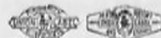


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## Vietnamese Village Sifted For Victims Of Tiger Crash

DA NANG, South Vietnam (AP) — U.S. Marines poked through wrecked homes of a Vietnamese village this Christmas Day looking for more dead in the crash of an American cargo plane.

The crash Saturday night claimed the lives of at least 91 villagers in Binh Thai, one mile south of the Da Nang Marine air base. More than 40 villagers were injured. Earlier reports said 125 were killed but the U.S. Command said there had been duplications in these reports.

Also dying in the crash were the four crew members of the CL44 four-engine turbo-prop plane of the Flying Tiger Airline. The plane, flying under a military charter, cut a 200-yard-long path through the village when it crashed while attempting a landing at the Da Nang air base in a driving rain.

U.S. investigators said the plane should have been 400 or more feet above the village during the ground-controlled landing approach. They said more

information would be needed to explain the cause of the crash.

The still-smouldering wreckage of the thatched-roof village Sunday morning was a scene of family tragedy. A Vietnamese woman wept near her shattered home. A middle-aged man, next to his half-destroyed house, told investigators seven members of his family were killed.

The crash, at 7:15 p.m., came just about the time the villagers were finishing their evening meal and, as customary, were seated in family gatherings or visiting neighbors.

Strwn about in a jumble of wreckage were clothing, furniture, bicycles, pieces of roofing and food and kitchen utensils.

Authorities said about 20 Vietnamese villagers were taken by helicopter to the U.S. naval hospital in Da Nang and the Da Nang municipal hospital. U.S. doctors treated more than a score of others at the scene for lesser injuries.

U.S. civic affairs teams moved through the disaster

scene distributing clothing and food and arranging for emergency housing of the surviving villagers.

U.S. authorities said plans were being made to rebuild the wrecked homes and compensate the families of the crash victims.

Authorities said the plane was attempting its second approach at the time of the crash. The accident occurred half a mile from the scene of a crash of a Marine jet fighter-bomber last August which claimed the lives of 30 Vietnamese civilians and injured 15 others.

Investigators said three bodies of the plane's crew had been recovered and a search was continuing for the fourth. The Flying Tiger line identified the crew members as Capt. Frank Hawkins, 50, the pilot, of Sparta, N.J.; Michael Jackson, 23, copilot, of Redwood City, Calif.; flight engineer Lloyd Moore, 45, of Turlock, Calif.; and navigator C. G. Tune, 32, of Santa Monica, Calif.



SIFT PLANE'S DEBRIS — U. S. Marines sift through the still-smouldering debris early Sunday of an American cargo plane that crashed into Vietnamese village just south of the Da Nang airbase Saturday night. The worst plane

disaster of the Vietnamese war, it claimed the four crew members, 91 Vietnamese civilians and injured more than 40 villagers.

(AP Wirephoto by radio from Saigon)