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Z/A/PL/PL/PL-68

17 DEC 68 2105Z

PL/PL: C/DA

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

COMINT REPORT

Z/O/COM/PL/PL-68

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2/O/VCM/R 149-68
17 DEC 68 2108Z
DIST: O/UA

WEEKLY BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This report is a consolidation of bomb damage-related information obtained from GDRS and other Vietnamese communist ground forces communications. This SIGINT has been previously reported, principally in the daily issues of the Southeast Asian SIGINT Summary, 3/O [] R296-68 through 3/O [] R301-68. The report consists of two sections, a narrative "highlight" and a tabular listing of hostile (U.S.) air activity directed against targets along the infiltration route in Laos. The "highlights" comment on trends and significant developments noted in Vietnamese communist ground forces reactions to these flights. The listing of air activity consists of four columns: column one provides the Date/Time of the reported activity with dashes used to indicate absence of a specific time; column two lists the type/Number of aircraft involved in the action; aircraft identifications are given as they appear in the traffic and are, of course, subject to error. Column three provides the type or nature of the Target and the last column identifies the nature of the activity, buttressed with brief remarks when necessary or possible.

LAOS

GDRS communications available for this reporting period reveal some success on the part of Rear Services-associated ground forces in combating the forays of hostile aircraft. Air activity during this period, as reflected in GDRS messages, has been concentrated in the areas of the Routes 912 and 911 with Ta Le (17-13N 106-08E), Ka Toc (17-07N 106-03E), Coc Mac (AKA Ban Kok Nok, 17-02N 105-59E), Lum Bum (17-03N 105-57E) and Ban Kha (17-00N 105-57E) prominently mentioned. Although there is limited SIGINT evidence of shootdowns, the principal success has evidently been in the further development of simulated or dummy installations that have served to divert air strikes. There are also indications that AAA positions, especially those of the 22nd Battalion, have been shifted.

Messages concerning simulated installations have been observed since at least early November with references to the construction of positions, trails, and various structures, as well as the use of lights, fires etc. to enhance the effect of realism. One message, dated 22 November, from the 22nd AAA Battalion, stated that each unit was to have one deception cell to "lure" the enemy and thus attract enemy fire and protect construction forces. More recent messages, dated 10 and 11 December, have stated that false targets have been the object of nine B-52 strikes and as many as

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12 F-100's have carried out bombing and strafing attacks against false positions; a specific reference was made to a 20-mm attack carried out on 7 December by aircraft that were flying in the Coc Mac, Lum Bui area although no mention was made as to the precise location or nature of the dummy target. An earlier 22nd AAA Battalion message, dated 7 December, said that simulated positions were being worked at KM 91 and a simulated road existed from KM 86 to 83 where there were simulated warehouses. The message said that it was necessary to travel this road daily in order to detect the OV-1's that reconnoiter the area and point out targets.

In addition to involvement in the construction of simulated gun positions, the 22nd AAA Battalion has also conducted an extensive redeployment. A message of 4 December had stated that the artillery tractors were to be used to deploy the battalion's firepower in accordance with the "group's message". On 7 December, a message originated by the same individual who had sent the message of the 4th stated that the deployment had been completed as follows: Company 103: two guns at Len Da (17-11N 106-09E), two at KM 97, three at Coc Mac; Company 1: four guns at KM 93; Company 3: three guns at KM 82, two guns and three vehicles were at Lum (16-45N 105-56E). The message added that Company 3 had two guns that had been struck by enemy fire and one that would not eject shells. Personnel of Company 3 were reportedly concerned about their ability to carry out their mission. The message also made a reference to the need to maintain secrecy regarding Company 2's transfer to the 591st (Engineer Regiment). In a further development relating to the 591st, a 12 December message from BINH TRAM instructed the 22nd AAA Battalion to send personnel to the 591st to study the use of the 23-mm artillery piece; personnel were to take their military equipment with them and also their ration cards for the remainder of December. The message further stated that care should be taken to insure that there was an instructor capable of inspecting the B-57 that Company 103 shot down "last night" to see if it was the B-57 shot down by the 18th AAA Battalion.

