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CHAPTER IV  
THE OUTLOOK

By 1 April 1971, the occasional first rains of the wet season had no appreciable effect upon the enemy's assault against Vang Pao's stronghold Lima Sites. The NVA force estimated at almost 8,500 men was in close proximity to LS-20, 20A and 72, and the friendlies' corridor into LS-15 had not been achieved.<sup>120/</sup> The enemy force was reasonably well supplied from supplies stocked on the PDJ, principally at the southern tip. Daily they were shelling LS-15 with 85mm and 122mm artillery moving about on the PDJ and were rocketing and mortaring all four sites. Their probes by ground units had progressively overrun defensive outposts and increased the threat to the sites. The situation at encircled LS-15 became increasingly acute as the enemy hindered air resupply and medevac efforts.

For the first time in Vang Pao's long campaign against the PL/NVA his forces had achieved some degree of parity. The estimated 12,000 man force under his command at the four Lima Sites were irregulars, the Meo complement of his guerrilla units was reduced to less than fifty per cent--FAR and other guerrilla battalions added from MR III. Vang Pao's army was well dug in at the Lima Sites and was able to offer counter artillery fire with his four fire support bases and to launch small probes toward the enemy. By 1 April, a major ground effort to relieve LS-15 was underway.

FOOTNOTES

CHAPTER I

1. (S) Discussion of Threats and Trends, with First Lieutenant Peter C. Oleson, Intelligence Analyst, Hq 7/13AF, 17 February and 27 February 1971. (Hereafter cited as Discussions with Lt Oleson) (Sup Doc 2)
2. (S) PACAF (INXX) Ltr, 4 Aug 71
2. (S) Weekly Laotian Sitrep, 10-16 November 1970
3. (S) Barrel Roll Working Group Minutes, 26 January 1971, Hq 7/13AF Udorn, Thailand. Also (S) Joint Operational Summary Laos, #5-71, 300810Z Jan 71. (Joint Army, Navy, Air Force Summary will hereafter be cited as JANAF Summary, dtg, and period covered, e.g., as above, 20-27 Jan 71)
4. (S) Barrel Roll Working Group Minutes, 16 Mar 71. (Hereafter cited as BRWG Minutes, date)
- ✓ 5. (S) Embassy official's comments at BRWG, 16 Feb 71
6. (S) Discussions with Lt Oleson
7. (S) Discussions with Lt Oleson
8. (S) Minutes: Daily 7/13AF 0800 Briefing, 5 Mar 71. Also, (S) Discussions with Lt Oleson
8. (S) PACAF (INXX) Ltr, 4 Aug 71
9. (S) Interview, Major General Andrew J. Evans, Deputy Commander 7/13AF, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 30 April 1971 (Hereafter cited Evans Interview of 30 April 71)
10. (S) Ibid
11. (S) Ibid
12. (S) BRWG Minutes, 16 Feb 71
13. (S) CAS Interview
14. (S) Project CHECO Report: Air Operations in Northern Laos, 1 Nov 69 - 1 Apr 70, published 5 May 1970. (Hereafter cited as CHECO Report, Air Ops in No Laos, 1 Nov 69 - 1 Apr 70)
15. (S) Comment by Colonel Sam Hollenbeck, D/O, 388th TFW at BRWG Meeting, 16 Feb 71

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16. (S) CAS Interview
17. (S) BRWG Meeting, 16 Mar 71: Also, (S) CAS Interview
18. (S) CAS Interview. Also, (S) BRWG Meeting, 30 Mar 71
19. (S) Minutes: Daily 7/13 Briefing, 4 Apr 71, Also (S) JANAF Summary, 030300Z Apr, 26 Mar-2 Apr 71
20. (S) Evans Interview of 30 Apr 71
21. (S) CAS Interview; (S) PACAF (INXX) Ltr, 4 Aug 71
22. (S) JANAF Summary, 26 Mar-2 Apr, 030300Z Apr 71. Also, (S) BRWG Minutes, 30 Mar 71
- ✓ 23. (S) Msg, AMEMB Vientiane to SECSTATE, 110552Z Feb 71
24. (S) Discussions with Captain Gerald T. Frazier and Lieutenant Peter C. Oleson, Intelligence Analysts, Hq 7/13AF, 17 Feb-27 Feb 71. Also, (S) CAS Interview. Also, (S) BRWG Floor Comments.
25. (S) CAS Interview

