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VP

FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTER

- S A I G O N -

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

01 - 30 JANUARY 75

GROUNDFIRE INCIDENTS

| Date | A/C No., Type & Contract | Location | REMARKS |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 04 January 1975 | [Redacted] | VR 9703 | While aircraft was descending for landing, customer on ground reported to PIC that small arms fire was heard by ground personnel. Aircraft landed without incident. No personnel injury or aircraft damage involved. |
| 06 January 1975 | [Redacted] | XT 772381 | After dropping off pax, acft was lifting off when 10 to 15 mortars impacted on and in the vicinity of the helicopter pad. Pax later advised the PIC that one round impacted exactly where the acft had touched down. No personnel injury or acft damage involved. |
| 06 January 1975 | [Redacted] | BP 5744 | Capt. BURKE reports hearing small arms fire while flying under weather at low altitude during air search for C-123 ST-1. PIC proceeded on to other search area. No personnel injury or aircraft damage involved. |
| 10 January 1975 | [Redacted] | Unknown | After landing at Nha Trang (V07), PIC was advised that one small caliber round had passed thru the cargo compartment door; penetrated the tail rotor drive shaft; and exited thru the drive shaft tunnel. Capt. WEISS reports that he had worked for the Tuy Hoa (V113) customer during the course of the day and that he had heard no ground fire during the day's mission. No personnel injury involved. |
| 11 January 1975 | [Redacted] | BT 135508 | PIC was attempting to intercept Highway 1 via Hoi-An-Dien Ban Highway en route from Danang to Tam Ky when PIC inadvertently overflowed a contested area south of the river and was engaged by small arms fire sustaining 1 hit in the tail boom and 1 hit in the main rotor blade. Acft recovered safely at Danang. No personnel injury involved. |

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 19-Nov-2009

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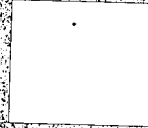
11 January
1975



WT 3243
Cambodia

Capt. FOOZE reports during each of four trips in to C48 (NEAK LUONG), acft received small arms fire from the west bank of the Mekong River while on the approach/departure for the airfield. On the last trip into the site, the airfield received 3 rounds of mortar fire, two immediately prior to landing and one round immediately after departure. No personnel injury involved.

13 January
1975



WT 381688
Cambodia

As N7770B landed at C51 to discharge and pick up passengers the south end (departure end) of the runway came under mortar fire. PIC FRASER completed roll out and turned around for departure. Mortar rounds were still impacting on departure end of rwy and it appeared that the rounds were being "walked" towards the aircraft. Pass. to be picked up (who had been approaching the acft in two vehicles) turned around and sped off in the direction of town. Capt. FRASER took off post haste and observed mortar rounds impacting along the north end of the rwy as he departed to the North. No acft damage and no personnel injuries.

14 January
1975



ZU 1258

Acft was enroute to GIA NGHIA (V202) circumnavigating a prominent mountain NE of destination, when PIC observed a "dusty brown smoke" emanating from the mountain. Based on past experience, Capt. GREENWAY identified this as DK-82 fire. Inasmuch as N9535F was the only aircraft in the area, PIC believes the fire was directed at his aircraft. PIC proceeded on to GIA NGHIA (V202) without further incident. No personnel injury or aircraft damage involved.

19 January
1975



WT 3243
Cambodia

While acft was shut down at Neak Luong Cambodia, one 107mm rocket impacted on the west end of the rwy 200 meters from the acft (the concussion of the rocket almost knocked the First Office to the ground) followed by a mortar round which impacted 150 meters from the acft. PIC initiated engine start procedures; applied collective; picked up and orbited the area. After accessing the situation from the air, Capt. GOODWIN set the acft down approximately one kilometer from the rwy to await the customer. No personnel injury or acft damage involved.

