

# Full-Scale War Rages; 2 More Americans Die

SAIGON (AP)—Two Americans and nearly 400 North and South Vietnamese were reported killed today and Thursday in a storm of attacks across South Vietnam matched by the heaviest American air strikes in eight months.

"The war's still on," the commander of a U.S. Marine air wing commented after the death of one of his young security guards during a rocket attack on the Bien Hoa Air Base 15 miles northeast of Saigon.

Seven and a half hours after the pre-dawn attack at Bien Hoa, a second American serviceman was killed when his observation helicopter crashed in flames near Phan Thiet, on the coast 100 miles east of Saigon. U.S. officials said the helicopter apparently was shot down. A second crewman rescued suffered slight wounds, the U.S. Command said.

The Command also reported that 13 U. S. servicemen and 12 American civilian advisers and technicians working with the South Vietnamese air force were wounded in the rocket attack at Bien Hoa and another at the Da Nang Air Base.

THE SOUTH Vietnamese command said there were 112 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks during the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m., equalling the number reported during the previous 24-hour period when the United States and North Vietnam announced that fighting would stop at 8 a.m. Saigon time on Sunday, or 6 p.m. CST Saturday.

The Saigon command said in the past 24 hours 299 Communist troops and 61 of its soldiers were killed, 333 South Vietnamese soldiers were wounded and 18 were missing. This raised Vietnamese casualties on both sides reported in the two days since announcement of the cease-fire to 541 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong and 119 Saigon troops killed, 615 South Vietnamese wounded and 34 missing.

The U.S. casualties today were the first reported since the cease-fire announcement.

The U.S. Command reported that American fighter-bombers flew 407 strikes against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong positions in South Vietnam

during the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. today. A spokesman said it was the largest number of such strikes in South Vietnam since last May 28, at the height of the North Vietnamese offensive.

U.A. B52 bombers flew 80 strikes, the Command said, dropping about 2,400 tons of explosives.

About 75 per cent of the enemy attacks were made with artillery, rockets and mortars.

The most spectacular attacks were against Bien Hoa before dawn and a rare daylight shelling of Da Nang just before noon. A score or more 122mm rockets hit each base and adjoining populated areas, the Saigon command said.

Headquarters reported no Vietnamese military casualties at Da Nang but said nine civilians were killed, 12 were wounded and four homes were destroyed. Two U.S. Marine F4 Phantom fighter-bombers were damaged slightly, the U.S. Command said.

AT BIEN HOA, one Vietnamese was killed and 10 were wounded. One South Vietnamese F5 fighter-bomber was destroyed and one U.S. AC119 gunship was damaged.

Several rockets crashed into a barracks housing the American civilians who were injured.

Two small attacks were reported in the immediate Saigon area. Terrorists fired a rocket grenade into a police station on the outskirts of the city and shelled Nha Be, a district town nine miles to the south. One policeman was wounded.

The heaviest fighting as usual occurred in the northern provinces between the demilitarized zone and south of Da Nang, although scores of smaller skirmishes were reported in the Mekong Delta south of Saigon.

Allied officers said the Communist command had intensified its attacks in an attempt to gain military and political leverage before the cease-fire takes effect. The North Vietnamese army newspaper, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, accused the Americans and South Vietnamese of doing the same thing.