

U.S. Lists Losses In Bombing Raids

SAIGON, Jan. 4 (AP)—More than 100 American casualties have been reported in Indochina since the resumption of stepped-up bombing last month, and aircraft losses now number 30, in the costliest air campaign of the war.

On the other side, Radio Hanoi claimed Thursday that 1,318 persons were killed during the B-52 raids Dec. 18-30. It said U.S. planes made more than 1,000 sorties against Hanoi, dropping 80 million pounds of bombs on the North Vietnamese capital.

The U.S. bombing continued below the 20th parallel and in other parts of Indochina, and the U.S. command said a B-52 bomber was lost to battle damage while on a mission Thursday in the southern panhandle of North Vietnam. It brought to 16 the number of the big bombers lost since Dec. 18.

In a delayed report, the command also announced the loss of the second \$15 million F-111 fighter-bomber since the stepped-up air campaign. The plane went down near Hanoi on Dec. 22. The two crewmen are listed as missing.

The latest B-52 lost was abandoned by its crew over the Gulf of Tonkin after fumes seeped into the cockpit. The plane apparently was en route to Danang. All six crewmen were rescued.

Daily communique issued by the U.S. command since the biggest aerial campaign of the war began last Dec. 18 show 97 Americans killed, captured or missing, in addition to two sailors killed aboard a 7th Fleet destroyer in the Tonkin Gulf.

A weekly casualty summary issued Thursday by the command listed 109 Americans killed, captured or missing during the two-week period ending at midnight last Saturday. Although the weekly summary gave no breakdown, command spokesmen conceded that virtually all of the casualties were the result of the air and naval campaign against North Vietnam—and a battle.]

parallel air offensive in neighboring Laos.

The majority of losses in men and planes came during the intensive bombing of North Vietnam above the 20th parallel, a tactic called off Dec. 30 by President Nixon.

The air strikes are continuing from Thanhhoa, just below the 20th parallel in North Vietnam, south to the Demilitarized Zone, in an effort to curtail the movement of North Vietnamese supplies for battlefronts in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, the U.S. command said.

Tactical fighter-bombers launched 106 strikes throughout the southern half of North Vietnam during the 24-hour period ending at dawn Thursday, it added. An additional 33 strikes were flown by B-52s.

On the ground Thursday, North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces increased their attacks to 116—the highest in two months—in what the Saigon command claims is the start of the Communist winter-spring campaign.

In one of the hottest fights reported by the Saigon command, communist forces took over a small hamlet 50 miles northwest of Saigon at midday Wednesday before being driven out Thursday morning, suffering 22 killed to eight for South Vietnam.

[In Cambodia, three persons were killed and 37 wounded when Communist rockets hit Phnom Penh airport Thursday morning, Reuter reported. One DC-3 plane and seven hangars were damaged. Cambodian officials said 20 government positions have been attacked between Phnom Penh and Takeo, 40 miles to the south, this week.

[The officials said street fighting was still raging in Tram Khnar Thursday morning. Communist guerrillas infiltrated the town, 24 miles south of Phnom Penh, during the night. The central market, a refugee village, a Buddhist pagoda and other buildings were burned during the