC: An Loc; In elements to E, SE of town. Enemy still holds northern most parts of EW street of town. Reports of tanks to the W unconfirmed, situation looks good. GAF from NW part of town and Quan Loi Airfield.  
 1100 hours - DCO-A: Received GAF from 51 cal at XT 779805, neg hits.  
 1320 hours - D/229: Pink Team took several bursts of GAF from XT 673968, XT 682963. Cobra engaged with UNK results.  
 1340 hours - S-3: CA of recon 2/8; recon 1/12.



1445 hours - S-3: Initial lift off Chon Thanh to Lai Khe VNAF Gaggle LZ is  
 XT 802872 we support with 4 gunships.  
 1510 hours - S-3: 2nd lift of ARVNS into LZ. No contact yet.  
 1515 hours - S-3: 2nd team 72 inserted YT 027234 LZ Green.  
 1705 hours - S-3: Pink Teams are looking for armor. 3 MAX (F/79) guns are in  
 support of 8 ARVN ABN Bn. In contact since insertion.  
 1710 hours - S-3: XT 772829 DCO-S's bird received GAF, UNK number of rounds  
 30 cal, neg hits.  
 1720 hours - TRAC G-3: Send 1 heavy MAX section to An Loc area. 1st Cav S-3  
 will coordinate with TRAC because all our assets are committed.  
 1730 hours - D/229: XT 745969, 1710H Pink Team saw 5 people in open, fired  
 and got secondary explosion. P.T. received UNK number of GAF at 2000' 120 kts  
 ; neg hits.  
 1845 hours - F/9: YT 0788 15D N of Dong Xoi on VR YT 072909, 1810H UNK number  
 of footprints possible loggers. YT 070840 1849 civ trucks with 40 people in  
 civilian clothes with logs.  
 1855 hours - S-3: Release Yellow Flight  
 1905 hours - TRAC G-3: Provide gun coverage for MEDEVAC of 2 ABN advisors at  
 XT 805868. Will provide from ships at An Loc area.  
 2130 hours - F/79: XT 775905 destroyed 1 X 75mm RR. XT 811899, 1330H destroyed  
 13 X NAD 5 ton trucks. In An Loc dest 1 tank at 1500H. Confirmed by FAC. XT  
 995276 dest 06 X UNK size bunker at 1030H.

15 April 1972:

0255 hours - TRAC: F/9 to stage from Lai Khe. Be prepared to depart B.H. at  
 0700H and to engage enemy armor vehicles, conduct VR in designated boxes.  
 F/79 to be on standby (30min) starting at 0630H. Be prepared to engage  
 armor vehicles.  
 0520 hours - TRAC: Since approx 0440H An Loc had been under heavy ground  
 attack fr S-SE and taking incoming. Bounce HFT of F/79 AFA ASAP w/nails.  
 Weather at An Loc is bad. All families of fighters cannot operate.  
 Marginal weather for helicopter. Put F/9 on alert to depart 1st light.  
 Fire skids up at 0520. 2nd team at 0550H. Notified TRAC to make sure  
 L K fuel and ammo points are open F/79 ships are Serpents 25, 33, 12, 24.  
 0625 hours - F/79 has 5 ships at An Loc. Serpent 26 was #5 our assets  
 5 MAX birds for our AO.  
 0730 hours - TRAC: Reports 23mm AA E of An Loc. FAC's report 37mm but no  
 location.  
 0815 hours - TRAC: Requested F/9 to be bounced to work VR boxes. Skids up  
 at 0825H. Our representation at An Loc will control our assets. Approx 1000H  
 the rest of the 8th ARVN ABN Bn may airlift into An Loc. May need MAX to  
 engage GAF.  
 0940 hours - TRAC: LTC Fuloy wanted message passed to DCO-A that An Loc  
 requested gunships support to protect TOC. Tanks 500m fr the TOC. TRAC CG  
 says Cav Troop to be used to find AA positions for FAC.  
 1035 hours - TRAC: Troop concentrations and 10 tanks in box at XT 735894,  
 731885, 721905, and 716897 requesting arclights.  
 1050 hours - DCO-A: Reports no 23mm or 37mm AA fire E of An Loc at this time  
 but great deal of 51 cal GAF.  
 1135 hours - Msg fr Gen Hamlet: Get 400 heat rockets to LK ASAP.

1150 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift of ARVN ABN put in by VNAF  
 1210 hours - DCO-A: 2nd lift in progress.  
 1220 hours - DCO-A took GAF at XT 7770 from 30 cal, neg hits.  
 1315 hours - DCO-A: GAF at XT 755865. 30 cal neg hits.  
 1326 hours - Ranger XO: Team 71 in contact at YT 031232 MEDEVAC F/79, D/229 in support.  
 1420 hours - DCO-A received GAF.SA at XT 785835 neg hits.  
 1440 hours - TRAC: Situation critical on perimeter all sides. AL penetrated in N. Regimental buildup in the W. All arty in AL is in hands. Not confirmed ARVN source.  
 1500 hours - TRAC CG: At 1450 ten tanks were attacking AL. 9 were destroyed. CG TRAC wants more air to destroy tanks before they get into the city. They are in the city and the ARVNS are destroying them there by cluttering the street.  
 1525 hours - F/9 Cav: Update took ground to air fire at following guide with no hits. : XT 808811, 798819. At XT 750640 AH - 1G took 2 air bursts at 8000'.  
 1635 hours - F/9: XT 757881, 1220H unknown number of AA sites, UNK Cal.  
 1640 hours - TRAC G-3: Update on AL, tanks are South and West of the city, but East, South and West sides of the city are holding well. According to FAC, Still receiving some RR fire and mortar fire from Southwest.  
 2310 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission tomorrow is to prepare to execute an order to 1) Send 1 hvy fire team to arrive AL by first light. 2) Send 1 Cav Trp to arrive AL area at first light. Additional guidance from 1st Cav S-3: ALL Gunships should have at least 50% heat rockets.

16 April 1972:

0845 hours - TRAC: Send Cav Trp and heavy fire team to Lai Khe. Cav Trp will recon for arty and AA weapons. HFT will support as required and will support insertion of 81st Ranger Bn ETA 0920. F/79 up 0850H. F/9 up at 0854H. ETA 0920H.  
 1040 hours - F/79: Request 1 HFT sent to LK.  
 1050 hours - DCO-A: Long Binh Dustoff took ind out of vic XT 7985. Airborne advisors 19 or 20 individuals.  
 1120 hours - Binh Duong: At Tan Bien and Tan Hung villages 2 outposts received attack by fire and small arms. Road blocked at XT 899415, Company to NE killed 1 enemy and is still in contact NE of Binh My. Compound at Song Be received 20 X 82mm mortar fire at 0700H. 1 WIA. VC blew culvert on QL1A vic XT 8231, culvert repaired, est 100 VC vic of contact, request gunship section support if available, 5th ARVN Div reports possible tanks vic XT 9049. S-3 sending Purple D/229.  
 1145 hours - TRAC TOC: U.S. to control airstrikes N of 80 E-W line, VNAF to S 1200-1600H VNAF will also control to E of 78 N-S line until insertion of 81st Rgr Bn, is complete.  
 1220 hours - DCO-A: Enroute to AL for MEDEVAC of wounded US airborne advisor.  
 1240 hours - D/229: Purple Team supporting BD Province has been relieved. Negative findings other than normal everyday activity.  
 1245 hours - S-2: Dustoff reported down S of AL, XT 803862. D/229: Purple TM reports large explosion vic LK. CG: LK received several rds incoming around PDL, Rearm and Hook Pad. One round in rubber to N of CH-47 pad caused a large secondary explosion vic XT 755384, 1255H another large explosion and 5 -10 smoke columns vic Re-arm points. ARVN arty dump was hit.

1315 hours - Shifted Re-Arm/Refuel operations to BH pending reopening of Song Be or LK. DCO-A made over grass landing at Lassiter Pad with 4 crew of Dustoff and 5 wounded US advisors and ARVNS from AL.

1340 hours - CG: Shift Re-Arm/Refuel ops to Bien Hoa. Make arrangements to open Re-Arm/Refuel point at Song Be tomorrow morning, consider that VNAF and 3/1 Cav will be using the airfield.

1505 hours - CG: LK POL and Re-Arm point will not be used till tomorrow.

1550 hours - S-3: VNAF gunships down at approx XT 814797.

1600 hours - YT 042235, 1535H, CH6A rec'd 10-15 rds SA, also fire from M-79 while flying at 100 knots and 100'. Engaged with minigun and 40mm, also took small arms fire while putting in suppressive fire. Negative hits on aircraft, UNK enemy losses. Arty fired 30 X 105mm HE rds, on site.

1645 hours - TRAC TOC: 5th ABN Bn reports 01 ARV KIA, 04x hvy machine guns CIA.

1710 hours - DCO-A: F/79 AFA mission release 1640H. F/9 Cav mission release 1700H. TRAC will pass missions for tomorrow later tonight.

17 April 1972:

0110 hours - 229: There are 300-400 heat rockets at Lai Khe in good condition.

0805 hours - TRAC TOC: Rocket attack at AL came from North and West.

0805 hours - TRAC: LK rearm repol facilities reopened.

0805 hours - RASH PAC: Roadblock at XT 891413 made of trees and brush.

0930 hours - TRAC: XU 730035, 04x 105mm how being towed by trucks, engaged by Spectre and Tac Air, destroyed.

1000 hours - CG: Do not establish re-arm and re-pol facilities at Song Be. AL update, 4 ARVN ABN Bns in An Loc. 105mm will be inserted today. Forces in AL will be working out to the South, Southeast, and Southwest of the city.

1015 hours - S-2 Update on Item 02: 01 en KIA found by PT D/229. Individual carrying 3 empty AK-47 mags in vest.

1210 hours - DCO-A: XT 610922 F/9 Cav found 1 bridge with recent foot and vehicular traffic. Bridge engaged 1/3 destroyed. TAC air being called in.

1605 hours - TRAC: F/9 Cav and HFT from F/79 released by TRAC.

1615 hours - TRAC: An Loc situation stable, some contacts by airborne at edge of city.

1700 hours - TRAC G-3: Be prepared to extract 06 Americans from CIDG compound Auyen Moc TS 6568.

1740 hours - TRAC G-3: Proceed with mission (item 49) ASAP send heavy MAX section, 2 lift birds and LOH as C&C. S-3 will be mission commander. Mission will stage from Down Hi, YS 4355. Picked up 06 people at 1915H. People were dropped off at Long Hai, at 1935H.

2000 hours - F/9: Twin 51 cal site at XT 725890.

2120 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission from TRAC for 1 Cav Trip to VR same area they were in late this afternoon. Exact VR boxes to follow early tomorrow morning. 1 HFT to go to AL area, all birds ready to go at 0600H. Late Entry S-2: F/79 AH-1G, YT 014270 took 15-30 rounds GAF flying at 1500' and 130 knots. Neg hits, engaged with organics with UNK results.

18 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: At this present time AL is under a heavy mortar and rocket attack and fire from tanks. The WX is extremely bad. Send HFT of F/79 to Lai Khe to standby. WX is scattered clouds with 1000'. Lai Khe re-arm and re-pol was open. TRAC said it would be open by 0700. Pilots will report to 5th DCAT at Lai Khe. They will bounce them from there.

0715 hours - ARTY LNO: Skids up on HFT to LK.

0740 hours - TRAC: Arc lights AL 1205 centers of mass many and varied.

0745 hours - TRAC: VR boxes for F/9 Cav box-various coordinates.

0830 hours - TRAC G-3: Change in mission for F/9 Cav. They are to VR to the West and SW of AL in the rocket and mortar belts for firing sites. TRP to be used as discussed between TRAC CG and F/9 Cav. Received changes in VR boxes.

0855 hours - S-2: WX rpt AL 7/6S cloud cover and 1500' ceiling. F/9 will proceed to An Loc to see if VR is possible under present conditions.

0910 hours - F/79 AFA: (late report) 171100H AIR engaged 07 trucks at XT 778818. 02 trucks destroyed, 03 trucks damaged, unknown number of bodies on road. Numerous secondary explosions from trucks.

0915 hours - TRAC TUC TO DCG TRAC: SA 5th ARVN Div Msg: "Emergency, emergency 1,2,3,4, C ration boxes. Eyeball contact need ASAP, paralleling ARVN request. DCG, TRAC: Miller is requesting 4 Arc Light strikes.

1040 hours - CG: F/79 may be required to support C-130 resupply at An Loc this afternoon. Confirmed 51 cal positions are in West side of An Loc. Last night An Loc hospital hit by fire 40 KIA 8th ABN Bn, 12 KIA 40 WIA. Suspect 105-155 position at XT 767944 and XT 698924, suspect 51 cal psn at XT 784895, troop, trucks using 5 bridges in box XT 6696-6697-7096-7097.

1225 hours - DCG TRAC: At XT 847590 discovered 2 APC's; F/9 Cav checking out area; APC's had already been destroyed.

1230 hours - F/9: C-130 on fire, losing altitude N of Lai Khe, crashed vic XT 687390. 7 crew members picked up by F/9 CC taken to 3rd field by C&C and LOH F/9.

1450 hours - F/9: Took UNK number GAF at UN-1H loc of C-130 XT 687390.

1500 hours - TRAC: Request we send a heavy Fink Team with G-C from D/229 to XT 526504 to check VRS report of regimental CP.

1645 hours - TRAC G-3: VR S of the Michelin plantation to river for avenues of enemy approach, also E of river. Also have guns remain on station until C-130 re-supply goes into An Loc. Lift TSM approx 1630H.

1730 hours - DCO-A: XT 520503 Fink Team sighted 15-20 bunkers used in the last 15 minutes. Pots and pans all over. XT 528563 sighted impressions of track vehicles moving S approx 6-12 hours ago.

1800 hours - 1700H F/9 Fink Team sighted an area where approx 12 tanks turned and had possible NDF; 20 6' x 4' bunkers with wood OH cover. Track vehicles impressions moving on to 14' wide trail going SW to possible 2nd NDF at XT 591647 with 6 positions.



1515 hours - DCO-A to TRAC: Will have pt VR crash site, then return to original mission.  
 1525 hours - DCO-A: Pink Team over site. Beleived there are no survivors. Then will return to original mission.  
 1745 hours - DCO-A and CG: Mission release for F/9 and D/229.

20 April 1972:

0632 hours - TRAC: An Loc is presently under heavy fire and ground attack from all four sides. Tanks in Northern section of city. ABN Bde is on SE side in heavy contact. Bounced HFT F/79 AFA to An Loc. Skids up at 0655H.

0830 hours - TRAC: TRAC G-3 requests another HFT and Cav Trp bounced. HFT will work for DCO-A around An Loc. D/229 will work for DCO-A to W and SW of An Loc to locate indirect fire positions and enemy movements. Skids up D/229 0240, F/79 0845.

1010 hours - F/79: XT 750999 engaged 51 cal position. Silenced gun.

1145 hours - F/79: 1040 at XT 756887 destroyed a 75mm RR and UNK number of enemy.

1410 hours - D/229: XT 745817 spotted a 2 1/2 ton truck and tracked vehicles moving NE. Engaged with UNK results. XT 769768 spotted a tank moving West. Engaged with UNK results. XT 712762, 718744, 735739, 741739. At the above locations have numerous tank tracks in every direction last 24-48 hours.

1545 hours - F/9: YT 088362 1440H pt found 1 tank tracks approx 1-2 weeks old.

1600 hours - F/79 AFA: 6 MAX birds at An Loc.

1830 hours - D/229: XT 614928 1845H. Spotted a bridge over a stream made of logs. AH-1G fired at but did not destroy. Road in area showed movement by track vehicles within 24-48 hours.

1900 hours - D/229: AH-1G at YT 017345 spotted 3 people on road, ran into bushes, engaged with organics with UNK results.

21 April 1972:

0615 hours - TRAC: ABN units on SE of An Loc are presently receiving heavy direct fire. An Loc City is receiving heavy direct fire from buildings. Fire from RR and machine guns. Launch HFT to An Loc. G-3 may call for another at 0700.

0630 hours - TRAC: Lai Khe 2000-3000 foot ceiling with clouds. An Loc 0 clouds at 4000' light at 3000; vis 6-8 miles.

0745 hours - TRAC G-3: Send a second HFT to Lai Khe: Arty lno reptd 1st section on hold for weather at Lai Khe. Bde 3 received permission from TRAC G-3 to remain at Long Thanh until first section released from Lai Khe.

1128 hours - DCO-A: Ceiling at An Loc and in AO too low to allow AFA and Air Cav Troops to work. They are on the ground at Lai Khe.

1645 hours - DCO-A: D/229 has mission release at LK, enroute to B.H. F/9 to be released at 1730.

1705 hours - D/229: All aircraft back from An Loc area.

22 April 1972:

0825 hours - TRAC: Bounce Cav Troops and HFT. Cav Troop is to VR N of Minh Thia Rubber W of An Loc Rubber and E of river. Contact Black Jack 15 on F M for more complete briefing. HFT will be briefed by B.J. 15. Skids up for Cav at 0850.

1125 hours - RANGER INFO: XT 994308 Ranger Tm 76 spotted 25 ind to the W of their positions carrying rocket pods at 1110H hvy Pink Team and AFA engaged enemy. 1/7 C+C was overhead.

1720 hours - DCO-A: F/9 mission release F/79 release upon completion of present mission at approx 1740.

23 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: HFT to An Loc at this time. HFT skids up at 0729. May require another HFT later.

0730 hours - F/9 Cav: Skids up for Lai Khe at 0730; had no permission to bounce.

0915 hours - F/79 AFA working for Tunnel 10 over An Loc. F/9 will VR to the NW of An Loc. Ceiling closing in at An Loc.

0930 hours - Situation at An Loc; ceiling closing in. Only A-1 aircraft can work. Ground attack from SW still in progress, no major threat. Sporadic contact around the rest of the city.

1015 hours - DCO-A: F/9 returning to Lai Khe due to weather. F/79 AFA still working city. TRAC: All quiet at Dau Tieng.

1120 hours - ACC: Weather bad at An Loc. F/9 Cav had been VRing to the N, NE, and NW of city but forced back due to weather. F/79 AFA working to the South of the city between weather breaks but now enroute to Lai Khe on a hold.

1310 hours - F/9: 1245 at XT 698381 found destroyed tank and several trails showing heavy recent use in all directions; XT 675995 found and destroyed 1 camouflaged truck carrying POL.

1330 hours - F/9 continues VR to NW and N of An Loc; F/79 AFA supporting 5th Division S of An Loc.

1400 hours - 1310 hour F/9 Cav spotted 12" high speed trail, hard packed: neg recent use. At 1315 F/9 UH-1H to SAGAF at 3000', 80 dts neg hits.

1535 hours - F/9 Cav at XT 763967, OH6A to 9 rds SA GAF, neg hits at 1425, XT 724973 found 3x105mm How. Destroyed at 1510H.

1650 hours - DCO-A: Found compound with 2x105mm How at XT 643670; appear unoccupied.

1705 hours - At 1610H F/9 found 1 destroyed APC at XT 864962.

1740 hours - F/9 Cav mission release at 1700. F/79 to be released at 1755.

1750 hours - AAE: 1600H GS Platoon, Lift Bank A/C recd GAF at XT 765645. 1 hit in main rotor blade. 30 cal, 4500' 80 knots. Neg hits.

24 April 1972:

1420 hours - TRAC: Request HFT to go to An Loc and work for Tunnel 10A on fire mission. F/79 AFA skids up at 1435H. Requested F/9 to VR N of Quan Loi. Skids up at 1440, An Loc weather ceiling 4500'. TAC air working.

1425 hours - TRAC: F/9 mission changed to VR NW of An Loc.

1605 hours - CG through 229 ops wants HFT to report to An Loc. Skids up at 1615H.

1645 hours - F/9 Cav: XT 720973, found 1 civilian truck along highway, neg  
 cargo. Dest in place.  
 1755 hours - CG: ARVN insertion complete at this time. 2 UN-1H shut down on  
 12, F/79 mission release.  
 1800 hours - TRAC G-3: Need 1 heavy section of MAX to remain in An Loc area  
 to support in N part of city.  
 1830 hours - F/9 Cav found a bridge at XT 609424 at 1710H had been used by  
 track and wheeled vehicles last 24 hours. Will be engaged by TAC Air.

25 April 1972:

0610 hours - ARTY: Skids up HFT F/79. Was also on weather hold.  
 0620 hours - D/229: Skids up at this time.  
 0815 hours - TRAC: Update on An Loc: As of 0730 receiving sporadic incoming  
 . No ground contact. Dau Tieng - 288 RF Company had ground contact to SW  
 last night. Not serious. D/229 Cav in VR box #1. F/79 arty on station over  
 An Loc.  
 0930 hours - TRAC TOC: Miller reports small penetration to the West of perimeter  
 .  
 1010 hours - CG TRAC: An Loc sporadic attacks by fire. Platoon penetration  
 inside perimeter road (see item 15). Spectre engaging. 75% of re-supply  
 dropped last night recovered.  
 1015 hours - DCG TRAC: An Loc receiving heavy incoming at this time.  
 1100 hours - DCO-A: D/229 working Box Z - F/79 returning to An Loc. Heavy  
 section F/79 be prepared at 1300 to support lift into An Loc. D/229 Cav  
 will VR prior to heavy lift.  
 1140 hours - TRAC: Trung Lap, XT 6022 reports 300 enemy attacking from North  
 . Enemy is in hamlets among people, setting up AA weapons. VNAF supporting.  
 1149 hours - TRAC: 3/1 Cav provide fire team to escort CH-54, 1400 hrs.  
 Report Lai Khe 1300H.  
 1245 hours - DCG TRAC: Bn of 101st NVA regiment in 1 or 2 hamlets of Trung Lap  
 . 3 company of RF group moving into action now. 2/43 ARVN Bn also moving to  
 make contact. Road block at XT 568171. 2 RF companies from Trung Lap moving  
 toward there now. 1 RF company from Cu Chi headed for roadblock. Squad of  
 5th armored regiment and 2 infantry companies in reserve at this time.  
 1650 hours - TRAC G-3: Insertion of dozer by CH-54 complete to XT 781741, our  
 heavy fire team is released.  
 1735 hours - AAE: Received through D/229. Need 1 additional heavy fire team  
 in the An Loc area.  
 1800 hours - TRAC: Requested section of guns to support Duff of American  
 advisor North of Chon Thanh coordinated XT 760760. Skids up at 1805.  
 2155 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 26 April: 1) launch a Cav Trp at 0800H to  
 go to Lai Khe. 2) 1 heavy fire team to arrive An Loc 0600H.

26 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: An Loc SITREP: 5th ABN received heavy incoming at this time  
 . 8th ABN receiving a ground attack. Spectre is engaging tanks at XT 668850.

Weather 1500' ceiling, broken and overcast, visibility 10 miles.

0900 hours - TRAC: Requested D/229 Cav bounce to Lai Khe to be briefed by Black Jack 15 on mission. Skids up 0910.

1100 hours - DCO-A: Bounce light fire team from F/79 to Lai Khe. Skids up 1110H.

1115 hours - ACC: D/229 located C-130 crash site (see item 7) at XT 703865. Could not determine if there were any survivors due to thickness of rubber.

1430 hours - TRAC: From 5th ARVN radio intercepts. To be attacked on 5th and 6th ABN by an UNK unit and another UNK unit to block a retreat by ARVN. 164 NVA Regiment to attack UNK units of 21st ARVN Div. 271st NVA regiment to attack UNK unit after radios are repaired. Tanks and troops massing at Loc Ninh to attack from the West of An Loc. Dau Tieng and Trung Lap quiet.

1620 hours - TRAC G-3: CA of 1 Airborne and 1 arty btry complete at 1530 into XT 7878.

1630 hours - ACC: Received through KCS, D/229 Cav Trp standing by at Lai Khe, 1 fire team working out. 1 fire team standing by.

1655 hours - Bien Hoa Sector: VNAF reports that 80 VC are at YT 144143 with 5 X 122mm rockets and 8 X 107mm rockets, 3 rating. Request clearance for airstrike. Denied so that we could send a Pink Team.

2057 hours - S-2: Approx 120 enemy are at XT 628456, and 20 tanks at XT 878488 with intent to attack Lai Khe. Sent D/229 to check it out. Agent report date time group 232300, rating C-6.

2130 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 27 April, received through S-3: Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600H and Cav Trp to An Loc at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700H. In addition DCO-A wants a slick from the Cav Trp to go with the HFT any time the Cav Trp is not in the area, D/229 will coordinate with F/79 about this.

27 April 1972:

0045 hours - TRAC: At the present time numerous tanks have been sighted at An Loc. Request that F/79 AFA HFT have heat rockets when they arrive in the morning.

0455 hours - ARTY: F/79 requested that D/229 chase ships accompany them to An Loc for Dustoff. Also that the section going to An Loc did not have heat rockets as required so they will send another HFT at 0530H. Chase ships will remain with HFT vicinity An Loc. Chase ship skids up at 0520H. Serpent 23.

0535 hours - ARTY: Skids up for F/79 HFT with heat rockets.

0630 hours - Dustoff complete at An Loc. Skids up for D/229 for Lai Khe.

0810 hours - ARTY LNO: F/79 AFA engaged and destroyed 1 x 51 AA MG at 0655H, XT 777874 (Seminole 12)

0820 hours - ACC: Tell 229 AFB to send two Blackhats to Lai Khe. S-3 OPNS: blackhats are on the way in the maintenance aircraft.

0910 hours - F/79 destroyed 1 x 51 cal AA gun, XT 760886, 0855H. Killed 3 enemy.

0925 hours - TRAC: Situation at An Loc is unchanged. Dau Tieng continues to receive intermittent indirect fire and small ground attacks, and ground probes.

1130 hours - TRAC SITREP: An Loc did not receive any incoming all morning.



4 X C-130 resupply drops went in with no word on success. Dau Tieng 2 battalions of enemy 7 km SE of Straight Edge Woods. In contact with ARVN forces.

1145 hours - D/229: XT 682743 1 UNK type vehicle. No activity on South side of road. North side has 2 tank revetments, no recent activity.

1225 hours - ALO: AA weapons reported YU 02203440 (37mm) XT 72008300 (57mm), XT 75108810 (23mm).

1425 hours - TRAC: S of Tay Ninh 2 battalions of NVA (possibly 24 regt) in contact with ARVN forces. American advisors requesting airstrike. Have confirmed 5 82mm mortar positions, 3 RA positions, 1 120mm mortar position, 3 51 cal AA guns, vicinity XT 2339.

2015 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 28 Apr: 1) HFT on station at An Loc 0600H. 2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700H.

28 April 1972:

0520 hours - ACTY: Skills up for F/79 AFA HFT for An Loc.

1610 hours - TRAC LOC: STINGRAY An Loc: CLU55 and napalm airstrikes during day have permitted ABN and Ranger elements to extend perimeter. Some progress is being made, particularly in SW. 80 replacements have been flown in and 57 ARVN WIA and 7 civilians WIA evacuated. Sporadic AEF and light contact in the SW continue. 8 ABN and 5 ABN Bns received ABF this morning. Dau Tieng: 2-43 Inf Bn was in contact at 1200H w/unknown sized enemy force. Ben Cua: 1-49 Inf and 2-49 Inf continued in contact with est 2 NVA Bns. QL 13: 21st Div continues to make little progress N of Chon Thanh. Road is relatively clear S of Chon Thanh. Resupply convoy remains at same location 5 km N of Lai Khe.

1625 hours - XT 749882 hvy fire team engaged 51 cal AA MG. Observed 3 secondary explosions. Confirmed by tunnel 10A (5th Div Advisor) Update: 3 secondary explosions believed to be 82mm ammo.

2230 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 29 April: (1) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc 0600 hours. (2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700 hours.

29 April 1972:

1030 hours - TRAC: APC spotted 2 km west of Lai Khe. F/9th Cav checking now.

1140 hours - DCO-A: On QL 13 from 80 to 35 E grid lines 300 to 400 people moving N. They are grouped at XT 750856 E of the rubber processing plant.

S-3 OPAS: TRAC has no information, on the identity. ABN Bns are at XT 775785 and XT 779743 and have not moved.

