

MACOI

1700H

RELEASE NUMBER 196-65

SAIGON, 18 JULY

REPORTED THIS DATE:

1. The MACOI Press Relations Branch duty officer for the night of 18 July is Maj. E.W. Schultze, ARVN 40079. If he cannot be reached at the Press Relations Office or at his quarters, newsmen should call the MACV Emergency Actions Center, ARVN 40662 or 40663, to obtain the number where he can be reached.

2. Eight US Air Force F-105 Thunderchiefs, supported by three other aircraft, struck the Yen Bay Ordnance Depot and Marshalling Yards, located 75 miles northwest of Hanoi, this afternoon (July 17) at 1510H.

Expending 21 tons of 750-pound bombs, the pilots reported five buildings destroyed and six others damaged at the depot. At the marshalling yards, the pilots reported 15 boxcars damaged.

Clear weather was reported during the mission from which all planes returned safely. No unfriendly aircraft were sighted but heavy flak was encountered over the target.

3. A flight of four US Air Force F-105 Thunderchiefs conducted an armed reconnaissance over North Vietnam, striking a concrete bridge on Route 7, about 155 miles southwest of Hanoi. Pilots reported bombs on target, but smoke and dust prevented accurate assessment of damage. A truck park located in the same area was hit by 2.75-inch rockets, but again, tree foliage prevented accurate assessment of damage.

A total of nine tons of 750-pound bombs and rockets were dropped. Weather was 4000 broken overcast.

No enemy aircraft were spotted and no anti-aircraft fire was encountered. All aircraft returned safely. Time over target was 1320H yesterday (July 17).

(MORE)

4. A flight of four USAF F-105 Thunderchiefs conducted an armed reconnaissance over North Vietnam, striking a concrete bridge on Route 7, about 155 miles southwest of Hanoi, and the nearby Muong Sen Military Area at 1325H yesterday (17 July). Pilots said the bridge was destroyed, with wreckage observed in the water, and that two buildings were destroyed and others set afire at the military camp.

Nine tons of 750-pound bombs and 2.75-inch rockets were expended. Weather was high overcast.

No anti-aircraft fire or enemy aircraft were spotted and all USAF aircraft returned safely.

5. A flight of four USAF F-105 Thunderchiefs hit the Yen Bay Railroad Marshalling Yards, about 75 miles northwest of Hanoi yesterday (July 17). Pilots reported destroying three large buildings. The Strike began at about 1320H and nine tons of 750-pound bombs, in addition to 2.75-inch rockets, were dropped on the target.

Weather was good, no anti-aircraft fire was encountered and no enemy aircraft were spotted. All USAF aircraft returned safely.

6. A flight of four USAF F-105 Thunderchiefs attacked ferry complexes and barges while conducting an armed route reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam yesterday (July 17). Beginning at 1400H, pilots reported cratering the northern edge of a ferry complex located on Route 101 about 60 miles north of the DMZ. A second ferry complex, located about 60 miles north of the DMZ, was hit and both of its approaches were cratered.

A barge was discovered in a river about 55 miles north of the DMZ and was heavily damaged.

Nine tons of 750-pound bombs and rockets were dropped on the targets. Weather was high overcast. Light anti-aircraft fire was encountered. No enemy aircraft were sighted and all USAF aircraft returned safely.

7. A flight of four VNAF A1H Skyraiders, on an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam yesterday (July 17), struck a barracks area and highway facilities.

An Army barracks area about 30 miles north of the DMZ was hit with four tons of 250-pound bombs and Zuni rockets, with 11 buildings reported destroyed and 10 damaged. In addition, a bridge five miles north of the barracks area was heavily damaged.

The strike began at about 1510H. Weather was clear. No anti-aircraft fire or enemy aircraft were encountered and all VNAF aircraft returned safely.

8. A flight of four VNAF A1H Skyraiders struck the Phu Qui Barracks in North Vietnam, while conducting an armed reconnaissance mission yesterday (July 17). VNAF pilots reported destroying 10 buildings and damaging five others. The barracks is located about 40 miles north of the DMZ.

The mission began about 1310H. A total of four tons of 250-pound bombs and Zuni rockets was expended.

Weather was clear. No anti-aircraft or enemy aircraft were sighted. All VNAF aircraft returned safely.

9. A flight of four VNAF A1H Skyraiders conducted a leaflet drop and an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam yesterday afternoon (July 17).

A total of 300,000 fact sheets were dropped on Ha Tinh, about 25 miles northwest of Vinh. Returning from this mission, the VNAF Skyraiders tagged a military camp, destroying five buildings. The military camp is located about 35 miles north of the DMZ.

The VNAF aircraft dropped four tons of 250-pound bombs and Zuni rockets on the targets, beginning at 1310H. Weather was 5000 scattered. No anti-aircraft fire or enemy aircraft sightings were reported, and all VNAF aircraft returned safely.

