

SFChronicle
**Viet General,
2 U.S. Aides
Die in Crash**

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Saigon

A South Vietnamese general, two U.S. officials and four other Vietnamese were killed yesterday when a military plane taking them on a visit to refugee camps crashed on the central coast northeast of Saigon.

The plane carried 22 persons, the Vietnamese - U.S. refugee team of 18 and a four - man crew. The other 15 including three American employees of the U.S. Agency of International Development were injured.

The dead Americans were identified by AID officials in Washington as Bruce Bailey, 43, a social welfare adviser from San Diego, Calif., and Luther A. McLendon Jr., 53, a relief and rehabilitation adviser, formerly of Atlanta and Decatur, Ga.

The general was identified as Major General Tran Thanh Phong, deputy chief of the government's urbanization program. Phong had headed the pacification program and the national police.

He was the seventh South Vietnamese general reported killed in the war.

Official informants said the South Vietnamese air force transport plane was attempting to land in bad weather at Tuy Hoa Air Base, 235 miles northeast of Saigon, when it crashed 500 yards short of the runway.

Meanwhile, U.S. B-52 bombers dropped about seven tons of bombs around mountain passes in North Vietnam's southern panhandle in an effort to bottle up arms convoys. The bombs were dropped in an 18-hour period beginning at noon Thursday.

Ground action continued light and scattered. The Saigon command listed nine skirmishes in its evening communique and claimed 88 enemy were killed at a cost of two government troops killed and 34 wounded.

South Vietnamese marines pressing up the coast from Quang Tri toward the demilitarized zone weathered a barrage of more than 1000 artillery and mortar rounds Thursday, the Saigon command reported.

Associated Press