

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES 2-10

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY 7 PER _____ # _____

ACTION NO. 957 FE [] DDP, ADDP, []

FILE, VR IP/AN, DDS2, DDS [] FE4, FE1 []

~~SECRET~~ 230830Z DEC 72 STAFF

CITE [] 14366 SECTION 1 OF 2

DIRECTOR, VIENTIANE, []

23 Dec 72

1. THE LEVEL OF UNFRIENDLY ACTIVITY IN THE PAKSE (L11) AREA, WHICH HAS PRODUCED THE RECENT SERIES OF TRAGIC MISHAPS TO [] AIRCRAFT, (BOTH AIRPLANES AND ROTORCRAFT), AND PERSONNEL, REPRESENTS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH DEGREE OF RISK. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE TACTICAL SITUATION IS EXTREMELY FLUID, WITH FRIENDLY AND ENEMY FORCES IN CLOSE CONTACT IN CONFINED AREAS, WITH FEW OR NO FIXED BATTLE LINES, AND THAT THE QUANTITY AND SOPHISTICATION OF ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT IS RELATIVELY HIGH COMPARED TO MOST OTHER LOCATIONS IN LAOS. THE OPERATING PATTERN IS, IN THE MAIN, ONE OF FRIENDLY FORCES IN ENCLAVES, (SOMETIMES SHIFTING AND BEHIND ENEMY LINES), CLOSELY SURROUNDED BY ENEMY FORCES WITH [] AIRPLANES DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO AND [] HELICOPTERS EVACUATING WOUNDED OR OTHER PERSONNEL FROM AND DELIVERING PERSONNEL TO THESE ENCLAVES. THE DIFFICULTIES AND CONFUSIONS WHICH EXIST RESULT IN INADEQUATE SITUATION INTELLIGENCE AND THIS ALONG WITH INADEQUATE TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT HAS

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

DATE: 11-Dec-2009

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

(When Filled In)

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT INFO FILE, VR

ACTION NO. _____

PAGE 2

[Redacted Box]

~~SECRET~~

CREATED AN UNUSUALLY HIGH RISK ENVIRONMENT OVER WHICH WE ARE QUITE CONCERNED, NOT ONLY FOR THE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT BUT ALSO ABOUT A GROWING LIST OF PILOT RESIGNATIONS AND WORRIED FEELINGS AMONG THE AIRCREW COMPLEMENT ABOUT THE HIGH RISK BEING FACED.

2. SEVERAL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE SITUATION. THEY HAVE HELPED SOMEWHAT BUT CERTAINLY NOT CURED THE INTELLIGENCE DEFICIENCIES BUT HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED THE RISK TO AIRPLANES. THE PROBLEMS CONTINUE LITTLE ABATED FOR ROTORCRAFT.

3. REGARDING INTELLIGENCE AND REFLECTING THE NEED FOR INCREASED ACCURACY OF TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE REGARDING DISPOSITION AND ARMAMENT OF ENEMY FORCES, THE CONTRACTOR HAS POSITIONED AN OPERATIONS SPECIALIST (ALONG WITH A PORTAKAMP FIC) AT L11 TO SCREEN AND CORRELATE SUCH INFORMATION FOR ITS IMPACT ON AIR OPERATIONS, AND TO CONDUCT BRIEFINGS FOR ALL AIRCREWS.

4. REGARDING AIRCRAFT, THE SITUATION IN THE AREA AROUND L11 DIFFERS MATERIALLY FOR AIRPLANES AND ROTORCRAFT. AIRPLANE EFFORT IN THE HIGH RISK AREAS HAS BEEN RESTRICTED FOR SOME TIME TO RESUPPLY BY AIRDROP, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ENEMY ANTI-AIRCRAFT

