

~~SECRET~~  
DECLASSIFIED

# DAILY BRIEFING NOTES

JUN 1967

DECLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~

6 June 1967

1. SIXTHFLT (TS)

Task Force 60 has been directed to proceed to a position approximately 240 miles southeast of Crete and will operate no closer than 100 miles from the coast line of the U.A.R., Lebanon and Syria, and at least 25 miles from Cyprus. The carrier groups have been tasked to exploit their mobility to make it more difficult for the Russians to gain intelligence on fleet movements and to improve their posture for quickly accomplishing such tasks as may be required.

These forces can reach Israel in 13.5 hours at 20 knots from the midpoint of their operating area (270 nautical miles).

USS SHADWELL (LSD 15) has been sailed from Souda Bay to rejoin Task Force 61 at Malta. Task Force 61/62 have been placed on 2 hour steaming notice. From Malta they can reach Israel in approximately 64 hours at 16 knots.

Six AOs are in the Med. AUCILLA, ELOKOMIN and TRUCKEE are supporting Task Force 60. SEVERN arrived Souda Bay yesterday. MATTABASSETT is in Rhodes and KANKAKEE is enroute from Bergen.

2. MIDEASTFOR (TS)

In the MidEast force, VALCOUR, with COMIDEASTFOR embarked, was scheduled to rendezvous with DYESS at 0600 Washington Time this morning. KENNEDY is on patrol station off Hodeida, Yemen. Yesterday she reported being overflowed by two unidentified, twin engine, straight wing jet bombers. She also reported being approached by an unidentified minesweeper approximately 1 hour after KENNEDY closed an Egyptian troopship bound for Hodeida. COMIDEASTFOR has directed KENNEDY to take no action that could be considered hostile or provocative in any manner. She is also to remain at least 12 miles from land and to set readiness condition Three.

FISKE is patrolling the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

INTREPID is approximately 980 nautical miles East of Aden, steaming at 20 knots she could return to Aden in 49 hours.

COMIDEASTFOR continues to believe that the most likely danger to his ships would be an unauthorized attack by individual units without approval of higher authority.

IN DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE SITUATION IN THE MID-EAST (TS)ESSEX

CINCEUR has requested the JCS to divert ESSEX into the Med. No action has been taken as yet by the JCS.

VP AUGMENTATION

CINCUSNAVEUR has requested 6 additional P2s from CINCLANTFLT

**DECLASSIFIED**

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

TUESDAY

6 June 1967

which will bring them up to a total of 24 in the Med.

VF-VA AUGMENTATION

CINCUSNAVEUR has also requested that CINCLANTFLT replace shortages of F4 and A4 aircraft in AMERICA and SARATOGA. There are shortages of 3 F4s and 3 A4s. NAVEUR further requested that procedures be reviewed to permit translant ferry for rapid replacement of any possible combat losses.

CINCLANTFLT has not taken action as yet on either request.

MIDDIE CRUISE

COMSIXTHFLT and CINCUSNAVEUR have requested that the Midshipmen Foreign Exchange Program be cancelled or postponed until the Mid-East situation clarifies.

VP'S - SOUDA BAY

The airfield at Souda Bay is now in commission and 6 P2s are operating from there.

PAO GUIDANCE

SIXTHFLT has been directed to reply to queries on fleet movements and intentions with "no comment". The privilege of filing news releases is not restricted, however, correspondents have been requested to refrain from using any terms which may reveal the location or movement.

MINIMIZE

USCINCEUR has imposed minimize within the European Theater.

3. ROLLING THUNDER (C)

All CVA task groups report that weather conditions severely curtailed Rolling Thunder activity yesterday, but coastal recce missions resulted in more than 55 waterborne logistic craft destroyed or damaged. A6s from CONSTELLATION and ENTERPRISE made systems deliveries against 8 rail and highway facilities but BDA was precluded by weather.

This morning a BON HOMME RICHARD F8E diverted from a mission in Route Package 6 was shot down by AAA. Later reports indicate the pilot ejected over water and was recovered by an UH-2.

Air Force F105s continued to attack railroads yards and sidings north of Hanoi yesterday pilots reported that scattered clouds prevented assessment of damages.

IN SOUTH VIETNAM

An Air Force F100 crashed while on a strafing pass approximately

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

WEDNESDAY

7 June 1967

1. SIXTHFLT (S)

Task Force 60 is enroute to a position approximately 55 miles south of Crete (34-20N/24-00E) and about 440 miles from Port Said, from which they could reach Israel in approximately 27.5 hours at 20 knots.

The JCS has directed that the Amphibious Task Force in Malta remain there and on 4 hour steaming notice.

Three AOs and 2 AEs are with the carrier task groups. The AFS SYLVANIA sailed today from Naples for Souda Bay.

The U.S. intelligence collector LIBERTY, after operating along the African coastline, has chopped to COMSIXTHFLT and will operate along the coast of the U.A.R. and Israel. Her CPA to the U.A.R. will be 12.5 miles and 6.5 miles to Israel.

2. MIDEASTFOR (S)

In the MIDEASTFOR, VALCOUR is enroute to assume patrol station off Hodeida, Yemen. FISKE is in Port Assab, Ethiopia for fueling, departing at 0900 Washington Time this morning for patrol station at the southern entrance to the Red Sea.

KENNEDY is on patrol station off Hodeida and after relief by VALCOUR today, she will proceed to Massawa, for 4 days upkeep.

DYESS is in Port Massawa, underway tomorrow for the Hodeida patrol station.

INTREPID is now 1460 miles from Aden. She is scheduled to arrive Subic on the 15th.

The British carrier task group at Aden got underway yesterday for 4 days of flight operations. The pilot proficiency in HERMES has been low because of the recent long transit and the general plan is to continue four days training operations per week so long as HERMES remains in the vicinity of Aden.