1645 hours - TRAC G-3: Update on An Loc. Vietnamese UH-1H on resupply mission shot down approximately XT 781811. 7 km south of An Loc on QL 13 at

1515 hours. Road from Chon Thanh to Lai Khe now open. 5 resupply drops have been completed today.

2000 hours - S-2, F/79: Heavy section took 37mm ground to air fire west of An Loc at 184 OH. At 4500 ft and 110 knots. They received 4 bursts of flack.

2105 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 30 April: (1) Launch Cav Trp at 0730 to go to Lai Khe for briefing then to check Song Be corridor. (2) Launch heavy fire team at 0800 hours to Lai Khe to stand by.

30 April 1972:

1120 hours - TRAC G-3: Says be prepared for to send another fire team to An Loc on order.

1215 hours - TRAC: Requested 2nd heavy fire team to be bounced to Lai Khe, off at 1235 hours.

2050 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 1 May: (1) Launch 1 heavy fire team at 0600 hours to go to Lai Khe and standby. (2) Launch 1 Cav Trp at 0730 hours to go to Lai Khe for briefing.

1 May 1972:

0945 hours - TRAC: Reports confirmed 37mm AA gun at XT 743686.  
1900 hours - ACC: All birds left Lai Khe at 1900H after picking up several Americans (2 wounded) at An Loc. Received ground to air fire from SW while at An Loc; negative hits.  
2235 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 2 May: 1) 1 Cav Trp Launch at 0900H to Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) prepare to launch heavy fire team at 0900H, launch on order.

2 May 1972:

0600 hours - ARTY: HFT for Dustoff 159 skids up at 0555H callsigns outlood 03, 12 & 20.  
0750 hours - F/79 Arty: Skids up on heavy fire team to An Loc to support the airborne brigade in contact.  
1225 hours - TRAC: Requested another heavy fire team for An Loc. Skids up 1240.  
1250 hours - TRAC: F/79 Arty 1st ABN BN made contact at XT 743686 since 1000. Kau Hong ARVN Artillery in contact at XT 743686. US PAC supporting.  
1640 hours - DCO-A: Heavy fire team F/79 relieved from mission to Lai Khe.  
1710 hours - DCO-A: AC-119 shot down at XT 633327. Pink Team D/229 supporting. CG TRAC also overhead.  
1735 hours - DCO-A: Picked up 1 individual from downed AC-119 at Fire Base Tan Lee Chan west of An Loc. Individual is USAF enlisted man who reported that his aircraft had crew of 10. Aircraft took approximately 6 37mm rounds. 5 individuals believed to have survived crash.  
1930 hours - DCO-A: Reports USAF picked up 4 additional survivors of AC-119 crash and rescue efforts are still being made. DCO-A has left crash site and is enroute to Bien Hoa at this time.  
2145 hours - TRAC: Mission for 3 May: Launch Pink Team at 0800H. From this location to Lai Khe to be briefed by Blackrock 15. Be prepared to launch a heavy Fire Team from this location on order from 0800 H. Informed TRAC we would send a purple team instead of a Pink Team.

3 May 1972:

0700 hours - TRAC: Anti-aircraft positions spotted at XT 74368750-23mm XT 74708820-37mm.  
1340 hours - F/79 Arty: At XT 743686 at 1255 hours F/79 Arty was engaged by 37mm gun. No hits. Did not engage. TRAC stated USAF would engage target.

4 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) at 0800 hours launch Cav Trp to Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) Be prepared to launch HFT any time after 0800 hours.  
1020 hours - TRAC: Requested HFT to bounce to Lai Khe and receive instructions from TRAC forward and support the 5th ARVN ABN BN.  
2250 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 5 May: 1) Cav Trp Launch at 0800 hours and 01x HFT ready to launch at 0800 hours.

5 May 1972:

0430 hours - Binh Duong: For special VN pick-up LNO at WIP Ind at Phouc Binh at 0100 hours. He will have all necessary clearances and friendly locations.

0430 hours - TRAC: Passed clearance for recon by fire in the following box from the 21st Div: XT 870423 - XT 900463 - XT 870496 - Initials EAI.

0725 hours - Binh Duong Sector: Clearance initials 21st ARVN Div - EAI. 5th ARVN Div - CPT Bine. Phu Gio Dist. - EAW.

1210 hours - ALO: GAF was received at 0715 hours. F4's at 7000' saw a dark black trail and lost sight of it at 9000'. 300/20 miles/shot 73. No air burst XT 6730.

1645 hours - TRAC G-3: Spot on An Loc. 3rd Airborne Bn, 31st Regt, and 9 ACR in contact off and on all day. Sporadic contact friendly initiated all day with some progress made in the north, west and south. No big movement up QL 13. Numerous resupplies into area with 55% on target, but 50% of the chutes did not open. 2nd Airborne Bn was resupplied by VNAF helicopter with 106 replacements as well as food, batteries, medical resupply, and food. 28 wounded were evacuated.

1705 hours - F/9 Cav: 2 high birds at 4000 ft and 100 knots received intense 51 cal fire at XT 722576 and XT 721590 at 1700 hours. Negative hits.

1745 hours - F/9 Cav: Found 1 indirect firing position at XT 736792 had secondary explosion at 1735. Also engaged 1 camouflaged truck with unknown results.

1745 hours - F/79 Arty: Engaged troops in open at XT 757747 at 1630 hours, one secondary explosion unknown enemy losses.

1800 hours - F/9 Cav: Mission release from FAS at 1745 hours.

6 May 1972:

1230 hours - F/79: At 1200 hours my T1 boarded to Lai Khe. Refuel at Lai Khe and standby there for further orders.

1745 hours - S-2: F/9 Pink Team at 1335 hours spotted 2 indiv at XT 712568, engaged with organics. Results 2 LN KKH.

7 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Trp depart Lai Khe at 0800 for Mission Briefing. 2) HTT be prepared to launch after 0800 hours.

1405 hours - F/9 Cav: At 1125 hours at XT 714546 found 20-30 10' x 10' bunkers, 10 x 15' x 40' hootches, 200' of trench line, numerous positions. Area engaged with organics and TAC air. Results: 5 x 15 x 40 hootches, 2 x 10 x 10 bunkers, all destroyed. 3 x 10 x 10 bunkers damaged.

1430 hours - F/9 Cav: At 1340 hours an OH-6A F/9 Cav at XT 723571 received 15 rds GAF (AK-47). Took hits in main rotor blades and landed safely. At XT 718538 crew extracted. Brown inserted, bird and browns extracted at 1410 hours. No injuries.

1450 hours - TRAC: Request heavy fire team to support 2nd ABN BN at XT 773721. Skids up - 151 CH.



1545 hours - S-2: F/9 observed 1 indiv at XT 721571 with several bunkers in area, engaged with organics. Results 1 x KM KKH.  
 1750 hours - F/79 AFA: XT 773721 assisting 2nd ABN BN in TIC credited with 02 x KM KKH. Also received unknown # of unknown type GAF from XT 773717 engaged but could not put out of action.

#### 8 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: On 7 May the HFT from F/79 AFA was in support of 2 CO's of 2nd ARVN ABN BN. Received GAF and when they return fire they accidentally wounded 10 ARVN's. TRAC submitted pinnacle report.  
 1300 hours - ACC: F/79 Arty at XT 755385 at 1118 hours while in support of ground troops engaged enemy force results 15 enemy KKH 1 RPD machine gun destroyed 1 60mm mortar destroyed 1 60mm mortar destroyed.  
 1730 hours - F/9 Cav: YT 003575 F/9 Cav AH-1C was fired at with B-40, neg hits, flying 2000 ft.  
 1830 hours - S-2: F/9 G-6 at received small arms fire at XT 700790, negative hits, engaged with organics, unknown results.

#### 9 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Missions for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart at 0800 hours for Lai Khe for man briefing. 2) HFT be prepared to launch any time after 0800 hours.  
 0345 hours - TRAC: FAC in An Loc area reported the firing of possible SA-7 missile at 0140 hours vic XT 743865, fired from ground, left white smoke trail and went between 2 FAC's and exploded in white flame. Negative damage.  
 0845 hours - TRAC: Heavy fire team bounced to Lai Khe to refuel then on to An Loc where contact is under way.  
 0847 hours - F/79: Skids up HFT for Lai Khe.  
 1450 hours - F/79 AFA: At XT 758888 at 1430 hours engaged in large bunker with unknown # of indiv. Bunker destroyed and unknown # of indiv KKH.  
 1530 hours - DCO-A: Bodies of 2 pilots recovered, taken to Lai Khe, transferred to graves registration people. 1 ARVN body also in area, ARVN personnel on operation. did not want to pick it up.  
 1800 hours - S-2: F/79 section at 1150 hours received heavy AA fire at XT 763887, while flying at 4000' and 110 knots, possible 23 or 37mm fire. Engaged with organics, firing ceased.

#### 10 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart for Lai Khe for mission briefing at 0800 hours. 2) HFT on stand by as of 0800 hours.

11 May 1972:

0040 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart at 0800 hours for Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) HFT be prepared to launch any time after 0800 hours.

0345 hours - TRAC: An Loc has been receiving three times the amount of incoming and has troop movement to the S and NE. Have HFT on station at An Loc at first light. Called F/79 ARV and instructed them to have HFT at An Loc HLT 0615 hours. Called F/9 Cav and instructed them to have a chase ship on standby at Lai Khe NLT 0600 hours. Called medevac and instructed them to have medevac at Lai Khe at 0630 hours.

0420 hours - TRAC: Tanks have been sighted at An Loc. Request HFT be on station at 0600 hours. Will have Lai Khe opened early.

0440 hours - TRAC: Situation at An Loc is getting worse. Request HFT be on station at 0540 hours. Chase ship will be at Lai Khe at 0540 hours. Roarm and refuel will be open at Lai Khe. MAX will be on 61.05 FM, contact freedom monitor at Lai Khe on 56.55 FM, contact squirrel. Also put 3 gunships on standby.

0530 hours - TRAC: At 0440 hours. Intercepted enemy radio message stating that this was the last big attack to take An Loc.

0625 hours - TRAC: At the present time tanks are inside the An Loc perimeter. Launch second HFT. Skids up at present time.

0640 hours - TRAC: There are 200 heat rockets at Lai Khe.

0720 hours - RASH FAC: At XT 740882 sometime this morning an unidentified rocket was fired at FAC's.

0805 hours - RASH FAC: A-37 shot down 2, 1/2 north of An Loc. F/9 Cav heavy team covering downed at this time.

0920 hours - F/79 ARV: Three tanks at XT 715892, 5 tanks inside An Loc. A-37 shot down in item 16 was shot down by 23mm.

1025 hours - F/79 ARV: Report total of 11 tanks destroyed by ground troops, FAC Air, and F/79 Arty. F/79 claims 4 tanks destroyed.

1040 hours - CG: Anti-aircraft positions XT 610902 - 37mm, XT 768918 - 23mm, XT 778890 - 23mm, XT 724893 - 23mm, XT 730843 - 37mm, XT 754865 - 37mm. XT 7585 right 1 up 1 numerous 51 cal positions. XT 7580 right 2 up 2 numerous anti-aircraft sites.

1040 hours - CG: At XT 746894 A-37's attacking 2 tanks and troops in open.

1215 hours - CG: AH-1G shot down north of An Loc, at 1215 hours at XT 755872. F/79 bird.

1335 hours - S-3: Cobra shot down in item 26 is near friendly troops who will try to get to wreckage.

1425 hours - RASH: At 0937 one FAC in C2 bird dog reported down. At 1120 another FAC reported missing.

1740 hours - TRAC: An Loc update total 13 tanks destroyed today. Only one penetration by two tanks and NVA platoon. Heavy buildup to the north and west of city. No ground probes in 30 to 60 minutes.

1745 hours - TRAC: U.S. casualty at XT 766622. Need gunships to cover Long Binh dustoff. We have turned our guns around to support.

1920 hours - S-2: 1915 hours, XT 865463, F/79 MAX bird received unknown number of rounds G.I. at 2000 ft and 100 knots.

2300 hours - DCO-16: Send TOW missile section with MAX to An Loc.

...skids up at this time.

...MAI bird crash at XT 755872 on 11 May.

...saw one of the pilots dragging the other.

...for Today: (1) Heavy Fire team on station at  
...depart at 0800 for mission briefing at Lai

...on An Loc: Since 1900 last night, there has  
...Tanks and infantry moving on south, east, and  
...direct fire from the east from tanks and 105's. TAC Air  
...and have relieved the pressure a little for

...are available from the Cav Troops for the pos-

...on An Loc, enemy controls the northern half of the  
...in the SW. Three to four tanks are reported in the  
...is light with no 23mm or 37mm reported. Possible  
...ground to air missile fired this morning.

1035 hours - ACC: F/9 Cav AH-1G received GAF from three individuals. 1  
...fuselage, damaging avionics and wounding pilot in  
...engaged with negative results. Pilot medevac from Lai

1055 hours - F/79 ARTY: Ground troops at An Loc confirm 4 tanks destroyed  
by F/79 Arty at XT 755874 at 111000 May 1972.

1140 hours - BASH FAC: VNAF A-1 shot down SW of An Loc. Pilot bailed out.  
F/9 Cav will try to support. Possible ground to air missile. Pilot is at  
XT 750870.

1705 hours - F/9 CAV: At XT 750876 at 1505 hours AH-1G F/9 Cav received un-  
known amount of 51 cal GAF and one B-40 round negative hits or damage, nega-  
tive response due to weather.

1705 hours - ACC: F/9 Cav AH-1G at XT 686872 engaged 2 individuals walking  
on trail. 1 KBH at 0925 hours. At 0930 hours at XT 700875 engaged two 2 1/2  
ton trucks on road. 1 dest, 1 damaged. Received GAF from 3 individuals.  
Pilot of AH-1G wounded.

14 May 1972:

0200 hours - TRAC: An Loc SITREP:

0130 hours - Receiving direct fire from E. Troops on W in contact. Incom-  
ing was increasing. 0140 - Tanks reported near western perimeter. 0145 -  
Tanks and troops approaching from W and SW. RR fire from E. Contact all  
around perimeter.

0300 hours - 6-3 OPNS: Notify 229 to place all available aircraft on a 30  
minutes standby as of 0600 hours. Same for F/9 and D/229.

0300 hours - TRAC: Heavy pressure on W. Incoming increased from moderate  
to heavy. TAC Air presently being employed.

0600 hours - TRAC: Troops in contact on W, SW, and NE, exchanging SA fire, intensity of incoming has decreased.

0700 hours - HFT skills up at this time. Asked TRAC to let us know if they reported chase ship had departed at 0530 hours for Lai Khe.

0800 hours - TRAC: Troops at An Loc at in light contact, have moderate incoming. TAC Air is presently being employed. Weather is currently 5000', visibility 7 miles and some ground haze. HFT not needed at this time. Returning to Lai Khe.

0618 hours - S-2: III OH-6A from F/9 and D/229 are on standby.

1200 hours - D/229: 1330 hours, XT 708872, An OH-6A took 30 fds AX-47 fire from 3 different locations. Flying at tree top level at 100 knots. Results: negative hits or casualties, of damage. Eng'd w/org's unknown results. ARVN reported. ARVN had unknown results.

1600 hours - TAC: Approx 1500 hours 2 kilometers S of An Loc, sundog 7, An A-2 F4C was shot down by a SA-7. Pilot was recovered by ARVN and taken to An Loc (ARVN AIRBORNE).

1725 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 15 May: (1) Cav Trp Co to arrive air ops center at 0645 hours, Cav Trp arrive at 0700 hours. (2) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600 hours.

15 May 1972:

0001 hours - TRAC: An Loc is relatively quiet at this time. Some contacts around the perimeter. No tanks have been sighted.

0200 hours - TRAC: SPECIRE has spotted a convoy of 18 vehicles to the west of An Loc and is currently working out on them. The city has been taking sporadic incoming. Situation is pretty stable at this time. TAC Air is being employed. Weather is good at this time.

0820 hours - F/79 AFA: At XT 746885 SPND a surface to air missile being fired, at F4. TAC Air employed.

0900 hours - 7th AF: 37mm high threat area 2.5 KM radius of XT 750875.

0900 hours - ACC: D/229 Cav bouncing at this time to support 21st ARVN Convoy which has begun.

0955 hours - F/79 AFA: Report SAM at XT 769881 being fired at 0130 left tremendous white cloud and hvy smoke trail.

1005 hours - ACC: Report following SAM launching sites.

<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
0800	XT 750855
0845	XT 746885
0945	XT 769881
0845	XT 746695

Report from F/79 AFA and AF. TAC Air is presently being employed, on firing sites. F/79 is being pulled away by DCOA. F/79 away from An Loc due to SAM situation.

1700 hours - DCO-A: XT 773700 ALE while putting in air was shot down. American pilot bailed out, landed between enemy and friendly lines. Low bird from D/229 tried to pick him up, rec'd hvy CAF at XT 772701 went from another direction and picked up the pilot. Pilot is OK. Request combat response from TRAC for grid of CAF.

2015 hours - TRAC: Report on An Loc, convoy at 75 grid, 1.9 km E of L 13. An Loc quiet.

2200 hours - TRAC: Mission for 16 May: (1) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600 hours. (2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe at 0700 hours.



16 May 1972:

0200 hours - TRAC: An Loc continues to be quiet. Negative contact. City is still receiving light ER and mortar fire. 6 KS W of Trang Bang an OP is still active. An AC-119 is supporting. Also at An Loc spectra destroy 2.  
0400 hours - TRAC: An Loc is very quiet and does not need HFT at this time. An Loc is still receiving light sporadic incoming fire.  
0500 hours - HFT from F/79 skids up for Lai Khe.  
1700 hours - TRAC: Mission for 17 May is for 2 UH-1H, HROANS, 1 heavy fire team, and 1 medevac at Lai Khe at 0515 hours.

17 May 1972:

0310 hours - TRAC: An Loc is very quiet. There has been some troop movement and occasional exchange of fire and incoming.  
0500 hours - ARTY: Skids up at 0445 hours for HFT. Medevac skids up at 0450 hours.  
0505 hours - D/229: Skids up at this time.  
0515 hours - TRAC: An Loc is still very quiet, only sporadic incoming.  
0615 hours - TRAC: The aircraft for the snatch at An Loc are returning to Lai Khe due to the weather. The snatch will be postponed until the weather abates.  
0915 hours - TRAC: COL Fulwyler has relieved the 3rd Bde of the responsibility for a Cav Trp in the An Loc area.

20 May 1972:

0955 hours - F/79 AFA: Skids up to Lai Khe at 0955 for HFT.  
1025 hours - D/229 Cav: Bounced chase ship to support F/79 at Lai Khe. Blues bounced to Lai Khe at 1040.  
1300 hours - TRAC: Snatch OPN of pilot out of An Loc completed at this time. Pilot was shot down 3 days ago.  
2045 hours - TRAC: Have HFT on 5 minute standby as of 0615 hours.

21 May 1972:

1745 hours - TRAC: Update An Loc very quiet only sporadic incoming, no ground contacts task force 9 in contact rest of the day 3/15 has had sporadic contact. Convoy made no headway north today.  
1915 hours - TRAC G-3: Sent 1 Pink Team to Lai Khe at 0900 on 22 May to be briefed by LNO from ARVN 21st Div for VR mission. Will send 1 Cav Trp and heavy section of MAX. The Cav Trp will contact autocat alpine on FM. DOGA said to send HFT also.

0945 hours - TRAC: An F-6 update 3000 ft, 65 kt air and heading of 100  
°W from the S and SW. EIC Air Support, enemy aircraft contacted and  
to the SW. 15th Regt and 2/39, 3/39 have been in sporadic contact. Their  
man is to link up with a friendly Pfc of 15th Regt at the weapons processing  
plant via XT 7986.

1330 hours - F/79 .FA: F/79, received 1000 lbs of ordnance at 1330 hrs and at least 9 rds of 30mm AP. F/79 was observed by 101st AHC, 101st AHC. 101st Air expended. Unknown results at this time. 101st AHC.

1900 hours - HHO: Mission for 1st Div. 1st Div. representative HHO meets with HHO for briefing. 1 HHO arrive on mission at 1900 hours, 2000 hours for 13th Regt, 21st Div.

1255 hours - F/9 C-119: At 1200 hours saw 1000 ft. of an aircraft crashed at 221655 May 72. Found 10 5' x 10' trench 10 ft. deep and 3' x 3' 50 feet long trench all in vicinity of N-723012 to N-723013. At 1215 hours at N-723012 and N-723013 received the same information from the same source.

0900 hours - 1240 1-3: Called for flight mission of 11.10 until 2nd time at 0930. 1242 called, 1243 in air, 1244 over 11.10, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248 1-3 receiving customer over 11.10, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913,

1930 hours - 2nd Lt. Spivey on his 100 observation post in front had a strong contact mostly south. West. The 1st group moving out of the city in all directions with little resistance. They are moving in to the 1st group due to incoming in front of them. Some of the 1st group are being shot at this morning 20 Air trying to silence at this time we are late. We are still contact in vicinity of Hanoi 3.

1045 hours - F/9 left base at 1045 and was seen on the ground at 105035  
mobile firing site at RD 70070. 1055 hours - moving to site at this time.  
JAC reports rain and the aircraft crashed. It crashed for six minutes and  
then exploded. 2 L.S. 111.

1942-1943 - FLO and her mother, Betty, spent time and the day of 11-37's to  
 returned to Atlanta, GA - Dec. 11.

1205 hours - 15:00: 2-55 AMM in contact with 1st Lt. D/79 Army  
AM-10 (Sta. 11). They have not received signal yet.

2500 hours - 2/5 C-119, 117 345 in. from 1/4, C-119 destroyed. 1 C-119 in 2nd. 3 51 C-119. 117-10 engine in destroyed 2 51 C-119, 117 made to be in the field 30 cases out 100.



A body has been recovered by the ARVBS and is believed to be body of Mr. Mann F/79 AFA pilot shot.

0220 hours - Mission for Cav Troop: (1) FLB at Lai Khe at 0700 hours.

(2) Cav Troop at Lai Khe NLT 0800 hours.

0150 hours - F/79 AFA: Reports GAF at following locations during snatch mission: 1. 51 cal and small arms at 6265 37m. XT 7587 small arms. No 51 cal fired at these grids due to quality of Class V on hand. 2. 51 cal and small arms at 761779. ARC-Lights are being plotted in the area.

8 June 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: Requested heavy fire team and Medevac to Lai Khe by 0900. Skids up 0812 for American advisor with 15th ARVN Rgt at XT 755845.

1315 hours - TRAC: Medevac UH-1H from 215th Medical Company received an unknown amount of 51 cal GAF at XT 761779. UH-1H went down at XT 773798 crew and passengers were evacuated aircraft burned in place. Crew taken to Lai Khe, combat and response 4 sorties of TAC Air.

10 June 1972:

2120 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 11 June is to BDA ARCLIGHT at IS 596927 same as today upon completion of that report to Long An Province for VR mission, report to Tan An, (MIDUSA SERPENT 59.59, P.1).

11 June 1972:

0840 hours - F/9 CAV: 0805 F/9 Cav Cobra went down for mechanical problems at Phouc Vinh. F/9 Browns inserted to secure the bird. A/1/7 QRF LCH went down at 0815 for same reason.

0945 hours - 1/7: BOD blow at Grunt II at 1200 hours WIA GND at 3000'.

1622 hours - TRAC G-3: Send section of 11th to cover extraction of helicopter down for mechanical reasons near Cu Chi. Contact Bean 6 on 58.00 in air over Cu Chi.

13 June 1972:

0805 hours - S-3: 1st lift is enroute to XT 758665 with elements of 31st Regiment, everything going well.

0905 hours - DCC-A: Two lifts into LZ at this time. On 2nd lift took incoming and small arms ground to air fire. UH-1H from A/229 shot down in LZ at XT 758665. LZ moved 600 meters. Crew extracted, other birds have been hit by GAF. 1 U.S. WIA.



0905 hours - CG: 18th AFW Division will have to be ready by 1000 hours.  
0940 hours - S-3: Four lifts in to an area, 1200 hours. All lift  
ships taking small arms GAF coming out of the area. A F-4 was shot at  
by an SA-7 missile near our LZ while bombing anti-aircraft positions in that  
area.

0955 hours - CG: Area where UH-1H from A/229 was down is too hot to ex-  
tract F/9 Browns will be extracted from and reinforced when area cools down.

1325 hours - DCO-A: 250 FAN lift to insert. Ahead of schedule.

1455 hours - DCO-A: FAN remaining to go.

2130 hours - MAC-G-3: Making order, in addition to providing some assets  
for 14 June as were provided on 13 June. MAC-G-3 says he may have to pro-  
vide one section of A-1 to MACG for covering. Informed MAC  
that this would be impossible since MACG has to leave representative covering  
for our HQ. MACG said we may have to do it.

15 June 1972:

1440 hours - MACG: MACG-G-3 says that the area where the downed  
Dunker 77 can make it.

1515 hours - BINH LONG (1): Browns have been inserted at Yung GAF crash  
site 100 XT 854740. Bodies of crewman still in place right now.

1750 hours - F/9 GAV: Recovered 6 bodies from crash site of CH-47 near  
Chen Marsh for WAF.

1820 hours - MAC: F/9 had 7 CH-47's down for 16 killed persons at Tan  
Khe, 1 has been slung out at this time, and the other is in the process.

16 June 1972:

1855 hours - MAC-G-3: GAV MACG. MACG-G-3 will have to report to MAC  
Khe 0900 hours for mission for 21st Div. (7th) com. at 1000 hours  
62.55.

17 June 1972:

1220 hours - F/9 GAV: UH-1H was downed near (100 XT 854740). Crew was under  
its own power, at 1200 hours. Bodies extracted at 1200 hours. A/2/C re-  
leased from GAF at 1215 hours.

1640 hours - S-2: 1550 hours, 1550 - CH-47 was downed at 100 XT 854740  
approach XT 8265, while flying at 40 knots and 3000 ft. Crew firing 100  
could not be determined where for right to left, along him on aircraft.

1645 hours - S-2: XT 740000. 1100 hours, flying at 40 knots and 3000 ft. a  
UH-1H from D/229 received downed GAF, bag white, bag cable rope since exact  
firing area could not be determined.

1900 hours - MAC-G-3: Did the 1st GAF down at 100 XT 854740 on the Tan Khe  
area on 16 June? After coordination with MACG, 1200 hours, it was possible, MAC  
McNee the details. Informed MACG we would send details on 19 June.

bodies of AH-1G crew downed 0820 recovered, at ville,

1st Abn Bde will move to new PZ loc at XT 768750. PZ  
2nd lift troops.

1st Abn Bde's VNAF observed 2 AH-1G's being shot down, 1 A/C

1st Abn Bde's PZ moved to 790 LH grid line on hwy 13.

1300 hours 1 km S Thanh Kai, VNAF will extract AIS's  
airlift of troops to follow, Yellow flight bounced

1st Abn Bde's reports F/79 AH-1G located at XT 783762. A/C seemed in-  
crew outside A/C.

1st Abn Bde's: Airlift of Abn Bde off until tomorrow.

21 June 1972:

0200 hours - Skids up to Lai Khe.

A - Yellow

B - Red

C - Black

1210 hours - Rec'd plans from Lai Khe, to attempt extraction at 1300 hours  
to be preceded by VNAF TAC Air. If this extraction fails the Cav Troops  
will attempt an extraction after dark tonight.

1345 hours - 1st lift on PZ Abn Bde PZ col.

1352 hours - 2nd lift is out of PZ some CAF coming out.

1445 hours - 3rd lift out of PZ w/light CAF this was first VNAF flight.

1455 hours - 8 flights of U.S. ships and 1 VNAF out of An Loc at this time.

1523 hours - CG notified that a F/79 cobra down near road at 1510 hours.

Crew C.K. Securing force on way. A SA-7 missile shot down the cobra at  
XT 752773. Crew extracted, condition unknown.

1645 hours - 2 F/79 pilots C.K. 16 lifts completed. LST 10 lifts to go.

1834 hours - PZ at An Loc for 1st Abn Bde clear of troops.