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

1
H
0

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 3

~~SECRET~~

FIRE HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE. AERIAL DELIVERY TECHNIQUES, HOWEVER, HAVE CHANGED IN RESPONSE, FIRST WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF IMPACT CHUTES TO INCREASE ACCURACY FROM HIGHER ALTITUDES, FOLLOWED BY A SWITCH TO NYLON CHUTES WITH LOW ALTITUDE (300 - 400 AGL) DELIVERY AS SIZE OF DZ'S DIMINISHED AND PROXIMITY AND FREQUENCY OF 37MM AA FIRE INCREASED. FINALLY, AFTER THE LOSS OF C7A 61-2401 ON 23 NOV, LIMITED OFFENSIVE TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT WAS AFFORDED TO FIXED WING AIRCRAFT IN HIGH THREAT ZONES. THE FLIGHT CREWS REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORT TO MINIMIZE EXPOSURE BY VARYING DROP PATTERNS, RAPID DESCENTS AND PULL-UPS INTO/FROM DZ'S, AND USE OF "POP-UP" DELIVERY FROM TREE-TOP LEVEL. IN THE LATEST INCIDENT (C123K 54-648 ON 6 DEC). EVEN THESE PRECAUTIONS WERE NOT ADEQUATE, SINCE THE AIRCRAFT, FLYING WITH T28 TACTICAL AIR COVER, WAS HIT ON THE FIRST PASS, MADE FROM A "POP-UP" DELIVERY.

5. RECOGNIZING THE URGENCY OF THE TACTICAL GROUND SITUATION, THE REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED AIR SUPPORT, AND THE NECESSITY TO ARREST LOSSES, FIXED WING AIR RESUPPLY TACTICS HAVE BEEN CHANGED AGAIN. TRIAL RUNS AT NIGHT WERE CONDUCTED STARTING 7 DEC USING DHC6 AIRCRAFT EQUIPPED WITH LORAN-C. THESE PROVED SATISFACTORY, AND DAYLIGHT DELIVERY TO HIGH THREAT DZ'S IN THE L11 AREA HAS BEEN

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>SECRET (When Filled In)</p> <p>GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION</p> <p>REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED</p> | 1 | 5 |
| | 2 | 6 |
| | 3 | 7 |
| | 4 | 8 |

ACTION UNIT INFO FILE, VR

ACTION NO. _____

PAGE 4

~~SECRET~~

STOPPED. THE CAPACITY OF THE DHC6 WAS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET DEMANDS AND C7A'S WERE INSERTED INTO THE PROGRAM. ALL DHC6'S AND C7A'S IN THE FLEET ARE EQUIPPED WITH LORAN C PROVISIONS. SEVEN LORAN C'S ARE AVAILABLE PRESENTLY. SWITCHING BLACK BOXES FROM ONE TO ANOTHER AIRCRAFT IS READILY ACCOMPLISHED BY AN ORDINARY TECHNICIAN WHO HAS BEEN TRAINED ON THIS TASK. INSTALLATIONS OF LORAN PROVISIONS IN MOST AIRCRAFT TAKE SAY SIX HOURS. THE DHC6 AIRCREWS WERE WELL TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED IN THE USE OF LORAN C IN NIGHT WORK. C7A AIRCREWS REQUIRED TRAINING WHICH INVOLVED, FOR MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS, SOME THREE TO FOUR HOURS OF AIRWORK. SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF NIGHT DROPPING HUNDREDS OF NIGHT DROP MISSIONS, (WITH AN AVERAGE OF SOME THREE DZ'S PER FLIGHT), DHC6 AND C7A AIRPLANES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT OR GUNFIRE DAMAGE. THE EFFICIENCY OF THIS SYSTEM OF NIGHT RESUPPLY OF DZ'S SEEMS PROVEN FOR THE TIME BEING. SHOULD STILL GREATER CAPACITY BE REQUIRED, C123K'S CAN BE INSTALLED WITH LORAN C PROVISIONS AND AIRCREWS TRAINED IN ITS USE ON THESE MISSIONS. WITH THE USE OF LARGER AIRCRAFT THAN THE DHC6 AND AIRCREWS NOT SO WELL EXPERIENCED, SOME DEGRADATION OF DROP ACCURACY OVER THAT OF DAYLIGHT DROPS, OR NIGHT DROPS BY DHC6, MAY BE EXPERIENCED,

