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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Daily Summary

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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TAN SON NHUT AIR BASE Republic Of Vietnam
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United States Air Force Daily Summary, Thursday, December 12, 1968

SOUTH VIETNAM

AIR FORCE SKYRAIDER PILOTS SUPPORT OPERATION MACARTHUR

SUMMATION

SIGNIFICANT RESCUE

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SOUTH VIETNAM

AIR FORCE SKYRAIDER PILOTS SUPPORT OPERATION MACARTHUR

Air Force tactical fighter-bomber pilots and crews flew 333 tactical air sorties over South Vietnam yesterday (Dec. 11), bombing and strafing enemy base camps, storage areas and troop concentrations and providing close air support for friendly ground forces.

Air Force flyers logged 220 sorties in support of major Allied ground operations in the Republic; 109 of the flights supported the Allied TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE in III Corps.

* * *

Scrambling from their alert pad to provide close air support for friendly ground forces conducting Operation MacArthur, A-1 Skyraider pilots from the 633rd Special Operations Wing at Pleiku Air Base struck an enemy troop concentration 80 km (50 miles) north of Kontum City in Kontum Province.

The forward air controller reported 22 enemy fortifications destroyed and seven enemy soldiers killed. He also observed five secondary explosions with white smoke rising to 300 feet and one secondary explosion with a column of black smoke to 300 feet.

The pilots on the strike were Major Harold G. Pierce, 38, Fairborn, Ohio, and First Lieutenant Danny L. Mencke, 23, Huron, S.D.

Also striking the same target were F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phu Cat Air Base. Immediately before the strike the FAC reported that he was fired upon by enemy soldiers in brown uniforms using automatic weapons. After the strike the FAC reported two enemy soldiers killed, three fortifications destroyed or damaged and one secondary fire.

One of the pilots on the strike was Major Emil H. Georgi, 37, Absecon, N.J.

SIGNIFICANT RESCUE

Air Force and Army helicopter crews teamed up to rescue of eleven U.S. Army soldiers, all helicopter crash victims, from a 60-degree slope in a nine-and-one-half hour air rescue operation Wednesday.

The soldiers were aboard an U.S. Army UH-1 "Iriquois" helicopter, from the 133rd Airborne Brigade, which crashed due to enemy ground fire in hostile territory about 29 km (18 miles) northeast of An Khe in South Vietnam's II Corps Tactical Zone.

Three Air Force crews were credited with saving nine of the soldiers, while an Army crew which was in the vicinity picked up two of the injured.

The first two Air Force HH-43 "Pedro" rescue helicopter crews in the area received enemy ground. While Army helicopter gunships arrived on the scene to suppress enemy ground fire, a third Air Force crew joined in the rescue operation..

One of the 11 rescued was pinned beneath the helicopter. He was freed by Air Force pararescuemen and a fireman, who used chain saws and bolt cutters to extract him.

The injured crash victims rescued by Air Force personnel were rushed to either Phu Cat Air Base or the Qui Nhon Army Airfield hospital for medical treatment. Their identities are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

In addition, a 16-man ground party and an Army doctor were evacuated from the scene by Air Force "Pedro" helicopters. Two of the local base rescue aircraft were from Phu Cat AB. The third was from Pleiku Air Base.

* * *

F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 3rd TFW at Bien Hoa Air Base struck and enemy position 55 km (34 miles) south-southwest of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province. They were flying escort for a C-123 Provider when the Provider crew reported heavy ground fire.

After the strike a FAC reported 10 fortifications, 10 bunkers and 5 sampans destroyed and 20 fortifications and 33 bunkers damaged.

Pilots on the strike were Colonel Robert L. Jones, 44, Fulton, Tex., Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Bazley, 42, Reston, Va.; Majors Joseph Brown, 38, New York City, Guy L. Hecker, 36, Mobile, Ala., Don R. Hollis, 35, Tallahassee, Fla., David P. Proctor, 39, Anniston Ala., and James F. Whidden, 34, Miami, Fla.; Captains Richard L. Edde, 29, Houston, and Edward T. Meschko, 25, Owensboro, Ky; and First Lieutenant Robert L. Dunham, 23, Union Springs Ala.

* * *

F-4 Phantom crews from the 366th TFW at Da Nang Air Base struck an enemy troop concentration 30 km (19 miles) southwest of Da Nang in Quang Nam Province.

The FAC directing the strike reported 10 fortifications destroyed or damaged, 2 sustained fires, 1 secondary explosion and 3 enemy soldiers killed.

