

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 7

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~~SECRET SPOKE~~ ISHAR SECTION TWO OF FIVE MAC #2864 INTEL SSO PARIS PASS TO MACV J2 REP; AF-SSO USAF PASS TO AF/INZA MACJ 232 SENDS ~~SECRET SPOKE~~ PRELIMINARY OPNL REPORTS OF 30 MAR INDICATE THAT AT 2305 HRS AN AC-130 GUNSHIP OPERATING OVER SOUTHERN LAOS WENT DOWN DUE TO UNDETERMINED, BUT POSSIBLY HOSTILE CAUSE. THE ACFT WENT DOWN IN AN AREA APPROX 21 NM SOUTH OF SARAVANE. INITIAL SAR REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE 15-... 432 7... FULLY BAILED OUT AND THAT RADIO CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH THE ENTIRE CREW. THERE ARE NO KNOWN SAM FIRING UNITS DEPLOYED AS FAR SOUTH AS SARAVANE, CONSEQUENTLY, THE AC-130 WAS POSSIBLY DOWNED BY AAA FIRE; HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE NEEDED TO DETERMINE THE ACTUAL CAUSE. ~~SECRET~~ INITIAL OPNL REPORTS ON 30 MAR HAVE INDICATED THAT AT 2126 HRS, AN F-105G (SWANNY 01) EXPENDED 1 STANDARD ARM MISSILE (AGM-78) AGAINST EARLY WARNING RADAR (BARLOCK) SIGNALS EMANATING FROM WITHIN NVN. THE F-105 WAS OPERATING OVER THE BAN KARAI PASS AND RECEIVED THREAT SIGNALS FROM AN AREA APPROX 25 NM NORTH NORTHWEST OF DONG HOI (VIC XE 485 720). THIS POSITION CORRELATES WITH THE LOCATION OF THE BA DON GCI SITE (175019N/1062407E). THE PILOT DID NOT OBSERVE MISSILE IMPACT AFTER EXPENDITURE GP-4 B. LAOS, ~~SECRET SPOKE~~ ~~SECRET SPOKE~~ RECENT COMINT REVEALS CRITICAL SUPPLY SHORTAGES IN THE SOUTHERN LAO PANHANDLE. ON 27 MAR, BT 45 WARNED GP 472 THAT THE FOOD SITUATION WAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND WARRANTED IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL MEASURES. A SUBORDINATE TRANS BN HAD ALREADY EXCEEDED THE RATION ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED TO BE DRAWN FROM BT 32 DURING MAR, AND AS A RESULT, WAS OBTAINING FOOD FROM AN UNSPECIFIED STORAGE AREA. A SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES WAS ALSO REPORTED. BT 45 ASKED THAT MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND FOODSTUFFS BE PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING DAY OR THE SITUATION WOULD EXPLODE. FURTHER INFO WILL BE REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF THE SUPPLY SHORTAGES REPORTED ARE LOCALIZED OR EXTEND OVER A LARGER AREA OF THE LAO PANHANDLE. ~~SECRET SPOKE~~ IN MR IV ON 29 MAR, THE HQ, 2ND BIL (M 2537), 9TH NVA REGT WAS FIXED BY ARDD (XB 1-4 837; 2500M); 16 KM WNW OF PAKSONG AND 9 KM ESE OF ITS 5 MAR LOCATION (XB 085 857; 0500M). THE 2ND BIL, 9TH NVA REGT, CONTINUES TO OPERATE IN ITS NORMAL AO. (C) IN MR II ON 30 MAR, LONG TIENG VALLEY CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SPORADIC ABF'S CONSISTING OF 85MM AND 130 MM FIELD GUN FIRE WITH NO DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES REPORTED. EARLY ON 30 MAR, 3 T34 TANKS ATKD CHARLIE ECHO PAD (TG 803 166) ON SKYLINE RIDGE. FRD FORCES BRIEFLY ABANDONED THE POSITION, THEN REOCCUPIED IT AFTER TWO OF THE TANKS WERE DAMAGED BY MINES, 3.5 IN RL AND 75MM RR FIRE AND THE THIRD TANK RETREATED TOWARD SAM THONG (TG 78 22). SUBSEQUENTLY, ONE DAMAGE T34 WAS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY TACAIR. RESULTS OF THE TANK ATK HERE, FRD, 4 KIA AND 10 WIA; EN, UNK. ALSO ON 30 MAR, A HEAVY ABF CONSISTING OF MIXED ARTY AND MORT FIRE (NFI) FORCED FRD FORCES TO RELINQUISH THEIR TENUOUS HOLD ON THE EASTERN HALF OF CHARLIE ALPHA PAD (TG 834 158). NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. ~~SECRET SPOKE~~ ON 29 MAR, THE HQ, 335TH NVA REGT (E 1196) WAS FIXED BY ARDF (TG 857 192; 0800M), 7 KM NNE OF LONG TIENG AND 11 KM NNE OF ITS 28 MAR LOCATION (TG 799 102; 1000M). THIS LOCATION IS WITHIN 3 KM OF THE 17 MAR FIX ON

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THIS HQ, AND TENDS TO NEGATE THE REPORT- ED 28 MAR RELOCATION. ~~(SECRET SPOKE)~~  
IN MR I ON 28 MAR, AN IRREGULAR UNIT OPERATING (IN THE VIC TH 24 27) APPROX 34  
KM NE OF LUANG PRABANG RECEIVED AN ABF CONSISTING OF MIX- ED 57MM RR, 82MM RG,  
AND 60 AND 82MM MORT FIRE. ON 29 MAR, THE UNIT'S POSITION WAS OVERRUN BY AN EST  
EN BN AND THE FRD FORCES ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE WERE AMBUSHED (VIC TH 23 28) BY  
AN UNK SIZE EN FORCE. CUMULATIVE RESULTS WERE, FRD, 6 KIA AND AN UNK NUMBER  
MIA; EN, UNK. THE EN UNIT INVOLVED WAS PROBABLY AN ELM OF THE 8TH NVA  
INDEPENDENT REGT. 988 18886 11111

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