

Memo for Chief of Staff USAF  
SUAJ: Southeast Asia Situation Report



- Operation Gibraltar near An Khe in Binh Dinh Province was concluded on 20 Sep (Map Point C)
- PACAF states 2nd Air Div and II Corps Air Liaison Officer were directly involved in pre-planning for the operation
- 16 F-100 and 4 USAF A-1E sorties were planned for pre-strike operations and were considered by 2nd Air Div to be essential to the success of the operation
- At 0645 the day the operation was to commence, the Forward Air Controller (FAC) diverted the F-100s for weather and immediately advised the heliborne commander
- FAC reported target weather at the time was 700 ft to 2,000 ft ceiling, below 3 NM visibility in a narrow valley with 2,500 ft to 3,000 ft steep mountains bordering
- Additionally, two (2) USAF A-1E aircraft aborted on the ground (suspected oil contamination)
- Two (2) USAF A-1E aircraft were able to provide pre-strike and close air support
- In spite of limited pre-strike operations, the heliborne commander elected to commence the operation
- The first helilift landed unopposed but shortly thereafter received heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire
- The second helilift was driven off by heavy ground fire
- 63 close air support missions were flown from 0950H to 1835H

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Southeast Asia Situation Report  
Vietnam General (MACV) Reporting Period 18-23 Sep 65

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- Casualty figures for the operation include
  - Friendly 15 KIA, 30 WIA
  - VC - 226 killed, 9 captured, 6 suspects taken
  - During clearing operation ARVN ranger forces found a trench in the area containing 100 dead VC. The US Liaison Group with the rangers believed the VC were killed by Air Strikes

VIETNAM AIR OPERATIONS (18-25 Sep 1965)

- Both USAF and VNAF air activity showed an increase over last week
- USAF/VNAF strike sorties totaled 1,606 - an increase of 156 over last week (Source PACAF)
  - USAF 986 strike sorties
  - VNAF 620 strike sorties
- MACV states the VNAF gave major support to ten ground operations this week
- 87 B-52 aircraft struck VC targets on six missions during the reporting period
- The US Navy flew 577 strike sorties - a decrease of 64 from last week and 150 less than two weeks ago (Source MACV)
- USMC flew 307 strike sorties, a decrease of 160 from the preceding week and 183 less than two weeks ago (Source MACV)
- 273 VC were confirmed as being killed by tactical air during the period of 18-25 Sep (Source PACAF)
- Total VC Killed

- 1962	6,239
- 1963	7,361
- 1964	5,184
- 1965 (thru 25 Sep)	<u>16,869</u>
- Total	35,653

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