

## AMERICAN-LED RAIDS INTO LAOS REPORTED

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ST. LOUIS, Nov. 6—The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said today that United States Army Special Forces led bands of foreign commandos on raids into Laos this year at a time the Pentagon was insisting that no Special Forces personnel were in the area.

The newspaper based its accounts on interviews with four former Army officers who said they had participated in the raids. The article followed the paper's disclosure yesterday that regular United States Army troops had participated in intelligence-gathering raids in Laos as late as December, 1971.

The raids by bands of Cambodians, Vietnamese and Laotians led by Americans sometimes involved assassinations of top North Vietnamese military officers in Laos and sabotage operations, including the destruction of several bridges, the newspaper reported.

The newspaper's four sources said the operations were led by a Special Forces officer named Major Slatton. A Maj. James W. Slatton, now an executive officer at Fort Benjamin Harrison, near Indianapolis, said he led operations called Command and Control North during 1969 and 1971. Asked if they extended into Laos, Major Slatton reportedly said: "you're not going to get any information like that out of me. You're getting into a classified area."

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