SECRET
SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | | 5 |
| 2 | | 6 |
| 3 | | 7 |
| 4 | | 8 |

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

I
N
F
O

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 5

~~SECRET~~

(TO DATE, HOWEVER, ACCURACY IS REPORTED TO BE EXCELLENT), ALSO, GROUND FORCES, GENERALLY, ARE NOT TRAINED, EQUIPPED OR EXPERIENCED FOR NIGHT RECOVERY. BUT, THE BENEFITS OF THIS SYSTEM WOULD SEEM TO FAR OUTWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES. SAFETY OF OPERATIONS PROSPECTS SEEM GOOD GIVEN THE NAVIGATION PRECISION OF LORAN C AND THE FREEDOM, SO FAR, FROM GUNFIRE DAMAGE.

6. IN SUMMARY, THE ROUTINE USE OF FIXED WING NIGHT DELIVERY IN THE L 11 SITUATION SEEMS PRACTICAL AT THIS TIME; HOWEVER, ENEMY INTRODUCTION OF RADAR AIMED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS, MISSILES, NOS OR OTHER COUNTERMEASURES WOULD NULLIFY THIS TACTIC AS WELL. IT SHOULD ALSO BE UNDERSTOOD THAT GENERALLY THE TERRAIN IN THE AREA OF ACTIVITY PRESENTS RELATIVELY FEW NATURAL HAZARDS COMPARED TO ELSEWHERE IN LAOS. IN THE EVENT THAT CONDITIONS OR THE OPERATING LOCATIONS CHANGE WHICH ALTER THE PRESENT NIGHT DROP EFFECTIVENESS, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO INVESTIGATE THE USE OF SOPHISTICATED DELIVERY PARACHUTES (SUCH AS THE ROGALLO WING, ELECTRONICALLY GUIDED DEVICE). IT IS UNCERTAIN IF THESE CHUTES COULD BE RECOVERED FOR RE-USE, (IT IS UNDERSTOOD THEY ARE SOMEWHAT COSTLY); NOR IS AVAILABILITY KNOWN. HQS IS REQUESTED TO COMMENT ON THE PRACTICALITY OF USING THIS OR ANOTHER TYPE PARACHUTE IN THE LONG TIENG

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | | 5 |
| 2 | | 6 |
| 3 | | 7 |
| 4 | | 8 |

(When Filled In)

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

INFO

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 6

~~SECRET~~

ENVIRONMENT, FOR EXAMPLE.

7. ROTOR CRAFT MISSIONS HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE SAME BUILD-UP IN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY, BUT THEY HAVE LIMITED OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGING TACTICS. TREE-TOP LEVEL PENETRATION AND DEPARTURE FROM "HOT" HLZ'S VIRTUALLY ELIMINATES THE 37MM RISK, BUT THE RESULTANT EXPOSURE TO SMALL ARMS AND 12.7MM FIRE HAS PROVEN VERY COSTLY. BOTH DURING APPROACH AND DEPARTURE HELICOPTERS ARE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO GROUND FIRE BECAUSE THEY ARE AT SUCH SLOW SPEED, AND ARE BELOW SAFE AUTO ROTATION ALTITUDE IF SYSTEMS DAMAGE IS INCURRED. EVEN IF ENTRY/EXIT TO THE HLZ IS MADE AT HIGH ALTITUDE, THE HELICOPTER MUST SPEND A VERY CONSIDERABLE TIME IN THE SLOW SPEED/LOW ALTITUDE HIGH VULNERABILITY PHASE. THE NECESSITY FOR ENSURING THAT AN APPROACH/DEPARTURE ZONE IS RELATIVELY FREE FROM OPPOSING TROOPS IS PARAMOUNT. UNFORTUNATELY, UNITS WHICH NEED HELICOPTER MEDEVAC OF WOUNDED OR INSERTION OF FRESH TROOPS OFTEN ARE IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY VERY NEAR THEIR PERIMETER DEFENSES. THE PARADOX OF THIS CIRCUMSTANCE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED FROM AN EARLY DATE IN THE L11 AREA AND THE CUSTOMER HAS CONSCIENTIOUSLY ATTEMPTED TO SUPPLY TACTICAL CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FOR SUCH MISSIONS. THIS HAS BEEN IN THE FORM OF ARMED UHIC