The U.S. Ambassador to Sudan has been informed by that Government that ship and aviation units will not be permitted to visit ports in Sudan.

COMIDEASTFOR reports the possible impounding of his flag aircraft at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia at the green arrow. While the exact nature of the impounding is not clear, he assumes it infers refusal for take-off clearance and does not imply a physical seizure. He has recommended the aircraft depart for Bahrain as soon as possible.

A late report indicates the trade mission in Dhahran is under seige. The consul and trade mission personnel are unable at this time to get to the flight line in any case.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

WEDNESDAY

7 June 1967

3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE MID-EAST. (S)

ESSEX

JCS has directed CINCEUR to continue ESSEX in her transit and visit to Norway. (JCS 062043Z) (Present position - 80 miles north of Orkney Island in Norwegian Sea)

VA/VF/VP AUGMENTATION

CINCLANTFLT has reported to CINCUSNAVEUR that he does not plan to deploy the additional A4, F4, and VP aircraft requested. He notes the extreme shortages of VA, VF and VP assets. He states that to deploy additional aircraft at this time would not only jeopardize vital training programs, but might indicate provocative action at the very time the announced U.S. position of neutrality is being questioned.

MIDDIE CRUISE

Because of the MIDEAST situation, the Swedish Navy has declined to participate in the MIDSHIPMEN Exchange Program. The U.S. Navy position released last night was to continue the U.S. Midshipmen program as scheduled but not to embark foreign midshipmen in SIXTHFLT ships.

EVACUATION

In the Middle East 12,892 Americans have now been evacuated. (1714 yesterday). A total of 54,837 potential evacuees remain, mostly residents. A rise of 6,858 over the figures given yesterday. 2,000 scheduled depart Beirut today for Germany, Italy and Turkey.

The primary means of evacuation is commercial air and chartered flights, however, every method is being used to move to safe havens while awaiting evacuation.

Largest groups for evacuation are approximately 12,000 each in Libya and Saudi Arabia, 10,000 in Israel and 6,000 in Lebanon and Morocco.

Eleven USAF transports were active during the night flying from Wheelus AFB in Libya to Germany (Frankfort).

4. ROLLING THUNDER (S)

Aircraft from ENTERPRISE and CONSTELLATION conducted two strikes this morning against Kep airfield 33 miles northeast of Hanoi. First reports indicate at least six MIGs were located on the field during the strikes, but there is no word whether any were damaged. Although heavy AAA fire was encountered and several SAM firings reported, all aircraft returned to base safely.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

THURSDAY

8 June 1967

1. SIXTH FLEET (TS)

Task Force 60 is operating south of Crete as briefed yesterday.

The JCS have requested CINCUER to direct PHIBRON 6 to resume a normal operating schedule. The PHIBRON should clear Malta generally in a north or southerly direction until out of sight of land, then conduct operations, as directed, in an area west of 20° East. They are authorized to make a scheduled port visit to Taranto, Italy 12-21 June.

The intelligence collector LIBERTY has been directed to operate not closer than 100 miles to Israel, Syria, and Egypt and 25 nautical miles to Cyprus - which is the normal operation area for SIXTH Fleet at this time.

2. SOVIET HARRASSMENT (TS)

WILLIAM C. LAWE (DD 763), while screening for AMERICA, reports harrassing actions by a Soviet DLG yesterday. The DLG made two close passes, the first closing the port quarter to 210 yards and the second to 80-100 feet. AMERICAN reports noise jamming on both her PRI TAC and CI nets.

3. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE MID-EAST ----

PHOTO RECONN (TS)

The JCS has requested CINCSAC to submit a plan for drone reconnaissance operations in the MID-East. (JCS 071459Z)

OIL (TS)

Oil operations have been secured at Rastanura and Bahrein, Saudi Arabia. Two tankers are holding at Bahrein awaiting further developments as to source of product and for possible evacuation of U.S. Nationals. Five tankers have been diverted to Abadan, Iran. Authority has been received to charter approximately 35 U.S. or foreign flag tankers to compensate for the longer routes resulting from canal closure and new loading ports. All future sailings from Southeast Asia to west and gulf coasts will be through the Panama Canal. Oil exports from Libya have also been shut off.

AFRICAN GLEN (TS)

The MSTs ship SS AFRICAN GLEN is anchored in Great Bitter Lake in the Suez Canal. This ship was empty and westbound. If the Master can effect southward transit without bucking the canal authorities he will do so and then receive further orders when in international waters.

4. MIDEASTFOR (TS)

In the MIDEASTFOR VALCOUR is on patrol station off Hodeida, Yeman. She will be relieved today by DYESS when DYESS completes refueling at

DECLASSIFIED

# DECLASSIFIED

RET

THURSDAY

8 June 1967

Assawa. VALCOUR will visit Assab 9-11 June. KENNEDY arrives Assawa today for visit through Sunday. FISKE is on patrol station at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. The British carrier task group is conducting flight operations in the Gulf of Aden.

INTREPID is now 1,980 nautical miles from Aden.

## 5. ROLLING THUNDER ACTIVITY (S)

During Rolling Thunder missions yesterday CONSTELLATION A4s dropped one span of a railroad bridge at Son Chau. Further south 12 CONSTELLATION A4s and F4s attacked the Huu Lac open storage area, resulting in four secondary explosions. Armed recce missions by Task Force 77 jets yesterday resulted in at least 13 trucks and 37 water-borne logistic craft destroyed or damaged. Air Force F105s struck a railroad bridge and a rail siding north of Hanoi early yesterday, interdicting rail lines at both targets, but weather forced later flights to divert to secondary targets in the south. At least 41 trucks were destroyed or damaged when convoys of 30 and 50 trucks were attacked near the Route Package I and II border. Pilots also reported 3 secondary explosions and smoke to 2,000 feet after an attack on a truck park further south.  
RT OPREP 4s and 5s.

