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BT
[REDACTED] VIENTIANE 1042

MACV FOR COMMAND CENTER

SUBJECT: LAOS SITREP

REF: A. VIENTIANE 1005
B. VIENTIANE 1008

SUMMARY: FORWARD MOST ROUTE 23 POSITIONS IN MR IV WERE EVACUATED ON 4 FEB AFTER HEAVY ENEMY ATTACKS. SHARP CLASH REPORTED EAST OF KHONG SEDONE. TROOP LIFT AIRCRAFT CRASHED SOUTHEAST OF LONG TIENG. ENEMY MAINTAINED PRESSURE AGAINST SAM THONG POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MR IV, ATTACK AGAINST MOST FORWARD ROUTE 23 POSITION APPROX 3 KM WEST OF BAN GNIK (REPORTED

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REFTEL A) CONTINUED THROUGH NIGHT 3-4 AND INTO DAY 4 FEB WHEN POSITION WAS REPORTED SURROUNDED. RELIEF COLUMN ARRIVED LATE AFTERNOON 4 FEB BUT DEFENDERS HAD ALREADY WITHDRAWN SOUTH AND WEST TO UNKNOWN LOCATION WITH UNKNOWN CASUALTIES. POSITION 4 KM WEST OF BAN GNIK WAS ALSO EVACUATED AFTER BEING SHELLED AND REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED AT SAME TIME. RLA F STRIKES YIELDED BDA OF 9 ENEMY PROBABLE KBA, 2 MORTARS DESTROYED AND ANOTHER DAMAGED.

2. ELSEWHERE IN MR IV, SHARP CLASH WITH ESTIMATED ENEMY BATTALION APPROX 20 KM EAST OF KHONG SEDONE ON 4 FEB RESULTED IN ONE FRIENDLY KIA, 6 WIA, 5 ENEMY KIA AND ESTIMATED 10 WIA. THERE WERE 2 ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST ROUTE 23/231 JUNCTION POSITIONS (5 FRIENDLY WIA) AND ONE CLASH APPROX 3 KM WEST SOUTHWEST OF BAN KENG GNAO (NO CASUALTIES).

3. IN MR II, THERE WERE 3 ATTACKS BY FIRE WITHOUT CASUALTIES AGAINST SAM THONG POSITIONS ON 3-4 FEB. THERE WERE SMALL CLASHES APPROX 6 KM WEST NORTHWEST AND APPROX 3 KM SOUTHEAST OF LONG TIENG (ONE FRIENDLY WIA). SKYLINE RIDGE PATROL FOUND BODIES OF 5 NVA AND ONE FRIENDLY. POSITION NORTHWEST OF PA DONG WAS AGAIN HEAVILY SHELLED WITHOUT CASUALTIES. NORTH OF PDJ, THERE WERE 2 CLASHES, ONE SHELLING AND ONE MINE INCIDENT SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST OF BOUAM LONG ON 2-4 FEB (ONE FRIENDLY KIA, 2 WIA). ENEMY SHELLED REFUGEE VILLAGE NORTH OF PHU CUM WITH UNKNOWN CASUALTIES ON 4 FEB. USAF REPORTED 9 TRUCKS DESTROYED AND 14 DAMAGED ON PDJ AND ALONG ROUTE 7 BOTH NORTHEAST AND WEST OF PDJ AS WELL AS ONE 37 MM GUN DESTROYED AND ONE 12.7 MM GUN DAMAGED.

4. AIR AMERICA CARIBOU CRASHED VICINITY PHA KHAO (SITE 14) APPROX 13 KM SOUTHEAST OF LONG TIENG ON 4 FEB WHILE MOVING MR III TROOPS. PRELIMINARY

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REPORT ON CAUSE OF CRASH INDICATED ENGINE FAILURE. CASUALTIES: 3 U.S. CREWMEN INJURED AND EVACUATED TO BANGKOK, ONE LAO CREWMAN KILLED, ONE SOLDIER KILLED, 15 SOLDIERS SERIOUSLY INJURED AND 18 SOLDIERS INJURED.

5. IN MR V, ENEMY SHELLED POSITION 6 KM SOUTH OF MUONG KASSY (FROM WHICH FRIENDS HAD ALREADY WITHDRAWN) AS WELL AS BATTALION COMMAND POST APPROX 5 KM FARTHER SOUTH ON 4 FEB (NO CASUALTIES). ONE CLASH OCCURRED 16 KM SOUTH SOUTHWEST OF MUONG KASSY WITHOUT CASUALTIES ON 3 FEB. ARMORED CAR OVERTURNED APPROX 5 KM NORTH OF VANG VIENG ON 3 FEB, KILLING ONE AND INJURING 4. APPROX 2500 REFUGEES MOVED FROM MUONG KASSY AREA TO VANG VIENG AREA DURING WEEK ENDING 4 FEB. STILL UNCONFIRMED UPDATE OF CASUALTIES FROM LOSS OF SALA PHOU KHOUN (SEE VIENTIANE 0613 AND 0753) INDICATED 70 FRIENDLY KIA, 150 WIA AND 249 STILL MIA.

6. IN MR I, POSITION APPROX 30 KM NORTHEAST OF LUANG PRABANG WAS SHELLED WITHOUT CASUALTIES ON 4 FEB. CASUALTY UPDATE FROM LOSS OF POSITION NORTH OF LUANG PRABANG ON 29 JAN (SEE VIENTIANE 0847) INDICATED 13 FRIENDLY KIA, 3 WIA, 13 RIFLES, 2 MORTARS AND ONE RECOILLESS RIFLE LOST. APPROX 3100 REFUGEES MOVED CLOSER TO LUANG PRABANG AFTER LOSS OF KIOU KA CHAM DURING WEEK ENDING 4 FEB.
GP-4. GODLEY
BT

