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27 Feb 68

Feedback

460th TRW
APO S.F. 96307

1. (C) Forwarded herewith is some of the feedback received as a result of our ARDF efforts during the period 1 January - 15 February 1968.
2. (S) On the 1st of January, Brigadier General Forbes, Commander of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade stated that he was planning to conduct an operation in the vicinity of XT955355 based on a large concentration of ARDF fixes just North of Bien Hoa. A fix by the crew flying in area 27 on 1 Jan proved very accurate. Elements of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 17th Cav spotted one VC running into a bunker complex in the vicinity of YT024253. After the troops retreated, artillery was dropped in resulting in seven bunkers and one structure destroyed. Later on the same day, an airstrike on this complex generated a secondary explosion.
3. (S) Mission 4151 flown in area 27 on the third of January fixed a target at YT097324 that was investigated by a "people sniffer" mission and 7 hotspots were detected within 200M of the fix and three within 100M of the fix. There were bunkers, foxholes and well used trails reported throughout the area by elements of the 179th AID searching the area. Artillery was fired on the hotspots with unknown results. Another fix obtained by this crew was searched by elements of the 4/12 Inf who discovered a base camp of approximately 300 bunkers, 5 tunnels, and 3 military structures were destroyed. 600 rounds of small arms ammo, 7 pounds of documents, 500 meters of comm wire, 11 bayonets, 15 protective masks, four 82 MM rounds, 22 pots, 1500 pounds of rice, clothing for 40 men and four 105 MM rounds were captured. This complex was found 1 mi from one of this crews unidentified fixes. Another of their fixes near XT922437 was used as the basis for inserting Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Team 15 into the jungle. This team ambushed an estimated VC reinforced platoon. A Light Fire Team and artillery supported during the 13 minute battle. Results of this action were: 1 US WIA, 14 VC KIA by body count.
4. (S) In reaction to a fix obtained by the crew flying mission number 4213 on area 27 on 5 January, elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved into the area around YT205200. The initial contact made on 6 Jan 68 resulted in 3 US KIA and 34 VC KIA by body count.
5. (S) On 7 Jan, 51st Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Team 24, operating in the area North of the Song Be River spotted 4 VC. Two VC were dressed

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in brown pajamas and two were dressed in Saigones. All four were spotted by the LIMP team, the VC fired at them. The LIMP team returned the fire hoping to lure the VC closer and expose them. The firing attracted other VC in the area who came to assist. The LIMP team retreated and was extracted with negative results after capturing a Chicong carbine. This operation was based on two unidentified fixes, one each obtained by missions 4292 and 4293 flying in area 27 on 6 January.

6. (S) C Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry searching the area around a fix obtained at XT023383 found and destroyed 2 two-man bunkers, 13 three-man bunkers and 5 five-man bunkers. They also captured eight M-16 rifles, one aircraft radio receiver R-836 ABN, one receiver MRC-25, one receiver-transmitter RT-294/ARC-44, one receiver L23 ABN-12, five radio hand sets and 50 feet of communications wire. This fix was obtained by mission 4286 flying in area 27 on 7 January.

7. (S) A sizeable grouping of fixes near Phouc Vinh obtained by the crew flying mission 4643 in area 27 on 16 January resulted in a search of this area the following day by elements of the 1st Division. They found and destroyed a large VC hospital and supply base area. Nearby a complex containing 100 reinforced bunkers, a tin roof hut and large existing area were spotted by a FAC. Artillery was continually poured into this area. Bloodhound missions further refined the area of interest and tactical airstrikes were called in on the 18th. On the 19th of January a B-52 raid was called in on the area.

8. (S) On 25 January the crew flying mission 4984 obtained fixes at XT687365 and XT7144454 that were hit with two and four rounds of 105mm artillery respectively. Both fell within the area of Operation Abilene and seven airstrikes were targeted against them on the 27th. Two major secondary explosions were caused from which it was reported that smoke billowed approximately 650 meters into the air.

9. (S) Three fixes obtained by the crew flying mission 5147 on the 20th of January were in close proximity of the Dien Hoa/Long Binh complex and 425 rounds of unspecified caliber artillery were placed on them.