1855 hours - Mission release at Lai Khe.

2030 hours - TRAC requirement for 21 June, (25) lift ships for support ARVN  
move from Lai Khe to An Loc.

22 June 1972:

0615 hours - Skids up, Black, Red, Yellow.

0825 hours - 1st lift off Lai Khe at 0816 delayed by late ARVN troops.

0840 hours - 1st lift into An Loc complete.

0900 hours - ARC lights in An Loc area. All A/C grounded at Lai Khe until  
strike completed.

1030 hours - TRAC: 31st ARVN Regt recovered bodies of 2 F/79 crewmen shot  
down 20 June.

1200 hours - D/229: Received 51 cal XT 808848.

1351 hours - UH-1H rec SAGAF at An Loc coming out of LZ. No damage to A/C.  
1 crewmember received superficial wounds.

1420 hours - UH-1H at 50' and 80' rec AH-47 CAF at XT 615827.

1505 hours - 13 lifts completed at this time.

2330 hours - TRAC: Mission 23 June: Insert 43rd Regt in An Loc extr regt  
from An Loc to Lai Khe.

as up for TRAC missions, F/79 - 0535, Black Flt - 0610 Yellow Flt - 0630.  
 0715 hours - TRAC extracted at 0715 hours at YT 042148.  
 0715 hours - 3 lift gaggles rec'd mission release and are enroute to Bien Hoa. F/79 will continue to support.  
 0715 hours - TRAC that we are sending 1 Cav Trp and 2 hvy MAJ Bde to Lai Khe at 0715 hours. Request briefing at 0715 hours. Informed that we need to know as soon as possible when the Airborne Bde is in PZ. Also tonight we need to know ASAP so that we can send a 10 ship force at first light, with five ships to follow. If it is tomorrow we will send 15 ship gaggles as soon as we are notified. Also requested they have us off at Lai Khe at 0715 hours. Requested that Danger 79 be informed of all of the above details and that MAJ Nadal at Lai Khe and MAJ Bentson also be informed. Will need initials when 79 is informed.  
 0830 hours - DELAYED ENTRY: 130930 H June XT 7/9795, Browns from F/9 were inserted to secure a down UH-1H. Lightbird covering them rec'd hvy GAF, Browns rec'd 2 B40 rds and 30 cal fire. Browns defended from shell center. Were not able to be extracted. While the slicks were coming in to extract them 15 - 20 EN tried to rush the ships. Browns engaged with automatics w/nap fire. Plt ldrs estimate 7 - 8 EN KIA and 4 - 5 EN WIA. EN w/ wearing khakis and had AK-47 rifles.  
 2140 hours - TRAC G-3: MACV has to ask TRAC for an impact statement on what would happen if TRAC lost the following assets: 5x AH-1G; 4x OH-47A, and F/79 AFA. Danger 79 and defiant 5 have objected but it still may happen. Also MSG (Ref Item 27) has been proposed to MAJ Bentson. He said he would inform Danger 79. TRAC forward has notified and will relay message to MAJ Nadal. MAJ Bentson said he would concur with all aspects of the message (JDW).  
 0640 hours - Aircraft off for Lai Khe, skids up, F/79 0535; Black - 0600; Red - 0612; Yellow - 0630; F/9 - 0610.  
 0520 hours - TRAC: Extract 1st Abn Bde, Bde meeting resistance. All night 18 June, May not make PZ until 1000 hours, 19 June.  
 0955 hours - TRAC revised PZ time for Abn Bde to 1200 hours because 5th ARVN ASN BN is in contact VIC XT 764797. Being supported by MMX. Est enemy to be 2 companies of 141st and 165th NVA Regiments.  
 1500 hours - LAI KHE: 3 lift gaggles received mission release and are enroute to Bien Hoa, F/9 and F/79 continue support.  
 1600 hours - TRAC sends same mission for 20 June 1972.

20 June 1972:

0610 hours - Skids up for Lai Khe. F/9 and F/79 lifts on standby at Bien Hoa.  
 0820 hours - AH-1G, F/9 shot down at XT 769770. 0812, SA-7, no survivors.  
 0825 hours - AH-1G, F/79, received unknown hits 51 cal, returning to Lai Khe with escort cobra, escort cobra reported missing.  
 0915 hours - TRAC, U.S. FAC sighted wreckage of AH-1G, downed 0820 hours, vic 752797.

for Lai Khe Black, Red, Yellow, F/9 and D Trp.  
An Loc complete SAGAF received in vic of LZ.  
An Loc received ABF from 105 HGW. TAC Air in

mission complete.

An Loc LZ still received sporadic SA and 51 cal  
from 105 HGW.

11 complete at An Loc still receiving ABF in vic LZ.

13 complete at An Loc 200 PI remain at Lai Khe.

Mission complete at Lai Khe.

1945 hours - TAC Mission for tomorrow; Extract LTC Butler's body Thanh  
Kai. Extract 215 PI from An Loc.

20 June 1972:

Black - 0715

Red - 0720

Yellow - 0725

D Trp - F/9 - 0645

0945 hours - 3rd lift in and out An Loc. 0937 received 1x 105 mm round in-  
coming A/C down 5000 ft. north Lai Khe maint. Problems. Enroute Bien Hoa (Slung  
out).

1020 hours - 4th lift in 1000 hrs received SAGAF XT 835789.

1055 hours - D/229 AH-1G down at 1042 hours at XT 824795 by 7 51 cal rds.  
Crew extracted 1048 hours. Brown in to secure and extract A/C.

1200 hours - Downed D/229 AH-1G extracted 1135 hours last lift in progress.

1210 hours - An Loc mission complete. Lift ships returning Bien Hoa. Cav  
Troops will spt extraction LTC Butler's body.

1315 hours - CH-47 took 1 RD SAGAF while extracting D/229 AH-1G downed.  
(1042 hours).

1320 hours - ALL A/C at Lai Khe secured mission release and are enroute  
Bien Hoa.

20 June 1972:

0610 hours - AAE: F/79 skids up for Lai Khe at 0551. Skids up at 0600.

0820 hours - AAE reported that an AH-1G of F/9 exploded in the air and  
crashed at XT 769770 at approx 0815 hours. Suspected SA-7 missile shot it  
down. No survivors.

0825 hours - 1 AFA rec'd unk no of hits from unk type CAF and was returning  
to Lai Khe when another AFA AH-1G trailing the bird disappeared and is mis-  
sing at this time.

0915 hours - TRAC: US FAC reported sighting wreckage of an AH-1G at XT 752797.

1020 hours - TRAC: 2 bodies (See Item #5) have been recovered and are loc in  
the ville at XT 7677. Req TRAC to determine status of maps, SCI, & condition  
of A/C.



1355 hours - IRAC: Reports that HMF observed two comms going down at this morning. 1 A/C still missing.  
 1300 hours - IRAC: P2 time is 1330 hours approx 1 km S of HMF. IRAC will ext KIA's and MIA's at 1330 hours, airlift of troops 19. Yellow bounded to Lai Khe.  
 1330 hours - IRAC reports that F/79 AH-1G has been lost at KI 743752. A/C intact, however crewmen killed by SA fire outside area.  
 1545 hours - IRAC: Cav Troop mission tomorrow is to KIA and light strikes on targets T21. Request that CS & HMF be available at 1545 hrs.  
 1625 hours - Not Sig Bde of possible SA/comm. contact of downed A/C.  
 1630 hours - IRAC wanted a list of personnel from F/79 C & HMF participating in the ext of bodies from VNAH Ch-1 on 19 June. B-1 HMF will accompany list to IRAC tomorrow.  
 1700 hours - IRAC: Reports that on morning of F/79 C & HMF saw SA in the area ext from HMF and will be taking order to SA from HMF tomorrow.

19 June 1972:

0645 hours - 1st airlift into An Loc complete. Supplies SA/AMF ready in vic of LB.  
 0740 hours - 4th lift into An Loc ready. From 105 HMF. Counter analysis will be conducted. HMF air engaged SA, 105 lost to HMF T21.  
 0755 hours - 5th flight complete to An Loc.  
 1140 hours - 10th lift complete to An Loc this time. HMF will provide sporadic SA 7.51 cal GPF, also occasional ATF 8mm. 105 HMF. At KI 743751, while engaging a GPF position.  
 1215 hours - 2 sound-by AH-1G's bounded to Lai Khe. (Survived 1 F1, in AC for comms only).  
 1230 hours - Tactical emergency request for air movement of F/79, AHF forwarded to IRAC 3-3 of AF 5213.  
 1245 hours - IRAC mission for tomorrow: (a) Transport HMF Bunker from Lai Khe (b) Extract 319 and crew. (c) ext from An Loc. All signs, IRAC; LB & F2 will be sent to IRAC.  
 1300 hours - IRAC will also provide guidance to concentrate on suspected enemy 105 firing loc, via An Loc.

21 June 1972:

0310 hours - IRAC: Schedule for mission at Lai Khe has been laid on for 0000 hours 21 June. JMW specter has not been available to eng susp 105 firing loc due to unworkable weather. When weather broke, utilized on TIC along LB-13. Next specter due to run at 0330 to work for citizen people. Will utilize on 105 susp firing pos.  
 0515 hours - Weather has prohibited specter from engaging 105 firing pos. IRAC plans IRAC A/C before scheduled operation begins.  
 0630 hours - IRAC: HMF Bunker's body will be ext prior to 0101 HMF BH.  
 0705 hours - Third flight in and out 0707, results 1x 105s rd incoming, A/C went down 5 km of LB HMF. Due to main problem at 0930 presently enroute to Bunker HMF (JMW).  
 1045 hours - 3/245 AH-1G down at 1042 hours at KI 742775 by 7.51 cal GPF. Crew ext 1042 hours. Brown being inserted w/extra cover for ext of downed AH-1G. Crew enroute to Lai Khe.

1200 hours - Down AC-119 ext 1135, last lift is in progress.  
 1210 hours - A.L. mission complete. Lift ships are returning to Bien Hoa.  
 Coy trps will supt ext of LTC Butler's body.  
 1225 hours - Req EOD team for cobra gunship problem w/401.  
 1315 hours - AAE: Rec'd report of CH-47 rec'd 1 rd SA/GAF while ext downed cobra (See Item 15)  
 1320 hours - All A/C at Lai Khe rec'd mission complete and are enroute to Bien Hoa.

25 June 1972:

1200 hours - HHC: LTC Ginger ready for pick-up at L.H. VIF Sud at 1400 today.  
 1315 hours - HHC: Rec'd report that 17/9 cobra went down 27 mi off 177 radial channel 77 due to vibrating engine. The cobra reportedly took off again and is headed for Da Nang.

26 June 1972:

0100 hours - HHC Mission: Ext 2 U.S. advisors & 3 VN seriously wounded. PZ will be tightly controlled.  
 0245 hours - Skids up for Lai Khe for HHC mission.  
 1040 hours - Downed CH-19 found at VT 075005.  
 1255 hours - HHC: FAC up & possibly in trouble. Standby to assist.  
 Update: FAC landed safely at TSN.

26 June 1972:

1152 hours - AAE: Entire F/9 Coy trp en way to Lai Khe at 1215 hours.  
 1200 hours - HHC: Asked for guns ASAP. AAE: Guns in rearm and refuel. Will bounce at 1215 hours.  
 1245 hours - F/9 Skids up for Lai Khe. 02X Pours, 02X Slicks, 02X OH-6A.  
 Mission: Special tr for GEN Hollingsworth, also possible escort mission for dustoff. Binh Long SA was wounded in action. PZ approx 06X kilometers south of An Loc.  
 2125 hours - Req that dustoff report to Lai Khe at 1100 hours tomorrow for briefing in supt of F/9 Coy.  
 2130 hours - HHC: Req that we fly an additional insertion mission into An Loc prior to the one scheduled at 1300 hours.

30 June 1972:

1645 hours - 03X guns bounced to Lai Khe to insert D.O. for rot AAE 33rd Regt Sq. Delayed due to weather.  
 1610 hours - F/9 Coy trp reports to Lai Khe at 1400 not AAE, S-2/3 extraction mission at An Loc. Dustoff has been notified.  
 1825 hours - Escort mission has been postponed till tomorrow. 02X AH-1G & 02X CH-19 chase ship bounced at 0700 hours. EN 0730 hours for briefing at Lai Khe. Dustoff has been notified.

1 July 1972:

1140 hours - TRAC: Lift off at Lai Khe at 1400 hours.  
1145 hours - TRAC: Hold F/9 until notification by TRAC.  
1310 hours - F/9 rec'd mission release & are enroute to Bien Hoa. Medevac mission was successfully completed also.  
2005 hours - 1920 hours req that TRAC notify dustoff to be at Cu Chi at 0730 hours tomorrow on strip alert in spt of D/229. Confirmed by TRAC.

2 July 1972:

1700 hours - F/9 cobra reptd OLA hit from GAF in its plexiglass while escorting CH-47's to Song Be.  
1800 hours - Update of item #19 F/9 Cobra was flying 1000' at 130 kts at 153075. Rec'd OLA hits while on gun run. The other cobra also rec'd OLA hits in rotor blades. Neg. Cas.

3 July 1972:

1045 hours - UH-1H from 120th Avn Co downed by GAF 14x W of refuel point at Le Buttons. Gun crew bounced. Crew has been ext to Phuoc Binh. UH-1H burning and CBL.  
1730 hours - Rec'd TRAC Mission for 4 July 1972. VR box 5 w/100 and return point at Tay Ninh - Pick up 04 indivs at Cu Chi enroute. Warning for 5 July 1972: Be prepared to move approx 1000 troops from An Loc to Lai Khe & move approx 1000 troops from Lai Khe to An Loc. Expect VNAF to provide 05X UH-1H w/IFGC to provide 10. (If possible VNAF will provide 10 UH-1H & IFGC 5).  
1745 hours - F/9 Eng'd preplanned TGT at MAX strikes 1 & 2 but unable to BDA due to bad weather.

4 July 1972:

1405 hours - TRAC tasked IFGC for 10 UH-1H's for Lai Khe - An Loc mission on 5 July.  
1425 hours - CG directed CG & S-3 of 229th AHB to go to Lai Khe ASAP for mission briefing. Also, requested early release for D/229 in Cambodia & confirm no cross border missions for tomorrow.  
1640 hours - D/229 has returned to Bien Hoa at 1542 hours.

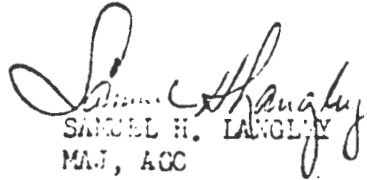
5 July 1972:

0835 hours - 1st element of final approach at this time. CG enroute to An Loc.  
0935 hours - S-3: U.S. flights of 2 ships each complete & 2 VNAF flights of 2 ships each complete.  
1200 hours - TRAC reports 90 sorties complete at 9 FAX PER A/C-810 total.  
1215 hours - TRAC: Rec'd reports of A/C taking GAF S of Quan Lai, Neg hits, Cobras and LAC Air eng suspected gun locs. Lift ship rept rec'd SA/GAF while coming in and leaving 12/PZ.

7 July 1972:

1510 hours - TRAC: 1 Cav Trp is tasked to VR Song Be corridor & Phu Giso (P) in Binh Duong (P) from 8 July thru 15 July. Dep S-2 & OB prepared to brief Cav Trp at 071930 July. Order confirmed 1715 hours.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



*LIFE April 21 1973*

# 'Can you hold out for just eight more minutes?'

**W**hen North Vietnamese troops drove across the Cambodian border toward Saigon, seven American advisers were trapped with a small force of South Vietnamese troops in the district compound at Loc Ninh. The compound was surrounded, and for two days the Communists pounded it with rockets, mortars, bazookas and rifle fire. The besieged Americans, along with their ARVN troops, huddled in three bunkers underground. As dusk fell, Maj. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth, boss of the Third Region Assistance Command, hovered over the battle for three hours in his command helicopter, deploying American planes and gunships in a delaying action while trying to arrange an air rescue. In Hollingsworth's chopper, this is what it sounded like:

HOLLINGSWORTH (to trapped advisers on ground): "This is Two-Fiver. Oh baby, I'm coming pretty good. I'm still fighting and checking. I've been promised it [rescue helicopter] in ten minutes away. Don't go anywhere. I know where you are."

Two minutes later, he was again asked about the rescue helicopter.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Just going as fast as I can. Can you hold out about eight more minutes? I'm workin' as fast as I can, Eight-Three. Keep down, keep yourself together. You've been great. Talk to the FAC [Forward Air Controller] and just hold with it, baby."

Eight-Three was not reassured. He said that if he got out, it would be pure luck.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Ah, bull, don't you worry about that, baby. Well, it's not *pure* luck, baby. Hold in there."

Flights of aircraft were approaching Loc Ninh from several bases in the area.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Everything's airborne, everything is up now. It's just a matter of a few minutes. . . . Ah, damn, you're a little strong great guy, Eight-Three. Just stand by now and listen and keep that [radio] net of yours open and talk to the FACs."

A small U.S. chopper circled into the compound to test the gunfire before the transport helicopters tried to land. The pilot ran into intense ground fire and had to scoot out immediately. In the din of battle, the men trapped inside their bunkers did not see the helicopter, and they asked about it.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "He got shot up with 50-cal [heavy machine-gun fire], and now we're putting more ordnance on the goddamned stuff to try to get in there to you."

With his helicopter dancing out of range of ground fire, Hollingsworth kept up his efforts.

HOLLINGSWORTH (to FAC): "Get that stuff working in there! (To advisers): I'm gonna pick up every one of you I can. I want to get you all back. I'm gonna take all of you out that I can."

An inaudible reply came from the men trapped below.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Well, I'm gonna try it."

Some of the ARVN troops caught at Loc Ninh decided to abandon their position and make a run for it into the woods. Two of the American advisers decided to do the same.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "This is Big Cloud Two-Five. Stick with them little people and keep up on that radio." But there was no more radio contact with the two advisers.

Still below were five other trapped men. Hollingsworth spoke to one of them: "Ah, Chico-Whiskey, this is Two-Fiver. I'm going to stay with you and I'm gonna do every goddamned thing I can to get you out. God bless you."

Another member of the advisory team in a different bunker came on the radio, also asking to be taken out.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Roger, Oscar Four Chico, right. I'll do it, and don't give up, don't give up. We tried to get a low bird to you in there first and it was shot all to hell, and we've gone back and put more ordnance in there and we're still gonna work with you. We'll be here all night long; if it's possible to get you out of there, we're gon-

na do it. Don't give up hope. Just pray as I've been doing for you the last three days and just hang in there and God bless you. I'm gonna do everything in my power to get you out." [To other aircraft]: "Let's keep layin' that stuff in there. And I hope you monitored my conversation with Chico. This means we've got to stay with it."

Night had fallen, and the Communists were about to overrun the compound. Deciding the situation was hopeless, two of the remaining Americans also decided to make a run for it. They radioed their intentions to Hollingsworth, flying in the dark above.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Roger, Chico. I'm trying my goddamnedest, and everybody else, the Air Force, MACV and everybody else is behind this trying to get you out. We care about you and we're still trying, so go ahead into hiding there and take that radio and keep it up as long as it works and

whether I can still talk to you or not, I'm still going to try to get in there and get you out."

Hollingsworth could see the Communist troops storm the remaining defenses. He reported to the other planes what Chico was going to do and ordered continued saturation fire into the area.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "He is gonna hide in [location] and he's gonna want you to keep the enemy's heads down all night. I will make another attempt tomorrow to get in touch with them and to recover them." Then he switched call signals. "Light-Three, it's Two-Fiver, over. Eight-Three, Two-Fiver, over." Pause. "Chico, Two-Fiver, over. Chico, Two-Fiver, over." There was a long pause, and in a lower, discouraged voice Hollingsworth said: "No contact with Chico or Eight-Three as of this hour. Two-Fiver, out." "

HAROLD ELLITHORPE

**Scripts-Howard Staff Writer**

"All this time the NVA were firing from the trees. One ARVN, holding onto Ripley's skids, was shot in the back and fell off. Then another one was knocked off.

"I was trying to pick it up but my ship wouldn't move. A Loach with the engine armor we carry is built to carry two people, just two. It'll carry more, but not this many more.

"There were 11 people piled on and hanging all over. The American sergeant in back with the bloody bandage around his head weighed 240 pounds by himself.

"I was mad and helpless. All my instruments had gone wacky. We were kicking up clouds of red dust. It flashed in my mind that this time I had strung it out too far. I figured this was it. But I started kicking the Loach's pedals, trying to get in the air just for a moment.

"Suddenly it started to move, just a little bit. I kept kicking. The ship was shimmying and shaking all over, like we were going to pop rivets. But it started to bounce up and down. Then I got it to spinning around. All directional control was lost. The Vietnamese were all hanging off the right side and the ship was leading sideways.

"We were spinning around and around in the dust like something crazy and then went bouncing off down the road. I heard the NVA firing as we bounced 16, 12, 13 times going 60 yards down the road and all the time the ARVN were still hanging onto the skids, and onto the legs of the Americans.

I could see the trees ahead and knew I wasn't going to make it so I started doing these circles about five feet off the ground. I don't know how many people dropped off, but Ripley — he was circling above me — told me there were only nine on now — only nine — and somehow we started to lift.

"About 20 feet in front of us an NVA in a

(Continued on Page 10)

**I figured this was it.'**

The Vietnamese twisted off Sgt. Waite's machine-gun belt and pulled him to the ground. He fought his way back to the Loach and then the Vietnamese climbed all over, screaming, crying, trying to get on.

"Ripley, right behind me, touched down on the road for a second, saw what was happening, and took off again, but not before five ARVN jumped on his ship.

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## 'It was hang on or die'

(Continued from Page 3)

dirty green uniform ran out and fired point blank at us with his AK 47. Others ran out all along the treeline and began firing.

"I knew I was taking hits. I could hear the metal just tearing way, like popcorn popping. When they're right underneath it's a sickening feeling when they open up on you. We took a round in the fuel tank and began spewing gas. We took two 51 caliber machine gun hits in the rotor blades, but we were still flying. The little buggy wouldn't quit.

### BLOOD SATURATES SHIP

"Another round came right up thru the pedals past me, thru the American sergeant's hand in back and blood blew all over the windshield. By now the ship was saturated with it.

"I was having a terrible time controlling the aircraft. We staggered just up over the tree-tops about a 100 feet, still leaning side. Then this one ARVN crawled up from the right skid and tried to crawl in with me. But there was no way to get in. Got one arm wrapped around me, then the other, interlocked with my arm. Everytime he heard shooting he tried to crawl in further. He was about to make me wreck the ship, which was wobbly and shaking. I couldn't get any more altitude, the engine seemed about to quit, and this guy had me in a death grip. We were already leaning so far to the right that if he pulled my steering arm one more inch we were going into trees.

"I kept yelling in my radio to my commanding officer (flying in another chopper overhead) that if I could get to this little bastard on my right I would beat the hell out of him. I said if we ever landed I was going to get out and just beat the living hell out of him.

### 'HANG ON OR DIE'

"But I've got to hand it to all of them. I dragged them 18 miles thru the trees, all wounded and bleeding, and they had the guts to hang on. It was hang on or die.

"And then, finally when we made it back

this poor little guy, got off. He was the smallest of them all. The others just fell off the chopper and collapsed. But I looked at him and he was like some half-dead little animal — red-eyed, filthy dirty, blood soaked all over his front, and just sort of standing there weaving and looking at me. Then he clasped his hands together, bowed his head, and collapsed."

Back at his Bien Hoa base, Capt. Whitehead was asked what would happen if he had to do it all over again. He said:

"I don't know if I could do it again. Yeah, I would do it again, but I don't know if I'd make it this time. The more I think about it the more ridiculous it seems."

Dream or not, Capt. Whitehead has been awarded the Silver Star for bravery and recommended for the Medal of Honor.



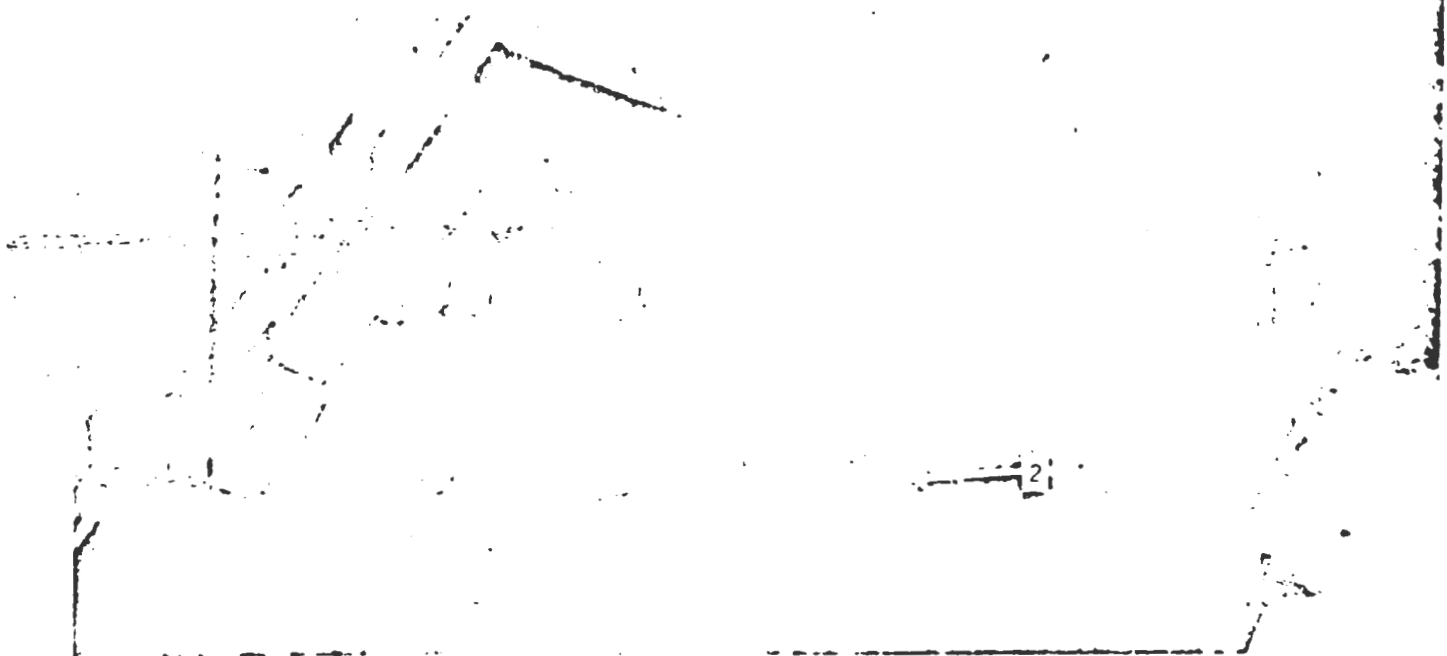


AVIATION WEEK - 22 MAY 1972

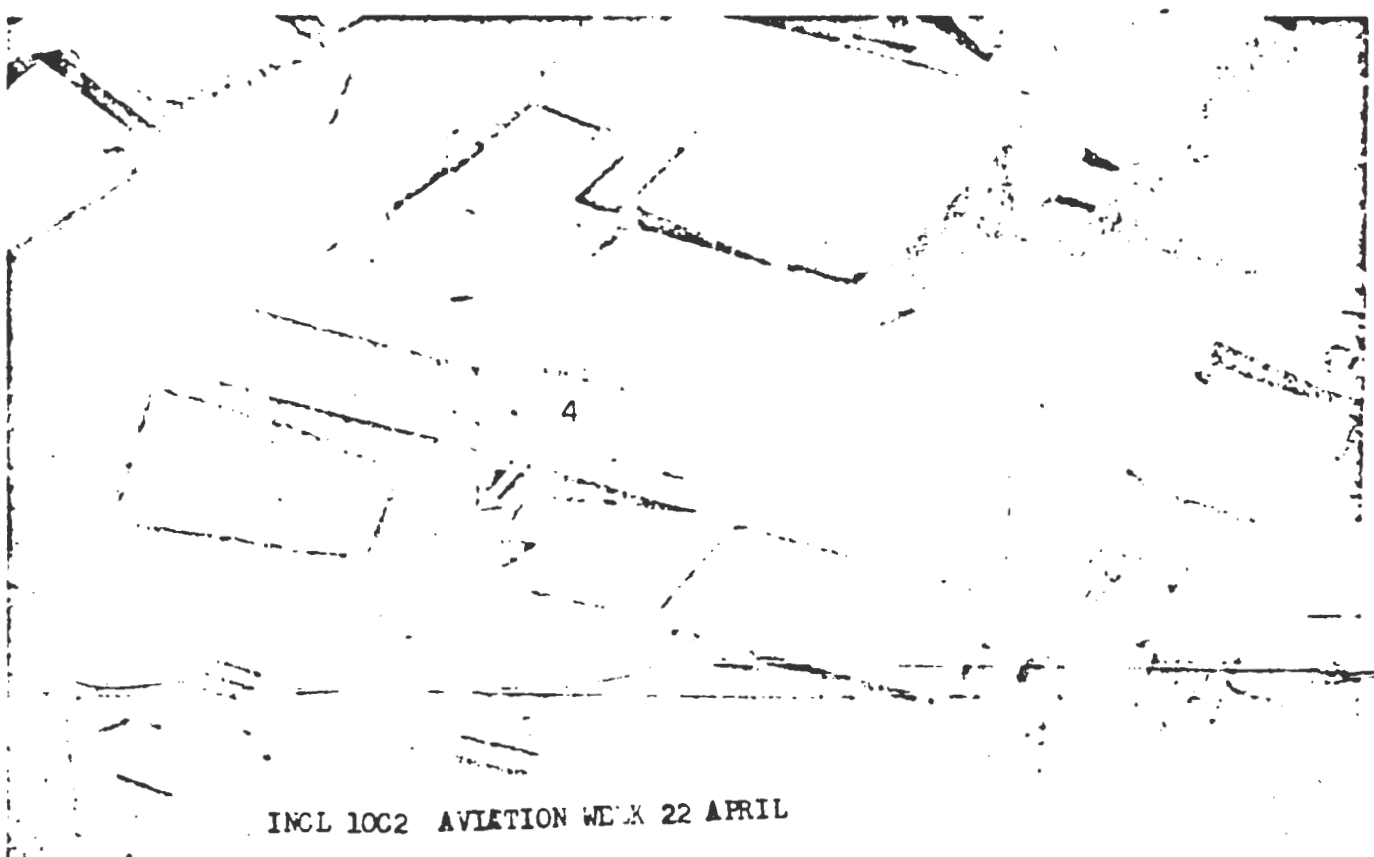
## Army Cobras Blast Tanks Near An Loc

Army/Bell AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunships firing 2.75-in. HEAT rockets destroyed a number of Soviet-built T-54/55 tanks operated by the North Vietnamese army during street fighting in An Loc Apr 13-15. Two tanks above were hit during fighting on Apr. 15 by a Cobra from Battery F, 79th Aerial Field Artillery, a unit of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Div. Tank in foreground has been knocked out. Note burning tank in rear. At left is a closeup of the destroyed tank, showing what appears to have been camouflage material attached to it. During the period from Apr 1 through May 11, which included the fighting around An Loc, the unit claimed 10 Soviet-built tanks destroyed and another six damaged. The destroyed tanks included four PT-76 amphibious vehicles. All the rest were T-54s. The unit also claimed 19 trucks destroyed and three damaged, along with two anti-aircraft guns and a number of mortars, rocket launchers and light artillery.

