FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE Daily Summary Nov. 4, 1968

NOTE: This item has been cleared for release by MACV.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11-168-9

United States Air Force Daily Summary, Monday, November 4, 1969

SOUTH VIETNAM

F-100 PILOTS HIT ENEMY BASE CAMP SOUTH OF MY THO

SUMMATION

NOTE: This item has been cleared for release by MACV.
SOUTH VIETNAM

F-100 PILOTS HIT ENEMY BASE CAMP SOUTH OF MY THO

Air Force tactical fighter-bombers flew 374 sorties yesterday (Nov. 3), bombing and strafing enemy base camps, troop concentrations and storage areas and providing close air support for friendly ground forces in the Republic.

One hundred seventy-one tactical air sorties were flown in support of U.S. and other Allied Forces conducting combat and offensive sweeps; 51 of the flights supported the Allied TOAN THANG OFFENSIVE in III Corps.

* * *

F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at Phan Rang Air Base, on a preplanned mission against an enemy base camp 22 km (13 miles) south of My Tho in Kien Hoa Province, reported 12 military fortifications destroyed, three damaged; two bunkers damaged and a large generator destroyed. A forward air controller (FAC) credited the pilots with killing 12 enemy soldiers.

* * *

Other Supersabre pilots from the 3rd TFW at Bien Hoa Air Base hit enemy fortifications 22 km (13 miles) north of Ca Nau in An Xuyen Province and destroyed 21 military fortifications, five sampans and four bunkers. They also damaged six fortifications and three sampans; ignited two sustained fires and set off a secondary explosion.

Pilots were Captain Robert N. Hopkins, 28, Brielle, N.J., and First Lieutenant Thomas R. Able, 23, Anderson, Ind.

"The target was a group of fortifications lined along a 500-meter stretch of canal," said Able, "We bombed the south side of the canal first with a total of five bomb passes between us. The FAC then moved to the north side of the
canal and we strafed twice apiece. There was a petroleum-type explosion on
my last pass with a brilliant fireball and smoke to 1,500 feet. The entire
complex was in flames when we left; the FAC counted 17 fortifications still
burning.

* * *

An enemy storage 12 km (7 miles) west of Vinh Long City area was the
target for F-100 pilots from the 31st TFW at Tuy Hoa Air Base yesterday.
They were credited by a FAC with killing six enemy troops; destroying six
military fortifications, damaging four and destroying one sampan and four
bunkers. The strike was preplanned.

One of the pilots was First Lieutenant John W. Zwerg, 25, Madison,
Wis.

* * *

Air Force B-57 Canberra crews from the 35th TFW at Phan Rang Air Base
blasted enemy fortifications and bunkers 18 km (11 miles) west of Ca Mau
and destroyed seven fortifications, three sampans and four bunkers and
damaged eight fortifications.

* * *

Supersabre pilots from the 3rd TFW hit an enemy location in An Xuyen
Province, 40 km (25 miles) southwest of Ca Mau and destroyed or damaged nine
fortifications, nine sampans and three bunkers.

One of the pilots was Captain John H. Dittler, 28, Detroit.

* * *

F-4 Phantom crews from the 12th TFW at Cam Ranh Bay Air Base blasted
an enemy fortification complex 15 km (9 miles) southwest of Truc Giang in
Kien Hoa Province and destroyed or damaged 11 fortifications, three sampans

- MORE -
and nine bunkers.

* * *

An enemy base camp was the target for B-57 crews from the 35th TFW as they destroyed nine fortifications, damaged four; destroyed two bunkers and caused a large secondary explosion. The crews were credited by a FAC with killing two enemy soldiers.

Two of the crew members were Lieutenant Colonel James J. Gearhart, 45, Fairfax, Va., and Major Herman W. Jarrett, 35, Honolulu.

* * *

Supersabre pilots from the 3rd and 31st TFWs were credited by FACs with killing a total of eight enemy soldiers when they teamed up to hit an enemy concentration 10 km (6 miles) southeast of Dau Tieng in Binh Duong Province. They also destroyed or damaged 33 bunkers, uncovered five, destroyed one fortification, and an underground bunker complex and damaged four fighting positions.

Two of the pilots from the 3rd TFW were Captain Wayne L. Gosnell, 29, West Frankfort, Ill., and First Lieutenant Dennis E. Fink, 24, Wyomissing, Pa.

"When we arrived on the scene, the FAC reported that pilots on a previous strike had received some ground fire from the target area," said Fink, "But he wasn't receiving any at the moment.

"Apparently we caught the enemy troops off guard as we went in on our first runs. It looked like they were eating lunch. The FAC said our first bomb killed two of the enemy while the rest of them ran for shelter in a large bunker. On the next pass we hit that bunker."