There were several messages on 12 and 13 December that reported shooting down hostile aircraft and one message reported the helicopter rescue of an American pilot. Available evidence indicates that all action occurred in the vicinity of Coc Mac, 17-02N 105-59E, from the position with Route 912 signboard to possibly kilometer marker (KM) 97. The rescue operation was reported in a Rear Service message, transmitted during the afternoon of 13 December, which also reported on strikes and reconnaissance flights in the vicinity of Coc Mac (ARA Ban Kok Nak, 17-02N 105-59E), Lum Bui (17-03N 105-57E) and KM's 62 and 7, implying the rescue occurred in the same area. The shootdown apparently occurred sometime prior to the noon hour; available portions of the

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message do not identify the type of aircraft shot down. Another shootdown was reported on this date, occurring in the same area (Na Sa Riv, 16-59N 106-01E), in a message originated by an element of the 22nd AAA Battalion. In this instance, however, the pilot was killed by exploding bombs and the aircraft was totally destroyed, making salvage impossible. The message that had reported the rescue of the American pilot made a garbled reference to two compasses, one parachute and one map, indicating salvage had been possible in this instance. Another message from the 22nd AAA Battalion, transmitted on the 12th, congratulated Company 1 on hitting an aircraft and setting it on fire. Inasmuch as this company has been located recently in the area of KM's 91-97 on Route 911 it appears that this shootdown took place in the same general area as the activity of the 13th.

<u>DATE/TIME</u> <u>OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
03 Dec/-----	-----	Quang Phuc (unlocated)	Fragmentation bombs (1 salvo)
06 Dec/1500- 1530G	Helicopters (7)	KM 14	-----
07 Dec/-----	OV-1	Coc Mac, Ka Toc, and KM's 43 and 58	Reconnaissance
/-----	F-100, F4, OV-1	Poss Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
07 Dec /0825G	F-105 (4)	U/I pass vic Ta Le -	U/I ordnance (4 salvos)
/0830G	OV-1, F4	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/0900G	F-100, OV-1	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/0925G	F4 (2)	KM 62	U/I ordnance (1 salvo)
/0945G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 92	High explosive bombs (4 salvos) anti- personnel bombs (2 salvos)
/0955G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
1005/1030G	F4 (1) OV-1 (1)	KM 62	High explosives (4 salvos) anti- personnel (2 salvos)
/1110G	B-52 (4)	KM 3 to KM 12	over flight
/1115G	F4 (4)	Ta Le Ford	High explosive bombs
/1120G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac, Ban Kha, Ka Toc	Reconnaissance

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/1125G	F4	KM's 1 and 2	Overflight
/1130G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 5	--
/1800G	B-26K (2)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1830G	B-26K (2)	KM 2, KM 62 and 63	incendiary bombs (4 salvos) anti- personnel bombs (3 salvos)
/2100G	B-26K (2)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/2120G	F4 (1)	Ta Le Ford	U/I ordnance
/2130G	F4 (1), B-26K (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/2200G	B-26K (2)	KM 63	Fragmentation bombs (1 salvo)
8 Dec/-----	B-52	-----	U/I ordnance, personnel and weapons safe
/-----	-----	-----	High explosives and flares command post landline destroyed
/0705G	OV-1, RF4	Coc Mac, Ka Toc and Ba Kha area	Reconnaissance
/1310G	B-52 (3)	-----	Overflight
/1335G	OV1 (1) F4 (2)	-----	High explosive bombs (3 salvos)
/1420G	RF4 (1)	Coc Mac-Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/1235G	OV1 (1)	Ta Le Bridge, Ford Pass	Reconnaissance
9 Dec/-----	-----	-----	Fragmentation and incendiary bombs
/0845G	OV1 (2) F-105 (4)	Ta Le Bridge	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
/0930G	OV1 (1)	Ta Le Pass	Reconnaissance
/0935G	OV1 (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1010G	OV1 (1) AD4 (2)	KM 64 ~	High explosive (2 salvos)
/2100G	B-26K (1)	KM 7 to 60	Reconnaissance
/2110G	F4 (1)	KM 58	Reconnaissance