INCL 10C1 AVIATION WEEK 22 APRIL



T-54/55 burns in the streets of An Loc, (above) blocking the path of a second tank, which also was destroyed. Below, another T-54/55 was destroyed after its crew apparently attempted to conceal it by driving it into a building. Army has moved to increase its anti-tank capability by bringing additional Cobras, equipped with Hughes TOW anti-tank missiles, into South Vietnam (AWAST May 15, p. 18).



# Has Critical Role

BY DONALD KIRK  
(Far Eastern Correspondent)

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

**LONG THANH, South Viet Nam, April 21**—The men of the Blue Max don't ask esoteric questions such as why they are in Viet Nam or what the United States still hopes to accomplish in the war.

"The attitude of our people is completely professional," said Maj. Larry McKay, 35, of Charleston, S. C. His helicopter unit derives its name from the term for the old German Iron Cross.

"They don't even ask, because we don't even know ourselves," he said. "We just have enough faith in our country."

## Fills Specialized Role

The professionalism of the Blue Max qualifies it as one of the Army's few elite units remaining in Viet Nam and also explains its specialized role in battling the Communist offensive 60 miles north of Saigon.

"We have encountered the heaviest ground-to-air fire ever found in the Viet Nam war within South Viet Nam," McKay said. "We even believe the intensity of the fire may exceed that in Southern Laos during the incursion last year."

American officers credit the long, thin Cobra helicopters flown by the Blue Max with frustrating repeated Communist assaults on the provincial capital of An Loc.

## Destroyed 6 Tanks

The Blue Max has poured machine gun fire and rockets into enemy concentrations surrounding An Loc and has de-

stroyed at least six Soviet-built tanks.

"We feel, at least, we're buying time for the South Vietnamese," McKay said. "Once they blow the gap beyond An Loc, they have open road."

McKay noted proudly that a dozen Cobras from his unit have flown every day, often after receiving hits from enemy machine guns.

"Our pilots have been flying 11 to 12 hours a day in peak periods," he said. "As small as they are, American assets have been very critical in the entire battle."

The critical role of American airpower—including jet bombers and fighters as well as helicopters—was particularly crucial yesterday and today in fending off assaults by hundreds of North Vietnamese troops with tanks.

Heavy antiaircraft fire protected the Communists, who fired more than 2,000 rocket and mortar rounds into the town. Indicative of the seriousness of the battle was the fact that American B-52s yesterday flew seven missions in the An Loc region.

"The first day of this offensive we weren't expecting nearly the intensity of the antiaircraft fire," said Capt. Bill Causey, 22, of Bladenboro, N. C.

Causey's Cobra was hit four straight days but has never crashed.

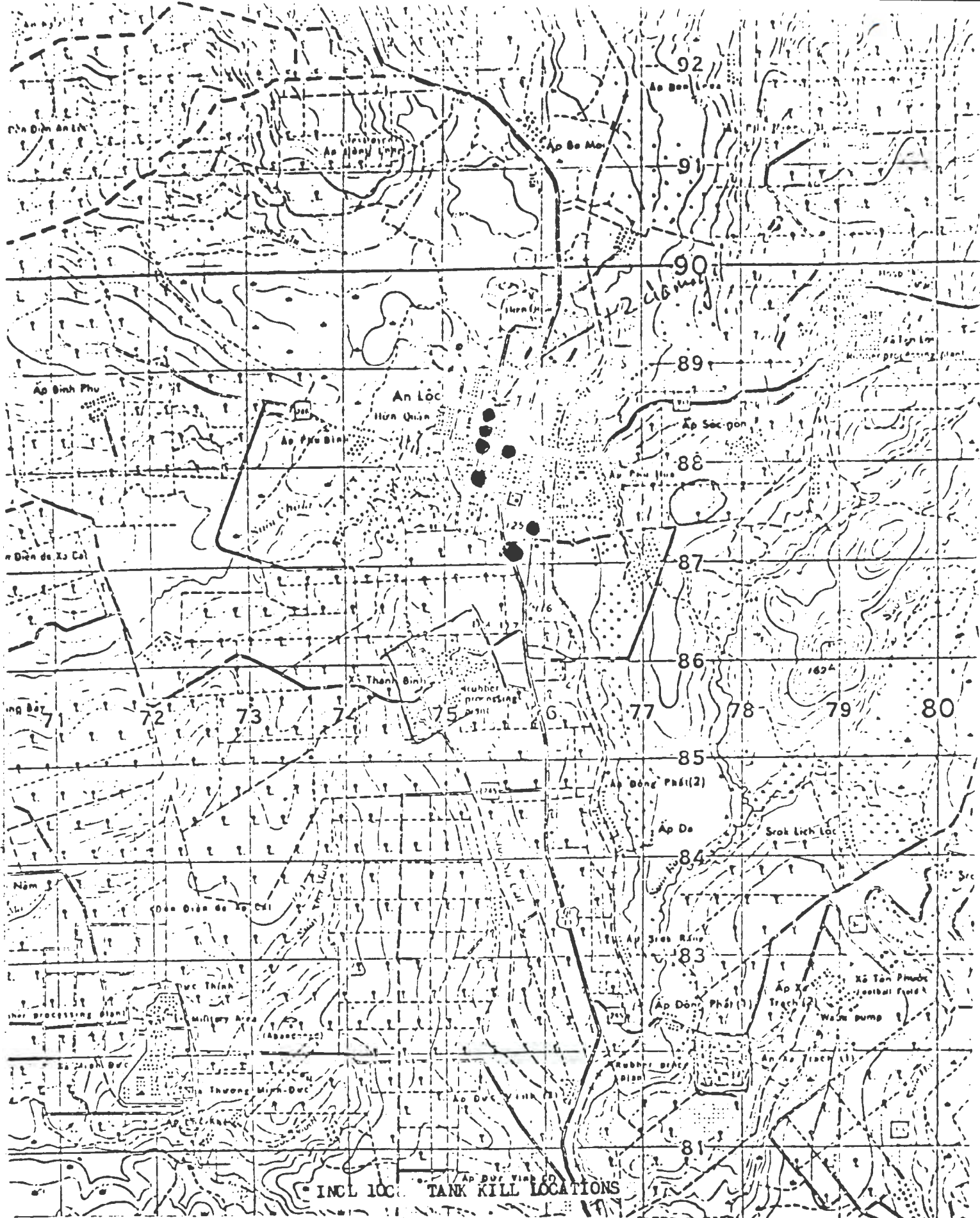
McKay rolled in on the Soviet-built tanks the first day they roared thru the streets of An Loc.

## Couldn't Bomb City

"The Air Force wasn't cleared to bomb in the city because they'd cause too much damage," McKay explained. "So we went in with antitank rockets on our birds. There were three of them [tanks] in downtown An Loc."

McKay scored a direct hit on one tank, then Causey rolled in on the next two. "One of the tanks spun out as if it were lost," Causey said. "I don't think the drivers knew what they were doing."

McKay said, "We proved that a Cobra, armed with the proper type of rockets, flying thru intense antiaircraft fire, can knock out a tank."







DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96490

AVDACC

16 April 1972

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

Commanding Officer  
229th Assault Helicopter Battalion  
3d Brigade (Separate)  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)  
APO San Francisco 96490

1. I wish to take this opportunity to commend your organization for the significant contribution it has made to the history of the US Army and Army aviation during the period of 4 through 13 April 1972. The heroic actions of your aviators have contributed immeasurably to the overall success of the ARVN soldiers and US advisors defending An Loc. The successful evacuation of approximately 6,000 ARVN troops and refugees from Bu Dop, while under intense antiaircraft fire was both a tactical as well as a humanitarian victory. Heavy automatic weapons fire did not deter your troop-carrying helicopters from performing critical reinforcing missions at Nui Ba Den and An Loc. The fire support rendered by your attack helicopters from both cavalry troops and the aerial field artillery battery was pivotal in tipping the scales in favor of the defenders on numerous occasions.

2. The contributions of your outstanding maintenance organization during this period were key to mission success. While flying a total of 4,018 hours, which exceeded the USARV standard by 1,678 hours, your aviation maintenance personnel maintained an admirable 82.9 percent operational readiness rate. This remarkable aircraft availability rate insured that air assets were always available to support the tactical situation. The morale, esprit, and professional competence displayed by these hardworking personnel have been outstanding throughout this critical period.

INCL 1001 LETTER OF COMMENDATION

16 April 1972

AVDACG

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

3. Mission accomplishments such as these can only be performed by well-trained, highly motivated personnel. Again, let me commend you and each of your men for their magnificent display of courage, compassion, and professionalism. The FIRST TEAM will always exist as long as it has men of your caliber.



JAMES F. HAMLET  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding



004

VIỆT - NAM CỘNG - HÒA  
BỘ QUỐC - PHÒNG  
BỘ TÔNG - THAM - MƯU QLVNCH  
KHÔNG QUÂN  
SƯ ĐOÀN 3

Brigadier General James F. Hamlet  
3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav Division  
APO San Francisco, California 96240

22 June 1972

General Hamlet, on behalf of the officers and men of the III Air Division, I wish to convey my deepest appreciation for your personal concern and assistance in extracting the deceased crewmen of our CH-47. Your kindness will always be remembered by the officers and men of this organization.

I particularly thank your aviators. Their bold and courageous action on 15 June 1972, indicates great personal motivation and pride in their profession. Because of their bravery, the bereaved families are now able to properly inter their loved ones.


My sincere thanks and appreciation for your efforts which made this operation a success. And convey to your courageous aviators my appreciation and thanks for a task well done.

HUYNH BA TINH, Colonel, VNAF  
Commander, 3rd Air Division

INCL 10D3 LETTER OF APPRECIATION

## WITNESS STATEMENT

LTC McConnell distinguished himself on 19-20-21 June 1972 while serving as Commander of the helicopter assets supporting the 1st Airborne Brigade, Airborne Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The 1st Abn Bde's mission was to move from An Loc, Binh Long Province, RVN along Highway 13 to the vicinity of Tan Canh XT 758762 for Air extraction. The 1st Abn Bde engaged in fierce, brutal, fighting with an enemy regiment in bunkers along QL 13 and the pickup zone. Due to the heavy fighting and intense ground-to-air fire directed towards the helicopters, the pickup zone had to be relocated on two different occasions even though no pickup was made on the 19th and 20th June, due to heavy ground attacks against the 1st Airborne Brigade, LTC McConnell utilized all the helicopter assets at his command to assist in turning back the enemy attacks. Throughout these two days LTC McConnell flew from early morning to late evening in his C-1, coordinating airstrikes, artillery fire, cobra strikes and air cavalry operations. During these two days LTC McConnell continuously dodged heavy small arms fire, 30 cal., 50 cal. fire and the new heat seeking SA-7 missile at low level flight to insure proper coordination of all assets. On the 20th of June the anti-aircraft fire was so intense that two helicopter gunships were shot down within minutes by SA-7's. Throughout this LTC McConnell continued to stay on station, flying low level to assist in the search for the down craft. Undeterred by the heavy fire LTC McConnell continued the search until both downed aircraft were located and ground troops could be guided to the aircraft. On 21 June LTC McConnell, again flying C-1, began the direction of the successful extraction the 1st Airborne Brigade. Again the pickup zone was ringed by large, determined enemy force. Determined to accomplish the mission LTC McConnell, braving the enemy continuous heavy ground to air fire, kept his helicopter over the pickup zone coordinating the continuous airstrikes, helicopter gunships artillery and air cavalry to suppress the enemy fire. Again two more gunships were shot down by the SA-7 missiles and as before LTC McConnell exposed his aircraft to the heavy fire to direct the successful air rescue of the downed crewmembers. Throughout the remainder of the day as the air extraction continued LTC McConnell repeatedly exposed his aircraft to insure the successful air extraction. LTC McConnell's efforts and bravery were heavily responsible for the great success of the air extraction and the heavy amount of casualties the enemy suffered. There were 96 enemy killed during the three day of fighting with 32 enemy killed by air support of all types and two POW's including an enemy company commander. LTC McConnell's repeated acts of bravery of the 19th, 20th June and especially the 21st of June, were an inspiration to all who served with him. His fellow aviators, inspired by this example of daring bravery, leadership and determination to accomplish the mission, again and again flew into the heavy enemy fire to successfully complete the extraction of the 1st Airborne Brigade.



CLARENCE E. DONALDSON

Dep Sr Adv

1st Abn Bde (ARVN)

INCL 101 WITNESS STATEMENT



# STATEMENT

As the US coordinator between 10th AVN Division and 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB), 3d Bde, 1st Cav, I observed the insertion and extraction of troops from vicinity of An Loc, Binh Long Province, 22-23 June 1972.

From 0800-1615 hours, 22 June, the 43d Regimental Headquarters (-) and two infantry battalions were airlifted from Lai Khe to An Loc. The flight approach was low level from the RF (XT 52-15) to the LZ (XT 758-64). Although all flight paths were varied, the enemy engaged the aircraft with a heavy volume of fire to include 27mm, 51mm and anti-aircraft missiles. In spite of the enemy fire the mission was successfully completed. The professional manner throughout by all aircraft crews. The flight leader of the crew for command and control helicopter, LTC Louis J. McConnell, CPB Harry C. Small, LTC Gary T. Rogers, and LTC Harry S. Barnes, was commended. Without regard for personal safety the aircraft were maneuvered throughout the area to laterally avoid enemy locations that provided cover for US fighters and support helicopters. The flight paths for the Cobras and lift helicopters.

From 0800 to 1715 hours, 23 June, the 229th AHB, airlifted approximately 900 men from Lai Khe to An Loc and extracted 300 men. Although clouds partially concealed the flight paths, the aircrafts were engaged by automatic weapons fire and were exposed to heavy indirect fire in the LZ. The LZ was changed three times; however, the increasing 105mm fire continued. The cloud cover combined with the 105mm fire working in the An Loc area also increased the hazards for the aircrafts. The dedication, valor, and professionalism demonstrated by the members of the 229th AHB during 22-23 June reflects great credit upon themselves, their unit, and the United States Army.

*Walter D. Singer*

WALTER D. SINGER  
LTC, USA

SA, 52nd RSAT

INCL 10E2 WITNESS STATEMENT

Inclosure 10-E (Continued)

# TƯ-LỆNH QUÂN-ĐOÀN III, QUÂN KHU 3 XÃ AN-LỘC NGÀY 16-6-1972

PHỤ TRANG



Phụ Trách : LÊ-THUY-DU

Hình Ảnh : Phòng ĐA/CTLC

PHÁT HÀNH NGÀY : 21-6-1972

Ngày 16-6 vừa qua, Trung Tướng NGUYỄN-VĂN-MINH Tư-Lệnh Quân Khu III kiêm vùng 3 Chiến Thuật đã bắt thăm cùng một số giới chức hữu trách viếng thăm Thị xã An-Lộc nơi các chiến-sĩ ta vừa giải tỏa xong áp lực của địch quân sau 68 ngày tử thủ.

Cuộc thăm viếng này đã làm nức lòng và gây niềm tin tưởng cho các chiến-sĩ đã vì An-Lộc mà chiến đấu thắng lợi cuối cùng.

INCL 10E3  
REAG ARTICLE OF LTC MINH'S VISIT

ELEMENTS OF 202 SP WPNS TK REGT

II APRIL:  
229 INSERT  
ARVN FROM  
DAU TIENG  
INTO AN LOC

11-16 APRIL &  
17 APRIL - 7 JUL:  
229 SPT AN LOC  
STAGING AT LAI K

0830 hours - CG: S-3 will rescue personnel from Nui Ba Dinh DCO-A, D/229, 75th Rangers will rescue cornish 67 from Cat Lo brigade, COL/21, F/9 Cav will move 2 DCO ARVN from Bu Dop to Song Be.

1005 hours - DCO-A: Bay run on ground at Cat Lo Bridge, putting CBU around advisors position checking with LOH after CBU.

1055 hours - DCO-A: LOH received GAF vicinity of XT7297, unk dam. AH-1G also hit from D/229.

1130 hours - DCO-A: 3 advisors at Cat Lo Bridge rescued by D/229 and 75th Rangers. Critically wounded update to follow.

1115 hours - Fuel at SB critical. TACE to G-3 TRAC. By 1140 21,500 at Song Be.

1115 hours - S-3: Yellow flight bounced to TNE at 1142 for reenforcing NBD by one RF company, 1 CH-47 bounced W/Chemical people and MSN. To TNE.

1215 hours - DCO-A: LOH used for extraction at Cat Lo took 4 hits SA and 51 cal. Carried 3 U.S., 4 ARVN, pilot and gunners total 9 people. Pilot CPT Whitehead, Gunner SGT Waits.

1235 hours - DCO-B: Fuel situation critical at S.B. 6000 gal used between 1115 and 1225 must request resupply. 15,000 requested earlier not enough.

1255 hours - Yellow flight present at TMW. LOH checking out mountain, if everything is OK will put in RF Co.

1310 hours - S-3: First lift into NBD LZ Green. First lift taking off, last ship took fire UH-1H dam pilot wounded.

1345 hours - DCO-A: Sitrep An Loc; FAC putting in airstrikes. Destroyed village XT 805765 with EST in BN. Now attacking k22mm positions XT 719910.

1340 hours - D/229: 34th Avn Bn received GAF vicinity Trung Hup XT 622315 gunships and medevac covering ship down unk upits aircraft at XT 6131.

1450 hours - 229th Avn: CH-47 and C123's moving heavy equipment report personnel will finish in 90 minutes.

1500 hours - DCO-A: D/229 situation is 3 AH-1G and 1 LOH operational and needed for fire support.

1531 hours - S-3: LOH from GS Plt received unknown # of GAF at Nui Ba Dinh. 1 hit, neg injuries.

1545 hours - Nui Ba Dinh: Last lift complete; 90 replacements on mountain will clear top of mountain so that wounded can be extracted and resupply can go in. Last lift received GAF.

1545 hours - DCO-A: 34th Avn aircraft completely destroyed and burning no need to secure aircraft.

1605 hours - ARTY DCO: F/9 LOH down at XV 971290 cause unk GAF in area; Pilot trapped in A/C; gunner wounded and trying to get pilot out DCO-A enroute with gunships.

1625 hours - 1/21: All Arty out of Ba Dop: Another home to move people.

1627 hours - S-3: 2 UH-1H and 1 AH-1G took hits on last lift into NBD. 1 UH-1H will have to be slung out. No replacement A/C required. Expect complete about 1800 3-500 VC reported SW of NBD.

1645 hours - DCO-A: Pilot of F/9 LOH KIA, going in W/Medevac now complete at 1700.

1705 hours - CH-47 enroute to B.H. from S.B. Landed on road due to mechanical difficulty. Continued flight W/Cobra cover.

1800 hours - S-3: In 30 minutes resupply an exacuation of NBD will begin.

1805 hours - S-3: Going in after 6 U.S. wounded, 11 ARVN wounded. 7 U.S. okay.



1820 hours - S-3: 1st medevac going in taking fire all the way.  
 1835 hours - DCO-A: Song Be has 2 CH-47's on the ground. One needs engine replacement, other, battle damage, needs blade. POL has an air lock and is down.  
 1900 hours - POL open at Song Be. Trying to fix CH-47's to fly out tonight. Security being coordinated with Prov Chief.  
 1845 hours - S-3: All U.S. and 11 ARVN wounded out of NBD.  
 2130 hours - COL Jones: Extraction from BV DOP: 1500 ARVNS, 2000 civilians, 6 X 105 HOWS, 2 X 155 HOWS. All remaining is some ARVN's with their families and about 500 Montagnards.

9 April 1972:

0555 hours - Hvy section F/79 skids up for Lai Khe.  
 0605 hours - F/9 skids up for Lai Khe  
 0900 hours - DCO-B: Remove U.S. equipment from S.B. Airfield and back haul 17 lb rockets and heat rockets.  
 1215 hours - F/9: At XT 721863 engaged possible regiment HQ, numerous secondary expd.  
 1225 hours - F/9: UH-1H down XT 7187, F/79 AFA section conduct VR to check situation received intense GAF SA; UH-1H is VNAF.  
 1315 hours - D/229: XT 993567 large number of people, tank tracks, possible camouflaged vehicle, PT reports much traffic moving S.. RASH 5 W 3 FOX 4's supported BDA. 100% of ordinance on target.  
 1630 hours - 229th POL and rearm people extracted from S.B. All heat rockets have been extracted from S.B. Still remaining are 1380 X 17 lb rockets, 912 aircraft flares.  
 1850 hours - F/9: 1745H XT 087818 3 X UH-1H took heavy 51 cal fire from Tinh Ngan compound while on short final to pad neg hits or casualties.

10 April 1972:

0420 hours - C/S: TRAC requesting on Air Cav. Troop to VR road N of Chon Thanh to An Loc. Contact 5th ARVN Div and 5th ABN Bn. Troop is to stay south of the 80 E-W grid line. DCO-A to meet TRAC C/S at plantation for a mission briefing.  
 0925 hours - DCO-A: Instruct F/9 to stage out of Lai Khe they are to report to 5th ARVN TOC for update and wait for DCO-A.  
 0958 hours - D/229: BDA of YT 051236 reveals extensive tunnel complex. One 20' X 15' bunker uncovered. EST recent use by 50-60 people.  
 1015 hours - DCO-A: Have F/9 meet me on the strip at Lai Khe. S-3 will have mission of resupplying barrier and commo material to NED using TRAC CH-47 and should contact G-4 TRAC verify position of downed VNAF UH-1H yesterday and advise DCO-A prior to passing info to TRAC. Pass to Avn Bn "all aviators monitor guard at all times."  
 1140 hours - F/9: Taking GAF, 51 cal, at XT 762713. Confirmed location of downed VNAF UH-1H at XT 765715.  
 1220 hours - D/229: YT 034263, tracks of possible enemy squad moving into woods to east with pos. Rendezvous spot at YT 032258 with additional possible tracks of 14 indiv moving S at YT 022267 50 fighting positions all destroyed but recently rebuilt. Recent activity. Arty being employed. Spot sighted at 1030. Passed to S-3 at 1220. Arty shot this area at night, airstrikes went into YT 051236 at 0815.

1245 hours - D/229: BDA of airstrike at YT 051236 destroyed 21 15' X 20' bunkers with tunnels going out to 20 to 30 feet. 6 - 8 fighting positions and several bunkers with tin roofs in the area. 200 M of trench around bunker.  
 1245 hours - AAF: 3 ships from yellow flight bounced to Tay Ninh to pick up ARVN "Briars" to work for F/9 Cav at Lai Khe.  
 1355 hours - F/9 LNO: DCO-A's helicopter has been hit and DCO-A wounded. Enroute to Lai Khe.

11 April 1972:

0720 hours - D/229: GAF at YT 063296 high bird engaged with organics with unk results. Arty to be employed.  
 0725 hours - D/229: LOH in item 4. Spotted 3 individuals on edge of bomb crater.  
 0830 hours - Late Entry: UH-1H from Med Company received 51 cal GAF-vic XT 7953 date time group 101630.  
 0900 hours - TRAC: D/229 tasked to go to Tay Ninh west and work for 25th ARVN W/men to find 271 NVA Regt and 24th NVA Regt. Men comp at 0930.  
 1050 hours - F/79 AFA: Yellow flight and Blue Max took 20 - 25 rds SA/GAF at YT 033265. Eng w/organics. Artillery to be employed VR being set up by S-2 to cover XT 033285 and XT 068296.  
 1100 hours - CG: F/9 Cav LOH at XT 6867 spotted footprints estimated 100 individuals in possible staging area using trails. LOH F/9 spotted fresh cuttings at XT 615745 EST 10 ind in the last 24 hours at XT 7388 F/9 Cobras engaging tank.  
 1250 hours - F/9 57mm rr at XT 778822.  
 1300 hours - Item 12 tank damaged.  
 1335 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift off from Dau Tieng to An Loc.  
 1355 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift from Dau Tieng is at An Loc: Took indirect fire from 82mm and 105mm. 1 bird hit will check at Dau Tieng.  
 1415 hours - DCO-A: See item 20. One bird hit. Minor damage, flyable 2nd lift enroute to An Loc.  
 1410 hours - F/9 LNO: Medevac enroute to L.K. to meet DCO-A dustoff with DCO-A enroute to 24th Evac.  
 1440 hours - ARTY LNO: DCO-A's A/C was at 1500' vic XT 7372 when it received 10 - 15 rds of GAF. DCO-A hit between elbow and wrist. May lose forearm below the wound. DCO-A now in operating room.  
 1545 hours - CG: AC-130 engaging possible 51 cal site at XT 776722 Bda of GVN site by F/9 reveals possible 51 cal position, pieces of body. Air-strikes going into area.  
 1620 hours - TRAC: Provide 2 cobras to provide cover landing of 2 - 8 ARVN at An Loc. F/9 covering ETA vic An Loc 1800H.  
 1630 hours - 1/7 Cav: Cal complete to XT 939365 LZ green.  
 1450 hours - DCO-A: 2nd lift in at An Loc received no indirect fire but did receive 51 cal GAF coming out at XT 732844. F/79 Cobras (24 section engaged and possibly received hit. F/79 Serpent crashed at Lai Khe but both pilots got out. One had been shot and MEDEVACED. Another MEDEVAC bounced to operation).  
 1515 hours - F/9 at XT 703915 spotted 82mm and 105mm being camouflaged, also company of troops. Fox 4's on the way. LOH took GAF no hits.

