

SF Examiner
Strike at Reds

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B52s Blast Cambodia

SAIGON—(UPI)—The U.S. Command, diverting more than a third of its Indochina B-52 force from targets over Laos and Vietnam, sent them on one of the heaviest raids yet over southeastern Cambodia, military sources said today.

U.S. Set to Give Da Nang Base to Viets

SAIGON — (CDN) — The United States will turn its \$2 million port facility at Da Nang over to the South Vietnamese this week, military sources said today.

At the peak of the war 900 servicemen were stationed at the port. That number has dwindled to 66.

The turnover will leave the U.S. operating fewer than five ports in South Vietnam.

Military sources also said the U.S. Army base at Long Binh, a \$120 million facility north of Saigon and the largest Army base outside the United States, will be turned over to the Vietnamese in November.

The 30-plane strike force last night and today dumped more than two million pounds of bombs on Communist base camps just across the South Vietnamese border, spokesmen said.

U.S. military authorities fear the Communists may renew their offensive from the camps within the next three weeks in a pre-U.S. election effort.

Hanoi Raid

Command spokesmen also said Air Force jets demolished a fuel storage dump outside Hanoi yesterday with laser-guided bombs and leveled an area the size of four city blocks, sending black smoke rising to 13,000 feet.

In South Vietnam, government rangers today punched through a Communist ring to reach a besieged battalion that had been isolated for nine days at the central

48 F-111's Assigned to Asia War

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Pentagon said today two squadrons of the controversial F111 fighter bomber were being sent to Southeast Asia to replace four squadrons of F4 Phantom jets.

For the first time since 1968, the F111s are being sent into combat because of the coming monsoon season in Southeast Asia. They are "particularly suited" for use in adverse weather, a spokesman said.

The F111s, from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., are expected to head for Takhli Royal Air Base, Thailand, within a few days.

24 Planes Each

There are 24 planes in each of the two squadrons being sent to Thailand. The squadrons are part of the 474th Tactical Fighter Wing.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry Friedheim said they will replace four F4 squadrons, containing 18 planes each, from the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing. He said the F4s will return to Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

Friedheim said he knew of no geographical restrictions that would prevent the F111's from conducting bombing missions in North Vietnam as well as in South Vietnam.

Faster Than Sound

The F111A, which is particularly suited for night and adverse weather operations, uses a low-level terrain-following radar system to carry out its low-altitude mission," Friedheim said.

The terrain-following radar allows a bomber to fly toward its target a few hundred feet off the ground faster than the speed of sound.

coast district town of Ba To, military sources said.

But 12 miles east of Ba To, UPI reporter Edward Bassett said North Vietnamese troops attacked three outposts early today at Duc Pho, 300 miles north of Saigon.

Planes Lost

F4 Phantom fighter-bomber pilots struck the La Danh petroleum storage area 46 miles north of the North Vietnamese capital for the first time since President Nixon ordered a renewal April 6 of bombing above the demilitarized zone (DMZ) separating the two Vietnams, the spokesmen said.

The spokesmen also said two American planes were shot down at opposite ends of South Vietnam. One of the pilots was known killed and the other officially listed as missing in action.

Command spokesmen said the B-52s on the Cambodian mission hit base camps in Kampong Cham, Prey Veng and Svay Rieng Provinces — jump-off points for attacks strike into Cambodia in 1970.

The two-month campaign cleared the Communists from the sanctuaries in the three provinces, but they reoccupied them this fall and winter.

The strikes hit just across the border from South Vietnam's Tay Ninh Province within 75 miles of Saigon.

Military sources said the \$5000 "smart" bombs that hit the La Danh facility were directed against 60 partly buried storage tanks each containing 5000 gallons of fuel.

Smoke

Pilots said they could not make a complete damage assessment because heavy smoke from numerous secondary explosions blanketed the area.

But they said they believed the facility was wrecked and said one of the bombs sent smoke swirling to 13,000 feet.