

# U.S. Lists Strikes in N. Vietnam

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SAIGON, Dec. 27—The U.S. Command reported Wednesday that American warplanes made almost 1,500 strikes—including about 450 by massive B-52 bombers—against airfields, power plants, rail facilities and docks across the Hanoi-Haiphong heartland of North Vietnam last week.

The Command also reported that similar attacks are continuing, and said that another B-52 crashed Wednesday in Thailand on its way back from a mission against North Vietnam. It was the 12th B-52 the command has reported shot down since the raids began Dec. 18.

The North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Radio Hanoi, said that "many waves of B-52s" hit the Hanoi and Haiphong areas Tuesday night, causing heavy damage and casualties.

Breaking the silence it had maintained since the bombing north of the 20th Parallel resumed on Dec. 18, the command issued a sketchy 10-page outline of "targets and preliminary bomb damage assessment" for the week that ended Christmas Day.

It listed dozens of military and industrial targets, most of them concentrated in a triangle formed roughly by Hanoi, Haiphong and Kep. But it made no mention of any of the non-military targets which reports from North Vietnam said were struck by U.S. bombs over the past week—hospitals, foreign embassies in Hanoi, ships of non-combatant nations or a prison camp for U.S. prisoners of war. Nor did the list of bombed air fields include Hanoi's main civilian terminal, which sources in Saigon confirmed has been heavily damaged.

The U.S. spokesman who delivered the report, Air Force Maj. Gilbert Whiteman, said the report included only "targets for which we have received some significant bomb damage assessment," and that "other targets have been hit." He said that "we have only targeted military targets," and refused to comment on the possibility that civilian installations

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Twenty B-52s reported downed or damaged. Page A18.

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lations may have been hit by accident.

It was clear from the report, however, that the United States has been waging the most intensive bombing campaign of the war against the most heavily industrialized and densely populated area of North Vietnam, and that most advanced weapons in the U.S. bombing arsenal, short of nuclear bombs, have been used in or near areas where civilians live and work.

• In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Jerry Friedheim was asked by newsmen about Hanoi reports that a 1,000-bed hospital at Bachmai, a few miles southwest of the capital had been destroyed by U.S. bombs. He said, "We have not struck a large, 1,000-bed hospital. I have no indications of that at all."

• Friedheim stressed that all the targets in a list of 68 that he released were military ones and that he has "no reports of any collateral damage" to civilian installations. He conceded, however, that Hanoi is a city like any other, with military and civilian targets, interspersed. Where military sites were targeted, he said, he could not "rule out the possibility of other things happening."

• In a story from Hanoi for the New York Times, Telford Taylor, the chief U.S. prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, said he had seen the ruins of the hospital.

One of the targets listed was Bachmai air field near the hospital. The U.S. Command in Saigon said that "several buildings were destroyed" at the air field in addition to an adjacent barracks, "31 buildings destroyed, four buildings damaged, much of co-located military storage complex destroyed."

Although the U.S. Command has stopped giving out figures on how many bombing missions are made into North Vietnam each day, the current low level of bombing in South Vietnam is viewed here as an indication that the United States is concentrating most of its airborne weaponry on the Hanoi-Haiphong campaign.

In the 24-hour period that ended at 8 a.m. today, for example, the Command said in a separate report that the Air Force flew no tactical air missions in South Vietnam. There is little doubt about where the planes have gone.

The report issued by the Command said that in the week from Dec. 18 to Dec. 25, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps planes made "more

than 1,000 tactical strikes," and the Air Force "flew 147 B-52 missions against military targets in North Vietnam."

A "strike" consists of a single aircraft hitting what Whiteman called a "targeted installation." B-52 missions generally consist of three planes, each carrying 33,000 pounds of bombs.

Supersonic F-111s from Thailand and F-4 Phantoms were among the planes flying the tactical air strikes, the report said. These are the most sophisticated planes in the tactical air arsenal in Southeast Asia.

The report noted that "more than 600" surface-to-air missiles "were fired at U.S. aircraft" during these bombing raids, but made no mention of their effectiveness—including the downing of 12 B-52s—or of the fact that U.S. military officials here have been reporting for months that North Vietnam's SAM force had dwindled, been outwitted, or fallen into disarray.

Some of the targets struck last week had been hit, and reportedly destroyed, by U.S. "smart bombs" earlier this year, but the report did not list them separately, and Whiteman said he would not provide such a list.

Seven power plants, including those of Hanoi and Haiphong, were among the bombed facilities listed. There were eight airfields on the list, with damage reports ranging from "runway cut" at Catbi to this assessment at Hoaloc, west of Hanoi: "extensive cratering to main runway and parallel alternate runway. Two alert stands cratered at end of runway. Numerous fires and secondary explosions. Damage to military aircraft on ground."

[Pentagon sources said that one of the power generating plants knocked out was only about half a mile from the center of Hanoi.]

Among the major and most heavily damaged facilities listed were:

• The port of Hanoi where F-111s reportedly destroyed two warehouses and eight buildings, damaged 23 buildings, and caused "numerous secondary explosions."

• The Haiphong petroleum product storage area, where "numerous direct hits destroyed or damaged all buildings in area, sustained fires and explosions destroyed or damaged" 20 5,000-gallon fuel tanks.

• An installation listed as "Hanoi communications facility," hit by F-111s, B-52s and F-4s. "Numerous direct hits, concrete revetted building destroyed. Main control building

and cooling unit damaged. More than a dozen barracks and storage buildings damaged. Communications Control Center destroyed by direct guided bomb impact from a flight of U.S. Air Force F-4s."

In addition, the report listed several railroad yards, including the one just across the Red River from Hanoi at Gi Lam, as heavily damaged in the attacks, with dozens of pieces of rolling stock and buildings destroyed.

Until the resumption of the bombing north of the 20th Parallel on Dec. 18th, the U.S. Command had for six months routinely made extensive information available on the location, intensity and frequency of its bombing attacks on the North. Even when the Hanoi area was included in the strikes, the daily outpouring of releases here had included the details.

Since Dec. 18, Whiteman said today this information has been "withheld temporarily to protect the security of ongoing operations and protect the safety of crews." Asked when the next such report would be made available, he replied, "We'll just have to wait and see."

## S. Viet Plane-Kills 9 In Accidental Bombing

SAIGON, Dec. 27 (AP)—A South Vietnamese fighter-bomber accidentally dropped a bomb in a village 20 miles northeast of Saigon Wednesday, killing nine civilians and wounding 10, field reports said.

The cause of the accident was under investigation. The village is about five miles north of the Bienhoa Air Base. The F-5 plane had just taken off from the base.

At the same time, a South Vietnamese communique reported 65 ground attacks by Communist-led troops in the 24 hours ended at dawn Wednesday. All but 11 were shellings. This continued a low level of enemy activity that has persisted most of the past two months.

Military sources said an enemy company—probably 50 to 60 men—infiltrated a hamlet 80 miles northeast of Saigon and was driven out early Wednesday.

Casualties were put at seven South Vietnamese troops killed and nine wounded, two civilians killed and 15 wounded and 18 enemy killed and one captured.

On the northern front below the Demilitarized Zone, South Vietnamese marines and paratroopers with air and artillery support were reported to have killed 69 North Vietnamese troops Tuesday at a cost of five dead and 19 wounded in battles north and southwest of Quangtri.