

AFEHRI File 19-5-1-20

Research Materials/Source Documents

FILE TITLE: Air Force Cross Recipient: CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger

Reviewed by:

AFEHRI Representative *G.R. Akin* date 7 JUN 98

EPC Representative *John C. [unclear]* date 22 Jun 98

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in [unclear]

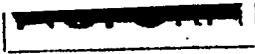
APPROVED BY:

Gary R. Akin

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Director
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SEA Declassification & Review Team
Date: 24 JUN 92 Init: TOS



K744.312.2	
6 MAR 68	
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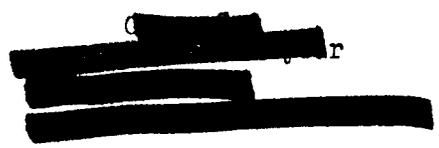
29 JUN 1992

A F550 mag, Subj: Site 85 Situation (U), 6 Mar 68

Classification ~~changed to~~ (changed to) 
 19 MAR 1988 under
Charles Calloway
 (person of interest taking action)

REVIEW ON Mar 6, 1988

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST
 DO NOT DESTROY
 No. 0007309



MICROFILMED BY TIM

01042209

3-5753-3

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03196

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RYAN
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DO NOT DESTROY
PROBONA HARVEST
 THIS IS A CORRECTED COPY
 OF 68-DASMD-01655

IMMEDIATE
 DTG: 061100Z
 FM AFSSO UDORN
 TO AFSSO PACAF
 INFO ZEN/AFSSO 7AF
 ZEN AFSSO 13AF

~~SECRET~~ ~~NOFORN~~ AIR FORCE EYES ONLY DC. DI USSO.
 FOR GEN RYAN INFO GEN MOMYER AND GEN DAVIS FROM LINDLEY.

- REFERENCES:
 A. CINCPACAF (S) 052114Z MAR 68.
 B. OUSAIRA EMB VIETNAME LAOS (TS) 281552Z FEB 68. → 68-01532
 C. 7AF (TS) 020815Z FEB 68. → n/r

1. THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SITE 85 AS EVALUATED BY CAS VIENTIANE CONSISTS OF SOME THREE ENEMY BATTALIONS OF MIXED PL/NVN COMPOSITION, ARRAYED IN BAN DEN DIN-MUONG YUT AREA (CENTERED AT ABOUT UH 790 (WHICH IS WELL WITHIN THE 12KM DEFENSE PERIMETER OF SITE 85.. BOTH 125MM HOWITZERS AND MORTARS ARE AVAILABLE TO THESE ENEMY FORCES. 4 ADDITIONAL BATTALIONS, 3 NVN AND 1 MIXED PL/NVN, HAVE DEPLOYED FROM BAN KHANG (UH 9164) TO A POSITION AROUND UH 8370. THERE ARE 1000 FRIENDLY FORCES IN THE 12KM CIRCLE DEFENDING SITE 85.
 2. DOCUMENTS RECOVERED FROM A NVN STAFF OFFICER KILLED ON 17 FEB INDICATE ENEMY PLAN OF ATTACK. THE FOUR BATTALIONS AT UH 8370 CONSTITUTE THE ATTACK FORCE WHICH WILL APPROACH SITE 85 FROM THE EAST ROUGHLY PARALLEL TO BUT 12KM NORTH OF MAIN SUPPLY ROUTE 602 EXTENDED. ASSAULT WILL BE PRECEDED BY AN AIR STRIKE PLUS HOWITZER AND MORTAR BARRAGE.

3. INITIAL TIME OF ATTACK WAS SET FOR 29 FEB, HOWEVER AIR STRIKES PRIOR TO THAT DATE FORCED POSTPONEMENT. OUR INFORMATION HERE IS THAT MORALE OF THE FRIENDLY FORCES IS HIGH AND THAT THE AIR STRIKES HAVE DEMORALIZED THE ENEMY SO THAT DESERTIONS AND DEFECTIONS EVEN AMONG THE NVN ELEMENTS IS INCREASING. CAS ESTIMATES 11 MARCH AS BEING EARLIEST DATE IN WHICH HE CAN RE-SUPPLY TO THE EXTENT AN ATTACK WOULD BE PROFITABLE. KEEPING THE ENEMY OFF BALANCE WITH AIR STRIKES APPEARS TO BE THE KEY TO FURTHER POSTPONEMENT.

