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U.S. Starts B-52 Pullout

From Big Thailand Base

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U TAPHAO AIR BASE, Thailand, May 15 (AP) — Three B-52 bombers left here for the United States today, beginning the first withdrawal of the big planes from Thailand since the Vietnam cease-fire agreement.

Thai officials said that about half of the 50 B-52's would be gone by the end of the year, along with 175 other planes, leaving about 350 American military aircraft.

The number of United States servicemen, most of them with the Air Force, will decline from 34,000 to 27,000; it was 45,000 last July.