

# Viets Leave Ammo Behind

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QUANG TRI (South Vietnam) — (AP) — South Vietnamese forces pulling back after their retreat from Laos were leaving thousands of artillery shells and other ammunition behind them until U.S. military officials complained, informed sources said today.

The sources said that if the ammunition had been abandoned at the allied support bases, the enemy might have collected it and used it.

No estimate of the amount of ammunition was available, but U.S. officers in the field said it included "thousands" of 105mm and 155mm

howitzer shells, mortars and small arms ammunition.

At a Marine command post in the Khe Sanh area, one officer said, the Vietnamese opened hundreds of boxes of artillery shells, discarded the shells and used the wooden boxes filled with sand in building bunkers and fighting

positions. Then they left it all behind as they pulled out,' he said.

"The Vietnamese have been so careless with ammunition that we have had to clean it up before we leave," he said.