

USAF REVIEWED 27-Jan-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

REF TO NAVY

USN REVIEWED 06-April-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

12 May 1971

SECRET

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: ADMIRAL ROBINSON

SUBJECT: Gunship Activity in Southeast Asia

Several days ago you inquired as to the level of U.S. gunship activity in the Laos trail. The following statistics are pertinent:

-- There are 32 USAF AC-119G/K aircraft operating from Phan Rang, RVN.

-- There are 14 USAF AC-130A/E aircraft operating from Udon, Thailand. This figure will drop to 12 by October, then climb to 18 in FY 72 as additional aircraft modifications are made.

-- The AC-119s and the AC-130s flew 441 sorties in Laos during April.

-- They have been the most effective truck killers in relatively low threat environments (4,489 trucks destroyed or damaged in April).

-- They are now flying the authorized 1,000 sortie level per month.

-- An increased sortie level is not feasible because of maintenance limitations. Additional aircraft are being deployed to Southeast Asia as soon as CONUS production permits.

-- Admiral Moorer feels that we are getting the maximum practicable use from the gunships.

-- A detailed summary is attached at Tab A.

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