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26. (S) Project CHECO Report, Air Operations in Northern Laos, 1 Apr - 1 Nov 70, 1 May 1971. (Hereafter cited as Air Ops in No Laos, 1 Apr-1 Nov 70)
27. (S) Ibid
28. (S) Ibid
29. (S) Ibid
30. (S) Project CHECO Report Air Support of Counterinsurgency in Laos, published 10 Nov 69
31. (S) Ibid
32. (S) Ibid
33. (S) Msg, JANAF Attaches to DIA, et al, subject: Joint Operational Summary, Laos, 30 Oct-6 Nov 70 (Hereafter cited as JANAF Summary, date)

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34. (S) Ibid
35. (S) JANAF Summary, 6-13 Nov 70, 130345Z Nov 70.
36. (S) JANAF Summary, 13-20 Nov 70, 210030Z Nov 70
37. (S) JANAF Summary, 30 Dec-6 Jan 71, 090850Z 71
38. (S) JANAF Summary, 13-20 Nov 70, 210030Z Nov 70
39. (S) JANAF Summary, 20-27 Nov 70, 280950Z Nov 70
40. (S) Interview, Major General Andrew J. Evans, Jr., Deputy Commander, 7/13AF, by Mr. Ken Sams and Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, at Udorn RTAFB, 24 Feb 71. (Hereafter cited as Evans Interview of 24 Feb 71)
41. (S) Interview, Captain Eric S. Doten, Hq 7AF (DOPF) by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, TSN AB RVN, 11 Apr 71 (Hereafter cited as Doten Interview)
42. (S) JANAF Summary, 27 Nov-4 Dec 70, 050705Z Dec 70.
43. (S) JANAF Summary, 23-30 Dec 70, 020920Z Jan 71
44. (S) JANAF Summary, 30 Dec 70-6 Jan 71, 090850Z 71
45. (S) Evans Interview of 24 Feb 71
46. (S) CAS Interview
47. (S) JANAF Summary, 3-10 Feb 71, 131025Z Feb 71
48. (S) Air Ops in No Laos, 1 Apr-1 Nov 70
49. (S) JANAF Summary, 10-17 Feb 71, 131025Z Feb 71
50. (S) Ibid
51. (S) Ibid
52. (S) JANAF Summary, 10-17 Feb 71, 200730Z Feb 71
53. (S) JANAF Summaries for the period 30 Oct through 31 Mar 71
54. (S) Ibid

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55. (S) Interview, Colonel Hayden C. Curry, USAIRA Vientiane, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout at Vientiane, 18 Feb 71 (Hereafter cited Curry Interview)
56. (S) Interview Lt Colonel Bill Foster, AIRA Ops, Vientiane, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout at Vientiane, 18 Feb 71
57. (S) Minutes: Daily 7/13AF Briefing, 0800, 4 Apr 71
58. (S) JANAF Summaries, 4 Feb to 31 Mar 71
59. (S) Remarks by Colonel Curry, AIRA Vientiane, at BRWG Meeting, 30 Mar 71 (Hereafter cited as Remarks by Curry, BRWG 30 Mar 71)
60. (S) CAS Interview
61. (S) JANAF Summaries, 4 Feb through 31 Mar 71
62. (S) Remarks by Curry, BRWG, 30 Mar 71
63. (S) Interview, Captain Tony Hotsko, AIRA Ops, Vientiane, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 1 Apr 71 (Hereafter cited as Hotsko Interview)
64. (S) Project CHECO Report, The Royal Laotian Air Force, 1954-1970
65. (S) Hotsko Interview
66. (S) Hq 7/13AF Daily Situation Briefings, 10-16 Feb 71
67. (S) Hotsko Interview
68. (S) JANAF Summary, 3-10 Feb 71, 131025Z Feb 71
69. (S) JANAF Summary, 10-17 Feb 71, 200730Z Feb 71
70. (S) Interview, Lieutenant Craig W. Duehring, Raven FAC, Long Tien, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 25 Feb 71 (Hereafter cited as Duehring Interview)
71. (S) Ibid
72. (S) CHECO Report, Air Ops in Laos, 1 Nov 69-1 Apr 70
73. (S) Remarks by CAS Official at BRWG, 16 Mar 71