10. (S) Four of the fixes obtained by the crew flying the mission in area 30 on 4 Feb were hit with airstrikes. The FAC reported seeing "amorphous" bodies floating in the water after the strike.

11. (S) On the 5th of February an element of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade made heavy contact while searching the area of a fix obtained by the crew flying mission 5392 on 3 February. Results of the ensuing battle left 35 VC killed in action by body count.

12. (S) On the 4th of January mission 417 fixed an enemy target at RQ 855215 which is in proximity to the Cung Son Special Forces Camp. A force from the camp ambushed the enemy at the fix. Results: 28 enemy

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KIA, 3 enemy CIA, and 1 friendly CIDG WIA.

13. (S) On the 7th of January mission 412 fixed an enemy target at BT 945300. Men from the 3rd BDE/1st Cav Div along with 32 artillery pieces were sent in against the target. Results: Unknown.

14. (S) On the 8th of January mission 414 fixed a priority target which was on the personal priority list of Gen Davidson. This fix prompted a congratulatory message from the ACC. The message stated in part: "Your fixtakes the heat off of one of the entities on Gen Davidson personal list of super-priority 1A targets. Congratulations"

15. (S) On the 14th of January mission 413 fixed an enemy target in area 13 on three different occasions. These fixes were in proximity to each other and were blanketed with 41 rounds of 105MM and 70 rounds of 5 inch artillery. Results: Unknown.

16. (S) On the 22nd of January mission 415 fixed an enemy target at BT 510930. The Army shelled the fix with 130 rounds of 105MM, 30 rounds of 155MM, and 45 rounds of 8 inch artillery. Results: Unknown.

17. (S) On short notice, at the request of IFFV, A "E" configured noct was flown on mission 420 on 3 Feb. 20 targets were fixed including the primary units which were suspected to have attacked Ban Me Thout. The mission also fixed all the suspected enemy combat control elements in the Ban Me Thout area. These fixes were passed immediately to the Dragon Lt. DSU which acts in support of the 4th Inf Div. Upon recovery the fixes were passed at flash precedence in a special report to IFFV and the G-2 was immediately briefed on the situation. At 0800, 4 February, Lt Gen Rossen, C1, IFFV, after being briefed, decided to make a personal trip to the Ban Me Thout area with the ARDF info to redeploy the Battalion of the 173rd Abn Bde operating there. The fixes revealed that the enemy ~~was~~ located to the North of Ban Me Thout and the 173rd was inserted to the South and instructed to march North against the enemy. The RFP advisor to IFFV stated, "this was the most significant mission accomplished by the Air Force in II Corps."

18. (S) On the 12th of February mission 413 fixed an enemy target at LS841316 two Companies of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade were inserted on a search and destroy mission. Results: Unknown.

19. (S) On the 13th of February mission 413 fixed an enemy target at BT339060. The 198th Light Infantry Brigade fired heavy artillery on the fix. Results: Unknown.

20. (S) During the period of hostilities (1 Jan - 6 Feb) Det 1, 361st TEMS flew eight missions in support of the local tactical situation. 40 fixes were acquired during this period. These fixes were immediately passed via Y-8 and relayed to IFFV. Artillery, air strikes, and Naval fire were directed on those fixes of prime interest to IFFV. On 31 Jan 11 fixes were acquired in the immediate vicinity of Nha Trang. Prisoner

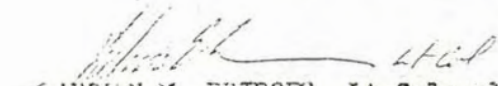
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interrogations at this time (31 Jan 68) indicated that there were few enemy transmitters located in the vicinity. However, the number of mines acquired contradicted this and indicated a broader, coordinated enemy offensive was in progress. The G-2 of IIV has prepared a report of appreciation to the 460th TFW in light of the initiative and professionalism displayed by the 361st TMS during the above period.

21. (S) In addition to the above, numerous other instances of artillery fire directed against ARVN fixes were reported.


WILLIAM M. BRIDGES, Lt Colonel, USAF
Commander

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