(MORE)

10. A flight of four VNAF A1H Skyraiders conducted an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam yesterday (July 17), hitting bridges along Highway 101 and a barracks area in the same region with two tons of 250-pound bombs and Zuni rockets.

The first of two bridges was struck and heavily damaged at 1515H. It is located about 15 miles north of the DMZ. A second bridge, about 30 miles north of the DMZ, was destroyed.

In the barracks area, one building was destroyed and one was damaged. Weather was 3000 scattered to broken and no enemy aircraft were sighted.

No anti-aircraft fire was encountered and all VNAF aircraft returned safely.

11. Two US Navy F4s, both from the Independence, conducted an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam yesterday evening (July 17) beginning at 1700H.

The planes attacked two bridges, one on Route 119, about 65 miles south of Hanoi; the other on Route 118, about 80 miles south of Hanoi. The approaches to both bridges were cratered. About one ton of 250-pound bombs was expended on the targets. Good visibility was reported over the area.

No ground fire or enemy planes were encountered, and both aircraft returned safely.

12. Two US Navy A4 Skyhawks from the Independence, conducted an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam yesterday evening (July 17) beginning at 1730H.

The planes attacked a railroad tunnel about 220 miles south of Hanoi and destroyed one of the tunnel entrances. Over one ton of 500-pound bombs were expended on the target. Good visibility was reported over the area.

No ground fire or enemy planes were encountered, and both aircraft returned safely.

13. Two US Navy A4s from the Independence, conducted armed route reconnaissance

over North Vietnam yesterday evening (July 17) beginning at 1710H.

The planes attacked two bridges, one a highway bridge on Route 15, about 190 miles south of Hanoi, the other, a railroad bridge about 180 miles south of Hanoi. Light damage was inflicted on the first bridge, and both approaches were damaged at the second. Over one ton of 500-pound bombs was expended on the targets.

Good visibility was reported over the area. No ground fire was encountered and both aircraft returned safely. No unfriendly aircraft were sighted.

14. Fifteen US Navy A4 Skyhawks, supported by three F8 Crusaders, from the 7th Fleet carrier Coral Sea, struck the Thanh Hoa Railroad and Highway Bridge in North Vietnam yesterday morning (July 17) at 1130H.

Pilots reported one span was damaged, both approaches were cratered and the railroad tracks cut. Five tons of 1000 and 500-pound bombs and Zuni rockets were expended on the target. Clear weather was reported over the target.

Some flak was encountered, but all aircraft returned safely. No enemy planes were sighted.

15. Marine air, infantry and artillery combined yesterday (July 17) to hit a sizeable VC force about eight miles southwest of the Da Nang Air Base.

Eleven VC dead were counted. The action started about mid-afternoon when two platoons of Marines, on routine patrol, came under VC mortar fire. An air strike was called and was followed by artillery fire. The Marines were still receiving light small arms fire as they made a complete sweep of the area near La Chow Village. The sweep was completed early last night when the remaining VC fled.

Marine casualties from this action were light, and other light casualties were encountered from anti-personnel booby traps during patrols in the Chu Lai area.

16. Five U.S. Navy A-4 Skyhawks from the 7th Fleet carrier USS Coral Sea conducted

an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam this morning beginning at 0700H, hitting two targets with 1000, 2000-pound bombs and Zuni rockets.

Returning pilots reported hitting the My Duc radar site and storage area on the coast, about 75 miles south of Hanoi. Secondary explosions were observed from some buildings and smoke from fires obscured further assessment of damages. They also hit a bridge on route 1A about 105 miles south of Hanoi, cratering the approaches.

Weather was reported as heavy overcast with five miles visibility. No unfriendly aircraft were sighted and no anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Both planes returned safely to the carrier.

17. Navy in-country summary, 17 July. US Navy and Marine Corps pilots from the 7th Fleet carrier USS Oriskany flew more than 120 sorties yesterday (July 17) against VC concentrations in the IV Corps area of the RVN. Principle targets were VC troop emplacements, associated facilities and river shipping. More than 120 tons of bombs were dropped. Zuni rockets and 20mm cannon fire were also used. Forward air controllers estimated many VC troops killed, 113 structures destroyed and 85 damaged. Eight sampans were sunk and a VC communications station 170 miles south-east of Saigon was badly damaged.

Two secondary explosions were observed in an area 70 miles southwest of Saigon. Weather in the area was good. Light inaccurate small arms fire was reported. In addition to the strike sorties, four coastal surveillance photo sorties were flown. All aircraft returned safely to the Oriskany.

18. In the 24-hour period ending at 0600H today, 2d Air Division pilots flew 84 combat sorties against VC targets in South Vietnam, flying F-104 Starfighters, F-100 Supersabres, B-57 Canberras and A1E Skyraiders. VNAF pilots pounded VC positions with 59 strike sorties flown in A1E Skyraiders. Targets for the day included, river shipping, training areas, supply areas, base camps and troop concentrations.