## 6. STRIKE RESULTS (S)

Details have been received on two significant strikes briefed yesterday.

One MIG-17 was probably destroyed and four others damaged during the attack on Kep airfield by 19 ENTERPRISE and CONSTELLATION F4s and A6s. Pilots reported heavy damage to aircraft revettments and parking areas plus cratering of the runway.

Spectacular results were obtained in yesterday's strike on missile transporters south of Hanoi by 12 ENTERPRISE aircraft. This is the same target briefed yesterday, relocated by corrected coordinates. Pilots reported numerous orange secondary explosions, five secondary fires, and multi-colored smoke billowing to 5,000 feet. Two SA-2 missiles were observed lifting off uncontrolled and one SA-2 was seen snaking along the ground. Eight loaded missile transporters were destroyed along with a Fan Song radar van and three other support vehicles. The entire mission, including photo recce photo readout mission planning, attack of the target and photo BDA was accomplished in 24 hours employing ENTERPRISE resources exclusively. OPREP 4s

## 7. SORTIE/LOSS SUMMARY (S)

Navy sorties figures for North Vietnam are "normal" in this week's report.

Carrier aircraft also flew 13 sorties in Laos and 10 in South Vietnam during the period 2-7 June.

Southeast Asia aircraft and pilot losses for the same period are shown on your left. Since this report the Navy has lost two

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

FRIDAY

9 June 1967

1. TORPEDOING OF USS LIBERTY (TS)

A review of all the traffic concerning the attack on the AGTR LIBERTY indicates the following succession of events. Two Israeli delta-wing jet fighters orbited LIBERTY at 0850B (Cairo Time) and reported that the ship was Egyptian apparently heading for Port Said. At 1405B, an unknown number of Israeli jet fighters made 6 strafing passes on LIBERTY, who did not return the fire. 20 minutes later 3 Israeli MTBs made a high-speed run toward LIBERTY. She opened fire with .50 caliber machine guns after which the MTB conducted a strafing attack and launched 2 torpedoes -- one passed 25 yards astern; the second hit on the starboard side. Immediately thereafter, two Israeli helicopters sent out to obtain and determine nationality of prisoners orbited the ship and identified it for the first time as U.S., which information was passed to home base. The MTBs then offered assistance. LIBERTY immediately developed a 10-degree starboard list which was corrected to 9-degrees and held after watertight boundaries were established. Extensive superstructure damage was sustained and lower deck spaces forward were destroyed. The latest casualty figures include: 9 killed (X.O. plus 1 other officer and 7 ship's company enlisted); 75 wounded (15 seriously); and 22 missing (1 officer, 1 civilian, 2 USMC, and 18 CTs). It is believed that most of the missing in action are trapped in a flooded suprad space forward and are all dead. Dewatering will not be attempted until arrival Souda Bay. Commanding Officer has leg wound and is exhausted. LIBERTY had approximately 331 personnel on board including a doctor, HMs and 3 civilians. At 1545B, 4/A4 and 4/A1 armed aircraft were launched from AMERICA and SARATOGA respectively to protect LIBERTY from further attack, but were recalled when the Defense Attache from Tel Aviv reported that the Israeli's had mistakenly conducted the attack and apologized. The destroyers MASSEY and DAVIS with COMDESRON 12 embarked effected rendezvous with LIBERTY at 0025 Washington Time this morning. The dead and seriously wounded were to be transferred by helo upon arrival AMERICA. Each DD has a doctor and HM onboard. COMDESRON 12 Operations Officer (qualified for command) and enlisted personnel have been transferred to assist Commanding Officer LIBERTY. LIBERTY is presently proceeding with escort at 10 knots to Souda Bay for repairs alongside the AD TIDEWATER. Press media in AMERICA will be allowed to photograph LIBERTY externally, but will not be allowed onboard. Interviews with wounded personnel will also be allowed if the individual and doctors consent. We are receiving numerous calls on casualties, but are referring all calls to BuPers who has the casualty list and is notifying next of kin. SOURCE LIBERTY SPECIAL FILE AND OTHER MEANS.

2. MIDEAST SITUATION (S)

DECLASSIFIED

In the 6th Fleet, the amphibious units are operating west of 20°E, Task Group 60.2 (SARATOGA/GALVESTON) is in Souda Bay, Crete, and Task Group 60.1 (AMERICA/LITTLE ROCK) is in company with LIBERTY and her escort. CINCUSNAVEUR has offered the services of the APA CAMBRIA and the AKA UVALDE to assist in the evacuation of 6,900 U.S. nationals from Libya. Ambassador Newsom remarks that the two ships, combined with the



DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

FRIDAY

9 June 1967

military airlift from Wheelus Air Base, will satisfy the requirements there.

At the request of Ambassador Nolte in Cairo, the stores ship SYLVANIA has arrived 100 miles offshore from Alexandria to embark when directed 800 U.S. Nationals from Egypt. Intentions are to move the evacuees to Cyprus via SYLVANIA, and then airlift them to Athens by commercial air.

3. MIDEASTFOR (S)

In the MIDEASTFOR, FISKE is proceeding to a point off Jidda to evacuate U.S. Nationals from Saudi Arabia if required; VALCOUR is in Port Assab, Ethiopia; KENNEDY, in Port Massawa; and DYESS on patrol at the southern entrance to the Red Sea. The SS AFRICAN GLEN remains in Great Bitter Lake and has not acknowledged the order to move out.