1600 hours - White Flight lifted off, 4 ships enroute to Dau Tieng.  
 1625 hours - 1 additional aircraft enroute to Dau Tieng.  
 1635 hours - CG: Yellow Flight is at An Loc with 3rd lift, Red Flight in at 1637 out at 1638. Spectre fire suppressed.  
 1700 hours - At XT 691955 F/9 found 1 tank in brush, type unknown. At XT 690952 observed 1 APC moving into brush area. AH-1G took fire, UNK number of 51 cal at 100kts. Fac and Spectre on start to engage targets, Neg hits, neg damage.  
 1755 hours - Yellow Flight is at An Loc with 4th lift.  
 1755 hours - F/9: Reported 2 rocket sites firing from XT 702428.  
 1755 hours - 4th lift into An Loc complete.  
 1800 hours - F/9: AT XT 699997 howitzer firing from firebase.  
 1820 hours - F/9: XT 702928, 1750H observed 04 X 122mm rockets being fired eng w organics, UNK results.  
 1830 hours - TRAC G-3: XT 7663 ARVN ABN in hvy contact; rec 122mm rockets, lost 2 tanks, need gunships. Gunships to go to aid from An Loc.  
 1920 hours - F/9: XT 768697, 1900H Pink Team spotted numerous 51 cal and 23mm A.A. positions. Took intense GAF at 4500' and 6000'.

#### 12 April 1972:

0900 hours - 229th: First lift in at An Loc. Maj Davidson picked up and delivered to Red Carpet Pad.  
 1030 hours - D/229th: Cobra took UNK number of GAF at XT 783935. Neg hits. Air strike conducted with UNK results.  
 1050 hours - TRAC: F/79 heavy section bounced from Lai Khe to XT 3475 to support 8th ARVN ABN Bn in contact.  
 1115 hours - DCO-A: 3 X F/79 Cobras are OPCON to D/229  
 1135 hours - TRAC: Request MAX to escort MEDEVAC to YS 565680 msn complete at 1420H.  
 1235 hours - TRAC: F/79 AFA section supporting other elements of ARVN ABN in contact at XT 764668.  
 1750 hours - D/229: Spotted one man running in open area, engaged by Cobra UNK results.  
 2230 hours - S-2: F/79, YS 6168, YS 6267, while in support of USARV individual training group (UITG) contact, engaged unknown size in force. 03 X UTIG killed, 14 UTIG wounded 4 In KIA.  
 2300 hours - Nighthawk airborne.  
 2325 hours - YT 05542053 IOS spotted lights on heading of 0547 Mils, distance 5890 meters. Arty to fire in area. Nighthawk will check.

#### 13 April 1972:

0655 hours - TRAC: Need immediate assistance in An Loc. Request 1 Cav Trp and 1 heavyfire team ASAP. Heavy contact SW of An Loc. FAC reports heavy AA on 51 cal and 23mm type. Skids up D/229, F/79 at 0745.

1020 hours - Ca of D 1-7 complete at 1010. Began at 0830.  
 1030 hours - 127 heat rockets delivered to Lai Khe. Will be used for tank-killer missions only.  
 1030 hours - D/229, XT 641706 Pink Team spotted 2 trucks. Received GAF from AK-47. Eng w organics, 2 trucks destroyed.  
 1200 hours - D/229, XT 695729 spotted individual running into treeline carrying AK-47 heading ~~to~~ engaged w organic, res UNK.  
 1200 hours - S-4 heat rocket status: Lassiter 496: Lai Khe 228: Long Thanh 118; 3rd Ord 300: combat emergency to Da Nang approved. 1000 heat rockets to be delivered tomorrow.  
 1350 hours - TRAC: Request gunship section to escort Long Binh Dustoff in Phouc Tuy Province. Approved.  
 1415 hours - 2/8 Cav: 6 bunkers discovered during extraction at YS 279999 Cobra engaged and blew top off bunkers and started papers burning.  
 1440 hours - DCO-A: Bounce heavy section of F/79 to Lai Khe to support TRAC  
 1520 hours - TRAC: Request all guns we can send to An Loc. We sent one light fire team at 1525H with another ship to follow when it comes out of maintenance. 2nd light section bounced at 1550H. Red Flight with 75th Rangers bounced at 1550H. 11 Americans at soccer field in An Loc prepared for snatch operation.  
 1615 hours - S-3: 1 heavy MAX section now supporting Rangers. 1 section covering insertion of 32nd ARVN Regt. D/229 has expended in N part of An Loc, now on strip alert at Lai Khe. Rangers on alert at Lai Khe.  
 1815 hours - 1/7: E Recon, XT 945335, while setting up ambush, flank security sighted 5 individuals: engaged w SA and AW 2 Cobras of F/9 supported and 2 Cobras F/79 supported. Results 1 WIA taken to 24th EVAC 1 M-79 CIA.

14 April 1972:

0715 hours - TRAC: Request we bounce Cav Troop to work designated boxes (D/229). Heavy fire team (F/79) to report to An Loc and work for Tunnel 10A  
 0730 hours - TRAC: Request gun cover for Dustoff (Long Binh) in Phouc Tuy Province. Skids up at 0740H.  
 0730 hours - D/229: Skids up for Lai Khe. Arrived at 0750.  
 0845 hours - TRAC: Request another heavy section of guns to Lai Khe. Skids up at 0910H.  
 1010 hours - DCO-A: Cav assets in An Loc area will be used mostly as a VR and support role until 1105H when they will support VNAF airborne operation around Quan Loi.  
 1045 hours - DCG TRAC: An Loc; In elements to E, SE of town. Enemy still holds northern most parts of ~~EW~~ street of town. Reports of tanks to the W unconfirmed, situation looks good. GAF from NW part of town and Quan Loi Airfield.  
 1100 hours - DCO-A: Received GAF from 51 cal at XT 779805, neg hits.  
 1320 hours - D/229: Pink Team took several bursts of GAF from XT 673968, XT 682963. Cobra engaged with UNK results.  
 1340 hours - S-3: CA of recon 2/8; recon 1/12.



1445 hours - S-3: Initial lift off Chon Thanh to Lai Khe VNAF Gaggle LZ is  
 XT 802872 no support with 4 gunships.  
 1510 hours - S-3: 2nd lift of ARVNS into LZ. No contact yet.  
 1515 hours - S-3: 2nd team 72 inserted YT 027234 LZ Green.  
 1705 hours - S-3: Pink Teams are looking for armor. 3 MAX (F/79) guns are in  
 support of 8 ARVN ABN Bn. In contact since insertion.  
 1710 hours - S-3: XT 772829 DCO-S's bird received GAF, UNK number of rounds  
 30 cal, neg hits.  
 1720 hours - TRAC G-3: Send 1 heavy MAX section to An Loc area. 1st Cav S-3  
 will coordinate with TRAC because all our assets are committed.  
 1730 hours - D/229: XT 745969, 1710H Pink Team saw 5 people in open, fired  
 and got secondary explosion. P.T. received UNK number of GAF at 2000' 120 kts  
 ; neg hits.  
 1845 hours - F/9: YT 0788 15D N of Dong Xoi on VR YT 072909, 1810H UNK number  
 of footprints possible loggers. YT 070840 1849 civ trucks with 40 people in  
 civilian clothes with logs.  
 1855 hours - S-3: Release Yellow Flight  
 1905 hours - TRAC G-3: Provide gun coverage for MEDEVAC of 2 ABN advisors at  
 XT 805868. Will provide from ships at An Loc area.  
 2130 hours - F/79: XT 775905 destroyed 1 X 75mm RR. XT 811899, 1330H destroyed  
 13 X NAD 5 ton trucks. In An Loc dest 1 tank at 1500H. Confirmed by FAC. XT  
 995276 dest 06 X UNK size bunker at 1030H.

15 April 1972:

0255 hours - TRAC: F/9 to stage from Lai Khe. Be prepared to depart B.H. at  
 0700H and to engage enemy armor vehicles, conduct VR in designated boxes.  
 F/79 to be on standby (30min) starting at 0630H. Be prepared to engage  
 armor vehicles.  
 0520 hours - TRAC: Since approx 0440H An Loc had been under heavy ground  
 attack fr S-SE and taking incoming. Bounce MFT of F/79 AFA ASAF w/nails.  
 Weather at An Loc is bad. All families of fighters cannot operate.  
 Marginal weather for helicopter. Put F/9 on alert to depart 1st light.  
 Fire skids up at 0520. 2nd team at 0550H. Notified TRAC to make sure  
 L K fuel and ammo points are open F/79 ships are Serpents 25, 33, 12, 24.  
 0625 hours - F/79 has 5 ships at An Loc. Serpent 26 was #5 our assets  
 5 MAX birds for our AO.  
 0730 hours - TRAC: Reports 23mm AA E of An Loc. FAC's report 37mm but no  
 location.  
 0815 hours - TRAC: Requested F/9 to be bounced to work VR boxes. Skids up  
 at 0825H. Our representation at An Loc will control our assets. Approx 1000H  
 the rest of the 8th ARVN ABN Bn may airlift into An Loc. May need MAX to  
 engage GAF.  
 0940 hours - TRAC: LTC Fuloy wanted message passed to DCO-A that An Loc  
 requested gunships support to protect TOC. Tanks 500m fr the TOC. TRAC CG  
 says Cav Troop to be used to find AA positions for FAC.  
 1035 hours - TRAC: Troop concentrations and 10 tanks in box at XT 735894,  
 731385, 721905, and 716897 requesting arclights.  
 1050 hours - DCO-A: Reports no 23mm or 37mm AA fire E of An Loc at this time  
 but great deal of 51 cal GAF.  
 1135 hours - Msg fr Gen Hamlet: Get 400 heat rockets to LK ASAF.

1150 hours - DCO-A: 1st lift of ARVN ABN put in by VNAF  
 1210 hours - DCO-A: 2nd lift in progress.  
 1220 hours - DCO-A took GAF at XT 7770 from 30 cal, neg hits.  
 1315 hours - DCO-A: GAF at XT 755865. 30 cal neg hits.  
 1326 hours - Ranger XO: LNO: Team 71 in contact at YT 031232 MEDEVAC F/79, D/229 in support.  
 1420 hours - DCO-A received GAF.SA at XT 785835 neg hits.  
 1440 hours - TRAC: Situation critical on perimeter all sides. AL penetrated in N. Regimental buildup in the W. All arty in AL is in hands. Not confirmed ARVN source.  
 1500 hours - TRAC CG: At 1450 ten tanks were attacking AL. 9 were destroyed. CG TRAC wants more air to destroy tanks before they get into the city. They are in the city and the ARVNS are destroying them there by cluttering the street.  
 1525 hours - F/9 Cav: Update took ground to air fire at following guide with no hits. : XT 80881, 798819. At XT 750640 AH - 1G took 2 air bursts at 8000'.  
 1635 hours - F/9: XT 757881, 1220H unknown number of AA sites, UNK Cal.  
 1640 hours - TRAC G-3: Update on AL, tanks are South and West of the city, but East, South and West sides of the city are holding well. According to FAC. Still receiving some RR fire and mortar fire from Southwest.  
 2310 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission tomorrow is to prepare to execute an order to 1) Send 1 hvy fire team to arrive AL by first light. 2) Send 1 Cav Trp to arrive AL area at first light. Additional guidance from 1st Cav S-3: ALL Gunships should have at least 50% heat rockets.

16 April 1972:

0845 hours - TRAC: Send Cav Trp and heavy fire team to Lai Khe. Cav Trp will recon for arty and AA weapons. HFT will support as required and will support insertion of 81st Ranger Bn ETA 0920. F/79 up 0850H. F/9 up at 0854H. ETA 0920H.  
 1040 hours - F/79: Request 1 HFT sent to LK.  
 1050 hours - DCO-A: Long Binh Dustoff took ind out of vic XT 7925. Airborne advisors 19 or 20 individuals.  
 1120 hours - Binh Duong: At Tan Bien and Tan Hung villages 2 outposts received attack by fire and small arms. Road blocked at XT 899415, Company to NE killed 1 enemy and is still in contact NE of Binh My. Compound at Song Be received 20 X 82mm mortar fire at 0700H. 1 WIA. VC blew culvert on QL1A vic XT 8231, culvert repaired, est 100 VC vic of contact, request gunship section support if available, 5th ARVN Div reports possible tanks vic XT 9049. S-3 sending Purple D/229.  
 1145 hours - TRAC TOC: U.S. to control airstrikes N of 80 E-W line, VNAF to S 1200-1600H VNAF will also control to E of 78 N-S line until insertion of 81st Rgr Bn, is complete.  
 1220 hours - DCO-A: Enroute to AL for MEDEVAC of wounded US airborne advisor.  
 1240 hours - D/229: Purple Team supporting BD Province has been relieved. Negative findings other than normal everyday activity.  
 1245 hours - S-2: Dustoff reported down S of AL, XT 803862. D/229: Purple TM reports large explosion vic LK. CG: LK received several rds incoming around POL, Rearm and Hook Pad. One round in rubber to N of CH-47 pad caused a large secondary explosion vic XT 755384, 1255H another large explosion and 5 -10 smoke columns vic Re-arm points. ARVN arty camp was hit.

1315 hours - Shifted Re-Arm/Refuel operations to BH pending reopening of Song Be or LK. DCO-A made over grass landing at Lassiter Pad with 4 crew of Dustoff and 5 wounded US advisors and ARVNS from AL.

1340 hours - CG: Shift Re-Arm/Refuel ops to Bien Hoa. Make arrangements to open Re-Arm/Refuel point at Song Be tomorrow morning, consider that VNAF and 3/1 Cav will be using the airfield.

1505 hours - CG: LK POL and Re-Arm point will not be used till tomorrow.

1550 hours - S-3: VNAF gunships down at approx XT 814797.

1600 hours - YT 042235, 1535H, OH6A rec'd 10-15 rds SA, also fire from M-79 while flying at 100 knots and 100'. Engaged with minigun and 40mm, also took small arms fire while putting in suppressive fire. Negative hits on aircraft, UNK enemy losses. Arty fired 30 X 105mm HE rds, on site.

1645 hours - TRAC TOC: 5th ABN Bn reports 01 ARV KIA, 04x hvy machine guns CIA.

1710 hours - DCO-A: F/79 AFA mission release 1640H. F/9 Cav mission release 1700H. TRAC will pass missions for tomorrow later tonight.

17 April 1972:

0110 hours - 229: There are 300-400 heat rockets at Lai Khe in good condition.

0805 hours - TRAC TOC: Rocket attack at AL came from North and West.

0805 hours - TRAC: LK rearm repol facilities reopened.

0805 hours - RASH PAC: Roadblock at XT 891413 made of trees and brush.

0930 hours - TRAC: XU 730035, 04x 105mm how being towed by trucks, engaged by Spectre and Tac Air, destroyed.

1000 hours - CG: Do not establish re-arm and re-pol facilities at Song Be. AL update, 4 ARVN ABN Bns in An Loc. 105mm will be inserted today. Forces in AL will be working out to the South, Southeast, and Southwest of the city.

1015 hours - S-2 Update on Iten 02: 01 en KIA found by PT D/229. Individual carrying 3 empty AK-47 mags in vest.

1210 hours - DCO-A: XT 610922 F/9 Cav found 1 bridge with recent foot and vehicular traffic. Bridge engaged 1/3 destroyed. TAC air being called in.

1605 hours - TRAC: F/9 Cav and HFT from F/79 released by TRAC.

1615 hours - TRAC: An Loc situation stable, some contacts by airborne at edge of city.

1700 hours - TRAC G-3: Be prepared to extract 06 Americans from CIDG compound Xuyen Moc TS 6568.

1740 hours - TRAC G-3: Proceed with mission (item 49) ASAP send heavy MAX section, 2 lift birds and LOH as C&C. S-3 will be mission commander. Mission will stage from Down Hi, YS 4355. Picked up 06 people at 1915H. People were dropped off at Long Hai, at 1935H.

2000 hours - F/9: Twin 51 cal site at XT 725890.

2120 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission from TRAC for 1 Cav Trp to VR same area they were in late this afternoon. Exact VR boxes to follow early tomorrow morning. 1 HFT to go to AL area, all birds ready to go at 0600H. Late Entry S-2: F/79 AH-1G, YT 014270 took 15-30 rounds GAE flying at 1500' and 130 knots. Neg hits, engaged with organics with UNK results.

18 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: At this present time AL is under a heavy mortar and rocket attack and fire from tanks. The WX is extremely bad. Send HFT of F/79 to Lai Khe to standby. WX is scattered clouds with 1000'. Lai Khe re-arm and re-pol was open. TRAC said it would be open by 0700. Pilots will report to 5th DCA at Lai Khe. They will bounce them from there.

0715 hours - ARTY LNO: Skids up on HFT to LK.

0740 hours - TRAC: Arc lights AL 1205 centers of mass many and varied.

0745 hours - TRAC: VR boxes for F/9 Cav box-various coordinates.

0830 hours - TRAC G-3: Change in mission for F/9 Cav. They are to VR to the West and SW of AL in the rocket and mortar belts for firing sites. TRP to be used as discussed between TRAC CG and F/9 Cav. Received changes in VR boxes.

0855 hours - S-2: WX rpt AL 7/6S cloud cover and 1500' ceiling. F/9 will proceed to An Loc to see if VR is possible under present conditions.

0910 hours - F/79 AFA: (late report) 171400H AH1 engaged 07 trucks at XT 778818. 02 trucks destroyed, 03 trucks damaged, unknown number of bodies on road. Numerous secondary explosions from trucks.

0915 hours - TRAC TOC TO DCG TRAC: SA 5th ARVN Div Msg: "Emergency, emergency 1,2,3,4, C ration boxes. Eyeball contact need ASAP, paralleling ARVN request. DCG, TRAC: Miller is requesting 4 Arc Light strikes.

1040 hours - CG: F/79 may be required to support C-130 resupply at An Loc this afternoon. Confirmed 51 cal positions are in West side of An Loc. Last night An Loc hospital hit by fire 40 KIA 8th ABN Bn, 12 KIA 40 WIA. Suspect 105-155 position at XT 767944 and XT 698924, suspect 51 cal psn at XT 784895, troop, trucks using 5 bridges in box XT 6696-6697-7096-7097.

1225 hours - DCG TRAC: At XT 847590 discovered 2 APC's; F/9 Cav checking out area; APC's had already been destroyed.

1230 hours - F/9: C-130 on fire, losing altitude N of Lai Khe, crashed vic XT 687390. 7 crew members picked up by F/9 CC taken to 3rd field by C&C and LOH F/9.

1450 hours - F/9: Took UNK number GAF at UN-1H loc of C-130 XT 687390.

1500 hours - TRAC: Request we send a heavy Pink Team with C&C from D/229 to XT 526504 to check VRS report of regimental CP.

1645 hours - TRAC G-3: VR S of the Michelin plantation to river for avenues of enemy approach, also E of river. Also have guns remain on station until C-130 re-supply goes into An Loc. Lift TSN approx 1630H.

1730 hours - DCO-A: XT 520503 Pink Team sighted 15-20 bunkers used in the last 15 minutes. Pots and pans all over. XT 528563 sighted impressions of track vehicles moving S approx 6-12 hours ago.

1800 hours - 1700H F/9 Pink Team sighted an area where approx 12 tanks turned and had possible NDP; 20 6' x 4' bunkers with wood OH cover. Track vehicles impressions moving on to 14' wide trail going SW to possible 2nd NDP at XT 591647 with 6 positions.



1515 hours - DCO-A to TRAC: Will have pt VR crash site, then return to original mission.  
 1525 hours - DCO-A: Pink Team over site. Believed there are no survivors. Then will return to original mission.  
 1745 hours - DCO-A and CG: Mission release for F/9 and D/229.

20 April 1972:

0632 hours - TRAC: An Loc is presently under heavy fire and ground attack from all four sides. Tanks in Northern section of city. ABN Bde is on SE side in heavy contact. Bounced HFT F/79 AFA to An Loc. Skids up at 0655H.

0830 hours - TRAC: TRAC G-3 requests another HFT and Cav Trp bounced. HFT will work for DCO-A around An Loc. D/229 will work for DCO-A to W and SW of An Loc to locate indirect fire positions and enemy movements. Skids up D/229 0840, F/79 0845.

1010 hours - F/79: XT 750999 engaged 51 cal position. Silenced gun.

1145 hours - F/79: 1040 at XT 750887 destroyed a 7.2mm Rkt and UNK number of enemy.

1410 hours - D/229: XT 745817 spotted a 2 1/2 ton truck and tracked vehicles moving NE. Engaged with UNK results. XT 769768 spotted a tank moving West. Engaged with UNK results. XT 712782, 718744, 735739, 741739. At the above locations have numerous tank tracks in every direction last 24-48 hours.

1545 hours - F/9: YT 088362 1440H pt found 1 tank tracks approx 1-2 weeks old.

1600 hours - F/79 AFA: 6 MAX birds at An Loc.

1830 hours - D/229: XT 614928 1845H. Spotted a bridge over a stream made of logs. AH-1G fired at but did not destroy. Road in area showed movement by track vehicles within 24-48 hours.

1900 hours - D/229: AH-1G at YT 017345 spotted 3 people on road, ran into bushes, engaged with organics with UNK results.

21 April 1972:

0615 hours - TRAC: ABN units on SE of An Loc are presently receiving heavy direct fire. An Loc City is receiving heavy direct fire from buildings. Fire from RR and machine guns. Launch HFT to An Loc. G-3 may call for another at 0700.

0630 hours - TRAC: Lai Khe 2000-3000 foot ceiling with clouds. An Loc 0 clouds at 4000' light at 3000; vis 6-8 miles.

0745 hours - TRAC G-3: Send a second HFT to Lai Khe: Arty lno reptd 1st section on hold for weather at Lai Khe. Bde 3 received permission from TRAC G-3 to remain at Long Thanh until first section released from Lai Khe.

1128 hours - DCO-A: Ceiling at An Loc and in AO too low to allow AFA and Air Cav Troops to work. They are on the ground at Lai Khe.

1645 hours - DCO-A: D/229 has mission release at 1K, enroute to B.H. F/9 to be released at 1730.

1705 hours - D/229: All aircraft back from An Loc area.

22 April 1972:

0825 hours - TRAC: Bounce Cav Troops and HFT. Cav Troop is to VR N of Minh Thua Rubber W of An Loc Rubber and E of river. Contact Black Jack 15 on F M for more complete briefing. HFT will be briefed by B.J. 15. Skids up for Cav at 0850.

1125 hours - RANGER INFO: XT 994308 Ranger Tm 76 spotted 25 ind to the W of their positions carrying rocket pods at 1110H hvy Pink Team and AFA engaged enemy. 1/7 C+C was overhead.

1720 hours - DCO-A: F/9 mission release F/79 release upon completion of present mission at approx 1740.

23 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: Launch HFT to An Loc at this time. HFT skids up at 0729. May require another HFT later.

0730 hours - F/9 Cav: Skids up for Lai Khe at 0730; had no permission to bounce.

0915 hours - F/79 AFA working for Tunnel 10 over An Loc. F/9 will VR to the NW of An Loc. Ceiling closing in at An Loc.

0930 hours - Situation at An Loc; ceiling closing in. Only A-1 aircraft can work. Ground attack from SW still in progress, no major threat. Sporadic contact around the rest of the city.

1015 hours - DCO-A: F/9 returning to Lai Khe due to weather. F/79 AFA still working city. TRAC: All quiet at Dau Tieng.

1120 hours - ACC: Weather bad at An Loc. F/9 Cav had been VRing to the N, NE, and NW of city but forced back due to weather. F/79 AFA working to the South of the city between weather breaks but now enroute to Lai Khe on a hold.

1310 hours - F/9: 1245 at XT 698381 found destroyed tank and several trails showing heavy recent use in all directions; XT 675995 found and destroyed 1 camouflaged truck carrying POL.

1330 hours - F/9 continues VR to NW and N of An Loc; F/79 AFA supporting 5th Division S of An Loc.

1400 hours - 1310 hour F/9 Cav spotted 12" high speed trail, hard packed: neg recent use. At 1315 F/9 UH-1H to SAGAF at 3000', 80 dts neg hits.

1535 hours - F/9 Cav at XT 763967, OH6A to 9 rds SA GAF, neg hits at 1425, XT 724973 found 3x105mm How. Destroyed at 1510H.

1650 hours - DCO-A: Found compound with 2x105mm How at XT 643670; appear unoccupied.

1705 hours - At 1610H F/9 found 1 destroyed APC at XT 864962.

1740 hours - F/9 Cav mission release at 1700. F/79 to be released at 1755.

1750 hours - AAE: 1600H GS Platoon, Lift Bank A/C recd GAF at XT 765645. 1 hit in main rotor blade. 30 cal, 4500' 80 knots. Neg hits.

24 April 1972:

1420 hours - TRAC: Request HFT to go to An Loc and work for Tunnel 10A on fire mission. F/79 AFA skids up at 1435H. Requested F/9 to VR N of Quan Loi. Skids up at 1440, An Loc weather ceiling 4500'. TAC air working.

1425 hours - TRAC: F/9 mission changed to VR NW of An Loc.

1605 hours - CG through 229 ops wants HFT to report to An Loc. Skids up at 1615H.

1645 hours - F/9 Cav: XT 720973, found 1 civilian truck along highway, neg cargo. Dest in place.  
 1755 hours - CG: ARVN insertion complete at this time. 2 UN-1H shut down on 12. F/79 mission release.  
 1800 hours - TRAC G-3: Need 1 heavy section of MAX to remain in An Loc area to support in N part of city.  
 1830 hours - F/9 Cav found a bridge at XT 609424 at 1710H had been used by track and wheeled vehicles last 24 hours. Will be engaged by TAC Air.

25 April 1972:

0610 hours - ARTY: Skids up HFT F/79. Was also on weather hold.  
 0620 hours - D/229: Skids up at this time.  
 0815 hours - TRAC: Update on An Loc: As of 0730 receiving sporadic incoming. No ground contact. Dau Tieng - 288 RF Company had ground contact to SW last night. Not serious. D/229 Cav in Vit box #1. F/79 arty on station over An Loc.  
 0930 hours - TRAC TOC: Miller reports small penetration to the West of perimeter.  
 1010 hours - CG TRAC: An Loc sporadic attacks by fire. Platoon penetration inside perimeter road (see item 15). Spectre engaging. 75% of re-supply dropped last night recovered.  
 1015 hours - DCG TRAC: An Loc receiving heavy incoming at this time.  
 1100 hours - DCO-A: D/229 working Box Z - F/79 returning to An Loc. Heavy section F/79 be prepared at 1300 to support lift into An Loc. D/229 Cav will VR prior to heavy lift.  
 1140 hours - TRAC: Trung Lap, XT 6022 reports 300 enemy attacking from North. Enemy is in hamlets among people, setting up AA weapons. VNAF supporting.  
 1149 hours - TRAC: 3/1 Cav provide fire team to escort CH-54, 1400 hrs. Report Lai Khe 1300H.  
 1245 hours - DCG TRAC: Bn of 101st NVA regiment in 1 or 2 hamlets of Trung Lap. 3 company of RF group moving into action now. 2/43 ARVN Bn also moving to make contact. Road block at XT 568171. 2 RF companies from Trung Lap moving toward there now. 1 RF company from Cu Chi headed for roadblock. Squad of 5th armored regiment and 2 infantry companies in reserve at this time.  
 1650 hours - TRAC G-3: Insertion of dozer by CH-54 complete to XT 781741, our heavy fire team is released.  
 1735 hours - AAE: Received through D/229. Need 1 additional heavy fire team in the An Loc area.  
 1800 hours - TRAC: Requested section of guns to support Dustoff of American advisor North of Chon Thanh coordinated XT 766780. Skids up at 1805.  
 2155 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 26 April: 1) launch a Cav Trp at 0800H to go to Lai Khe. 2) 1 heavy fire team to arrive An Loc 0600H.