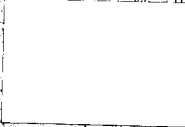
19 January
1975



BR 4741

While flying west - 5 miles south of highway 19 at An Khe (V29) - observed 2 tracers pass the aircraft off left side by at least 50m (probably 100 m+). Rounds came from rear, probably 7:00 o'clock direction. Appeared that gunner deliberately shot wide to miss aircraft. No acft damage, no personnel injuries.

19 January
1975



On ground
C48
Cambodia

While on ground at C-48, we received 2 rounds incoming. 500 meters south of C-48 a heavy fire fight continued during our 1 1/2 ground time. No acft damage and no personnel injuries.

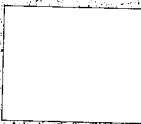
22 January
1975



XR 5963

Upon landing 200 meters ENE of VH-608 (Long Khanh), one mortar round was observed impacting 100 meters ENE of the helipad. Passengers and cargo were off loaded and passengers for VA4-52 (Phu Vinh) were loaded. Acft departed the area ASAP. Two other trips were made into VH-608 without additional known hostile activity. On all trips the boarding passengers were frightened and uncontrollable and on the last trip the aircraft was mobbed. No personnel injuries and no aircraft damage.

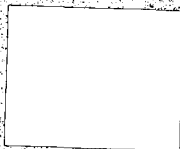
22 January
1975



WR 555835

Capt. VAN HELLEN was climbing out through 2000' AGL from V225 (VI THANH) enroute to Can Tho, when he observed a bullet hole in the cowling. Did not observed or hear any groundfire or feel any impacts. PIC assumes that incident took place on take-off from V8 Thanh but there exists a remote possibility that the hit may have occurred at the previous site, Kien Long (VA4-236) where the tactical military situation is very fluid. PIC stated that he heard what may have possibly been one round of small arms fire during take off from Kien Long, but a passenger disturbance in the cabin distracted him and he did not feel any impacts or observe any damage as that time. No personnel injuries involved.

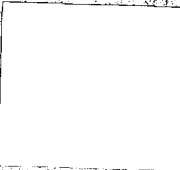
22 January
1975



Military
Ramp
Cambodia

Crews of both aircraft were in USAID*
Air Operations Lounge when 4 to 5*
rounds of hostile artillery impacted*
on the main ramp of the airfield.*
This was the 3rd such shelling since*
0700L. No action was taken by the*
crew since all rounds were landing*
on the opposite side of the runway*
from where the AAM helicopters were*
parked. Departed Phnom Penh 30 mi-
nutes after incident. No aircraft*
damage and no personnel injuries.*

27 January
1975



VA3-61



Acft was conducting Night Qualifica-
tion Training at [redacted] On the
final of eight landing approaches,
Capt. ANDREWS observed three tracer
rounds directed at the acft. F/O
Nguyen broke off the approach and
the training was discontinued. The
tracers passed below the aircraft
from North to South missing the air-
craft by approx. 15 feet. Both pi-
lots were wearing earplugs and did
not hear the groundfire. Based upon
the acft's position relative to the
trajectory of the tracers, the source
of the groundfire was the Storage
Area at YT 075057 [redacted] It is
believed that this groundfire ori-
ginated from "friendly" garrison or
security forces at Sanford. Capt.
ANDREWS observed the tracers from
the cabin. He did not observe the
muzzle flashes as the groundfire
originated from the opposite side
of the aircraft. No aircraft da-
mage and no personnel injuries.*

28 January
1975



VA3-183
ICCS Pad

Acft was parked on ICCS Pad waiting
for customer (since 1215L) when au-
tomatic weapons fire was heard very
close to the pad followed by 4-5
loud explosions. PIC observed 60mm
mortar rounds impacting 200 meters
north of the pad. The crew immedia-
tely started the acft and departed
the area. After departure, two
buildings on the extreme northeast
section of town were observed to
be burning. No damage to acft and
no personnel injuries.*

29 January 1975



On ground Cambodia

While 014 was parked on the Embassy ramp preparatory to starting engines, one round of purportedly 122mm rocket impacted in the vicinity of the north-east end of the commercial ramp. After departing a few minutes later, 4 more rounds reportedly impacted in the same area.