One of the two U.S. tankers holding at Bahrain is now loading oil. It is expected that the other will commence loading momentarily. The 5 tankers rediverted 7 June are now routed to Bahrain in anticipation of early resumption of full refueling operations. The local authorities in Aden have announced that they will boycott both U.S. and U.K. ships and aircraft for refueling purposes. And, in Algeria, national authorities have assumed control of all U.S. and U.K. oil interest and have prohibited exportation of oil to dollar and pound sterling areas.

Source: COMSTS 082027Z(S)/AMEMB Tripoli 072145Z(C)/CINCUSEUR 080430Z

4. AIR OPERATIONS (S)

In Rolling Thunder operations weather prevented aircraft from striking most primary targets throughout the day, but arrec aircraft were able to find enough breaks in the low ceilings to destroy or damage over 100 waterborne logistic craft off Packages 3 and 4. ENTERPRISE and CONSTELLATION A6s made system runs against the Uong Bi thermal power plant in Route Package VIA and a storage area, a railroad siding, and a naval base further south.

5. SHRIKE EFFECTIVENESS (S)

The interim findings of CINCPACFLT studies of Shrike effectiveness holds that the combined Navy and Air Force Iron Hand effort has produced no substantial reduction in the SAM order of battle. In spite of over 800 Shrike firings and nearly 200 possible or probable kills, the SAM order of battle has risen with only minor variations.

On the other hand the cost of the Iron Hand effort has been significant in ordnance capacity and aircraft exposure considering that A6s are often used and that approximately 1/4 of the aircraft losses on Alfa targets in recent months have been Iron Hand aircraft.

The limited Shrike effectiveness is due to the short duration of SA-2 S-Band radiations and the critical launch parameters and ranges

DECLASS

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

SECRET



BPC

OPERATIONAL BRIEFING ITEMS FOR SATURDAY 10 JUNE 1967

1. SOUTHEAST ASIA:

a. CVA OPERATIONS on 10 June - Navy conducted 3 RT 56A missions this morning. CONSTELLATION on Van Dien Vehicle Depot (JCS 63.11) at 0503 (EDT); ENTERPRISE on Van Dien Supply/Sam Depot (JCS 62) at 0439 (EDT) and BON HOMME RICHARD on Hanoi TPP (JCS 81) at 0504 (EDT). Initial reports indicate ordnance on targets, but with no specific BDA. One F8 from BON HOMME was downed over Hanoi (See A/C Losses). One A4 is missing, when last seen was maneuvering 10 miles SSW of Hanoi, encountering heavy SAM activity. It failed to return to the ship and is believed lost to a SAM. No SAR is contemplated due to location. Two other aircraft, 1 F8 heavily damaged, and 1 A4 damaged, were attempting to return to their ship.

SOURCE: 77.8 100613Z (SECRET), NMCC White House Report (SECRET) and Telcon with CINCPACFLT DO.

b. CVA OPERATIONS on 9 June - The three CVA's flew a total of 120 attack missions in the RT area. Land and water borne LOC's were interdicted. Significant results included: BON HOMME RICHARD - damage to an apparent sliding section of the Tho Son Highway bridge rendering it unserviceable; ENTERPRISE - a major strike against Quong Soui RR siding resulting in 3 large orange secondary explosions on the siding and in a storage area. In addition one A6A conducted an all weather system strike against Ninh Binh Military Headquarters. System indicated all ordnance on target but darkness precluded BDA. CONNIE - Strikes were severely hampered by weather. A6A aircraft made 5 night system runs. No BDA was obtained. Other aircraft interdicted two bridges.

SOURCE: 77.4 091642Z; 77.7 091625Z and 77.8 0919 (garbled)  
(ALL CONFIDENTIAL)

c. ALFA STRIKE (Late Entry) - 5 Walleye aircraft launched from BON HOMME. Two were air aborts, 3 weapons were delivered on target. All 3 were observed to guide and explode on or inside face of generator hall. Pilots reported no MIG activity however they encountered the heaviest SAM and AA fire ever experienced. Reported losses remain at 1 F8 and 1 A4 (Missing).

SOURCE: Telcon NDDC and CINCPAC DO (CONFIDENTIAL)

DECLASSIFIED

1 of 4

SECRET

SECRET

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

d. AIRCRAFT LOSSES

(1) Navy F8 from BON HOMME RICHARD, assigned to VF-211, was downed in the vicinity of Hanoi during the strike on JCS 81, (Hanoi TPP) at about 101300H. Good chute sighted. No SAR attempted due to location.

SOURCE: CTG 77.7 100535Z(SECRET)

(2) Air Force - A C-130 failed to arrive at Tan Son Nhut AB. Aircraft was due at 1155Z. Possible crash site was reported as 110 degrees 13 miles from Tan Son Nhut. RVN troops in vicinity of possible crash site.

SOURCE: 7AF TSN AD RVN 091645Z (SECRET)

2. MID-EAST

a. USS LIBERTY

(1) LIBERTY was last reported on a westerly course SOA about 9 knots. COMSIXTHFLT recommended and CINCSUNAVEUR has directed that the ship proceed to Malta for dry docking for ships material and security reasons as well as to expedite recovery of all bodies. Arrangements are being made for dry-docking. PAPAGO and one DD will escort to destination. Best ETA Malta will be provided on 10 June. Estimated position at 100200Z was approximately 110° 825 miles from Malta.

SOURCE: CINCUSNAVEUR 100025Z (CONFIDENTIAL), COMSIXTHFLT 091635Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(2) Latest casualty list is 9 killed, 24 missing. Transfer of all KIA and injured was completed at 0833 EDT on 9 June. (9 KIA to AMERICA; 50 injured to AMERICA; 9 injured to LITTLE ROCK). Intentions are to air lift remains to Naples for further transfer and to air evacuate the seriously wounded as necessary. No noise or signals heard at any time to indicate missing persons were trapped below decks.