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74. (S) Interview, Captain William E. McDaniel, 13th TFS, by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 14 Feb 71 (Hereafter cited as McDaniel Interview)
75. (S) Ltr, Hq 7/13AF (D00), subject: Short Round Preliminary Investigation
76. (S) Ibid
77. (S) McDaniel Interview
78. (S) Remarks by CAS Official at BRWG, 16 Mar 71
79. (S) Ibid
80. (S) Ibid
81. (S) Intelligence Briefing, BRWG, 16 Mar 71
82. (S) CAS Interview
83. (S) JANAF Summaries, 4 Feb-31 Mar 71
84. (S) JANAF Summary, 24-31 Mar 71
85. (S) Interview Lieutenant Peter C. Oleson, 7/13AF (INOS), by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, 7 Apr 71. (Hereafter cited as Oleson Interview, 7 Apr 71)
86. (S) Personal Observations, Lt Colonel Blout, Project CHECO with Hq 7/13AF, Jan-Mar 71
87. (S) Operations Briefing, BRWG, 30 Mar 71. (Hereafter cited as Ops Brief, BRWG, 30 Mar 71)
88. (S) Ibid
89. (S) Ibid
90. (S) Ibid
91. (S) CAS Interview
92. (S) Minutes: Daily 7/13AF 0800 Briefings, Feb-Mar 1971
93. (S) JANAF Summary, 24-31 Mar 71, 030900Z Apr 71

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- 94. (S) Operations Briefing, BRWG, 30 Mar 71
- 95. (S) Remarks by Major Bautz, 18th SOS, OL at Nakhon Phanom, BRWG Meeting, 30 Mar 71. Also (S) Interview with Major Wallin
- 96. (S) Operations Briefing, BRWG, 30 Mar 71
- 97. (S) Ibid
- 98. (S) Ibid

## CHAPTER III

- 99. (S) CAS Interview
- 100. (S) Hq 7AF Command and Status Report, Feb 71
- 101. (S) CAS Interview
- 102. (S) Hotsko Interview
- 103. (S) Interview with Major Burt W. Wallin, Chief, Gunship Branch, 7th AF (DOPS), 11 Apr 71 (Hereafter cited as Major Wallin Interview)
- 104. (S) Interview, Captain Gary Berensen, 7/13AF (INOW) by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 4 May 1971
- 105. (S) Operations Presentation, BRWG Meeting, 30 Mar 71
- 106. (S) BRWG Minutes, 30 Nov 70
- 107. (S) Msg, 432d TRW to 7AF and Addees, 231430Z Mar 71
- 108. (S) BRWG Minutes, 30 Mar 71
- 109. (S) Ibid
- 110. (S) Evans Interview of 30 Apr 71
- 111. (S) Interview, Colonel Gordon H. Scott, 7/13AF (DO) by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 1 May 71 (Hereafter cited Scott Interview)
- 112. (S) Evans Interview of 30 Apr 71

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- 113. (S) Scott Interview
- 114. (S) Ibid
- 115. (S) Ibid
- 116. (S) Ibid
- 117. (S) Ibid
- 118. (S) Interview, Colonel Dante E. Bulli, 7/13AF (IN), by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 1 May 1971
- 119. (S) Ibid

## CHAPTER IV

- 120. (S) Olesof Interview, 7 Apr 71
- 121. (S) Interview Captain Kenneth Beaver, Hq 7/13AF (INT) by Lt Colonel Harry D. Blout, Udorn RTAFB, 6 Apr 71
- 122. (S) Operations Briefing, BRWG, 30 Mar 71
- 123. (S) Remarks by Colonel Homer E. Hayes, D/O 432d TRW, at BRWG Meeting, 30 Mar 71
- 124. (S) CAS Interview
- 125. (S) Remarks by Colonel Curry, BRWG, 30 Mar 71

