

# Hospitals on Target Lists

## Washington

U.S. commanders in Vietnam placed no restrictions on ground or air attacks against Viet Cong or North Vietnamese hospitals, a Senate committee was told yesterday.

In direct testimony and letters, several Vietnam veterans said hospitals were often considered targets rather than areas to be avoided as required by the Geneva Convention on warfare.

The testimony came before the Senate Armed Services Committee which for three weeks has been unraveling secret air and ground operations of the Indochina war from mid-1960s to 1972.

The committee has also been trying to determine who ordered a dual reporting system in which 3630 B-52 bombing raids over Cambodia were falsely recorded as having occurred in South Vietnam.

### ABRAMS

General Creighton Abrams, currently the Army Chief of Staff and a former commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, testified he carried out the false reporting system, but did not create it.

Abrams, who left Vietnam

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last summer, said, however, it might have been "courting disaster" not to have bombed concentrations of North Vietnamese troops in Cambodia while American troops were being withdrawn.

He acknowledged recommending the Cambodian bombing campaign in February, 1969, and personally selecting B-52 targets in that country.

### HOSPITALS

In testimony on the hospitals, Alan Stevenson, a stockbroker from San Francisco and former Army intelligence specialist, said that while in Quang Tri province in 1969 he routinely listed hospitals among targets to be struck by American fighter planes.

"The bigger the hospital the better it was," he said.

Stevenson said he believed the hospitals were highly rated as potential targets, not because American commanders wanted to attack wounded enemy troops, but because hospital complexes were often protected by company or battalion-sized troop units.

In one letter Daniel T. Eismann of Caldwell, Idaho, a former helicopter crew chief, said in December 1968 he took part in a gunship operation against a Viet Cong hospital in Go Cong province along the coast of South Vietnam.

"The hospital, which consisted of a grass hootch hidden among the nipa palm, was located and attacked with rocket and mini-gun fire," he said. "About four or five passes were made on the target by each of the two gunships involved and several direct hits were scored."

Former Air Force Captain Gerald J. Greven, now a Delta Air Line pilot in Mia-

mi, said he personally called in all attacks against suspected locations of enemy hospitals.

### DENIAL

Greven's testimony was disputed by his former commanding officer, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Frank Floyd, who said in a statement that Greven had lied in earlier newspaper reports about hospitals.

In the statement released by the Air Force, Floyd acknowledged, however, admonishing Greven against describing hospital attacks over the radio inside Greven's plane.

In the spring of 1971, Greven flew forward air control planes used to call in attacks by Air Force jets.

Former Army Sergeant Robert Dickey told of a deliberate attack upon a Viet Cong hospital and said medical facilities were the subject of routinely deliberate attacks by American forces.

Greven, Stevenson and Dickey all said they had never received instructions not to attack Viet Cong or North Vietnamese medical facilities.

In his testimony, however, Abrams said if he was told about attacks on hospitals, those who ordered the attacks would be punished.

Associated Press