SOURCE: COMSIXTHFLT 091635Z (CONFIDENTIAL), CTG 60.5 091010Z (U)

(3) Search for papers lost through hole in the hull has been conducted. At the rendezvous point two small boats searched area around LIBERTY for 2 hours picking up many papers. None of which were classified. A Soviet DD was in the vicinity from 1320 to 1600 and was under constant surveillance. It was not observed to stop in the immediate vicinity or to recover anything from the water. MASSEY, DAVIS or PAPAGO constantly in the wake for purpose of recovering papers, including use of searchlight at night. PAPAGO recovered one classified item 10 miles

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET  
SECRET

astern and it is now locked up in the CO's safe. Indications are that sensitive material on LIBERTY was locked up in weight bags and was not adrift in the compartment. Constant surveillance of LIBERTY's wake will be conducted.

SOURCE: CTG 60.5 092119Z (SECRET)

(4) Survey of damage was completed by COMSERVFOR SIXTHFLT Material Officer and hull damage reported as follows:

(a) Flooding between frames 52 and 78 below second deck.

(b) Torpedo hole at frame 60 about 13 x 5 feet with top of hole at waterline. Smaller holes may exist below major opening.

(c) SPS 10 radar inoperative.

(d) Most communication down due to lack of antenna.

(e) 21 feet motor whale boat lost. Virtually all life rafts destroyed.

Watertight boundaries have been established, repair made on essential ship control systems. Ships list has been reduced to 3 degrees. Crew aboard has been augmented.

SOURCE: COMSIXTHFLT 092347Z (CONFIDENTIAL), CTG 60.5 092230Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(5) JCS has advised USDAO Tel Aviv that due to possibility that personnel may still be in the water, additional SAR by Israeli forces would be greatly appreciated.

SOURCE: JCS 092105Z (SECRET)

b. MIDEAST EVACUATION - The Greek ship SS KARENA is scheduled to depart Alexandria, UAR on the afternoon of 10 June (probably not before 1500Z) with approximately 600 American evacuees on board. COMSIXTHFLT has directed DESRON TEN (FORREST SHERMAN - DD 931 and USS R. E. BYRD - DDG 23) to escort the SS KARENA from a point 100 miles off UAR coast to Greek territorial waters off Pireaus, Greece. Mission is to provide lifesaving capability for U. S. personnel in case of accident or disaster.

SOURCE: COMSIXTHFLT 092359Z and 092354Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET  
SECRET

c. AP PRESS RELEASE ON USS LIBERTY - A board of investigation has been directed to look into the AP press story by Bob Horton concerning "Spy Ship" comment attributed to "an officer" on board. AMERICA reports that the alleged officer's statement is not based on any contact with an official spokesman, nor is it attributable to any known officer in AMERICA. Mr. Horton's copy was not submitted for review for security or accuracy and was not transmitted by navy communications. It is believed to have departed in a sealed envelope together with other media material on a COD aircraft departing for Athens about 091030Z.

SOURCE: USS AMERICA 092225Z (CONFIDENTIAL), CINCUSNAVEUR  
100305Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

*W. N. Sims*  
W. N. SIMS  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Navy Department Duty Captain

Distribution  
SECNAVAIDE  
UNSECNAVAIDE  
002  
09A  
03  
33  
333  
IP  
BFR

DECLASSIFIED

4 of 4

SECRET  
SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

BRF

Op-353C/gb  
11 June 1967



OPERATIONAL BRIEFING ITEMS FOR SUNDAY 11 JUNE 1967

1. SOUTHEAST ASIA:

a. CVA OPERATIONS

(1) CONSTELLATION - Struck Van Dien Vehicle Depot (JCS 63. 11) reported on Saturdays OPSUM). No BDA due to heavy AAA and SAM firings. Other strikes, launched in connection with LOC interdiction program, reported 1 truck destroyed; 13 trucks, 4 WBLC and 3 buildings damaged. AGA aircraft made night systems runs against Sai Than RR Yard and Thien Linh Dong RR Siding but no BDA obtained due to darkness. A total of 56 attack sorties were launched in RT areas.

SOURCE: CTG 77.8 101614Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(2) ENTERPRISE - Attacked Van Dien SAM/Supply Depot (JCS 62 reported in OPSUM for Saturday). Three areas within the complex sustained heavy damage. One secondary explosion was observed with black smoke billowing from the area. Planes encountered multiple SAM firings and moderate to heavy AAA. Five flak sites were suppressed by F4B's and 8 SAM sites were pounced by A4 Iron Hand aircraft. Other strikes damaged or destroyed 5 WBLC including two 80 foot and one 100 foot barges. The two 80 foot WBLC were sunk and a large oil slick was observed on the water. One large strike on Quang Suoi RR Siding caused light to heavy damage to 12 box cars there. AGA night system runs were made against Haiphong Ammo Depot and Thai Binh boat repair works. No BDA due darkness. A total of 70 RT attack sorties were launched.

SOURCE: CTG 77.8 101925Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

b. AIRCRAFT LOSSES

(1) One Navy F8C, VF-24, from BON HOMME RICHARD was downed at approximately 1630H on 11 June, approximately 25 miles NE of Haiphong. A good chute was sighted and SAR is in progress.

SOURCE: CTG 77.7 110845Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(2) A Marine Corps CH-46A, operating out of Dong Ha on a Reccon insert mission was downed, at approximately 1130H on 11 June. The helo was approaching the landing zone when it was hit by heavy AA fire. The aircraft crashed and burned. The crew of 4 and 8 reccon team members aboard were killed.

SOURCE: CG 1ST MAW 110740Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

**DECLASSIFIED**

TOP SECRET

2. MIDEAST

a. CVA MOVEMENTS - TG 60.1 and 60.2 have joined and are moving eastward toward a position south of Cyprus, as directed by JCS through COMSIXTHFLT, ETA on station is 111300Z. In response to a USCINCEUR inquiry as to SARATOGA's ability to remain at sea, COMSIXTHFLT replied "as long as required". Instructions are for units to remain outside of 100 miles from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Israel and no closer than 25 miles to Cyprus.