26 April 1972:

0630 hours - TRAC: An Loc SITREP: 5th ABN received heavy incoming at this time. 8th ABN receiving a ground attack. Spectre is engaging tanks at XT 668850.

Weather 4000' ceiling, broken and overcast, visibility 10 miles.

0900 hours - TRAC: Requested D/229 Cav bounce to Lai Khe to be briefed by Black Jack 15 on mission. Skids up 0910.

1100 hours - DCO-A: Bounce light fire team from F/79 to Lai Khe. Skids up 1110H.

1115 hours - ACC: D/229 located C-130 crash site (see item 7) at XT 703865. Could not determine if there were any survivors due to thickness of rubber.

1430 hours - TRAC: From 5th ARVN radio intercepts. To be attacked on 5th and 8th ABN by an UNK unit and another UNK unit to block a retreat by ARVN. 164 NVA Regiment to attack UNK units of 21st ARVN Div. 271st NVA regiment to attack UNK unit after radios are repaired. Tanks and troops massing at Loc Ninh to attack from the West of An Loc. Dau Tieng and Trung Lap quiet.

1620 hours - TRAC G-3: CA of 1 Airborne and 1 arty btry complete at 1530 into XT 7878.

1630 hours - ACC: Received through NCS, D/229 Cav Trp standing by at Lai Khe, 1 fire team working out. 1 fire team standing by.

1655 hours - Bien Hoa Sector: VNAF reports that 80 VC are at YT 64,143 with 5 X 122mm rockets and 8 X 107mm rockets, 3 rating. Request clearance for airstrike. Denied so that we could send a Pink Team.

2057 hours - S-2: Approx 120 enemy are at XT 828456, and 20 tanks at XT 878488 with intent to attack Lai Khe. Sent D/229 to check it out. Agent report date time group 232300, rating C-6.

2130 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 27 April, received through S-3: Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600H and Cav Trp to An Loc at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700H. In addition DCO-A wants a slick from the Cav Trp to go with the HFT any time the Cav Trp is not in the area. D/229 will coordinate with F/79 about this.

27 April 1972:

0045 hours - TRAC: At the present time numerous tanks have been sighted at An Loc. Request that F/79 AFA HFT have heat rockets when they arrive in the morning.

0455 hours - ARTY: F/79 requested that D/229 chase ships accompany them to An Loc for Dustoff. Also that the section going to An Loc did not have heat rockets as required so they will send another HFT at 0530H. Chase ships will remain with HFT vicinity An Loc. Chase ship skids up at 0520H. Serpent 23.

0535 hours - ARTY: Skids up for F/79 HFT with heat rockets.

0630 hours - Dustoff complete at An Loc. Skids up for D/229 for Lai Khe.

0810 hours - ARTY LNO: F/79 AFA engaged and destroyed 1 x 51 AA MG at 0655H, XT 777874 (Seminole 12)

0820 hours - ACC: Tell 229 AHB to send two Blackhats to Lai Khe. S-3 OPNS: Blackhats are on the way in the maintenance aircraft.

0910 hours - F/79 destroyed 1 X 51 cal AA gun, XT 760886, 0855H. Killed 3 enemy.

0925 hours - TRAC: Situation at An Loc is unchanged. Dau Tieng continues to receive intermittent indirect fire and small ground attacks, and ground probes.

1130 hours - TRAC SITREP: An Loc did not receive any incoming all morning.



4 X C-130 resupply drops went in with no word on success. Dau Tieng 2 battalions of enemy 7 km SE of Straight Edge Woods. In contact with ARVN forces.

1145 hours - D/229: XT 682743 1 UNK type vehicle. No activity on South side of road. North side has 2 tank revetments, no recent activity.

1225 hours - ALO: AA weapons reported YU 02203440 (37mm), XT 72003800 (57mm), XT 75108810 (23mm).

1425 hours - TRAC: S of Tay Ninh 2 battalions of NVA (possibly 24 regt) in contact with ARVN forces. American advisors requesting airstrike. Have confirmed 5 82mm mortar positions, 3 RR positions, 1 120mm mortar position, 3 51 cal AA guns, vicinity XT 2339.

2015 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 28 Apr: 1) HFT on station at An Loc 0600H. 2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700H.

28 April 1972:

0520 hours - ACTY: Skids up for F/79 AFA HFT for An Loc.

1610 hours - TRAC LOC: STREP An Loc: CBU's and napalm airstrikes during day have permitted ABN and Ranger elements to extend perimeter. Some progress is being made, particularly in SW. 80 replacements have been flown in and 57 ARVN WIA and 7 civilians WIA evacuated. Sporadic ABF and light contact in the SW continue. 8 ABN and 5 ABN Bns received ABF this morning. Dau Tieng: 2-43 Inf Bn was in contact at 1200H w/unknown sized enemy force. Ben Cua: 1-49 Inf and 2-49 Inf continued in contact with est 2 NVA Bns. QL 13: 21st Div continues to make little progress N of Chon Thanh. Road is relatively clear S of Chon Thanh. Resupply convoy remains at same location 5 km N of Lai Khe.

1625 hours - XT 749882 hvy fire team engaged 51 cal AA MG. Observed 3 secondary explosions. Confirmed by tunnel 10A (5th Div Advisor) Update: 3 secondary explosions believed to be 82mm ammo.

2230 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 29 April: (1) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc 0600 hours. (2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe for briefing at 0700 hours.

29 April 1972:

1030 hours - TRAC: APC spotted 2 km west of Lai Khe. F/9th Cav checking now.

1140 hours - DCO-A: On QL 13 from 80 to 85 km grid lines 300 to 400 people moving N. They are grouped at XT 750856 E of the rubber processing plant. S-3 OPNS: TRAC has no information, on the identity. Abn Bns are at XT 775785 and XT 779743 and have not moved.

1645 hours - TRAC G-3: Update on An Loc. Vietnamese UN-LH on resupply mission shot down approximately XT 781811. 7 km south of An Loc on QL 13 at 1515 hours. Road from Chon Thanh to Lai Khe now open. 5 resupply drops have been completed today.

2000 hours - S-2, F/79: Heavy section took 37mm ground to air fire west of An Loc at 184 OH. At 4500 ft and 110 knots. They received 1 bursts of flack.

2105 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 30 April: (1) Launch Cav Trp at 0730 to go to Lai Khe for briefing then to check Song Be corridor. (2) Launch heavy fire team at 0830 hours to Lai Khe to stand by.

30 April 1972

1120 hours - TRAC G-3: Says be prepared for to send another fire team to An Loc on order.

1215 hours - TRAC: Requested 2nd heavy fire team to be bounced to Lai Khe, off at 1235 hours.

2050 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 1 May: (1) Launch 1 heavy fire team at 0800 hours to go to Lai Khe and standby. (2) Launch 1 Cav Trp at 0730 hours to go to Lai Khe for briefing.

1 May 1972:

0945 hours - TRAC: Reports confirmed 37mm AA gun at XT 743886.  
1900 hours - ACC: All birds left Lai Khe at 1900H after picking up several Americans (2 wounded) at An Loc. Received ground to air fire from SW while at An Loc. Negative hits.  
2235 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 2 May: 1) 1 Cav Trp Launch at 0900H to Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) prepare to launch heavy fire team at 0900H, launch on order.

2 May 1972:

0600 hours - ARTY: HFT for Dustoff 159 skids up at 0555H callsigns outlood 03, 12 & 20.  
0750 hours - F/79 Arty: Skids up on heavy fire team to An Loc to support the airborne brigade in contact.  
1225 hours - TRAC: Requested another heavy fire team for An Loc. Skids up 1240.  
1250 hours - TRAC: F/79 Arty to 1st ARVN BN made contact at XT 743886 since 1000. Kau Hong ARVN forces in contact at XT 633327. US MAC supporting.  
1640 hours - DCO-A: Heavy fire team F/79 released from mission to Lai Khe.  
1710 hours - DCO-A: AC-119 shot down at XT 633327. Pink Team D/229 supporting. CG TRAC also overhead.  
1735 hours - DCO-A: Picked up 1 individual from downed AC-119 at Fire Base Tan Lee Chan west of An Loc. Individual is USAF enlisted man who reported that his aircraft had crew of 10. Aircraft took approximately 6 37mm rounds. 5 individuals believed to have survived crash.  
1930 hours - DCO-A: Reports USAF picked up 4 additional survivors of AC-119 crash and rescue efforts are still being made. DCO-A has left crash site and is enroute to Bien Hoa at this time.  
2145 hours - TRAC: Mission for 3 May: Launch Pink Team at 0800H. From this location to Lai Khe to be briefed by blackjack 15. Be prepared to launch a heavy Fire Team from this location on order from 0600 H. Informed TRAC we would send a purple team instead of Pink Team.

3 May 1972:

0700 hours - TRAC: Anti-aircraft positions spotted at XT 75508750-23mm XT 74708820-37mm.  
1340 hours - F/79 Arty: At XT 749839 at 1255 hours F/79 Arty was engaged by 37mm gun. No hits. Did not engage. TRAC stated USAF would engage target.

4 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) at 0800 hours launch Cav Trp to Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) Be prepared to launch HFT any time after 0800 hours.  
1028 hours - TRAC: Requested HFT to bounce to Lai Khe and receive instructions from TRAC forward and support the 5th ARVN ARVN BN.  
2250 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 5 May: 1) Cav Trp launch at 0800 hours and 01x HFT ready to launch at 0800 hours.

5 May 1972:

0430 hours - Binh Duong: For special Vn pick-up LNO at VIP Pad at Phouc Binh at 0100 hours. He will have all necessary clearances and friendly locations.

0430 hours - TRAC: Passed clearance for recon by fire in the following box from the 21st Div: XT 870423 - XT 900463 - XT 870496 - Initials TAI.

0725 hours - Binh Duong Sector: Clearance initials 21st ARVN Div - TAI. 5th ARVN Div - CPT Binh. Phu Gio Dist. - BKM.

1210 hours - ALO: GAF was received at 0615 hours. F4's at 8000' saw a dark black trail and lost sight of it at 9000'. 300/20 miles/shd 73. No air burst XT 6730.

1545 hours - TRAC G-3: Spool on An Loc. 3rd Airborne Bn, 31st Regt, and 9 ACR in contact off and on all day. Sporadic contact friendly initiated all day with some progress made in the north, west and south. No big movement up QL 13. Numerous resupplies into area with 95% on target, but 50% of the photos did not open. 2nd Airborne Bn was resupplied by VNAF helicopter with 116 replacements as well as fuel, batteries, medical resupply, and food. 28 wounded were also extracted.

1705 hours - F/9 Cav: 2 high birds at 4000 ft and 100 knots received intense 51 cal fire at XT 722876 and XT 726880 at 1700 hours. Negative hits.

1745 hours - F/9 Cav: Found 1 indirect firing position at XT 736792 had secondary explosion at 1735. Also engaged 1 camouflaged truck with unknown results.

1745 hours - F/79 Arty: Engaged troops in open at XT 757747 at 1630 hours, one secondary explosion unknown enemy losses.

1800 hours - F/9 Cav: Mission release from TRAC at 1745 hours.

6 May 1972:

1230 hours - F/79: At 1200 hoursavy Bn boarded to Lai Khe. Refuel at Lai Khe and standby there for further orders.

1745 hours - S-2: F/9 Pink Team at 1335 hours spotted 2 indiv at XT 712568, engaged with organics. Results 2 BN KKH.

7 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Trp depart Lai Khe at 0800 for Mission Briefing. 2) HPT be prepared to launch after 0800 hours.

1405 hours - F/9 Cav: At 1125 hours at XT 711546 found 20-30 10' x 10' bunkers, 10 x 15' x 40' hootches, 200' of trench line, numerous positions. Area engaged with organics and FAC air. Results: 5 x 15 x 40 hootches, 2 x 10 x 10 bunkers, all destroyed. 3 x 10 x 10 bunkers damaged.

1430 hours - F/9 Cav: At 1340 hours an OH-6A F/9 Cav at XT 723571 received 15 rds GAF (AK-47). Took hits in main rotor blades and landed safely. At XT 718538 crew extracted. Brown inserted, bird and browns extracted at 1410 hours. No injuries.

1450 hours - TRAC: Request heavy fire team to support 2nd ABN BN at XT 773721. Skids up - 151 OH.



1545 hours - S-2: F/9 observed 1 indiv at XT 721571 with several bunkers in area, engaged with organics. Results 1 x EN KBH.  
1750 hours - F/79 AFA: XT 773721 assisting 2nd ABN BN in TIC credited with 02 x EN KBH. Also received unknown # of unknown type GAF from XT 773717 engaged but could not put out of action.

#### 8 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: On 7 May the HFT from F/79 AFA was in support of 2 CO's of 2nd ARVN ABN BN. Received GAF and when they return fire they accidentally wounded 10 ARVN's. TRAC submitted pinnacle report.  
1300 hours - ACC: F/79 Arty at XT 755385 at 1118 hours while in support of ground troops engaged enemy force results 15 enemy KBH 1 RPD machine gun destroyed 1 60mm mortar destroyed 1 60mm mortar destroyed.  
1730 hours - F/9 Cav: YT 003575 F/9 Cav AH-1G was fired at with B-40, neg hits, flying 2000 ft.  
1830 hours - S-2: F/9 CH-6A at received small arms fire at XT 703590, negative hits, engaged with organics, unknown results.

#### 9 May 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC: Missions for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart at 0800 hours for Lai Khe for man briefing. 2) HFT be prepared to launch any time after 0800 hours.  
0345 hours - TRAC: FAC in An Loc area reported the firing of possible SA-7 missile at 0140 hours vic XT 743865, fired from ground; left white smoke trail and went between 2 FAC's and exploded in white flame. Negative damage.  
0845 hours - TRAC: Heavy fire team bounced to Lai Khe to refuel then on to An Loc where contact is under way.  
0847 hours - F/79: Skids up HFT for Lai Khe.  
1450 hours - F/79 AFA: At XT 758388 at 1430 hours engaged on large bunker with unknown # of indiv. Bunker destroyed and unknown # of indiv KBH.  
1530 hours - DCO-A: Bodies of 2 pilots recovered, taken to Lai Khe, transferred to graves registration people. 1 ARVN body also in area, ARVN personnel on operation. did not want to pick it up.  
1800 hours - S-2: F/79 section at 1150 hours received heavy AA fire at XT 763887, while flying at 4000' and 110 knots, possible 23 or 37mm fire. Engaged with organics, firing ceased.

#### 10 May 1972:

0130 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart for Lai Khe for mission briefing at 0800 hours. 2) HFT on stand by as of 0800 hours.

11 May 1972:

0040 hours - TRAC: Mission for Today: 1) Cav Troop depart at 0800 hours for Lai Khe for mission briefing. 2) HFT be prepared to launch any time after 0800 hours.

0345 hours - TRAC: An Loc has been receiving three times the amount of incoming and has troop movement to the S and NE. Have HFT on station at An Loc at first light. Called F/79 ARF and instructed them to have HFT at An Loc NLT 0615 hours. Called F/9 Cav and instructed them to have a chase ship on standby at Lai Khe NLT 0600 hours. Called modevac and instructed them to have modevac at Lai Khe at 0630 hours.

0420 hours - TRAC: Tanks have been sighted at An Loc. Request HFT be on station at 0600 hours. Will have Lai Khe opened early.

0440 hours - TRAC: Situation at An Loc is getting worse. Request HFT be on station at 0540 hours. Chase ship will be at Lai Khe at 0540 hours. Rearm and refuel will be open at Lai Khe. MAX will be on 61.05 FM, contact freedom monitor at Lai Khe on 56.55 FM, contact squirrel. Also put 3 gunships on standby.

0530 hours - TRAC: At 0440 hours. Intercepted enemy radio message stating that this was the last big attack to take An Loc.

0625 hours - TRAC: At the present time tanks are inside the An Loc perimeter. Launch second HFT. Skids up at present time.

0640 hours - TRAC: There are 200 heat rockets at Lai Khe.

0720 hours - RASH FAC: At XT 740882 sometime this morning an unidentified rocket was fired at FAC's.

0805 hours - RASH FAC: A-37 shot down 2 km north of An Loc. F/9 Cav heavy team covering downed at this time.

0920 hours - F/79 ARTY: Three tanks at XT 715892, 5 tanks inside An Loc. A-37 shot down in item 16 was shot down by 23mm.

1025 hours - F/79 ARTY: Report total of 11 tanks destroyed by ground troops, FAC Air, and F/79 Arty. F/79 claims 4 tanks destroyed.

1040 hours - CG: Anti-aircraft positions XT 810902 - 37mm, XT 789918 - 23mm, XT 778890 - 23mm, XT 724893 - 23mm, XT 730843 - 37mm, XT 754865 - 37mm. XT 7585 right 1 up 1 numerous 51 cal positions. XT 7590 right 2 up 2 numerous anti-aircraft sites.

1040 hours - CG: At XT 746894 A-37's attacking 2 tanks and troops in open.

1215 hours - CG: AH-1G shot down north of An Loc, at 1215 hours at XT 755872. F/79 bird.

1335 hours - S-3: Cobra shot down in item 26 is near friendly troops who will try to get to wreckage.

1425 hours - RASH: At 0937 one FAC in C2 bird dog reported down. At 1120 another FAC reported missing.

1740 hours - TRAC: An Loc update total 13 tanks destroyed today. Only one penetration by two tanks and NVA platoon. Heavy buildup to the north and west of city. No ground probes in 30 to 60 minutes.

1745 hours - TRAC: U.S. casualty at XT 786622. Need gunships to cover Long Binh dustoff. We have turned our guns around to support.

1920 hours - S-2: 1915 hours, XT 865163, F/79 MAX bird received unknown number of rounds CLP at 2000 ft and 100 knots.

2300 hours - DCC-Loc: Send TOW missile section with MAX to An Loc.

skids up at this time.

MAI bird crash at XT 755872 on 11 May. Saw one of the pilots dragging

for Today: (1) Heavy fire team on station at  
Cav Troop depart at 0800 for mission briefing at Lai

on An Loc: Since 1900 last night, there has  
all sides. Tanks and infantry moving on south, east, and  
direct fire from the east from tanks and 105's. TAC Air  
employed and have relieved the pressure a little for

are available from the Cav Troops for the pos-

on An Loc, enemy controls the northern half of the  
in the SW. Three to four tanks are reported in the  
light with no 23mm or 37mm reported. Possible  
air missile fired this morning.

1005 hours - ACC: F/9 Cav AH-1G received GAF from three individuals. 1  
fuselage, damaging avionics and wounding pilot in  
engaged with negative results. Pilot medevac from Lai

1055 hours - F/79 ARTY: Ground troops at An Loc confirm 4 tanks destroyed  
by F/79 Art at XT 755874 at 111000 May 1972.

1440 hours - RASH FAC: VNAF A-1 shot down SW of An Loc. Pilot bailed out.  
F/9 Cav will try to support. Possible ground-to-air missile. Pilot is at  
XT 750870.

1705 hours - F/9 CAV: At XT 750876 at 1505 hours AH-1G F/9 Cav received un-  
known amount of 51 cal GAF and one B-40 round negative hits or damage, nega-  
tive response due to weather.

1705 hours - ACC: F/9 Cav AH-1G at XT 686872 engaged 2 individuals walking  
on trail. 1 KHH at 0925 hours. At 0930 hours at XT 700875 engaged two 2 1/2  
ton trucks on road. 1 dest, 1 damaged. Received GAF from 3 individuals.  
Pilot of AH-1G wounded.

14 May 1972:

0200 hours - TRAC: An Loc SITREP:

0130 hours - Receiving direct fire from E. Troops on W in contact. Incom-  
ing was increasing. 0140 - Tanks reported near western perimeter. 0145 -  
Tanks and troops approaching from W and SW. RR fire from E. Contact all  
around perimeter.

0300 hours - S-3 OPNS: Notify 229 to place all available aircraft on a 30  
minutes standby as of 0600 hours. Same for F/9 and D/229.

0300 hours - TRAC: Heavy pressure on W. Incoming increased from moderate  
to heavy. TAC Air presently being employed.

0500 hours - TRAC: Troops in contact on W, SW, and NE, exchanging SA fire, incoming incoming has decreased.

0600 hours - HFT skids up at this time. Asked TRAC to let us know if they reported phase ship had departed at 0530 hours for Lai Khe.

0600 hours - TRAC: Troops at An Loc at in light contact, have moderate incoming. TAC Air is presently being employed. Weather is currently 5000', visibility 7 miles and some ground haze. HFT not needed at this time, returning to Lai Khe.

0615 hours - S-2: 111 OH-6A from F/9 and D/229 are on standby.

1100 hours - D/229: 1330 hours, XT 708872, An OH-6A took 30 fds AK-47 fire from 3 different locations. Flying at tree top level at 100 knots. Results: negative hits or casualties, of damage. Eng'd w/org's unknown results. ARVN reported. ARVN had unknown results.

1600 hours - TAC: Approx 1500 hours 2 kilometers S of An Loc, sundog 7, An OH-6A was shot down by a SA-7. Pilot was recovered by ARVN and taken to An Loc (ARVN AIRBORNE).

1725 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 15 May: (1) Cav Trp Co to arrive air ops center at 0645 hours, Cav Trp arrive at 0700 hours. (2) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600 hours.

15 May 1972:

0001 hours - TRAC: An Loc is relatively quiet at this time. Some contacts around the perimeter. No tanks have been sighted.

0200 hours - TRAC: SPECIRE has spotted a convoy of 18 vehicles to the west of An Loc and is currently working out on them. The city has been taking sporadic incoming. Situation is pretty stable at this time. TAC Air is being employed. Weather is good at this time.

0820 hours - F/79 AFA: At XT 746885 SPAD a surface to air missile being fired, at F4. TAC Air employed.

0900 hours - 7th AF: 37mm high threat area 2.5 km radius of XT 750875.

0900 hours - ACC: D/229 Cav bouncing at this time to support 21st ARVN Convoy which has begun.

0955 hours - F/79 AFA: Report SAM at XT 769881 being fired at 0130 left tremendous white cloud and hvy smoke trail.

1005 hours - ACC: Report following SAM launching sites.

TIME	PLACE
0800	XT 750855
0845	XT 746885
0945	XT 769881
0845	XT 746695

Report from F/79 AFA and AF. TAC Air is presently being employed, on firing sites. F/79 is being pulled away by DCOA. F/79 away from An Loc due to SAM situation.

1700 hours - DCO-A: XT 773700 ALE while putting in air was shot down. American pilot bailed out, landed between enemy and friendly lines. Low bird from D/229 tried to pick him up, rec'd hvy GAF at XT 772701 went from another direction and picked up the pilot. Pilot is OK. Request combat response from TRAC for grid of GAF.

2015 hours - TRAC: Report on An Loc, convoy at 75 grid, 1.9 km E of L 13. An Loc quiet.

2200 hours - TRAC: Mission for 16 May: (1) Heavy fire team on station at An Loc at 0600 hours. (2) Cav Trp at Lai Khe at 0700 hours.



16 May 1972:

0200 hours - TRAC: An Loc continues to be quiet. Negative contact. City of An Loc is under light ER and mortar fire. 6 KS W of Trang Bang an OP is supporting. Also at An Loc spectra is destroying 2.

0400 hours - TRAC: An Loc is very quiet and does not need HFT at this time. An Loc is still receiving light sporadic

0400 hours - F/79 skids up for Lai Khe.

1700 hours - TRAC: Mission for 17 May is for 2 UH-1H, HROANS, 1 heavy fire team and medevac at Lai Khe at 0515 hours.

17 May 1972:

0310 hours - TRAC: An Loc is very quiet. There has been some troop movement and occasional exchange of fire and incoming.

0500 hours - ARTY: Skids up at 0445 hours for HFT. Medevac skids up at 0450 hours.

0505 hours - D/229: Skids up at this time.

0515 hours - TRAC: An Loc is still very quiet, only sporadic incoming.

0615 hours - TRAC: The aircraft for the snatch at An Loc are returning to Lai Khe due to the weather. The snatch will be postponed until the weather abates.

0915 hours - TRAC: COL Fulwyler has relieved the 3rd Bde of the responsibility for a Cav Trp in the An Loc area.

20 May 1972:

0955 hours - F/79 AFA: Skids up to Lai Khe at 0955 for HFT.

1025 hours - D/229 Cav: Bounced chase ship to support F/79 at Lai Khe. Blues bounced to Lai Khe at 1040.

1300 hours - TRAC: Snatch CPN of pilot out of An Loc completed at this time. Pilot was shot down 3 days ago.

2045 hours - TRAC: Have HFT on 5 minute standby as of 0615 hours.

21 May 1972:

1745 hours - TRAC: Update An Loc very quiet only sporadic incoming, no ground contacts task force 9 in contact rest of the day 3/15 has had sporadic contact. Convoy made no headway north today.

1915 hours - TRAC G-3: Sent 1 Pink Team to Lai Khe at 0800 on 22 May to be briefed by LNO from ARVN 21st Div for VR mission. Will send 1 Cav Trp and heavy section of MAX. The Cav Trp will contact autocrat alpine on FM. DOCA said to send HFT also.

22 Aug 1972:

0945 hours - TRAC: An Ice update 3000 ft. GS at 100 km would be by 100  
70 from the S and SW. TRAC Air support, many more contacts and evaded  
to the SW. 15th Regt and 2/39, 3/33 have been in operations continue. Their  
man is to link up with a friendly Plt of 15th Regt at the thermal processing  
plant vic XT 7586.

1240 hours - F/79 AFA: While supporting Task Force 9 and 1st Air Bn (1 Bn), F/79 AFA is credited with 20 kills to 1140 hours, VIO 11 4500 ft.

1330 hours - F/79 .FA: F/79 received 1st rd of 3000 lb. bomb and at least 9 rds of 30mm A/F. F/79 was destroyed by 30mm A/F. 1-0 Air expended. Unknown reaction at 0100 hrs. 11/19/79.

1730 hours - F/T9 AFA: AA-10 fired precautionary, hitting the 1st line of I-1  
Rhe. No casualties were AT 70000.

1900 hours - HHC: Mission for 1st Lt. 1st Div. 1st Regt. 1st Bn. 1st Co. 1st Platoon  
for briefing. 1 NPT arrive on mission at 1800 hours, 10 miles from 1st Regt,  
2nd Div.

23 May 1972:

1255 hours - F/9 CMF: At 1000 hours conducted all of the activities conducted at 221655 May 72. Found 10 5' x 3' barriers destroyed and 3' x 3' 50 Foot long trench all in vicinity of AF 712812 to AF 712819. At 1005 hours at XT 712812 and AF-10 received the bomb crates with unknown contents.

1315 hours - AGO: Elements of 1st AFV Bn. in an area destroyed 2 APC's and 1 Bn 50P and killed 20 ene. The documents captured believed to be command group of 204 Bn armored regiment.

24 May 1972:

0900 hours - TAC 3-3 called for flight mission of 11 to arrive at the line at 0930. Will cover to Duster in an area where the 11, deployed. TAC 3-3 requesting Duster from Long Binh. The 11 is on the line.

1930 hours - MAC-1 reports on the 100th Air Division band in contact and a short contact mostly south. The 100th troops moving out of the city in all directions with little resistance. Incoming to MAC-1 at 1930. No observation due to incoming in late afternoon. Some of the 100th's resupplying this morning MAC-1 Air trying to influence at this point at 1930. No 100th contact in vicinity of Hanoi VC.

1045 hours - F/9 GR1: AH-1C downed 1/15, 1045. shot down by a SAM at RV 045705  
missile firing site at RV 706700. 1-38 AAA moving to site at this time.  
FAC reports crash saw the aircraft crash. It burned for six minutes and  
then exploded. 2 U.S. KIA.

