

Air War Stressed By U.S. More Massive Raids on North Expected Soon

By Peter A. Jay
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SAIGON, Jan. 1 — The five days of raids on North Vietnam by American aircraft last week underscored once again what has been growing ever clearer in recent months: For the United States, the war is now in the air.

American ground troops, the 150,000 or so that remain, are engaged almost entirely in packing up to go home or in protecting others while they do so. About 4,300 more GIs, mostly from medical and engineer units, began preparing to withdraw today.

But the air war, as last week's round-the-clock bombings show, is far from over and can break out thunderously at any time over both Vietnams, Laos and Cambodia.