SOURCE: COMSIXTHFLT 101545Z (TOP SECRET), CINCUSNAVEUR 101545Z (TOP SECRET), COMSIXTHFLT 101625Z (SECRET)

b. USS LIBERTY

(1) SITREP - CTG 60.5 (USS DAVIS DD 937), USS LIBERTY (AGTR 5) and USS PAPAGO (ATF 160) position at 0400 EDT today was approximately 495 miles east of Malta. Latest ETA at Malta is 131100Z according to her MOVREP (DTG 101620Z). The USS SYLVANIA (AFS 2) rendezvoused with the group and completed transfer of medical supplies and damage control material to replenish stocks on board DAVIS, at 2230 EDT last night. DAVIS reported a one quarter reduction in boiler power, max speed of 30 knots, due to leaks in boiler economizer outlet header, but is able to carry out present assignment. She had requested to put into Souda Bay for repair, but was directed to continue escorting LIBERTY to Malta where repairs will be made. (SYLVANIA then departed eastward to join the carriers). CTG 60.5 reported that several bodies are in sight through hole in side but that heavy oil fumes and debris precluded recovery. Most missing personnel are in spaces which cannot be entered until de-watered.

SOURCE: USS SYLVANIA 110242Z (SECRET), COMSIXTHFLT 101632Z (CONFIDENTIAL), USS DAVIS 100940Z (CONFIDENTIAL) and CTG 60.5 101750Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(2) SEARCH OPERATIONS TERMINATED - Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reported negative results after day long search in the area where LIBERTY was hit. Search discontinued at nightfall, however numerous IDF naval units are operating in the area and have been instructed to keep alert watch for survivors or debris. COMSIXTHFLT and JCS concurred in termination of search at nightfall. As had been recommended by DAO Tel Aviv when search was first set up.

SOURCE: COMSIXTHFLT 102342Z (SECRET), USDAO Tel Aviv 101925Z (SECRET) and JCS 102050Z (SECRET)

2 of 3

**DECLASSIFIED**

**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

**DECLASSIFIED**

TOP SECRET

(3) PLANS FOR DRY DOCKING - RADM RENCEN, COMSERVFORLANT, will leave Norfolk shortly for Malta to organize and take charge of dry docking LIBERTY on 13 June. CINCUSNAVEUR has specified two primary tasks in this regard, (1) recovery of bodies and (2) preservation of security of documents, equipment and spaces. CINCUSNAVEUR is sending a PA Officer to Malta and has also task/requested various commands/offices to initiate supporting action.

SOURCE: CINCUSNAVEUR 110225Z (SECRET)

c. MIDEAST

(1) USS DYESS has departed her patrol station in the Red Sea and is presently refueling in Massawa. After refueling she will proceed to the Persian Gulf. ETA at Bahrain, for refueling prior to taking station, is on 17 June. This is in accordance with COMIDEAST's desire and plan to return one of his ships to that area.

SOURCE: CINCSTRIKE 101605Z (SECRET), COMIDEASTFOR 100850Z (CONFIDENTIAL)

(2) S. S. PEARL OF VICTORIA SAR - At 102050Z USS FISKE (DD 842) picked up 37 Hong Kong Chinese, 1 British and 1 Arab pilot from Jidda, from the SS PEARL VICTORIA (Panamanian register) which had gone on a reef outside of Jidda. The crew had panicked and abandoned the ship. A request to enter Jidda was denied however the Saudi Arabian Coast Guard/Port Authorities are sending a tug boat to rendezvous with FISKE 3 to 4 miles off the coast.

SOURCE: USDAO Jidda 110630Z (CONFIDENTIAL) and 110713Z (UNCLASS), Telcon NDDC and CINCSTRIKE

LATE ENTRY

a. Pilot of F8 has been picked up by helo and helo has departed coast line.

SOURCE: CTG 77.7 110928Z (SECRET)

b. BON HOMME RICHARD - Struck Hanoi TPP (JCS 81 reported in OPSUM for Saturday). No OP-5 and only one on related OP-4 report received as of 0630Q.

*W. N. Sims*  
W. N. SIMS  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Navy Department Duty Captain

**DECLASSIFIED**

Distribution

SECNAVAIDE

UNSECNAVAIDE

002...09A...03

33...333...IP... BFR

3 of 3

**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

MONDAY  
**DECLASSIFIED**

12 June 1967

1. SIXTH FLEET (S)

In the SIXTH Fleet, both carrier groups are operating north and west of 33N and 33E (120 miles north of Port Said) as directed by the JCS as a precautionary measure in light of the Soviet declaration to possibly use military force against Israel. The JCS have also directed the move of the amphibious force to the vicinity of Southern Crete.

SLYVANIA has been relieved of her stand-by evacuation station 100 miles off Alexandria and has rejoined Task Force 60.

The Greek cargo ship CARINA loaded 557 U.S. Nationals and sailed from Alexandria at 1900 Cairo time Saturday for Piraeus, Greece.

The destroyer R. E. BYRD is escorting her from 100 miles off the Egyptian coast until she reaches her destination safely. The purpose of the escort is for life-saving operations in event of disaster at sea.