* * *

3 - MORE -
Supersabre pilots from the 37th TFW at Phu Cat Air Base killed four enemy soldiers, according to a FAC, and destroyed an automatic weapons position and four drums of ammunition when they struck an enemy location in Quang Tin Province, 15 km (9 miles) southwest of Tam Ky.

The pilots were Major Roderick C. Gibson, 37, Thomasville, Ga., and First Lieutenant Dennis F. Hlad, 25, Maple Heights, Ohio.

CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

Air Force pilots and crews flew 12 immediate sorties to provide close air support for friendly ground forces contact with enemy forces.

* * *

On Nov. 2, Phantom crews from the 12th TFW and F-100 pilots from the 31st TFW flew 12 immediate sorties in support of U.S. 4th Infantry Division troopers in contact with the enemy 21 km (13 miles) west-northwest of Dak To in Kontum Province.

Pilots from the 31st TFW were Majors Vernon R. King, 35, and Kenneth A. Sarason, 47, both of Albuquerque, N.M. They were credited by a FAC with killing 20 enemy soldiers in the strike. They also destroyed a suspected recoilless rifle position and a 50-calibre machine gun site and caused two secondary explosions and a sustained fire.

"The friendlies marked their own positions and the FAC marked the enemy positions with a white smoke rocket," said King, "I rolled in and dropped my first bombs---the FAC said they were right on target. He also said I had caused a secondary explosion. I made another bomb pass and the FAC said they were right on the money, too, and that I had started a fire this time and caused still another secondary explosion."

Sarason said, "When I dropped my bombs the FAC shouted, 'Bullseye!'"
I could see the secondary explosions and fire clearly from the air. I then started to strafe the enemy positions. We certainly got a thrill out of realizing we did a good job for the guys on the ground."

VNAF AIR STRIKES

Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) A-1 Skyraider and F-5 Freedom Fighter pilots flew 78 tactical air sorties yesterday. They caused three sustained fires and destroyed or damaged 52 fortifications, 83 bunkers and 2 enemy sampans. FACs also credited the pilots with killing seven enemy soldiers.

DRAGONSHIP SUPPORT

Air Force AC-47 Dragonship crews from the 14th Special Operations Wing flew more than 20 sorties last night, dropping flares and providing 7.62mm minigun fire support for friendly ground forces in the Republic.

TACTICAL AIRLIFT SUMMARY

U.S. Air Force tactical airlift crews, under the direction of the 834th Air Division, and Royal Australian Air Force Airlift crews flew 1,334 sorties as they delivered 11,679 troops and other passengers and 26,849 tons of cargo. The combined payload was 4,283 tons.

PSYWAR ACTIVITIES

Air Force psychological warfare crews from the 14th SOW flew 50 sorties yesterday and dropped more than 15 million leaflets and broadcast 39 hours of tape-recorded messages over suspected enemy locations, urging the enemy to come over to the side of the Republic of Vietnam government.

B-52 STRIKES

Yesterday morning the giant eight-engined bombers struck the following targets:

Base areas and troop concentrations in two strikes 43 km (27 miles) and
47 km (30 miles) northeast of Tay Ninh City.

Troop concentrations and bunkers in Kien Hoa Province 7 km (4 miles) southeast of Ben Tre.

Crews returning from night strikes 42 km (26 miles) northeast of Tay Ninh City Nov. 2 reported causing seven medium-to-large secondary explosions.

Crews returning from a raid on troop activity, artillery positions, and base camps in Kontum Province Nov. 2 reported causing five medium secondary explosions 21 km (13 miles) east-northeast of Dak To.

Troop concentrations and fortifications 12 km (7 miles) southeast of Ben Tre in Kien Hoa Province.

Troop concentrations and weapons positions 26 km (16 miles) south of Quang Tri City.

Yesterday afternoon and evening the Stratofort crews struck the following enemy locations:

Troop concentrations and weapons positions in three strikes 16 - 18 km (10-11 miles) south of Quang Tri City.

Troop concentrations 50 km (31 miles) northeast of Tay Ninh City.

Storage areas, infiltration routes and bunker complexes 25 km (15 miles) west of Dak To.
SUMMATION

Air Force tactical aircraft were airborne 374 times yesterday over South Vietnam causing 19 secondary explosions, 11 sustained fires and destroying or damaging 343 fortifications, 258 bunkers and 50 enemy sampans. The pilots and crews were also credited by forward air controllers (FACs) with killing 32 enemy soldiers.

In other action in support of the air war in the Republic, FACs were airborne 409 times. There were 26 training flights and 111 helicopter a sorties, including search and rescue, logistics and courier flights. Other aircraft flew 37 photo reconnaissance missions.

Also during the day, Air Force tactical airlift crews were airborne 1,344 times and psychological warfare crews made 50 flights. Dragonship crews were airborne more than 20 times during the night providing flare light and fire support for friendly ground units in the Republic.