

SFChronicle  
MAY 19 1973

# U.S. Bars Newsmen From Thai Bases

## Bangkok

The American Military Command in Thailand, upon orders from the Pentagon, has not allowed correspondents to visit U.S. bases in Thailand since the Vietnam cease-fire January 28.

This was admitted here by Colonel Robert Burke, who headed the U.S. military press division in Saigon before taking over in a similar role here in April.

With no officially sanctioned contact between American correspondents and about 45,000 U.S. servicemen in Thailand for the past four months, the Air Force has been able to hide details of its bombing efforts in support of embattled allies in Cambodia and Laos.

The occasional resumption of brief strikes in Laos, of reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam and, during the past month, of heavy aerial support of troops has all originated from U.S. bases in Thailand.

There is no evidence here

that U.S. warplanes have also hit North Vietnam and Viet Cong-held areas in South Vietnam, as claimed by Hanoi.

However, in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh it was learned that all of northeast Cambodia next to the South Vietnamese border is regarded as "free fire zone" by Thai-based jet fighter-bombers and accidental forays across the border could have occurred.

*L.A. Times Service*