* * *

On two successive strikes F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 3rd TFW attacked an enemy troop concentration 30 km (19 miles) south-southwest of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province.

The FAC directing the strike reported 28 fortifications, 10 sampans and 1 bunker destroyed or damaged and 1 enemy soldier killed.

Pilots on the strike were Major Ronald L. Violette, 36, La Crosse, Wis.,

Captain Frederick M. Beatty, 27, Parkersburg, W. Va., and First Lieutenants Thomas R. Abel, 23, Anderson, Ind., and Thomas S. Brandon, 24, Honolulu.

* * *

F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th TFW at Phan Rang Air Base struck two enemy locations 3 km (2 miles) apart in an area 20 km (13 miles) west of Tay Ninh City in Tay Ninh Province.

After the strikes, the FAC reported 100 meters of trench, 14 bunkers, 1 fortification and 1 sampan destroyed. Pilots on the strike were Colonel Wallace C. Bosworth, 47, Chicago, 35th TFW vice commander and Major James P. Mc Carthy, 38, Marinette, Wis.

AIR SUPPORT FOR TROOPS IN CONTACT

Air Force pilots and crews scrambled from the alert pads 42 times to provide close air support for friendly ground forces in contact with the enemy.

A-37 and F-100 pilots from the 3rd TFW and F-100s from the 35th TFW flew fourteen sorties in support of the 25th U.S. Infantry Division in contact with an unknown size enemy force 15 km (9 miles) west of Ben Cap in Binh Duong Province.

F-100 pilots from the 31st and 37th TFWs and F-4 crews from the 366th TFW flew eight sorties in support of elements of the 3rd Marine Division in contact with a unknown-size enemy force 30 km (19 miles) west-northwest of Quang Tri City in Quang Tri Province.

DRAGONSHIP SUPPORT

AC-47 Dragonship crews from the 14th Special Operations Wing were airborne 29 times during the night providing flare and fire support for friendly ground units. Thirteen of the flights were in support of friendly forces in contact with the enemy.

TACTICAL AIRLIFT SUMMARY

U.S. and Royal Australian Air Force tactical airlift crews flew 1,286 sorties while carrying 13,124 troops and other passengers and delivering 2,802 tons of cargo. The combined payload was 4,164 tons.

PSYWAR ACTIVITIES

Air Force psychological warfare crews from the 14th SOW flew 78 sorties while dropping more than 21 million leaflets over suspected enemy locations and broadcasting nearly 82 hours of tape-recorded messages urging the enemy to come over to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government.

VNAF AIR STRIKES

Vietnamese Air Force A-1 Skyraider and F-5 Freedom Fighter pilots flew 68 sorties yesterday. They destroyed or damaged 26 fortifications, 25 bunkers, 1 sampan and caused 2 secondary explosions and 2 sustained fires.

B-52 STRIKES

In five raids yesterday morning, Air Force B-52 Stratofortress crews bombed an enemy base camp, fortification and bunker complex and troop concentration in Phuoc Long Province 26 km (16 miles) southwest of Phuoc Binh.

Enemy activity, a staging area and a storage area in Quang Nam Province 15 km (9 miles) west-southwest of An Hoa.

Enemy activity, a staging area, and a storage area 19 km (12 miles) west of An Hoa in Quang Nam Province.

Troop concentrations, base camp and a bunker complex in Binh Duong Province 10 km (6 miles) northwest of Ben Cat.

Troop concentrations and an infiltration route 35 km (22 miles) northwest of Pleiku City.

Returning aircrews reported causing 24 medium secondary explosions in two raids over Tay Ninh Province Tuesday night and the previous day.

Aircrew and FAC reports credit one mission, in Phuoc Long Province yesterday morning with triggering 14 medium explosions, destroying 51 bunkers, and killing 5 soldiers.

In two strikes late yesterday Stratofortress crews hit troop activity, bunkers, base camps and weapons positions 50 km (31 miles) northeast of Tay Ninh City.

SUMMATION

Air Force tactical fighter-bomber pilots and crews flew 333 sorties over South Vietnam yesterday. The pilots and crews ignited 15 secondary explosions, 18 sustained fires and destroyed or damaged 230 fortifications, 292 bunkers and 26 enemy sampans.

Forward air controllers (FACs) also reported that the pilots and crews killed 13 enemy soldiers.

In other action in support of the air war in the Republic, FACs flew 376 sorties. There were 62 training flights and 125 helicopter missions, including search and rescue, logistics and courier flights. Other aircraft flew 37 photo reconnaissance missions.

AC-47 Dragonships were airborne 29 times during the night and tactical airlift crews flew 1,286 sorties.