

# GUN SITE IN NORTH ATTACKED BY JET

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Antiaircraft Position Target  
in First Such Raid Since  
Strikes of Last Week

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By IVER PETERSON

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 5—An American jet escorting B-52's on a raid over the Ho Chi Minh supply trail in Laos darted over neighboring North Vietnam today for a "protective reaction" strike on an antiaircraft position, the United States command reported.

It was the first American air attack in North Vietnam since five days of intensive raids against North Vietnamese antiaircraft sites, airfields and supply depots ended last Thursday.

The command said that today's attack apparently destroyed the radar-guided antiaircraft site, 10 miles north of the Bankarai Pass, in the southern part of North Vietnam.

This is the area that was hardest hit during the five days of raids late last month. The command has since said that poor weather restricted the effectiveness of that bombing.

Today's raid was staged by an Air Force F-105, a plane that is used to escort B-52 bombers over the trail. The command reported only "hostile actions" by the antiaircraft

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# U.S. Jet Raids Antiaircraft Site in North

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site. This is believed to mean that the site's radar guidance system had begun to track one of the several American planes on the bombing mission.

The F-105 fired one missile at the site. No damage was caused to any of the American planes during the incident, the command said.

In 1971, American planes conducted 108 "protective reactions" against North Vietnamese gun and missile sites that threatened United States bombers and reconnaissance planes. The five days of raids were also considered a protective reaction attack by the command.

The United States command disclosed today that North Vietnamese MIG jets have been observed by American pilots along the northern Laotian border since then, but that none have challenged American planes in the area.

The North Vietnamese jets appear to be patrolling the border area and are possibly practicing interception techniques that could be used against American planes, an American officer said.

On Dec. 18, a MIG shot down an American F-4 Phantom over northern Laos with a missile. On the same day, other MIG's pursued two more Phantoms over Laos and North Vietnam until they ran out of fuel and crashed.

## D.M.Z. Sites Bombed

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 5 (Reuters) — United States B-52's bombed what were believed to be North Vietnamese troop concentrations and bunk-



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An American spokesman said two missions were flown against targets near Khesanh in the northwestern corner of South Vietnam and inside the six-mile-wide buffer strip straddling the border between the two Vietnams. Another strike was directed against targets near the Ashau Valley.

In the ground war, only scattered skirmishing was reported in South Vietnam.

## Laotian Positions Attacked

VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 5 (UPI)—Communist troops were reported attacking Government positions today along Route 13 about 55 miles north of here. The attacks followed fighting yesterday 115 miles to the north in which a key road bridge was destroyed near the besieged Laotian guerrilla base at Long Tieng.

er complexes along the demilitarized zone today following reports of stepped-up enemy activity in the area.