Evacuations have also been completed from Tripoli, Libya and Amman, Jordan. Both evacuations were accomplished exclusively using C-130 aircraft. In the latter case, Air Force aircraft staged from Teheran and were marked with large white crosses. Crews wore white overalls vice the normal military dress. A total of 820 civilians was evacuated from Jordan, including some 481 of other nations.  
SIXTHFLT/EVACUATION FILES (S)

2. USS LIBERTY (S)

Amplifying reports of the USS LIBERTY torpedoing incident bring the total casualties to 82; 12 killed in action, 50 injured and 20 still missing. Damage control personnel from the destroyer DAVIS reduced the starboard list from 9-3 degrees and were able to repair the gyro compass. The hole in the starboard side is estimated by divers as 39 feet wide by 24 feet high. The Commanding Officer estimates repairs will require 5 months in a shipyard and will cost approximately \$2.5 million to complete. CINCUSNAVEUR has activated Task Force 100 under the command of RADM Renken, COMSERVLANT, in order to supervise the drydocking, remove and ship remains of those killed in action, protect classified matter and ready the ship for repair by COMSERVFORSIXTHFLT. Also a court of inquiry has been convened, RADM Kidd, President, to inquire into all pertinent facts connected with the attack, damage to the ship, and death and injury to personnel.

USS BELMONT (AGTR 4) will sail from Norfolk to Rota, Spain as soon as possible as LIBERTY's relief. USS LIBERTY FILE (S)

3. MIDEASTFOR (S)

In the MIDEASTFOR, the flagship, VALCOUR, is in Port Aden, KENNEDY is in patrol inside the Red Sea, and FISKE is enroute and DYESS is in Port Massawa.

**DECLASSIFIED**

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

MONDAY

12 June 1967

HERMES sailed from Aden to Singapore on Saturday, a destroyer and 4 minesweepers are enroute the Persian Gulf and 3 ships remain in Aden.

FISKE, while on evacuation stand-by station off Jidda on Saturday rescued 39 persons from the Panamainan Flag PEARL OF VICTORIA after that ship had run aground on a reef. Because of King Faisal's desire that no U.S. ships enter Saudi Arabian ports, FISKE was required to await a tug from Jidda. All personnel were safely transferred, and FISKE returned to her station.

DYESS, while on patrol off Hodeida on Friday, was approached by a U.A.R. minesweeper and a patrol boat. Although then 13 miles from land, DYESS was told by the MSF to open to 12 miles. When DYESS did not alter course, the patrol boat closed at high speed from the North on a course to intercept DYESS who increased speed and maneuvered to keep her stern toward the patrol boat. After inspecting DYESS from 100 yards on the beam and on the quarter, the patrol boat retired. This is the first known instance in which the government of Yeman has tried to enforce a twelve mile territorial sea. DYESS is scheduled to depart today for Bahrain although she is not yet cleared to enter that port. The two tankers, briefed Friday, as being loaded with oil are still in Bahrain. Arabian workers did not complete the task and have indicated no further intention to do so even though the government has approved the loading. The oil workers fear reprisals against themselves and their families from other Arabs sympathetic to Nasser. The situation may ease and loading continue should the Saudi Government publicly announce the lifting of the oil embargo and assure protection of ARAMCO employees.

VARIOUS (S)

#### 4. ROLLING THUNDER (S)

On Saturday the three carriers combined to conduct coordinated strikes on the Hanoi thermal power plant and the Van Dien vehicle/SAM supply depots.

Five A4E's carrying one Walleye each, were launched from BON HOMME RICHARD against the Hanoi thermal power plant. Two aircraft had to air abort and return, but the three remaining pilots reported that all weapons guided well and exploded on or inside the face of the generator hall. Photo BDA of Saturday night indicates apparent damage at the junction of the 3 boiler houses and the generator hall. Extremely heavy AAA and SAM defenses accounted for the loss of one F8E and combat damage to five other aircraft.

The strike leaders on the two Van Dien targets also reported successful missions as several areas within the supply depot were heavily damaged or destroyed. However, in this strike an ENTERPRISE A4 was possibly lost to a direct SAM hit.

Other significant Navy strikes this weekend included an ENTERPRISE attack on the Quang Suoi railroad siding where numerous

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

TUESDAY

13 June 1967

armed reconnaissance of reported Viet Cong concentrations in the vicinity of the LST HARNETT COUNTY was shot down by ground fire resulting in 4 wounded in action. COMNAVFORV comments that the Viet Cong have made many recent unsuccessful attempts to attack the ship using swimmers, and may now try to attack HARNETT COUNTY using different tactics.

A delayed report indicates that a PBR patrol was ambushed on the Ham Luong River 7 June resulting in 5 U.S. and 1 VNN wounded in action. One PBR received over 100 hits from automatic weapons and recoilless rifle fire, and the second PBR received an unknown number of automatic weapons hits and one recoilless rifle round which passed completely through the boat, but did not explode. COMNAVFORV considers this ambush was in retaliation for a PBR/light helicopter fire team action on 4 June in which 50-60 Viet Cong casualties were sustained. COMNAVFORV 080801Z

#### 5. SIXTH FLEET (C)

U.S. dispositions in the Mediterranean remain relatively unchanged since yesterday. Both CVA groups are operating in a 30-mile radius circle about a point 50 miles southwest of Cyprus and the amphibious force is operating within a 30-mile radius circle 60 miles south of Crete. The destroyer R. E. BYRD has safely escorted SS KARENA to Piraeus and is rejoining Task Force 60. The ocean minesweeper, AGILE, while patrolling the Soviet anchorage east of Crete, was harassed by a Soviet Kotlin Class destroyer yesterday evening. The track shown was constructed from a narrative of the incident. Complete time data was not reported. The Kotlin 020 got underway from a tanker on a course to clear then turned to parallel AGILE's track. When abeam the minesweeper at 1000 yards 020 turned toward AGILE and increased speed, then came further right at 27 knots to pass 100 yards ahead. AGILE maintained course and speed until she was in extremis, then stopped her engine to avoid collision. The Kotlin fired a red signal flare when directly ahead of AGILE, came left to 060 and departed the area. Source: CTF 68 121900Z/122300Z