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 6 |
| 4 | 7 |
| | 8 |

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 7 ~~SECRET~~

 HELICOPTERS OR FIXED WING TACTICAL AIR, OR BOTH. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THE LOSS OF A1E/H SUPPORT AND THE DIVERSION OF VIRTUALLY ALL "FAST MOVER" AIRCRAFT TO VIETNAM HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CLOSE AIR SUPPORT TO CRITICAL HELICOPTER MISSIONS. BOTH THE ELEMENT AND THE T28 AIRCRAFT PRESENT CONTINUING COMMUNICATIONS/COORDINATION DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM LANGUAGE BARRIERS. ADDITIONALLY, THE GROUP HAS SUFFERED FROM A PARTS SHORTAGE WITH AS MANY AS FOUR OUT OF SIX MACHINES BEING GROUNDED IN RECENT TIMES FOR PARTS. LASTLY, AND POSSIBLY MOST CRITICALLY, THE UH1C AIRCRAFT ARE BADLY "OUTGUNNED" BY THE ENEMY 12.7 WEAPON, WITH THE T28'S REPRESENTING A STAND-OFF AT BEST WHEN AGAINST A SKILLED AND DETERMINED 12.7 CREW.

8. THE EXCEPTIONAL IMPACT ON TROOP MORALE ACHIEVED BY RAPID MEDEVAC OF WOUNDED, OR INSERTION OF CRITICALLY NEEDED FRESH TROOPS, IS VERY CLEAR AND A CHANGE TO NIGHT OPERATION OF CRITICAL HELICOPTER MISSIONS IS NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. THE OPERATIONAL RISKS OF NIGHT HELICOPTER OPERATION ARE CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THOSE FOR FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER, IN ADDITION TO THE PROBLEM OF NAVIGATING TO A SMALL HLZ AT NIGHT, (WHICH WE PROPOSE TO SOLVE BY

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

SECRET

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

(When Filled In)

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

I
N
F
O

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 8

~~SECRET~~

INSTALLING LORAN-C PROVISIONS), THE HELICOPTER MUST MAKE A BLACK-OUT APPROACH SINCE NORMAL USE OF LANDING FLOOD LIGHTS WOULD LIKELY ATTRACT NEARLY THE SAME VOLUME OF GROUND FIRE AT A SMALL PERIMETER HLZ AS IN THE DAYTIME. LANDING LIGHT USE MUST BE CONFINED TO THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. WITH ANY MOONLIGHT, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NIGHTTIME COVER IS ALSO LESSENER. ALSO, THE NOISE LEVEL OF CERTAIN HELICOPTER TYPES IS SO DISTINCTIVE THAT IT WILL ALERT ENEMY TROOPS AT NIGHT AND PROVIDE DEFINITIVE LOCATION INFORMATION. THE HIGH EXPOSURE FACTOR ATTENDANT WITH LANDING/TAKE OFF AT HLZ'S SUBJECT TO ENEMY FIRE NECESSITATES THAT A BACK-UP OR SAR HELICOPTER ACCOMPANY EACH MISSION. THIS REQUIRES NIGHT FORMATION FLIGHT, IN WHICH OUR CREWS ARE INEXPERIENCED, AND INVOLVES QUESTIONABLE SAFETY IN WEATHER AT NIGHT IN HELICOPTERS. USE OF SINGLE ENGINE HELICOPTERS AT NIGHT MAY BE OF QUESTIONABLE SOUNDNESS SINCE SUCCESSFUL ACCOMPLISHMENT OF AN AUTOROTATION IN THE EVENT OF MECHANICAL FAILURE IS UNLIKELY CONSIDERING THE TERRAIN OVER WHICH OPERATION WOULD BE CONDUCTED, AND THE HIGH DESCENT RATES GENERATED IN AUTOROTATIONS. IN SHORT, FOR HELICOPTERS, NIGHT OPERATION OFFERS SOME REDUCTION OF POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO ENEMY FIRE, BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT IT DOES FOR FIXED WING AIR DROP OPERATIONS, MEANWHILE IMPOSING