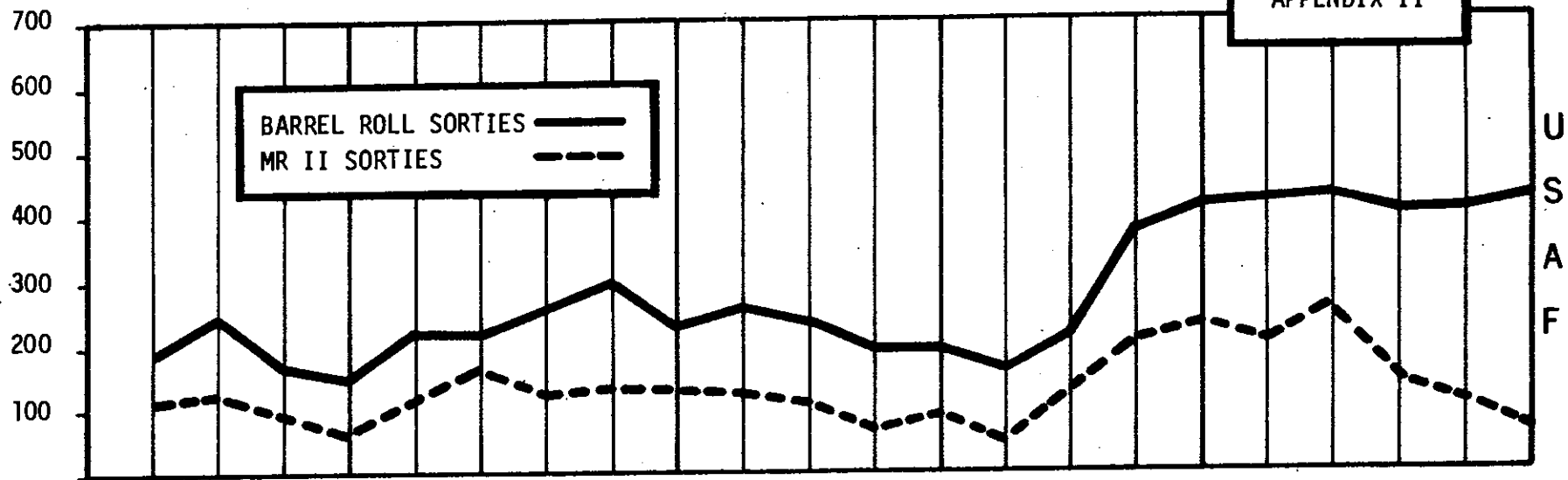


APPENDIX I  
FIGHTER-ATTACK-GUNSHIP SORTIES

<u>Week</u> <u>Ending</u>	<u>BARREL ROLL</u>			<u>MR-II</u>		
	<u>USAF</u>	<u>RLAF</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>USAF</u>	<u>RLAF</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nov 4	173	322	495	103	194	297
11	227	240	467	114	160	274
18	162	279	441	94	145	239
25	153	296	449	65	158	223
Dec 2	210	311	521	108	141	249
9	215	288	503	148	77	225
16	249	257	506	122	133	235
23	289	301	590	133	167	300
30	219	269	488	127	106	233
Jan 6	253	259	512	121	94	215
13	234	372	606	106	266	372
20	191	451	642	66	270	336
27	190	291	481	86	192	278
Feb 3	157	250	407	50	120	170
10	208	537	745	116	319	435
17	363	644	1007	205	416	621
24	405	657	1062	224	429	653
Mar 3	414	519	933	199	366	565
10	421	518	939	257	337	594
17	405	530	935	136	324	460
24	406	383	789	116	132	248
31	418	508	926	74	165	239