1120 Hours - F-40 has contacted Tokyo Control Center and the ops of A-37's to respond to missile threat - 1000.11.

1205 hours - 15-10: 1-35 AFM in contact with 1st and 2nd of F/79 Army  
All-10 (See Foot. 11). They have not reached their goal.

1950 hours - F/4 ONI. AT 1945 I saw from F/4, 4 or 5 I-40s, 1 I-40 ONI 2nd. 3 51 ONI 10. AT 1940 I saw destroyed 2 51 ONI 10. I made 10 to IAI. We will be along out tonight.

25 May 1972:

26 May 1972:

27 May 1972:

30 May 1972:

31 May 1972:

(2.6)

June 1972:

A body has been recovered by the ARVN and is believed to be body of Mr. Hann F/79 AFA pilot-shot.

Mission for Cav Troop: (1) FLB at Lai Khe at 0700 hours.  
Lai Khe NLT 0800 hours.  
Reports GAF at following locations during snatch mission: small arms at 6265 37m, XT 7587 small arms. No snatches at these grids due to quality of Class V on hand. ARC-Lights are being plotted in the area.

6 June 1972:

0830 hours - TRAC: Requested heavy fire team and Medevac to Lai Khe by 0900. Evac up 0812 for American advisor with 15th ARVN Rgt at XT 755845.  
1315 hours - TRAC: Medevac UH-1H from 215th Medical Company received an unknown amount of 51 cal GAF at XT 761779. UH-1H went down at XT 773798 crew and passengers were evacuated aircraft burned in place. Crew taken to Lai Khe, combat and response 4 sorties of TAC Air.

10 June 1972:

2120 hours - TRAC G-3: Mission for 11 June is to BDA ARCLIGHT at XS 596927 same as today upon completion of that report to Long An Province for VR mission, report to Tan An, (MEDUSA SERPENT 59.55, FM).

11 June 1972:

0840 hours - F/9 CAV: 0805 F/9 Cav Cobra went down for mechanical problems at Phouc Vinh. F/9 Browns inserted to secure the bird. A/1/7 CRF LCH went down at 0815 for same reason.  
0945 hours - 1/7: EOD blow at Grunt II at 1400 hours MAX CRB at 3000'.  
1622 hours - TRAC G-3: Send section of MAX to cover extraction of helicopter down for mechanical reasons near Cu Chi. Contact Bean 6 on 58.00 in air over Cu Chi.

13 June 1972:

0805 hours - S-3: 1st lift is enroute to XT 758865 with elements of 31st Regiment, everything going well.  
0905 hours - DCC-A: Two lifts into LZ at this time. On 2nd lift took incoming and small arms ground to air fire. UH-1H from A/229 shot down in LZ at XT 758865. LZ moved 600 meters. Crew extracted, other birds have been hit by GAF. 1 U.S. WIA.





bodies of AH-1G crew downed 0820 recovered, at ville,  
 1st Abn Bde will move to new PZ loc at XT 768750, PZ  
 2nd lift troops.  
 Reports VNAF observed 2 AH-1G's being shot down, 1 A/C  
 reports PZ moved to 790 IM grid line on Hwy 13.  
 1900 hours 1 km S Thanh Kai, VNAF will extract AIS's  
 2000 hours, airlift of troops to follow, Yellow flight bounced  
 reports F/79 AH-1G located at XT 783762. A/C seemed in-  
 trouble outside A/C.  
 2100 hours: Airlift of Abn Bde off until tomorrow.

21 June 1972:

0800 hours - Skids up to Lai Khe.

A - Yellow

B - Red

C - Black

1210 hours - Read plans from Lai Khe, to attempt extraction at 1300 hours  
 to be preceded by VNAF TAC Air. If this extraction fails the Cav Troops  
 will attempt an extraction after dark tonight.

1345 hours - 1st lift on PZ Abn Bde PZ cold.

1352 hours - 2nd lift is out of PZ some CAF coming out.

1445 hours - 3rd lift out of PZ w/light CAF this was first VNAF flight.

1455 hours - 8 flights of U.S. ships and 1 VNAF out of An Loc at this time.

1523 hours - CG notified that a F/79 cobra down near road at 1510 hours.

Crew O.K. Securing force on way. A SA-7 missile shot down the cobra at  
 XT 758773. Crew extracted, condition unknown.

1645 hours - 2 F/79 pilots O.K. 16 lifts completed. 137 10 lifts to go.

1834 hours - PZ at An Loc for 1st Abn Bde clear of troops.

1855 hours - Mission release at Lai Khe.

2030 hours - TRAC requirement for 21 June, (25) lift ships for support ARVN  
 move from Lai Khe to An Loc.

22 June 1972:

0615 hours - Skids up, Black, Red, Yellow.

0825 hours - 1st lift off Lai Khe at 0816 delayed by late ARVN troops.

0840 hours - 1st lift into An Loc complete.

0900 hours - ARC lights in An Loc area. All A/C grounded at Lai Khe until  
 strike completed.

1030 hours - TRAC: 31st ARVN Regt recovered bodies of 2 F/79 crewmen shot  
 down 20 June.

1200 hours - D/229: Received 51 cal XT 806848.

1351 hours - UH-1H rec SAGAF at An Loc coming out of LZ. No damage to A/C.  
 1 crewmember received superficial wounds.

1420 hours - UH-1H at 50' and 80 ks rec AH-47 GAF at XT 815827.

1505 hours - 13 lifts completed at this time.

2330 hours - TRAC: Mission 23 June: Insert 43rd Regt in An Loc extr regt  
 from An Loc to Lai Khe.

Skids up for TRAC missions, F/79 - 0535, Black Flt - 0610 Yellow Flt - 0630.  
 0715 hours - 3 lift gaggles extracted at 0715 hours at YT 042148.  
 0715 hours - 3 lift gaggles rec'd mission release and are enroute to Bien Hoa. F/79 will continue to support.  
 0715 hours - TRAC that we are sending 1 Cav Trp and 2 hvy MAJ Bde to Lai Khe at 0715 hours. Request briefing at 0715 hours. Informed as soon as possible when the Airborne Bde is in PZ.  
 0715 hours - Tonight we need to know ASAP so that we can send a 10 ship flight at first light, with five ships to follow. If it is tomorrow we will send 15 ship gaggles as soon as we are notified. Also requested they have status at Lai Khe at 0715 hours. Requested that Danger 79 be informed of all of the above details and that MAJ Nadal at Lai Khe and MAJ Bentson also be informed. Will need initials when 79 is informed.  
 0830 hours - DELAYED ENTRY: 130930 H June XT 719195, Browns from F/9 were inserted to get down VII-III. Highbird covering them rec'd hvy GAF, Browns rec'd 2 BCO rds and 30 cal fire. Browns defended from shell crater. Were not able to be extracted. While the slicks were coming in to extract them 15 - 20 EN tried to rush the ships. Browns engaged with automatic weapons fire. Plt ldrs estimate 7 - 8 EN KIA and 4 - 5 EN WIA. EN w wearing khakis and had AK-47 rifles.  
 2140 hours - TRAC G-3: MACV has to ask TRAC for an impact statement on what would happen if TRAC lost the following assets: 5x AH-1G, 4x CH-47A, and F/79 AFA. Danger 79 and defiant 5 have objected but it still may happen. Also MSC (Ref Item 27) has been proposed to MAJ Bentson. He said he would inform Danger 79. TRAC forward has notified and will relay message to MAJ Nadal. MAJ Bentson said he would concur with all aspects of the message (JDW).  
 0640 hours - Aircraft off for Lai Khe, skids up, F/79 0535; Black - 0600; Red - 0612; Yellow - 0630; F/9 - 0610.  
 0520 hours - TRAC: Extract 1st Abn Bde, Bde meeting resistance. All night 18 June, May not make PZ until 1000 hours, 19 June.  
 0955 hours - TRAC revised PZ time for Abn Bde to 1200 hours because 5th ARVN ABN BN is in contact VIC XT 764797. Being supported by MAX. Est enemy to be 2 companies of 141st and 165th NVA Regiments..  
 1500 hours - LAI KHE: 3 lift gaggles received mission release and are enroute to Bien Hoa, F/9 and F/79 continue support.  
 1600 hours - TRAC sends same mission for 20 June 1972.

20 June 1972:

0610 hours - Skids up for Lai Khe. F/9 and F/79 lifts on standby at Bien Hoa.  
 0820 hours - AH-1G, F/9 shot down at XT 769770, 0812, SA-7, no survivors.  
 0825 hours - AH-1G, F/79, received unk no hits 51 cal, returning to Lai Khe with escort cobra, escort cobra reported missing.  
 0915 hours - TRAC, U.S. PAC sighted wreckage of AH-1G, downed 0820 hours, vic 752797.



for Lai Khe Black, Red, Yellow, F/9 and D Trp.  
An Loc complete SAGAF received in vic of LZ.  
An Loc received ABF from 105 HOW. TAC Air in

complete.  
An Loc LZ still received sporadic SA and 51 cal  
from 105 HOW.

11 complete at An Loc still receiving ABF in vic LZ.

11 complete at An Loc 200 PI remain at Lai Khe.

11 complete at Lai Khe.

11 hours - TAC Mission for tomorrow; Extract LTC Butler's body Thanh  
Lai. Extract 115 PI from An Loc.

21 June 1972:

Black - 0715

Red - 0720

Yellow - 0725

D Trp - F/9 - 0645

0945 hours - 3rd lift in and out An Loc. 0937 received 1x 105 mm round in-  
coming A/C down 5K North Lai Khe maint. Problems. Enroute Bien Hoa (Slung  
out).

1020 hours - 4th lift in 1000 hrs received SAGAF XT 835789.

1055 hours - D/229 AH-1G down at 1042 hours at XT 824795 by 7 51 cal rds.

Crew extracted 1048 hours. Brown in to secure and extract A/C.

1200 hours - Downed D/229 AH-1G extracted 1135 hours last lift in progress.

1210 hours - An Loc mission complete. Lift ships returning Bien Hoa. Cav  
Troops will spt extraction LTC Butler's body.

1315 hours - CH-47 took 1 RD SAGAF while extracting D/229 AH-1G downed.  
(1042 hours).

1320 hours - ALL A/C at Lai Khe secured mission release and are enroute  
Bien Hoa.

20 June 1972:

0610 hours - AAE: F/79 skids up for Lai Khe at 0531. Skids up at 0600.

0820 hours - AAE reported that an AH-1G of F/9 exploded in the air and  
crashed at XT 769770 at approx 0815 hours. Suspected SA-7 missile shot it  
down. No survivors.

0825 hours - 1 AFA rec'd unk no of hits from unk type GAF and was returning  
to Lai Khe when another AFA AH-1G trailing the bird disappeared and is mis-  
sing at this time.

0915 hours - TRAC: US FAC reported sighting wreckage of an AH-1G at XT 752797.

1020 hours - TRAC: 2 bodies (See Item #5) have been recovered and are loc in  
the ville at XT 7677. Req TRAC to determine status of maps, SOI, & condition  
of A/C.



1355 hours - IMAO: Reports that WAF observed two comms going shot at this morning. 1 A/C still missing.  
 1300 hours - IMAO: PZ time is 1330 hours approx 1 km S Thanh Xa. WAF will ext KIA's and WIA's at 1330 hours, airlift of troops W. Yellow bounced to Lai Khe.  
 1330 hours - IMAO reports that F/79 AH-1G has been loc at NF 7-3782. A/C intact, however crewmen killed by SA fire outside area.  
 1545 hours - IMAO: Cav Troop mission tomorrow is to KDA and night strikes on targets TH. Request that CS & A-1H be available at Lai Khe.  
 1625 hours - Not Sig Bie of possible 807 comms. SA can be of downed A/C.  
 1630 hours - IMAO wanted a list of personnel from 1/9 Cav who participated in the ext of bodies from WAF CH-47 on 14 June. 3-7 LAC will hurry list to IMAO tomorrow.  
 1700 hours - IMAO: Reports that on location of F/9 Cav AH-1G shot down. It was down ext from Thanh Xa and will be trans order to 3rd Field Hospital.

19 June 1972:

0445 hours - 1st airlift into An Loc complete. Sporadic SA/GP firing in vic of LZ.  
 0445 hours - 4th lift into An Loc complete. WAF from 105 How. Greater analysis will be conducted. IMAO Air engaged suspected loc to NF TH.  
 0555 hours - 5th flight complete at An Loc.  
 1140 hours - 10th lift enroute to An Loc this time. LZ still free sporadic SA 7.51 cal GPF, also occasional AWP from 105 How. At NF 7-3151, while engaging a GPF position.  
 1145 hours - 2 sound-by AH-1G's bounced to Lai Khe. Leaved 1 PZ, in AC for contacts only.  
 1200 hours - Tactical emergency request for air movement of F/79 AH for-warded to IMAO 6-3 by AF 5213.  
 1545 hours - IMAO mission for tomorrow: (1) Transport LHO Bunker from Thanh Xa (2) Extract 313 AH from 1st eng from An Loc. All signs, freq, LZ & PZ locs will be sent later.  
 1600 hours - All IMAO will use offensive gunships to concentrate on suspected enemy 105 firing loc, via An Loc.

24 June 1972:

0300 hours - IMAO: Medevac for mission at Lai Khe has been laid on for 0800 hours 24 June. JMW specter has not been available to eng susp 105 firing pos due to unworkable weather. When weather broke, utilized on TIO along 01-19. Next specter due to start at 0330 to work for citizen people. Will utilize on 105 susp firing pos.  
 0510 hours - Weather has prohibited specter from engaging 105 firing pos. IMAO plans IMAO A/C before scheduled extraction begins.  
 0640 hours - IMAO: LHO Bunker's body will be ext prior to 0100 DMR BN.  
 0745 hours - Third flight in and out 0947, res'd by 105mm rd incoming, A/C went down 5 km of Lai Khe due to maint problem. At 0930 presently enroute to Binh Hoa (01-19 01-17).  
 1045 hours - 1/215 AH-1G down at 1042 hours at NF 7-2755 by 7.51 cal GPF. Crew ext 1044 hours. Browns being inserted w/extra cover for ext of downed AH-1G. Crew enroute to Lai Khe.

1200 hours - Down AC-119 ext 1135, last lift is in progress.  
 1220 hours - A.L. mission complete. Lift ships are returning to Bien Hoa.  
 Cav trps will supt ext of LTC Butler's body.  
 1225 hours - Req EOD team for cobra gunship problem w/AC-119.  
 1315 hours - AAE: Rec'd report of OH-47 rec'd 1 rd SA/GAF while ext downed cobra (See Item 15)  
 1320 hours - All A/C at Lai Khe rec'd mission complete and are enroute to Bien Hoa.

25 June 1972:

1050 hours - TRAC: LTC Ginger ready for pick-up at L.H. VIF pad at 1700 today.  
 1315 hours - TRAC: Rec'd report that F/9 cobra went down 27 mi off 1st radial channel 77 due to vibrating engine. The cobra reportedly took off again and is headed for Da Nang.

26 June 1972:

0100 hours - TRAC Mission: Mkt 2 U.S. advisors & 3 VN seriously wounded. PZ will be tightly controlled.  
 0745 hours - Skids up for Lai Khe for TRAC mission.  
 1040 hours - Downed OH-1B found at VT 075005.  
 1255 hours - TRAC: FAC up & possibly in trouble. Standby to assist.  
 Update: FAC landed safely at TSN.

29 June 1972:

1152 hours - AAE: Entire F/9 Cav Trp en route to Lai Khe at 1215 hours.  
 1200 hours - TRAC: Asked for guns ASAP. AAE: Guns in rearm and refuel. Will bounce at 1215 hours.  
 1225 hours - F/9 skids up for Lai Khe. 05X Cobras, 04X Slicks, 02X OH-6A.  
 Mission: Special VN for GUN Hollingsworth, also possible escort mission for dustoff. Binh Long SA was wounded in action. PZ approx 06X kilometers south of An Loc.  
 2120 hours - Req that dustoff report to Lai Khe at 1100 hours tomorrow for briefing in supt of F/9 Cav.  
 2130 hours - TRAC: Req that we fly an additional insertion mission into An Loc prior to the one scheduled at 1300 hours.

30 June 1972:

1045 hours - 03X guns bounced to Lai Khe to insert D.O. for not AAE 33rd Regt SA. Delayed due to weather.  
 1210 hours - F/9 Cav Trp reports to Lai Khe at 1400 not AAE, S-2/3 extraction mission at An Loc. Dustoff has been notified.  
 1825 hours - Escort mission has been postponed till tomorrow. 02X AH-1G & 01X OH-1H chase ship bounced at 0700 hours. EM 0730 hours for briefing at Lai Khe. Dustoff has been notified.

1 July 1972:

1140 hours - TRAC: Lift off at Lai Khe at 1400 hours.

1145 hours - TRAC: Hold F/9 until notification by TRAC.

1310 hours - F/9 rec'd mission release & are enroute to Bien Hoa. Medevac mission was successfully completed also.

2005 hours - 1920 hours req that TRAC notify dustoff to be at Cu Chi at

0730 hours tomorrow on strip alert in supt of D/229. Confirmed by TRAC.

2 July 1972:

1700 hours - F/9 cobra reptd GLX hit from GAF in its plexiglass while escorting CH-47's to Song Be.

1800 hours - Update of item #19 F/9 Cobra was flying 1000' at 130 kts at Y 153775. Recd O2X hits while on gun run. The other cobra also recd GLX hits in rotor blades. Neg Cas.

3 July 1972:

1045 hours - UH-1H from 120th Avn Co downed by GAF 1 1/2 W of refuel point at LZ buttons. Gun crew bounced. Crew has been ext to Phuoc Binh. UH-1H burning and CBL.

1730 hours - Rec'd TRAC Mission for 4 July 1972. VR box 5 w/100 and rearm point at Tay Ninh - Pick up 04 indivs at Cu Chi enroute. Warning for 5 July 1972: Be prepared to move approx 1000 troops from An Loc to Lai Khe & move approx 1000 troops from Lai Khe to An Loc. Expect VNAF to provide 05X UH-1H w/TFCC to provide 10. (If possible VNAF will provide 10 UH-1H & TFCC 5).

1745 hours - F/9 Eng'd preplanned TGT at MAX strikes 1 & 2 but unable to EDA due to bad weather.

4 July 1972:

1405 hours - TRAC tasked TFCC for 10 UH-1H's for Lai Khe - An Loc mission on 5 July.

1425 hours - CG directed CC & S-3 of 229th AHB to go to Lai Khe ASAP for mission briefing. Also, requested early release for D/229 in Cambodia & confirm no cross border missions for tomorrow.

1640 hours - D/229 has returned to Bien Hoa at 1548 hours.

5 July 1972:

0835 hours - 1st element of final approach at this time. CC enroute to An Loc.

0935 hours - S-3: U.S. flights of 2 ships each complete & 2 VNAF flights of 3 ships each complete.

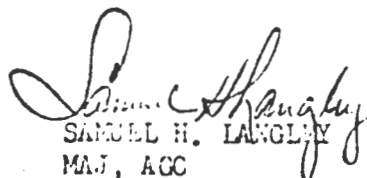
1200 hours - TRAC reports 90 sorties complete at 9 FAX PER A/C-810 total.

1215 hours - TRAC: Rec'd reports of A/C taking GAF S of Quan Lai, Neg hits, Cobras and TAC Air eng suspected gun locs. Lift ship rept rec'd SA/GAF while coming in and leaving LZ/PZ.

7 July 1972:

1510 hours - TRAC: 1 Cav Trp is tasked to VR Song Be corridor & Phu Giso (P) in Binh Duong (P) from 8 July thru 15 July. Dep S-2 & OB prepared to brief Cav Trp at 071930 July. Order confirmed 1715 hours.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
SAMUEL H. LANGLEY  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant



*Life April 21 1972*

## 'Can you hold out for just eight more minutes?'

When North Vietnamese troops drove across the Cambodian border toward Saigon, seven American advisers were trapped with a small force of South Vietnamese troops in the district compound at Locninh. The compound was surrounded, and for two days the Communists pounded it with rockets, mortars, bazookas and rifle fire. The besieged Americans, along with their ARVN troops, huddled in three bunkers underground. As dusk fell, Maj. Gen. James F. Hollingsworth, boss of the Third Region Assistance Command, hovered over the battle for three hours in his command helicopter, deploying American planes and gunships in a delaying action while trying to arrange an air rescue. In Hollingsworth's chopper, this is what it sounded like:

HOLLINGSWORTH (to trapped advisers on ground): "This is Two-Fiver. Oh baby, I'm coming pretty good. I'm still fighting and checking. I've been promised it [rescue helicopter] in ten minutes away. Don't go anywhere. I know where you are."

Two minutes later, he was again asked about the rescue helicopter.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Just going as fast as I can. Can you hold out about eight more minutes? I'm workin' as fast as I can, Eight-Three. Keep down, keep yourself together. You've been great. Talk to the FAC [Forward Air Controller] and just hold with it, baby."

Eight-Three was not reassured. He said that if he got out, it would be pure luck.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Ah, bull, don't you worry about that, baby. Well, it's not *pure* luck, baby. Hold in there."

Flights of aircraft were approaching Locninh from several bases in the area.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Everything's airborne, everything is up now. It's just a matter of a few minutes. . . . Ah, damn, you're a little strong great guy, Eight-Three. Just stand by now and listen and keep that [radio] net of yours open and talk to the FACs."

A small U.S. chopper circled into the compound to test the gunfire before the transport helicopters tried to land. The pilot ran into intense ground fire and had to scoot out immediately. In the din of battle, the men trapped inside their bunkers did not see the helicopter, and they asked about it.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "He got shot up with 50-cal [heavy machine-gun fire], and now we're putting more ordnance on the goddamned stuff to try to get in there to you."

With his helicopter dancing out of range of ground fire, Hollingsworth kept up his efforts.

HOLLINGSWORTH (to FAC): "Get that stuff working in there! (To advisers): I'm gonna pick up every one of you I can. I want to get you all back. I'm gonna take all of you out that I can."

An inaudible reply came from the men trapped below.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Well, I'm gonna try it."

Some of the ARVN troops caught at Locninh decided to abandon their position and make a run for it into the woods. Two of the American advisers decided to do the same.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "This is Big Cloud Two-Five. Stick with them little people and keep up on that radio." But there was no more radio contact with the two advisers.

Still below were five other trapped men. Hollingsworth spoke to one of them: "Ah, Chico-Whiskey, this is Two-Fiver. I'm going to stay with you and I'm gonna do every goddamned thing I can to get you out. God bless you."

Another member of the advisory team in a different bunker came on the radio, also asking to be taken out.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Roger, Oscar Four Chico, right. I'll do it, and don't give up, don't give up. We tried to get a low bird to you in there first and it was shot all to hell, and we've gone back and put more ordnance in there and we're still gonna work with you. We'll be here all night long; if it's possible to get you out of there, we're gon-

na do it. Don't give up hope. Just pray as I've been doing for you the last three days and just hang in there and God bless you. I'm gonna do everything in my power to get you out." [To other aircraft]: "Let's keep layin' that stuff in there. And I hope you monitored my conversation with Chico. This means we've got to stay with it."

Night had fallen, and the Communists were about to overrun the compound. Deciding the situation was hopeless, two of the remaining Americans also decided to make a run for it. They radioed their intentions to Hollingsworth, flying in the dark above.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "Roger, Chico. I'm trying my goddamnedest, and everybody else, the Air Force, MACV and everybody else is behind this trying to get you out. We care about you and we're still trying, so go ahead into hiding there and take that radio and keep it up as long as it works and

whether I can still talk to you or not, I'm still going to try to get in there and get you out."

Hollingsworth could see the Communist troops storm the remaining defenses. He reported to the other planes what Chico was going to do and ordered continued saturation fire into the area.

HOLLINGSWORTH: "He is gonna hide in [location] and he's gonna want you to keep the enemy's heads down all night. I will make another attempt tomorrow to get in touch with them and to recover them." Then he switched call signals. "Light-Three, it's Two-Fiver, over. Eight-Three, Two-Fiver, over." Pause. "Chico, Two-Fiver, over. Chico, Two-Fiver, over." There was a long pause, and in a lower, discouraged voice Hollingsworth said: "No contact with Chico or Eight-Three as of this hour. Two-Fiver, out." "

HAROLD ELLITHORPE

**Script-Howard Staff Writer**

The mission: land his light observation "Loach" helicopter on a red-dirt road near battle-ruined An Loc and pick up three American military advisers who with 15 South Vietnamese soldiers were surrounded by North Vietnamese (NVA) firing from the cover of rubber trees on either side of the road.

The soldiers on the ground were desperate, wounded men who had been in the jungle for days evading the enemy. Now they were dug in under a big log beside the road, and the enemy was being kept off their backs only by a daisy chain of American air strikes around them.

There was another problem, however. Capt. Whitehead saw it as soon as he raced in over the trees, with ground fire popping around him, and sat his little ship down on the road.

A Loach is a small craft with a bubble nose, about as sturdy as a baby buggy. But those bloodied, exhausted, shell-pounded Vietnamese knew that to be left behind was almost certainly to die.

**'I was mad and helpless.  
I figured this was it.'**

The Vietnamese twisted off Sgt. Waite's machine-gun belt and pulled him to the ground. He fought his way back to the Loach and then the Vietnamese climbed all over, screaming, crying, trying to get on.

"All this time the NVA were firing from the trees. One ARVN, holding onto Ripley's skids, was shot in the back and fell off. Then another one was knocked off.

"I was trying to pick it up but my ship wouldn't move. A Loach with the engine armor we carry is built to carry two people, just two. It'll carry more, but not this many more.

"There were 11 people piled on and hanging all over. The American sergeant in back with the bloody bandage around his head weighed 240 pounds by himself.

"I was mad and helpless. All my instruments had gone wacky. We were kicking up clouds of red dust. It flashed in my mind that this time I had strung it out too far. I figured this was it. But I started kicking the Loach's pedals, trying to get in the air just for a moment.

"Suddenly it started to move, just a little bit. I kept kicking. The ship was shimmying and shaking all over, like we were going to pop rivets. But it started to bounce up and down. Then I got it to spinning around. All directional control was lost. The Vietnamese were all hanging off the right side and the ship was leading sideways.

"We were spinning around and around in the dust like something crazy and then went bouncing off down the road. I heard the NVA firing as we bounced 16, 12, 13 times going 60 yards down the road and all the time the ARVN were still hanging onto the skids, and onto the legs of the Americans.

I could see the trees ahead and knew I wasn't going to make it so I started doing these circles about five feet off the ground. I don't know how many people dropped off, but Ripley — he was circling above me — told me there were only nine on now — only nine — and somehow we started to lift.

"About 20 feet in front of us an NVA in a  
(Continued on Page 10)

Page 10

## 'It was hang on or die'

(Continued from Page 3)

dirty green uniform ran out and fired point blank at us with his AK 47. Others ran out all along the treeline and began firing.

"I knew I was taking hits. I could hear the metal just tearing way, like popcorn popping. When they're right underneath it's a sickening feeling when they open up on you. We took a round in the fuel tank and began spewing gas. We took two 51 caliber machine gun hits in the rotor blades, but we were still flying. The little buggy wouldn't quit.

### BLOOD SATURATES SHIP

"Another round came right up thru the pedals past me, thru the American sergeant's hand in back and blood blew all over the windshield. By now the ship was saturated with it.

"I was having a terrible time controlling the aircraft. We staggered just up over the tree-tops about a 100 feet, still leaning side. Then this one ARVN crawled up from the right skid and tried to crawl in with me. But there was no way to get in. Got one arm wrapped around me, then the other, interlocked with my arm. Everytime he heard shooting he tried to crawl in further. He was about to make me wreck the ship, which was wobbly and shaking. I couldn't get any more altitude, the engine seemed about to quit, and this guy had me in a death grip. We were already leaning so far to the right that if he pulled my steering arm one more inch we were going into trees.

"I kept yelling in my radio to my commanding officer (flying in another chopper overhead) that if I could get to this little bastard on my right I would beat the hell out of him. I said if we ever landed I was going to get out and just beat the living hell out of him.

