

# CEASE-FIRE BEGINS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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In North, U.S. Jets Assess  
the Effects of Bombings—  
Raids Continue in Laos

NYTimes

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 31—American and South Vietnamese ground forces rested today as a 24-hour New Year's cease-fire began in South Vietnam. Elsewhere in Indochina, the war went on.

United States reconnaissance jets swept over North Vietnam to assess the damage wrought in five straight days of bombing that ended yesterday. B-52's and scores of smaller planes returned to Laos on raids near the mountain passes where supplies leaving North Vietnam enter the Ho Chi Minh trail.

The South Vietnamese command said that enemy forces violated their own three-day cease-fire by attacking a highland village northeast of Kontum and killing one militiaman. The Vietcong truce went into effect early today, the allied cease-fire in the evening. The raids on the north, the longest, heaviest and deepest in more than three years, destroyed 11 air defense sites, according to the American command's preliminary reports.

Preliminary official reports indicated that United States planes had encountered at least 30 surface-to-air missiles and one MIG interceptor. Other reports suggested that the number of SAM's had been considerably higher than 30.

Two of three American jets lost were navy planes downed

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# Truce Begins in South Vietnam; Air Raids Continuing in Laos

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by SAMs yesterday, a United States command spokesman said. An Air Force jet had been lost Sunday, reportedly from unknown causes. North Vietnam asserted that 19 planes had been shot down.

The United States command reported that one of six downed crewmen had been rescued, and it listed five others as missing. The Hanoi radio has named one Air Force crew and has said two Americans were killed. The North Vietnamese have also claimed to have captured two of the Navy fliers.

The United States command reported that on Thursday the Vietcong attacked an armored personnel carrier 20 miles northeast of Saigon, wounding four Americans.

The crews of rocket-firing United States helicopters reported killing five North Vietnamese soldiers and destroying a truck in a convoy moving from Laos into northwestern Ashau Valley in South Vietnam.

A search was under way in northwestern Laos for a United States Central Intelligence

Agency supply plane, missing since Monday with three Americans and a Laotian aboard.

A source at Air America, a United States-supported airline, said there was "a very remote possibility" that the plane, a C-123, had been shot down by Chinese anti-aircraft fire.

The plane was reported headed from Vientiane to western Sayaboury Province near the Thai border where guerrillas backed by the C.I.A. are operating.

Just north of the province is the terminus of a road that the Chinese are building out of Yunan Province in China to the Mekong River in Laos. The Chinese forbid anyone approaching the road by air to get closer than 25 miles and have stationed anti-aircraft guns along it.

## Hanoi Names 3 Fliers

SAIGON, Dec. 31 (UPI)—The Hanoi radio said today that North Vietnam has captured three American pilots and it gave their names. They were the names of three men who had flown two of three planes the U.S. command in Saigon admits having lost yesterday and Sunday.