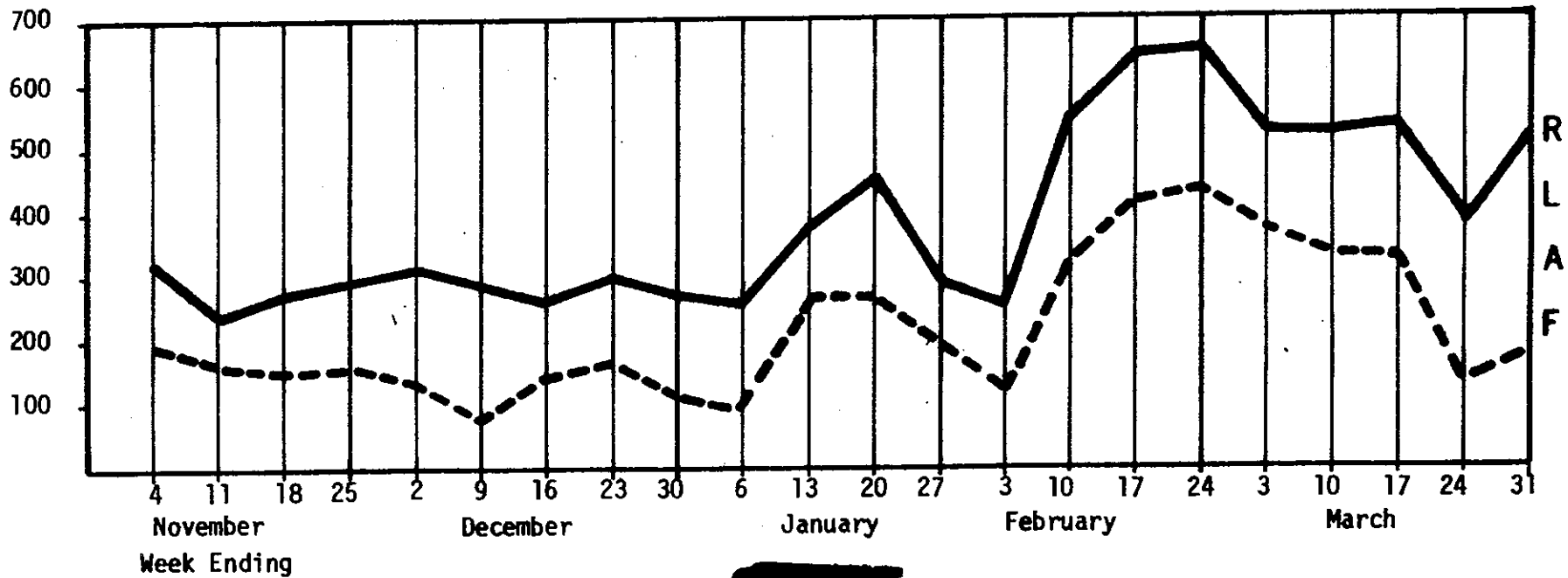
SOURCE: JANAF Summaries

APPENDIX II



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GLOSSARY

AA Antiaircraft  
AAA Antiaircraft Artillery  
ABCCC Airborne Battlefield Command and Control Center  
ABF Attacks by Fire  
\*ADC Auto Defense du Choc. Technically an obsolete term now. Refers to local guerrillas who are not paid in the same sense as are the SGUs or BGs, but whose stake in the war is their homeland, or where they live.  
\*ADO Auto Defense Ordinaire. In essence village defense forces, more or less at the bottom of the ladder in training and armament  
AIRA Air Attache  
ARVN Army of Republic of Vietnam  
\*BC Commando Battalion. FAR  
\*BG Guerrilla Battalion. A three number designation follows them. Formerly designated by a color, and still do use for a call sign. Previously called SGU (Special Guerrilla Unit)  
\*BI Battalion Independent. Generally FAR or FAN  
BOQ Bachelor Officers' Quarters  
\*BP Parachute Battalion. A misnomer, since there are not any parachute units in Laos. FAR  
BR Barrel Roll  
\*BV Battalion Volunteer. Belong to FAR  
CAS Controlled American Source  
\*CAS Irregular, BG, SGU all refer to those paramilitary assets controlled by CAS  
CEA Circular Error Average  
CEP Circular Error Probability  
\*CR Regional Company. Under FAR  
Also stands for Commando Raider, specially trained guerrillas used in interdiction operations along the Ho Chi Minh Trail; followed by a three number designation is the Regional Company of the FAR, almost exclusively found in MR I, in the Luang Prabang and Sayaboury Province areas.  
DBA Designated Battle Area  
DMZ Demilitarized Zone  
EM Enlisted Men

\*Special Laotian Military Terms

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FAC Forward Air Controller  
\*FAN Force Armee Neutral. Neutralist Forces, generally used to define the friendly neutralist forces, neither the Deuanist neutralists who are aligned with the Pathet Lao, nor the Khammouane neutralists.

FAG Forward Air Guide  
\*FAR Force Armee Royale, or the forces of the Royal Lao Government.

FLIR Forward Looking Infrared

\*GM Ground Mobile. Headquarters element of the Guerrilla Battalions.

HLZ Helicopter Landing Zone

IDP Interdiction Points  
IFR Instrument Flight Rules

LOC Line of Communication  
\*LT GAP LORAN Targeting by Grid Annotated Photography

NOD Night Observation Device  
NVA North Vietnamese Army

OB Order of Battle  
OUSAIRA Office of the U.S. Air Attache

PDJ Plain of Jars; Plaine des Jarres  
PL Pathet Lao

QRF Quick Reaction Force

RLAF Royal Laotian Air Force  
RLG Royal Laotian Government  
ROE Rules of Engagement

SAR Search and Rescue  
\*SAT Special Action Team. Also a guerrilla designation. These are in essence the same thing as the Commando Raiders.

SEA Southeast Asia  
SGU Special Guerrilla Unit  
SLAR Side-Looking Airborne Radar  
SOA Special Operating Area

TACAN Tactical Air Navigation  
TIC Troops in Contact; Target Intelligence Center  
TOT Time over Target

UTM  
UHF

Universal Transverse Mercator  
Ultra High Frequency

VFR  
VR

Visual Flight Rules  
Visual Reconnaissance