K744.312.2
6 MAR 68

3-5753-2
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Classification (Changed to) CONFIDENTIAL effective on 19 MAR 1968 under CONTROL

Ex. Pg. 68 -DASMD- 01659 chula callway

MICROFILMED BY 11M.
 NUMBER: DC DI USSO
 061100Z

70-1074-00301

Page 1 of 2 REVIEW ON Mar 6, 1988

REPRODUCED 6 MAR 68 BY DASMD
 REPRO CY 2 OF 12 CYS

68-DOCO- 01676

68-DO 01941

[REDACTED]

4. AMB SULLIVAN HAS MADE SEVERAL CONCESSIONS TO PERMIT MAXIMUM PROTECTION OF THE SITE THRU AIR STRIKES, REF B ABOVE.

5. YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THE 7AF IMMEDIATE RESPONSE WITH INCREASED SORTIES BY BOTH PRE-FRAGGED AND DIVERSIONARY MEANS. REFERENCE C ABOVE APPLIES. (REF B ABOVE)

6. PRELIMINARY RESULTS ARE MOST FAVORABLE AND SHOULD FURTHER POSTPONE ABILITY OF ENEMY TO ATTACK. COMBINED EFFORT ALONG PRESENT LINES SHOULD RESULT IN POSTPONEMENT WELL INTO SOUTH WEST MONSOON PERIOD WHEN PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES ENEMY GROUND ACTIONS SLOW ALMOST TO A HALT AND FRIENDLY FORCES TRADITIONALLY TAKE THE OFFENSIVE.

7. CAS IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THIS HQ AND IS KEEPING US INFORMED ON CHANGES TO THE THREAT. A FULL RE-EVALUATION WILL BE MADE ON 11 MAR WITH REPORTS TO ADDRESSEES.

8. REFERENCE PACAF (C) DOCOA 025532 AND 7AF REPLY THERETO (S)

15 1215 Z BELIEVE CONSIDERATION OF MOVING THE MSQ IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR 6 TO 9 MONTH PERIOD DUE TO NON AVAILABILITY OF AN APPROPRIATE NEW SITE AND THE FORTHCOMING SOUTH WEST MONSOON. RECOMMEND THIS NOT BE CONSIDERED BUT THAT PRESSURE BE MAINTAINED ON AMB VIENTIANE TO PROTECT SITE AT ALL COST. CHANNEL 79 TACAN MOVE SHOULD PROCEED AS SCHEDULED FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN OUR SEC NO FORN 130700Z NOV 67.

9. EVACUATION PLANS FOR SITE 85 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY AS A LAST RESORT. GP-3

550
? MONTH MISSING

7.635/13

OC, DA 2550 06/100
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Page 2 of 2

[REDACTED]
AIR FORCE
EYES ONLY

68CSA 01300

[REDACTED] declassified

141246Z Mar 1968
Momyer to Sullivan

Why did it fall? ^{What} ~~was~~ defense actions taken?

160510Z Mar 1968
AMEMB to 7AF
For Momyer from Sullivan

(S) "...enemy force was not ^{repeat not} relatively small. Our intelligence indicated their number between five and seven batalions, with artillery and rocket support, considerably outnumbering local defense forces, which never numbered more than 1,000 men in 12 kilometers defense perimeter which drawn around SITE 85.

We made clear from the very beginning that this site could not RPT not be defended against a determined and superior enemy force. We gave regular and accurate estimates of its progressive deterioration, and as early as Feb 26, advised you that it could probably not be held beyond March 10. Therefore, its fall should have come as no surprise to anyone...."
Artillery fire was extremely accurate. Evacuation disorderly, not as planned.

[REDACTED]

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b. Is not now in the CORONA HARVEST Data Base. See paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

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FOR THE COMMANDER


JOHN E. VAN DUYN, Colonel, USAF
Chief, Project CORONA HARVEST

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