29 January 1975



On ground ICCS Pad

Acft 71-20093 was on the ground at Lam Son (VA3-214, XT 8513), and had been shut down for approx. 25 minutes awaiting customer. At 1013L one 122mm rocket passed overhead and impacted 175m west of the acft. Rocket was launched from the Northeast of the strip. A second rocket followed shortly and impacted to the East of the acft. Capt. GEHRING started the aircraft and departed the area ASAP. No damage to aircraft and no personnel injuries.

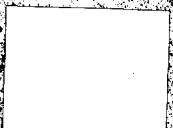
29 January 1975



Parked on Phnom Penh Airport

Aircraft were shutdown and crews were awaiting arrival of DAO customer when two salvos of two rockets each impacted on the north ramp within a 15 minutes interval. Later, at 0630Z, just prior to both aircraft landing at CO1, an additional three rockets landed on the airfield. During the first two incidents the rockets were landing approx. 300 meters from the parked aircraft, so no immediate action was taken. No damage to aircraft and no personnel injuries.

29 January 1975



BN 0595

N1303X departed BN 0494 after dispatching passengers and was climbing into an orbit to hold while the pax were on the ground. While climbing through 1200' AGL, Capt. HITCHMAN heard one burst of AK47 fire and felt rounds impacting in aircraft. Transmission oil pressure went to zero so Capt. HITCHMAN landed at BN 0595, a landing site he had observed while climbing out from the previous co-ordinates. After landing, an inspection revealed that one round had hit the bottom aft ADF antenna gone through the throttle cross tube control, severed the transmission oil drain line, went through the engine deck, hit the cowling, and felt back in to the engine deck. A second round entered the tail pylon between the 42/92 deg. gearboxes and exited the acft. The round which was recovered was armour

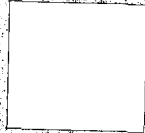
31 January
1975



Phnom Penh
Airport

...piercing. There were no injuries. The aircraft was repaired at the site and ferried to V09 for more permanent repairs. N8535F provided SAR cover during the repairs. Customer provided ARVN security forces

03 January
1975



VT 7513
Cambodia

Capt. KALETA observed two rockets hit on the military side of Phnom Penh airport. The tower waved off one acft and extended the two others on downwind pattern. PIC notified Chocolate Bar of the hits, continued the approach and landed. Parked on military side for quick turnaround. Departed the area without further incident. No damage to acft and no personnel injuries.

After landing at Takeo, Cambodia (C47), Capt. FRASER was advised by ground personnel that groundfire originating approximately two clicks SW of the runway was heard while the acft was on base leg for the airfield. No other acft were in the area and it is believed that the groundfire was directed at the acft. No personnel injuries or aircraft damage involved.

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BREAKDOWN OF INCIDENTS BY AREA, AIRCRAFT
AND WEAPONS

iccs

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| ICCS REG I | NIL |
| ICCS REG II | 1 * |
| ICCS REG III | 2 * |
| ICCS REG IV | 2 * |
| ICCS REG V | 3 * |
| ICCS REG VI | 1 |
| ICCS REG VII | 3 * |

Cambodia 9

TOTAL: 22

AIRCRAFT

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| DHC-4 | 2 |
| VTB | 2 |
| PC-6 | 2 * |
| UH1H/204B | 16 *** |

TOTAL: 22

WEAPONS

| | |
|--------|-------|
| ROCKET | 5 |
| MORTAR | 6 |
| AK-47 | 7 *** |
| M-16 | 1 |
| A/W | 2 * |
| OTHER | 1 |

TOTAL: 22

NOTE: * = ACFT HITS (4 TOTAL)

REPORTED BY:

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OM/AFIC/SGN

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DATE: 08 Feb 75