

A \$700 Fine for The B-52 Error

Andersen AFB, Guam

The radar navigator of a B-52 bomber that accidentally bombed the Cambodian town of Neak Luong earlier this month has been fined \$700 and reprimanded, the Air Force said yesterday.

Three other officers also were disciplined after an investigation into the August accident in which 137 persons were killed and 268 wounded.

A spokesman for the Eighth Air Force said Captain Prince A. Brumfield was ordered to forfeit \$350 salary for two months and given a letter of reprimand.

Brumfield, who is based at McCoy Air Force Base in Florida, will also face a flying evaluation board to determine whether he is fit

for future missions, the spokesman said.

Other officers disciplined are Major Donald R. Fair of Carswell Air Force Base in Texas, the B-52's commander, and the plane's navigator, Lieutenant George E. Tindell of the McCoy base. Both received letters of admonishment. Fair will also face an evaluation board.

A letter of reprimand also was given to Captain John C. Dow of March Air Force Base in Riverside, an instructor pilot on a B-52 flying ahead of the one involved in the accidental bombing. The spokesman said Dow was reprimanded for failing to relay a message to the errant B-52 advising the plane it may have been out of position when it released the bombs over Neak Luong.

The Air Force said the records of the Strategic and the Tactical Air Commands do not indicate any previous punishment has ever been handed down for a bombing error in the Indochina War.

(The Pentagon said Friday in Washington that the B-52s were making an "offset" bombing run, meaning they followed a radio beacon 7.5 miles from the target that require the radar navigator to flip a switch to tell the B-52 computer to offset its course so the bomber would be guided right over the target.

(The radar-navigator failed to flip the switch and the plane followed the radio beacon to Neak Luong and dropped part of its 13,500-pound load of bombs).

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