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/2130G	B-26K (2)	Ba Kha Pass	U/I ordnance
/22-2300G	.....	Coc Mac to KM 15	Reconnaissance
/2300-0300G	.....	Coc Mac, Ba Kha, Tha Khong	Overflight
10 Dec/.....	F-102, F4	.....	U/I ordnance
/0200G	B-26K (2 raids)	KM 58 to Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/0340G	F4 (13)	KM 58 to 63	Reconnaissance
/0340G	B-26K (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/0400G	B-26K (1)	KM 60 to 64	Reconnaissance
/0430G	B-26K (1)	KM 62 to 63	Reconnaissance
/0515G	B-26K (1)	Ka Toc	Fragmentation bombs (2 salvos)
/0635G	F-100 (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1900-1945G	B-57 (1) B-26K (2) AD5 (1)	KM 91 to 96	High explosive bombs (7 salvos) Incendiary bombs (2 salvos) Fragmentation bombs (4 salvos)
11 Dec/.....	.....	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/.....	.....	Company 1 (possibly KM 91-96)	High explosive bombs (6 salvos) Fragmentation bombs (4 salvos)
/.....	F4 (12) OV1 (1)	False positions of Bn 22 (unlocated)	High explosive bombs (1 salvo) Fragmentation bombs (4 salvos) 20-mm cannon (3 salvos)
/0630G	OV-1 (1), F4 (4)	Ta Le Pass	Incendiary bombs
/0700G	RF-100 (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/0725G	OV-1 (1), F-105 (4)	Ta Le	Incendiary bombs and rockets (4 salvos)
/0727G	OV-1 (1), F-100 (4)	KM 58 to 62 KM 2 on Route 20	20-mm Cannon (8 salvos)
/0810G	OV-1, F4	Poss Ta Le	U/I ordnance
/0835G	F4 (1)	Ba Kha	Fired on by 2 guns of Company 4, 18th AA Bn

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/1000G	RF4 (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/1200G	F4 (4)	Ta Le Bridge Pass	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
12 Dec/0030G	F4 (1) B-26K (1)	-----	Reconnaissance
/0140G	B-26K (2)	KM 60	Reconnaissance
/0230G	B-26K (1)	-----	Incendiary bombs (1 salvo)
/0240G	B-26K (1)	KM 76	Fragmentation bombs
/0650G	OV1 (1)	-----	Reconnaissance
/0700G	F4 (2)	Route QA7	20-mm cannon (2 salvos)
/0925G	OV1 (1)	-----	Overflight
/0950G	OV1 (1) F4 (2)	Ta Le Ford	High explosive bombs (2 salvos)
13 Dec/-----	-----	Ta Le	High explosive bombs
/-----	AC-1 (2)	Ka-Toc, Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/-----	F4 (3)	-----	High explosive bombs
/0100-0130G	F4 (4)	Unlocated Ford	Fragmentation bombs (4)
/0400G	B-26K (2)	Coc Mac Pass	Fragmentation bombs (3 salvos) Incendi- ary bombs (5 salvos)
/0410-1445G	F4 (6)	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs (6)
/0600-0930G	OV-1, AD6 (2)	-----	Reconnaissance
/0630G	RF-100 (1)	-----	Reconnaissance
/0730G	F4 (2)	Unlocated Ford	U/I ordnance
/0755G	F4 (1)	-----	High explosive bombs (1)
/0910G	F-105 (4)	-----	High explosive bombs (12 bombs)
/0945G	F4 (1)	-----	Reconnaissance
/1200G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac and Lun Bum area	Reconnaissance
/1225G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 12	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/1300G		KM15	Fragmentation bombs (3 salvos) High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
/1325G	A6-A (3)	Ka Toc	Six salvos of high explosive bombs
/1405G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/1415G	OV-1 (1)	KM 62 (Route 911) KM 7 (Route 20)	Reconnaissance
/1540G	F-100 (4)	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs (6 salvos) Weapons reported safe
/2230G	F4	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs
14 Dec/0300G	F-4 (2 groups)	Ta Le	High explosive bombs
/0645G	OV-1, F-101	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance

