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Hanoi Deaths Linked To Downed Bombers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon spokesman suggested today that civilian casualties in Hanoi could have been caused by shot-down U.S. bombers falling into the city or by errant North Vietnamese surface-to-air missiles striking the ground.

Spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim told a briefing he has no information to bear out published reports of deaths caused by U.S. bombs among Hanoi's population.

However, he said, "we do know of instances in which aircraft were shot down and crashed in the city and in which SAMs impacted and exploded."