

2d Air Strike in North Vietnam On Friday Is Disclosed by U.S.

By IVER PETERSON
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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 12 — The United States command, which previously had disclosed that an American plane made a "protective reaction" attack inside North Vietnam last Friday, said today that there were actually two such attacks that day.

The newly reported attack, staged by a United States Navy A-4 jet about 110 miles north of the demilitarized zone, was said to have missed its target, a coastal radar site at the village of Hatinh. A spokesman said the radar-guided Shrike missile that the pilot fired had fallen into the sea.

The spokesman said the A-4 was returning from a mission of escorting a reconnaissance plane over North Vietnamese territory when its sensing devices signaled that the coastal radar site had begun tracking the American aircraft preparatory to firing. Since this, the spokesman added, constitutes an effective act, the pilot of the A-4 "expended his ordnance."

"As the command has previously stated," the spokesman declared, "protective reaction is the inherent right of self-defense."

The attack at Hatinh took place early Friday. The other attack, which the command made known Saturday, took place later that day.

Escort on Raid on Laos

In that action, the attacking jet, an F-105, had been escorting a B-52 bombing mission over Laos when sensing devices reportedly showed that the aircraft were being tracked by a missile site inside adjoining North Vietnam. The target was said to be about 80 miles north of the demilitarized zone.



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Attack was on a missile base at Hatinh [1]. In Cambodia, allied troop movements were reported toward Route 4 pass [2].

The jet, a military spokesman reported on Saturday, crossed the border and fired two Shrike missiles. He added that damage reports were not available.

The military spokesman would not disclose why the attack reported today had not also been made known on Saturday.

In other war developments, the United States command reported that three American infantrymen were killed by booby traps yesterday and eight were wounded.

Booby traps, which are hidden with great skill by enemy soldiers around their own areas, took the lives of five Americans the day before yesterday. Such traps, usually made of plastic explosives or rewired unexploded American bombs, are the greatest cause of American casualties during the current decline in ground fighting.

Second Attack Protested

HANOI, North Vietnam, Jan. 12 (Agence France-Presse)— North Vietnam, which has remained silent over the American air attack reported Saturday, made public today a Foreign Ministry protest against the firing of an American missile "in North Vietnamese territorial waters" off Hatinh Province.

A spokesman condemned the incident and said that North Vietnam's territorial waters, like its land and air space, were legally inviolable.