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

I
N
O

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 9

~~SECRET~~

ADDED OPERATIONAL RISKS. TROOPS IN THE FIELD ALSO MAY BE VERY RELUCTANT TO WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL TO EVACUATE THE CRITICALLY WOUNDED. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE DRAWBACKS, THE CONTRACTOR PLANS TO CONDUCT EVALUATION NIGHT FLIGHTS, USING SPECIALLY TRAINED CREWS AND LORAN C.

9. AS ALSO NOTED IN REFERENCE TO FIXED WING OPERATIONS IN PARA 4 ABOVE, THE SUCCESS OF THE ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE PROVISION OF VITAL HELICOPTER AIR SUPPORT IS CONTINGENT UPON NO FURTHER DETERIORATION OF THE TACTICAL ENVIRONMENT. FOR HELICOPTERS, THIS MEANS THAT ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATIONS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HLZ'S WILL SEVERELY RESTRICT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS, EVEN AT NIGHT. OPERATIONS WHICH MAY BE CONDUCTED SAFELY AT NIGHT IN RELATIVELY LEVEL TERRAIN, (SUCH AS THE LS44 VALLEY), PROBABLY ARE UNWORKABLE IN THE MOUNTANEOUS AREAS NEAR LS20A. THOSE LATTER LOCATIONS ALSO HAVE GENERALLY BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE VERY SMALL DIAMETER PERIMETER DEFENSES FURTHER MITIGATING THE VALUE OF DARKNESS.

10. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN THE EVENT THE TACTICAL SITUATION CHANGES IN THE LS20A REGION, NECESSITATING AIR SUPPORT UNDER CONDITIONS OF HEAVY ENEMY AA FIRE, CONVERSION TO NIGHT OPERATIONS MAY NOT BE A VIABLE CONCEPT, EXCEPT FOR FIXED WING RESUPPLY OF VERY LARGE SITES SUCH AS HAS BEEN DONE AT LS32. IT VERY LIKELY WILL NOT

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

SECRET

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOTAL COPIES

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS-SEEN BY

PERSON/UNIT NOTIFIED

~~SECRET~~
(When Filled In)

GROUP 1

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 |

REPRODUCTION OF THIS COPY PROHIBITED

ADVANCE COPY ISSUED SLOTTED

BY: _____ AT: _____ Z

DISSEM BY _____ PER _____ # _____

ACTION UNIT

I
N
F
O

FILE, VR

ACTION NO.

PAGE 10

~~SECRET~~

BE SOUND FOR HELICOPTER MEDEVAC OR TROOP MOVEMENT.

11. REFLECTING THESE FACTS, SOME DAYLIGHT OPERATION INTO HIGH THREAT AREAS MAY BE NECESSARY. WE, THEREFORE, REQUEST THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO UPGRADING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TACTICAL CLOSE AIR SUPPORT PROVIDED FOR OUR FLIGHTS INTO SUCH AREAS. CAREFULLY TIMED PREMISSION STRIKES WITH HARD ORDINANCE, TOGETHER WITH COVER BY BOTH "FAST MOVERS" TO OFFSET HEAVY CALIBER WEAPONS AND ARMED HELICOPTERS OR OV10 AIRCRAFT TO COPE WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE, WE FEEL WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING THE RISK. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EFFECTIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIONS BE MAINTAINED WITH THESE COVER ELEMENTS.

12. ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS OR ASSISTANCE IN THIS SITUATION ARE WELCOME. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO ACCOMPLISH THE SUPPORT MISSION SAFELY, WHICH WE FEEL WILL PRODUCE THE BEST LONG TERM RESULTS, AND EARNESTLY SEEK HELP IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF IMPROVED TACTICAL AIR COVER. E2 IMPDET.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
SECRET