#### 6. MIDEASTFOR (S)

In the MIDEASTFOR, the flagship remains in port, Aden; FISKE arrived Massawa today for fuel; KENNEDY is on patrol station Camel; and DYESS is enroute Bahrain, ETA 18 June. The Soviet AGS BELLINGSHAUSEN is proceeding south in the Red Sea, having failed to transit the canal. COMIDEASTFOR reports that fuel is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain in the Red Sea and adjacent areas. Because of the increase in bunkering requirements at Massawa and Assab, the Government of Ethiopia is providing only 50% of the customers stated requirements at Massawa. This fuel control measure may soon be extended to Assab. Efforts to obtain fuel from Djibouti have met with only limited success. COMIDEASTFOR has therefore instructed his units to make every reasonable effort to conserve fuel.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

WEDNESDAY

14 June 1967

1. MED/MIDEAST (S)

The JCS have authorized the sailing of one CVA group to Soudha Bay. SARATOGA, GALVESTON and 5 Destroyers are scheduled to visit 15-20 June. The other group is to remain in the eastern Med north and west of 33N/33E. The amphibious force has, at the same time, been authorized to conduct operations and port visits at the discretion of USCINCEUR and are enroute the Navplion training anchorage to remain 16-19 June. In view of the completion of scheduled evacuation of U.S. Nationals, and the general calm in the middle east area, USCINCEUR has canceled minimize for his area of responsibility.

In Port Suez, U.S. owned and U.S. flag heavy salvage equipment consisting of a 500-ton floating derrick, a 3,000 horsepower tug plus cargo barges and service boats reportedly has been impounded by Egyptian forces. American operating personnel were evacuated. NAVSHIPSYSCOM comments that this equipment would be invaluable in the event that the canal is in fact blocked by sunken ships or craft.

In the Red Sea area, VALCOUR is enroute Aden to Massawa with an ETA of 17 June; KENNEDY is on Desert patrol station; and FISKE is enroute from Massawa to render assistance to a small Saudi Arabian tanker aground in the position shown. The tanker reports she has been aground for four days, her engines are inoperative, and she is without food and water. DYESS is enroute to Bahrain.

In view of the fact that Massawa is the only U.S. contract bunkering port, COMIDEASTFOR has requested permission to purchase 1,000 long tons of NSFO for use of MIDEASTFOR ships during the next 4 weeks. The Defense Attache', Addis Ababa states that Mobil and Shell oil companies are checking their bunkering/storage facilities at Massawa and Assab to determine if COMIDEASTFOR can be accommodated. However, the Ien (Imperial Ethiopian Navy) has requested a hold on oil for its use, and may preempt other consumers. The Governor General is presently rationing fuel to allow only enough per ship to reach the next port.

Source reports indicate that the Iraqis intend to close the water access to Abadan refinery at black arrow to U.S./UK flag vessels. Iran would consider this an "act of war"; but if it is only for the reason that Iraqi pilots refuse to handle U.S./UK ships, then Iran could provide river pilots if the ship owners would accept the insurance risk.

There are presently 7 tankers waiting at Bahrain and 5 more arriving in the next 6 days. Eight others scheduled for the Persian Gulf have been diverted to shuttle cargoes from Japan and Pearl Harbor to accommodate the operational needs in Southeast Asia.

INSMATPET (MIDEAST) reports that the independent Sheikdom of Bahrain is awaiting Saudi Arabian action on lifting the oil embargo, and anticipates that, if the embargo is lifted, shipments will

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

THURSDAY

15 June 1967

6. GROUNDING SITREPS (C)

Amplifying information concerning the submarine tender SPERRY's grounding in the Columbia River reports a 4 foot by 4 foot hole in the bulbous forefoot with cracks radiating from jagged edges. The Commanding Officer states that drydocking will be required and that operation of the ship in a heavy sea would be marginal.

The Commanding Officer, FURSE, has corrected his position of grounding off Key West and reports that visual inspection of the ship's underwater body revealed that blades of both propellers are bent 3-22 inches and that the sonar dome is crushed along its entire length to a depth of 12-24 inches. There is no apparent damage to the propeller shafts or struts and preliminary estimates indicate that damage to the sonar transducer is negative. Source: USS SPERRY 140557Z(U/EFTO)/USS FURSE 140316Z(C)

7. CASUALTIES (C)

Navy combat casualties increased by 5 killed, 1 missing, and 56 wounded. Corpsmen casualty totals of 2 killed and 27 wounded were by far the lowest figures in many weeks. Source: BUPERS RPT

8. SIXTHFLT (S)

In the SIXTHFLT, Task Group 60.2 (SARATOGA, GALVESTON and 5 Destroyers) is in Souda Bay for 6 days upkeep and Task Group 60.1 (AMERICA, LITTLE ROCK and 6 Destroyers) is operating south of Crete. The amphibious force is scheduled to arrive Navplion Bay tomorrow for 4 days upkeep at the training anchorage.

Present intentions are to sail AMERICA to Istanbul for a port visit 21-26 June, and 1-2 destroyers to Athens as soon as possible maintaining at least 6 destroyers at sea with AMERICA.

The next port visits scheduled for the amphibious units include Naples, Taranto and Bari, Italy 22-28 June.

In view of the JCS authorization to send one CVA Group into Souda Bay for upkeep, and to resume normal operations for the amphibious units, CINCUSNAVEUR plans to employ the carrier task group as indicated:

15-24 June: Both task groups in eastern Med - one at sea, one in port.

24-30 June: One task group in eastern Med - one task group in central Med on normal at sea/in port routine.

After 30 June: One task group in eastern Med on normal at sea/in port routine. One task group in central/western Med on normal at sea/in port routine.

Source: COMSIXTHFLT 140155Z(C)/CINCUSNAVEUR 141638Z(S)

DECLASSIFIED