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18 June 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 10-16 June 1968

Activities South of the 19th Parallel

Armed Reconnaissance Sorties:

This Week (10-16 June) *	Last Week (3-9 June)
319 sorties per day	312 sorties per day
42 percent in Route Package I	45 percent in Route Package I
35 percent in Route Package II	34 percent in Route Package II
22 percent in Route Package III (below 19° North)	24 percent in Route Package III (below 19° North)

For the Period 1 January - 16 June

197 sorties per day

60 percent in Route Package I

24 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III **

Weather

Above and Below 19° - Poor weather prevailed throughout the seven day reporting period over all of North Vietnam.***

* The rate of attack listed for the period 10-16 June may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in Southeast Asia are not available at the publication time of this report.

** Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

*** Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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Highways

	Preliminary Pilot Reports on Trucks		
	Sighted	Destroyed	Damaged
This Week (10-16 June)	654	87	106
Last Week (3- 9 June)	459	46	73
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	668	87	79
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	455	59	61

Remarks:

Attacks against the North Vietnamese highway system continued heavy this past week, with the great majority of sorties directed against the several routes composing the primary infiltration corridors leading into southern Laos and the DMZ. Ammunition and POL storage dumps, truck parks and transshipment areas, together with numerous highway bridges and bypass facilities were the principle targets attacked.

Despite the poor weather prevailing throughout the week, pilots reported a substantial increase in the number of trucks sighted, destroyed and damaged; compared with last week's totals. Sightings of truck concentrations and convoys of 20 or more vehicles were considerable this week, whereas, last week no large concentrations were reported. During the nights of 11 and 13 June pilots sighted heavy, but unquantified, vehicle traffic moving south, via Route 7, into the Vinh Son area located at the junction of Routes 15 and 7. Heavy traffic was also sighted on 13 June moving south over Route 1A

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immediately above the 19th Parallel. This pattern of vehicle movement south from the 19th Parallel flowing from Route 1A inland over Route 7, and then proceeding further south, via Routes 72 and 15, is probably followed in order to circumvent the more vulnerable, coastal route. Further south, convoys in excess of 30 trucks were sighted on 13 and 16 June moving south over Routes 101 and 137 toward Laos.

This past week a considerable number of groups of trucks were attacked while standing in truck parks located in or near Route Package 1. Within several truck parks in the Bai Duc Thom area, pilots reported destroying or damaging about 25 trucks. Large secondary explosions and fires accompanied the strikes. Another group of 17 trucks located in a truck park alongside connector Route 1082 was also destroyed or damaged by attack.

Repeated sightings of bulldozers and construction crews were reported by pilots near Routes 1036 and 103 just above the DMZ during the past week. It is likely that this activity is intended to keep the supply routes motorable in spite of the poor weather and heavy air attacks.

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Roadwatch Teams

Access Roads to Laos	Trucks Counted: Latest Period	Previous Period	Weekly Average 1968
	(8-14 June)	(31 May-7 June, 7 days)	
Route 15 (near Mu Gia Pass)	126S; 95N	179S; 85N	217S; 196N
	(9-14 June)	(3-8 June)	
Route 912 (in Laos)	16S; 25N	34S; 52N	NA

Remarks:

The team on Route 15 reported an average of 23 trucks a day moving south during the first 14 days of June. This is higher than the average of 17 southbound trucks per day during May, and it is considerably higher than the average of 3 southbound trucks recorded during the first 15 days in June, 1967. During the 12 days that the team on Route 912 has watched the road, it has reported an average of 4 trucks a day moving south and 6 north.

Railroads

	Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars: Sighted	Destroyed	Damaged
This Week	19	1	8
Last Week	14	0	3
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	14	1	2
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	33	3	7

Remarks:

During the past week, attacks against the rail system were

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concentrated at Vinh and along the tramway south of Vinh. Rail bridges and various rail bypass facilities were the main targets. Pilots reported destroying the Vinh Railroad Bridge SW and post-strike photography revealed that both approaches were cratered with some possible structural damage to the bridge. This damage should not disrupt current railroad operations in the area since the track had been removed from the bridge prior to the strike. However, some truck traffic that normally uses this bridge may be curtailed. In other operations, several bridges on the tramway were attacked, but post-strike photography is not available to determine their status. In most cases, however, the bridges attacked have been under heavy attack since April and rail traffic has been impeded.

Waterways

	Preliminary Pilot Reports on Watercraft		
	Sighted	Destroyed	Damaged
This Week (10-16 June)	415	61	50
Last Week (3- 9 June)	716	96	106
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	312	44	60
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	225	33	49

Remarks:

Pilots reported several concentrations of watercraft in the Quang Khe area during the past week. The position of the craft sighted indicates movement along the coast and on the Song Troc, which extends

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southwest from the coast at Quang Khe to Route 137, a major infiltration route into Laos. Watercraft sightings were also concentrated in Vinh, on the waterways leading to Vinh, and from the Song Ca to the Song Ngan, which flow southwest from Vinh and serve as a feeder route to highway Route 15 southwest of Vinh.

North Vietnamese Aircraft Activity

Two concentrations of North Vietnamese helicopters were sighted near the DMZ on 15 June. More than 20 helicopters were involved in what appeared to be a shuttling operation between Tiger Island and an area north of the Ben Hai River. This unusual air activity may be related to new enemy ground force deployments in the eastern DMZ area or to high-priority supply deliveries in areas in localized shortages. The aircraft most likely to have been involved is the Soviet-built MI-4 Hound, which has a normal capacity of 2,650 pounds or 16 troops and a radius of 120 nautical miles.

Activities Between 19 and 20 Degrees North

Over the past seven-day reporting period, poor weather precluded any significant photo coverage of logistic activity and related developments in the North Vietnamese Panhandle.

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Further study

ing the rail net at Thanh Hoa shows that the number of rail cars in operation is greater than that observed in any previous photography. About 390 pieces of rolling stock, consisting of both regular meter-gauge and tram-type meter-gauge cars, were noted in the immediate area of Thanh Hoa, compared with the previous high of 220 observed

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Extensive transshipping of material from the meter-gauge railcars into smaller tram or lorry cars was observed in the

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rail yard. In addition, considerable open storage of goods was sighted alongside the rail line, possibly indicating that goods are quickly being moved through the area.

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