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(b) (3)-50 USC 403
(b) (3)-18 USC 798
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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There were several messages on 12 and 13 December that reported shooting down hostile aircraft and one message reported the helicopter rescue of an American pilot. Available evidence indicates that all action occurred in the vicinity of Route 911, probably from the junction with Route 912 southward to possibly kilometer marker (KM) 97. The rescue operation was reported in a Rear Service message, transmitted during the afternoon of 13 December, which also reported on strikes and reconnaissance flights in the vicinity of Coc Mac (AKA Ban Kok Nak, 17-02N 105-59E), Lum Bum (17-03N 105-57E) and KM's 62 and 7, implying the rescue occurred in the same area. The shootdown apparently occurred sometime prior to the noon hour; available portions of the

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06 Dec/1500- 1530G	Helicopters (7)	KM 14	----
07 Dec/-----	OV-1	Coc Mac, Ka Toc, and KM's 43 and 58	Reconnaissance
/-----	F-100, F4, OV-1	Poss Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
07 Dec/0825G	F-105 (4)	U/I pass vic Ta Le-	U/I ordnance (4 salvos)
/0830G	OV-1, F4	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/0900G	F-100, OV-1	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/0925G	F4 (2)	KM 62	U/I ordnance (1 salvo)
/0945G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 92	High explosive bombs (4 salvos) anti- personnel bombs (2 salvos)
/0955G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
1005/1030G	F4 (1) OV-1 (1)	KM 62	High explosives (4 salvos) anti- personnel (3 salvos)
/1110G	B-52 (4)	KM 3 to KM 12	over flight
/1115G	F4 (4)	Ta Le Ford	High explosive bombs
/1120G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac, Ban Kha, Ka Toc	Reconnaissance

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/1125G	F4	KM's 1 and 2	Overflight
/1130G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 5	--
/1800G	B-26K (2)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1830G	B-26K (2)	KM 2, KM 62 and 63	incendiary bombs (4 salvos) anti- personnel bombs (3 salvos)
/2100G	B-26K (2)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/2120G	F4 (1)	Ta Le Ford	U/I ordnance
/2130G	F4 (1), B-26K (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/2200G	B-26K (2)	KM 63	Fragmentation bombs (1 salvo)
8 Dec/----	B-52	----	U/I ordnance, personnel and weapons safe
/----	----	----	High explosives and flares command post landline destroyed
/0705G	OV-1, RF4	Coc Mac, Ka Toc and Ba Kha area	Reconnaissance
/1310G	B-52 (3)	----	Overflight
/1335G	OV1 (1) F4 (2)	----	High explosive bombs (3 salvos)
/1420G	RF4 (1)	Coc Mac-Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/1235G	OV1 (1)	Ta Le Bridge, Ford Pass	Reconnaissance
9 Dec/----	----	----	Fragmentation and incendiary bombs
/0845G	OV1 (2) F-105 (4)	Ta Le Bridge	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
/0930G	OV1 (1)	Ta Le Pass	Reconnaissance
/0935G	OV1 (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1010G	OV1 (1) AD4 (2)	KM 64	High explosive (2 salvos)
/2100G	B-26K (1)	KM 7 to 60	Reconnaissance
/2110G	F4 (1)	KM 58	Reconnaissance