### 'HANG ON OR DIE'

"But I've got to hand it to all of them. I dragged them 18 miles thru the trees, all wounded and bleeding, and they had the guts to hang on. It was hang on or die.

"And then, finally when we made it back

this poor little guy, got off. He was the smallest of them all. The others just fell off the chopper and collapsed. But I looked at him and he was like some half-dead little animal — red-eyed, filthy dirty, blood soaked all over his front, and just sort of standing there weaving and looking at me. Then he clasped his hands together, bowed his head, and collapsed."

Back at his Bien Hoa base, Capt. Whitehead was asked what would happen if he had to do it all over again. He said:

"I don't know if I could do it again. Yeah, I would do it again, but I don't know if I'd make it this time. The more I think about it the more ridiculous it seems."

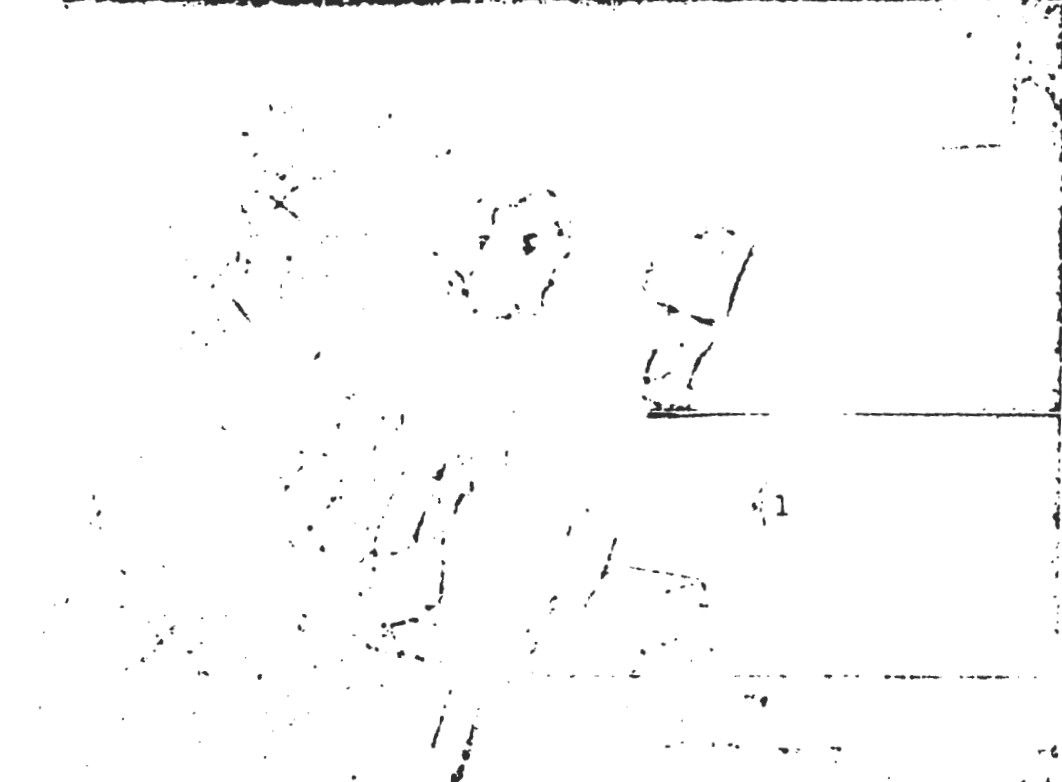
Dream or not, Capt. Whitehead has been awarded the Silver Star for bravery and recommended for the Medal of Honor.





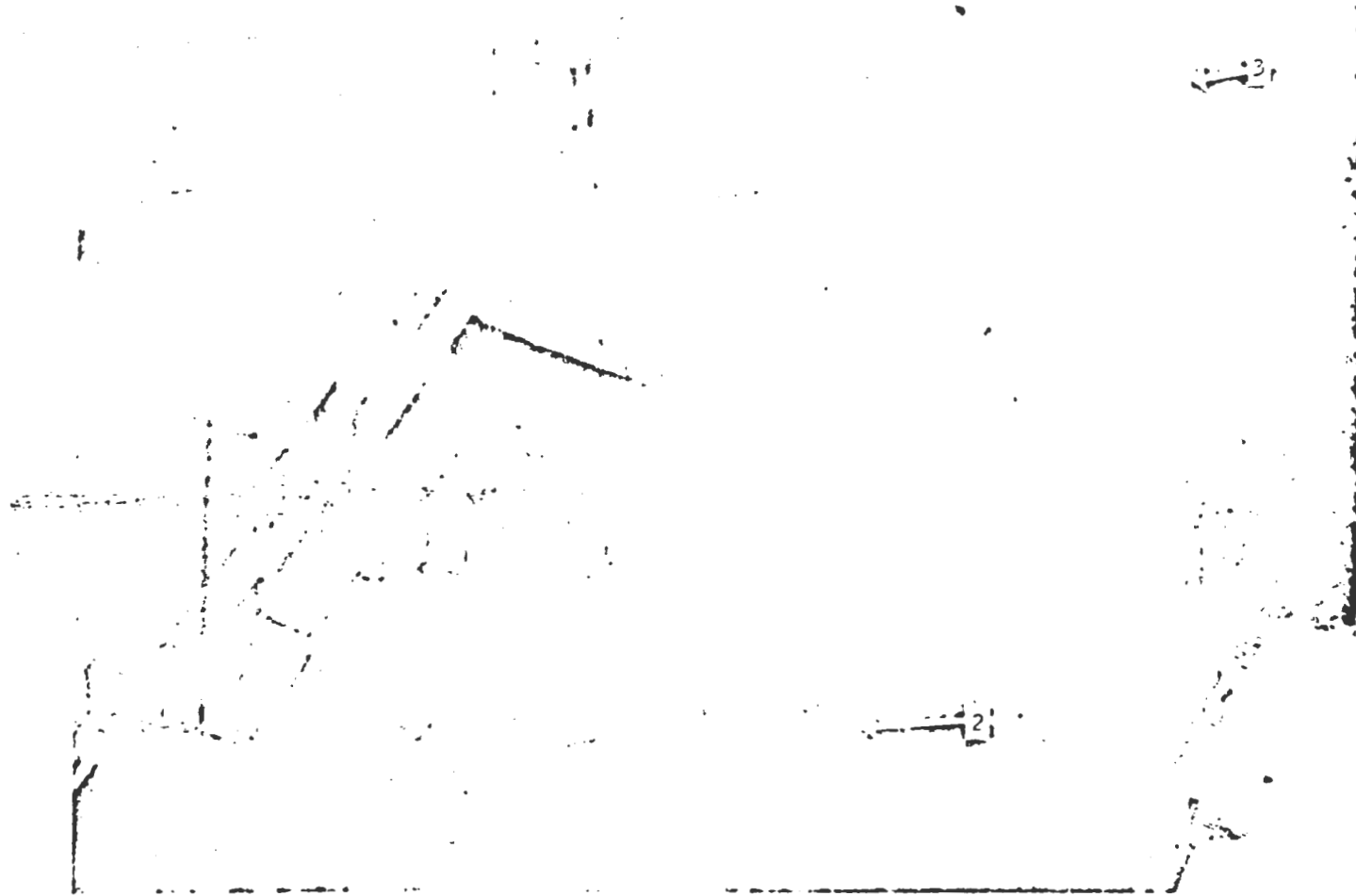
AVIATION WEEK - 22 MAY 1972

## Army Cobras Blast Tanks Near An Loc

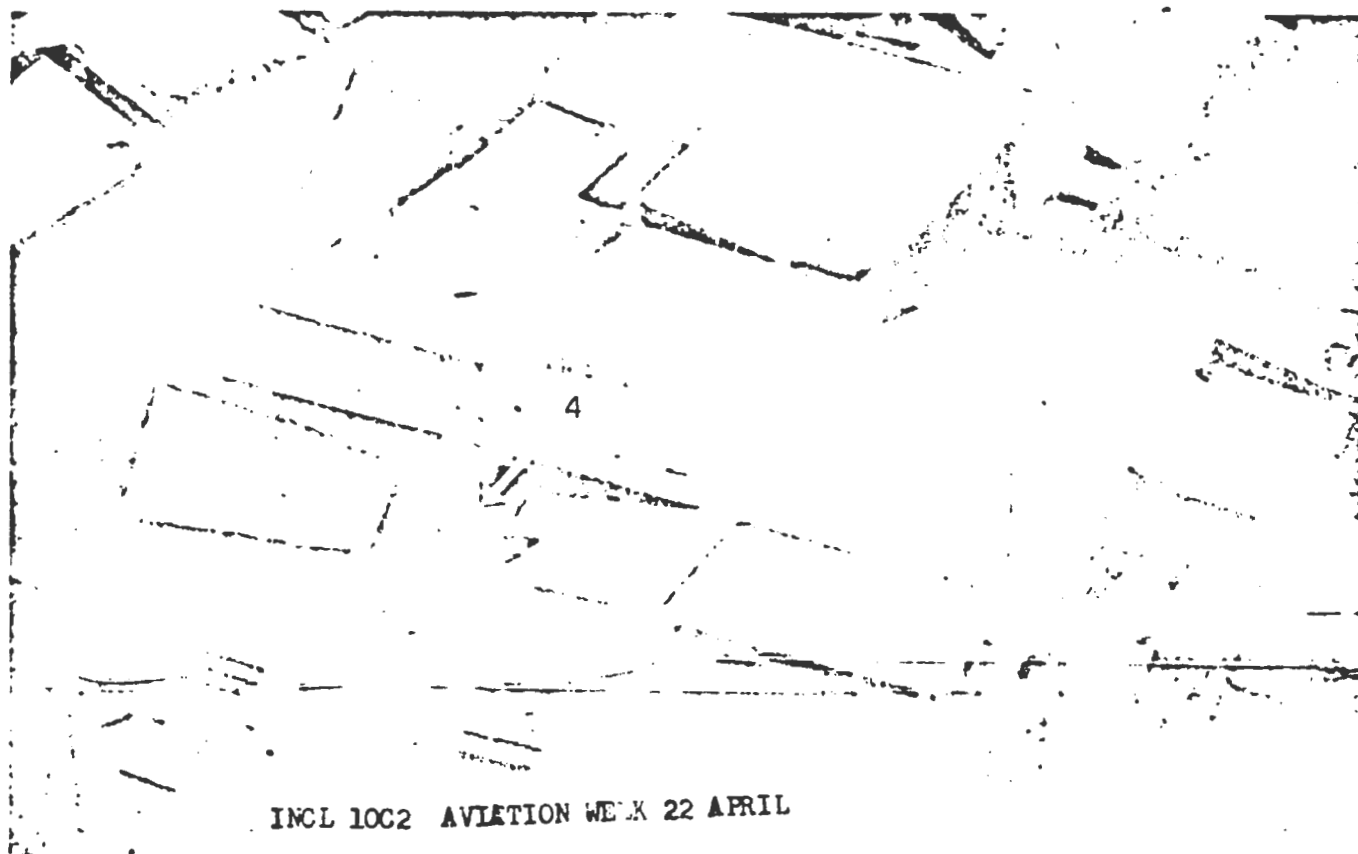


Army/Bell AH-1G Cobra helicopter gunships firing 2.75-in. HEAT rockets destroyed a number of Soviet-built T-54/55 tanks operated by the North Vietnamese army during street fighting in An Loc Apr. 13-15. Two tanks above were hit during fighting on Apr. 15 by a Cobra from Battery F, 79th Aerial Field Artillery, a unit of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Div. Tank in foreground has been knocked out. Note burning tank in rear. At left is a closeup of the destroyed tank, showing what appears to have been camouflage material attached to it. During the period from Apr. 1 through May 11, which included the fighting around An Loc, the unit claimed 10 Soviet-built tanks destroyed and another six damaged. The destroyed tanks included four PT-76 amphibious vehicles. All the rest were T-54-55s. The unit also claimed 19 trucks destroyed and three damaged, along with two anti-aircraft guns and a number of mortars, rocket launchers and light artillery.

INCL 10C1 AVIATION WEEK 22 APRIL



T-54/55 burns in the streets of An Loc, (above) blocking the path of a second tank, which also was destroyed. Below, another T-54/55 was destroyed after its crew apparently attempted to conceal it by driving it into a building. Army has moved to increase its anti-tank capability by bringing additional Cobras, equipped with Hughes TOW anti-tank missiles, into South Vietnam (AWAST May 15, p. 18).



INCL 10C2 AVIATION WEEK 22 APRIL

# Has Critical Role

BY DONALD KIRK  
(Far Eastern Correspondent)

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

LONG THANH, South Viet Nam, April 21—The men of the Blue Max don't ask esoteric questions such as why they are in Viet Nam or what the United States still hopes to accomplish in the war.

"The attitude of our people is completely professional," said Maj. Larry McKay, 35, of Charleston, S. C. His helicopter unit derives its name from the term for the old German Iron Cross.

"They don't even ask, because we don't even know ourselves," he said. "We just have enough faith in our country."

## Fills Specialized Role

The professionalism of the Blue Max qualifies it as one of the Army's few elite units remaining in Viet Nam and also explains its specialized role in battling the Communist offensive 60 miles north of Saigon.

"We have encountered the heaviest ground-to-air fire ever found in the Viet Nam war within South Viet Nam," McKay said. "We even believe the intensity of the fire may exceed that in Southern Laos during the incursion last year."

American officers credit the long, thin Cobra helicopters flown by the Blue Max with frustrating repeated Communist assaults on the provincial capital of An Loc.

## Destroyed 6 Tanks

The Blue Max has poured machine gun fire and rockets into enemy concentrations surrounding An Loc and has destroyed at least six Soviet-built tanks.

"We feel, at least, we're buying time for the South Vietnamese," McKay said. "Once they blow the gap beyond An Loc, they have open road."

McKay noted proudly that a dozen Cobras from his unit have flown every day, often after receiving hits from enemy machine guns.

"Our pilots have been flying 11 to 12 hours a day in 'peak periods,'" he said. "As small as they are, American assets have been very critical in the entire battle."

The critical role of American airpower—including jet bombers and fighters as well as helicopters—was particularly crucial yesterday and today in fending off assaults by hundreds of North Vietnamese troops with tanks.

Heavy antiaircraft fire protected the Communists, who fired more than 2,000 rocket and mortar rounds into the town. Indicative of the seriousness of the battle was the fact that American B-52s yesterday flew seven missions in the An Loc region.

"The first day of this offensive we weren't expecting nearly the intensity of the antiaircraft fire," said Capt. Bill Causey, 32, of Bladenboro, N. C.

Causey's Cobra was hit four straight days but has never crashed.

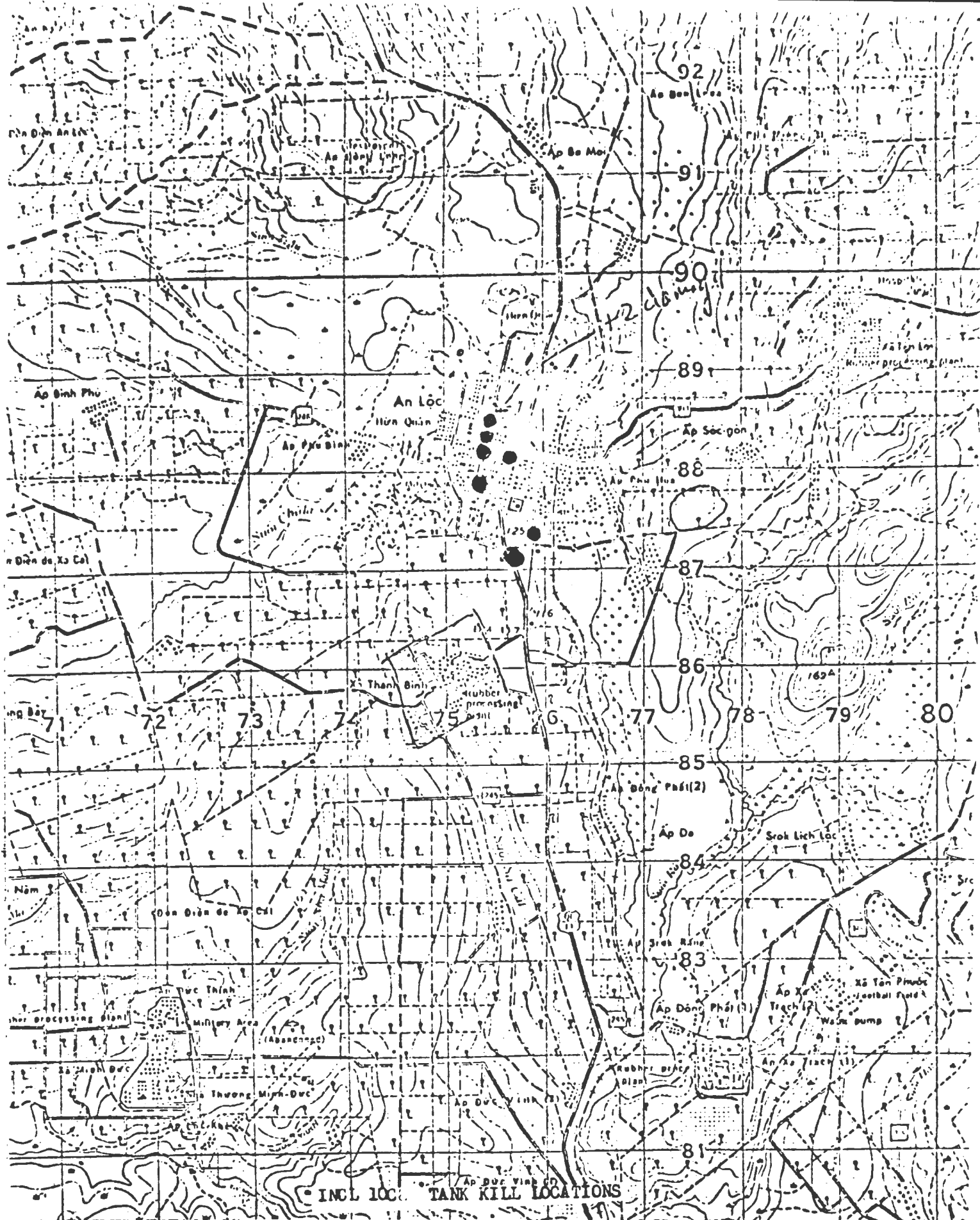
McKay rolled in on the Soviet-built tanks the first day they roared thru the streets of An Loc.

## Couldn't Bomb City

"The Air Force wasn't cleared to bomb in the city because they'd cause too much damage," McKay explained. "So we went in with antitank rockets on our birds. There were three of them [tanks] in downtown An Loc."

McKay scored a direct hit on one tank, then Causey rolled in on the next two. "One of the tanks spun out as if it were lost," Causey said. "I don't think the drivers knew what they were doing."

McKay said, "We proved that a Cobra, armed with the proper type of rockets, flying thru intense antiaircraft fire, can knock out a tank."







DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96490

AVDACC

16 April 1972

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

Commanding Officer  
229th Assault Helicopter Battalion  
3d Brigade (Separate)  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)  
APO San Francisco 96490

1. I wish to take this opportunity to commend your organization for the significant contribution it has made to the history of the US Army and Army aviation during the period of 4 through 13 April 1972. The heroic actions of your aviators have contributed immeasurably to the overall success of the ARVN soldiers and US advisors defending An Loc. The successful evacuation of approximately 6,000 ARVN troops and refugees from Bu Dop, while under intense antiaircraft fire was both a tactical as well as a humanitarian victory. Heavy automatic weapons fire did not deter your troop-carrying helicopters from performing critical reinforcing missions at Nui Ba Den and An Loc. The fire support rendered by your attack helicopters from both cavalry troops and the aerial field artillery battery was pivotal in tipping the scales in favor of the defenders on numerous occasions.
2. The contributions of your outstanding maintenance organization during this period were key to mission success. While flying a total of 4,018 hours, which exceeded the USARV standard by 1,678 hours, your aviation maintenance personnel maintained an admirable 82.9 percent operational readiness rate. This remarkable aircraft availability rate insured that air assets were always available to support the tactical situation. The morale, esprit, and professional competence displayed by these hardworking personnel have been outstanding throughout this critical period.

INCL 1001 LETTER OF COMMENDATION

16 April 1972

AVDACG

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

3. Mission accomplishments such as these can only be performed by well-trained, highly motivated personnel. Again, let me commend you and each of your men for their magnificent display of courage, compassion, and professionalism. The FIRST TEAM will always exist as long as it has men of your caliber.



JAMES F. HAMLET  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

INCL 1002 LETTER OF COMMENDATION



KSC 004

VIỆT - NAM CỘNG - HÒA  
BỘ QUỐC - PHÒNG  
BỘ TÔNG - THAM - MƯU QLVNCH  
KHÔNG QUÂN  
SƯ ĐOÀN 3

Brigadier General James F. Hamlet  
3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav Division  
APO San Francisco, California 96240

22 June 1972

General Hamlet, on behalf of the officers and men of the III Air Division, I wish to convey my deepest appreciation for your personal concern and assistance in extracting the deceased crewmen of our CH-47. Your kindness will always be remembered by the officers and men of this organization.

I particularly thank your aviators. Their bold and courageous action on 15 June 1972, indicates great personal motivation and pride in their profession. Because of their bravery, the bereaved families are now able to properly inter their loved ones.

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your efforts which made this operation a success. And convey to your courageous aviators my appreciation and thanks for a task well done.

HUYNH BA TINH, Colonel, VNAF  
Commander, 3rd Air Division

INCL 10D3 LETTER OF APPRECIATION

## W I T N E S S   S T A T E M E N T

LTC McConnell distinguished himself on 19-20-21 June 1972 while serving as Commander of the helicopter assets supporting the 1st Airborne Brigade, Airborne Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The 1st Abn Bde's mission was to move from An Loc, Binh Long Province, RVN along Highway 13 to the vicinity of Tan Canh XT 758762 for Air extraction. The 1st Abn Bde engaged in fierce, brutal, fighting with an enemy regiment in bunkers along QL 13 and the pickup zone. Due to the heavy fighting and intense ground-to-air fire directed towards the helicopters, the pickup zone had to be relocated on two different occasions even though no pickup was made on the 10th and 20th June, due to heavy ground attacks against the 1st Airborne Brigade, LTC McConnell utilized all the helicopter assets at his command to assist in turning back the enemy attacks. Throughout these two days LTC McConnell flew from early morning to late evening in his C-6, coordinating airstrikes, artillery fire, cobra strikes and air cavalry operations. During these two days LTC McConnell continuously dodged heavy small arms fire, 30 cal., 50 cal. fire and the new heat seeking SA-7 missile at low level flight to insure proper coordination of all assets. On the 20th of June the anti-aircraft fire was so intense that two helicopter gunships were shot down within minutes by SA-7's. Throughout this LTC McConnell continued to stay on station, flying low level to assist in the search for the down craft. Undeterred by the heavy fire LTC McConnell continued the search until both downed aircraft were located and ground troops could be guided to the aircraft. On 21 June LTC McConnell, again flying C-6, began the direction of the successful extraction the 1st Airborne Brigade. Again the pickup zone was ringed by large, determined enemy force. Determined to accomplish the mission LTC McConnell, braving the enemy continuous heavy ground to air fire, kept his helicopter over the pickup zone coordinating the continuous airstrikes, helicopter gunships artillery and air cavalry to suppress the enemy fire. Again two more gunships were shot down by the SA-7 missiles and as before LTC McConnell exposed his aircraft to the heavy fire to direct the successful air rescue of the downed crewmembers. Throughout the remainder of the day as the air extraction continued LTC McConnell repeatedly exposed his aircraft to insure the successful air extraction. LTC McConnell's efforts and bravery were heavily responsible for the great success of the air extraction and the heavy amount of casualties the enemy suffered. There were 96 enemy killed during the three day of fighting with 32 enemy killed by air support of all types and two POW's including an enemy company commander. LTC McConnell's repeated acts of bravery of the 19th, 20th June and especially the 21st of June, were an inspiration to all who served with him. His fellow aviators, inspired by this example of daring bravery, leadership and determination to accomplish the mission, again and again flew into the heavy enemy fire to successfully complete the extraction of the 1st Airborne Brigade.

  
CLARENCE E. DONALDSON

Dep Sr Adv  
1st Abn Bde (ARVN)

  
INCL 10E1 WITNESS STATEMENT

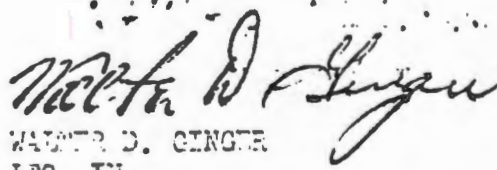


# STATEMENT

As the US coordinator between 1st ARVN Division and 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion (AHB), 3d Bde, 1st Cav, I observed the insertion and extraction of troops from vicinity of An Loc, Binh Long Province, 22-23 June 1972.

From 0800-1615 hours, 22 June, the 43d Regimental Headquarters (-) and two infantry battalion were airlifted from Lai Khe to An Loc. The flight approach was low level from the RP (XT 82415) to the LZ (XT 758864). Although all flight paths were varied, the enemy engaged the aircraft with a heavy volume of fire to include 27mm, 51 cal and automatic small arms. In spite of the enemy fire the mission was successfully completed with professional conduct throughout by all aircraft crews. The performance of the crew for command and control helicopter, LTC Lewis J. McConnell, CPL Harry C. Small, LTC Gary T. Rogers and SFC Larry S. Barnes, was outstanding. Without regard for personal safety the aircraft was maneuvered throughout the area to determine enemy locations and provide long-range fire for US fighters air support and the safest flight paths for the Cobras and lift helicopters.

From 0800 to 1715 hours, 23 June, the 229th AHB, airlifted approximately 600 men from Lai Khe to An Loc and extracted 600 men. Although clouds partially concealed the flight paths, the aircrafts were engaged by automatic weapons fire and were exposed to heavy indirect fire in the LZ. The LZ was changed three times; however, the incoming 105mm fire continued. The cloud cover combined with the air working by the An Loc area also increased the hazards for the aircrafts. The dedication, valor, and professionalism demonstrated by the members of the 229th AHB during 22-23 June reflects great credit upon themselves, their unit, and the United States Army.

  
WALTER D. GINGER  
LTC, INF  
405-38-3123  
SA, 52nd PCAT

INCL 10E2 WITNESS STATEMENT

Inclosure 10-E (Continued)

# TƯ-LỆNH QUÂN-ĐOÀN III, QUÂN KHU 3

## THĂM XÃ AN-LỘC NGÀY 16-6-1972

PHỤ TRANG



Phụ Trách : LÊ-THUY-DU  
Hình Ảnh : Phòng ĐA/CTLC

PHÁT HÀNH NGÀY : 21-6-1972

INCL 10E3 MEMO ARTICLE OF LTC MINH'S VISIT

Ngày 16-6 vừa qua, Trung Tướng NGUYỄN-VĂN-MINH Tư-Lệnh Quân Khu III kiêm vùng 3 Chiến Thuật đã bắt thăm cùng một số giới chức hữu trách viếng thăm Thị xã An-Lộc nơi các chiến-sĩ ta vừa giải tỏa xong áp lực của địch quân sau 68 ngày tử thủ.

Cuộc thăm viếng này đã làm nức lòng và gây niềm tin tưởng cho các chiến-sĩ đã vì An-Lộc mà chiến đấu thắng lợi cuối cùng.



7-8 APRIL:  
229 EVAC 3500  
FROM BU DOP  
TO SONG HE

6-11 APRIL:  
229 SPT LOC NINH

XU YU

PHUOC BINH

LOI

THUAN LOI

DON LUAN

DONG XOI

ACE STAGING  
1 KEE



429 SAPPER BN (-)  
69 ARTY CMD (-)  
42 ARTY REGT (-)  
208 ARTY REGT (-)  
271 ARTY REGT (AAA)

ELEMENTS OF 202 SP WPNS TK REGT

11 APRIL:  
229 INSERT  
ARVN FROM  
DAU TIENG  
INTO AN LOC

11-16 APRIL &  
17 APRIL - 7 JUL:  
229 SPT AN LOC  
STAGING AT LAT K