USAF forward air controllers in O-1 Bird Dogs, who directed the attacks, reported an estimated 40 VC guerrillas killed, 85 buildings destroyed, 60 others severely damaged and two sampans sunk. An accurate figure on the exact number of guerrillas killed will not be known until all intelligence sources have been checked and verified. During the night three USAF C-123 flare aircraft expended 174 flares.

(YS 8773) Binh Tuy. 17 July - At approximately 1630H, a flight of four F-100 Supersabres attacked a VC encampment located 60 miles east-southeast of Saigon. The flight, led by Capt. Billy Vinson, 29, of Anniston, Ala., hit the target with 750-pound bombs and strafed it with 20mm cannon fire. Capt. Vinson said, "When the bombing and strafing runs were completed, the entire encampment was in flames. We didn't see any people on the ground and there was no enemy ground fire encountered." The Capt. also reported destroying a 40-foot wooden span bridge with a direct hit on his first pass at the target.

The USAF forward air controller, who directed the attack, reported that 30 buildings were destroyed and 26 others heavily damaged in the attack.

(YS 9074) Binh Tuy. 17 July - Two USAF A1E Skyraiders struck a VC encampment at approximately 1730H, under direction of a USAF forward air controller. Returning pilots reported destroying 13 structures and damaging 15 others, with 260-pound fragmentation bombs. The target was in an area some 70 miles east-southeast of Saigon.

Transport Summary: On July 17, USAF, VNAF and MAAG cargo aircraft flew 310 resupply sorties to outposts and bases throughout South Vietnam. The aircraft carried 742 passengers and 792 tons of supplies and equipment.

Operations Summary: Airborne Alert 10/ Air Cover 27/ Close Air Support 160/ Escort Aircraft 9/ Escort Convoy 13/ Escort Helicopters 6/ Combat Observation 9/ Combat Support Liaison 109/ Flares 8/ Forward Air Controlled 47/ Psychological warfare 8/ Air Evacuation 90/ Photo Recon 11/ Visual Recon 69/ Air Landed Resupply 202/

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Airborne Resupply 2/ Search and Rescue 6/ Armed Recon 1/ Director Finder 3/ Total Operations 730 sorties.

19. Two US Navy F4 Phantoms from the 7th Fleet carrier Coral Sea conducted an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam this morning (July 18), hitting a highway bridge on Route 101, about 40 miles north of the DMZ, at 0900H.

Light damage was reported on the bridge by 500-pound bombs. Weather was clear with 20 miles visibility. No anti-aircraft fire was encountered and no unfriendly aircraft were sighted. Both planes returned safely to the carrier.

20. Five US Navy A4 Skyhawks from the 7th Fleet carrier Coral Sea conducted an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam, striking an airfield construction site about 75 miles south of Hanoi on Route 118, about 0815H this morning (July 18).

Pilots reported all bombs on target, but immediate assessment of damage was unavailable. Over six tons of 500 and 1000-pound bombs were expended.

Weather was reported as overcast with about 15 miles visibility. Moderate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but no unfriendly aircraft were sighted. All planes returned safely to the carrier.

21. Eight US Air Force F-105 Thunderchiefs struck the Vinh Son Army Barracks located about 28 miles northwest of Vinh, this morning (July 18) at 1035H.

Pilots expended 24 tons of 750-pound bombs and reported destroying 12 buildings and damaging 10 others.

Ordnance expended was 24 tons of 750-pound bombs. Weather was reported as clear. No anti-aircraft fire or enemy planes were encountered and all planes returned safely.

22. Three US Navy A1s from the 7th Fleet carrier Coral Sea struck two targets in North Vietnam while conducting an armed route reconnaissance this morning (July 18) at 0700H.

Expending over four tons of 1000, 500 and 250-pound bombs, plus Zuni rockets,
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the pilots reported striking the Vinh Son Radar site approximately 215 miles south of Hanoi on Route 1A. Pilots reported one building destroyed and two heavily damaged.

Weather was reported as clear, visibility unlimited. No anti-aircraft fire or enemy planes were encountered and all planes returned safely.

23. Four US Air Force F-105 Thunderchiefs struck three targets while conducting an armed route reconnaissance over North Vietnam (July 18) at 0820H.

The first, a bridge about 90 miles northwest of Vinh, was destroyed. The other targets, both about 50 miles north-northwest of Vinh, was attacked. Pilots reported the two barges destroyed and light damage to five buildings at the staging area.

Ordnance expended was nine tons of 750-pound bombs. Weather was reported as 6000 feet broken.

Light automatic weapons fire was encountered but no unfriendly aircraft were sighted. All aircraft returned safely.

24. The US Navy destroyer, USS Leonard F. Mason (DD-852) yesterday (July 17) fired over 200 five-inch rounds of gunfire at VC concentrations, support areas, and water craft in the IV Corps area near Ba Long, Vinh Binh Province.

Naval Gunfire Support Controllers reported all rounds were well placed on the targets. Firing began at about 1300H and continued for a little more than three hours.