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/2130G	B-26K (2)	Ba Kha Pass	U/I ordnance
/22-2300G	----	Coc Mac to KM 15	Reconnaissance
/2300-0300G	----	Coc Mac, Ba Kha, Tha Khong	Overflight
10 Dec/----	F-102, F4	----	U/I ordnance
/0200G	B-26K (2 raids)	KM 58 to Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/0340G	F4 (13)	KM 58 to 63	Reconnaissance
/0340G	B-26K (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/0400G	B-26K (1)	KM 60 to 64	Reconnaissance
/0430G	B-26K (1)	KM 62 to 63	Reconnaissance
/0515G	B-26K (1)	Ka Toc	Fragmentation bombs (2 salvos)
/0635G	F-100 (1)	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/1900-1945G	B-57 (1) B-26K (2) AD5 (1)	KM 91 to 96	High explosive bombs (7 salvos) Incendiary bombs (2 salvos) Fragmentation bombs (4 salvos)
11 Dec/----	----	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/----	----	Company 1 (pos- sibly KM 91-96)	High explosive bombs (6 salvos) Fragmenta- tion bombs (4 salvos)
/----	F4 (12) OV1 (1)	False positions of Bn 22 (un- located)	High explosive bombs (1 salvo) Fragmenta- tion bombs (4 salvos) 20-mm cannon (3 salvos)
/0630G	OV-1 (1), F4 (4)	Ta Le Pass	Incendiary bombs
/0700G	RF-100 (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/0725G	OV-1 (1), F-105 (4)	Ta Le	Incendiary bombs and rockets (6 salvos)
/0727G	OV-1 (1), F-100 (4)	KM 58 to 62 KM 2 on Route 20	20-mm Cannon (8 salvos)
/0810G	OV-1, F4	Poss Ta Le	U/I ordnance
/0835G	F4 (1)	Ba Kha	Fired on by 2 guns of Company 4, 18th AA Bn

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<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/1000G	RF4 (1)	Ta Le	Reconnaissance
/1200G	F4 (4)	Ta Le Bridge Pass	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
12 Dec/0030G	F4 (1) B-26K (1)	----	Reconnaissance
/0140G	B-26K (2)	KM 60	Reconnaissance
/0230G	B-26K (1)	----	Incendiary bombs (1 salvo)
/0240G	B-26K (1)	KM 76	Fragmentation bombs
/0650G	OV1 (1)	----	Reconnaissance
/0700G	F4 (2)	Route QA7	20-mm cannon (2 salvos)
/0925G	OV1 (1)	----	Overflight
/0950G	OV1 (1) F4 (2)	Ta Le Ford	High explosive bombs (2 salvos)
13 Dec/----	----	Ta Le	High explosive bombs
/----	AC-1 (2)	Ka-Toc, Coc Mac	Reconnaissance
/----	F4 (3)	----	High explosive bombs
/0100-0130G	F4 (4)	Unlocated Ford	Fragmentation bombs (4)
/0400G	B-26K (2)	Coc Mac Pass	Fragmentation bombs (3 salvos) Incendi- ary bombs (5 salvos)
/0410-1445G	F4 (6)	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs (6)
/0600-0930G	OV-1, AD6 (2)	----	Reconnaissance
/0630G	RF-100 (1)	----	Reconnaissance
/0730G	F4 (2)	Unlocated Ford	U/I ordnance
/0755G	F4 (1)	----	High explosive bombs (1)
/0910G	F-105 (4)	----	High explosive bombs (16 bombs)
/0945G	F4 (1)	----	Reconnaissance
/1200G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac and Lum Bum area	Reconnaissance
/1225G	OV-1, F4 (2)	KM 12	High explosive bombs (4 salvos)

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2/O/VCM/R749-68

<u>DATE/TIME OF ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>ORDNANCE/REMARKS</u>
/1300G	----	KM15	Fragmentation bombs (3 salvos) High explosive bombs (4 salvos)
/1325G	A6-A (3)	Ka Toc	Six salvos of high explosive bombs
/1405G	F4 (1)	Coc Mac Area	Reconnaissance
/1415G	OV-1 (1)	KM 62 (Route 911) KM 7 (Route 20)	Reconnaissance
/1540G	F-100 (4)	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs (6 salvos) Weapons reported safe
/2230G	F4	Unlocated Ford	High explosive bombs
14 Dec/0300G	F-4 (2 groups)	Ta Le	High explosive bombs
/0645G	OV-1, F-101	Coc Mac	Reconnaissance

DIST: O/UA PLUS DCPG, USM-613, USM-614, CNO,

(b) (1)
 (b) (3)-50 USC 403
 (b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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