

VIETNAM

ĐÀ NẰNG AIR BASE

U.S. Forces Bomb Đà Nẵng AB!

Jan 8, 1973

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366th Security Police Squadron

1972-1973

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United States planes bomb North Vietnam below 20th parallel. Five American planes accidentally bomb US's Danang Air Force Base in South Vietnam. 10 Americans wounded.

[News, The Day After Bombing](#)

N. Vietnam forms anti-aircraft units in expectation of further bombing

SAIGON AP — North Vietnam announced Monday that hundreds of anti-aircraft units have been formed by the home guard and militia in the Hanoi and Haiphong regions, the main targets of last month's massive U.S. air raids.

The announcement, broadcast by Hanoi radio, suggested the North Vietnamese are expecting new air attacks north of the 20th Parallel if the peace talks just resumed in Paris break down again. President Nixon stopped the bombing north of the parallel on Dec. 30, in a step obviously tied to resumption of the peace negotiations.

Radio Hanoi said the new anti-aircraft units were being formed to "deal more stunning blows to the U.S. air marauders." The official government radio added that "more artillery units have been set up in Hai Hung and Ha Bac provinces" — west and north-east of Haiphong — by militia forces.

In Saigon, the U.S. Command announced that five American tactical fighter bombers accidentally bombed Da Nang air base Monday, resulting in injuries to 10 Americans and a South Vietnamese base guard.

The American casualties in-

cluded eight servicemen and two civilians, the Command said. The accidental attack damaged about half a dozen U. S. AC119 twin-engine gunships and a helicopter. Four 40-foot fuel tanks also were destroyed in the bombing.


Earlier, the command had reported that the explosions that rocked the air base shortly after dawn were the result of an enemy rocket attack. Seven hours later, that report was withdrawn.

The command then announced that an investigation showed that five Air Force, Navy and Marine fighter-bombers, "flying above a heavy overcast, accidentally

dropped 34 500-pound bombs at Da Nang air base."

The command said it was not known what caused the accident, which still is being investigated, but other sources said it was the result of pilot error apparently compounded by the overcast skies. The intended target was suspected North Vietnamese and Viet Cong positions near Da Nang.

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U.S. Warplanes Bomb Da Nang



One tank exploded.

Nine Americans were injured and three petroleum tanks set ablaze when U. S. warplanes mistakenly attacked Da Nang Air Base. Firefighters were left to battle the blaze Monday night. Two other tanks were scorched by the flames. (UPI Telephoto)

He got blown off of a fork lift while he was changing light bulbs in a warehouse until the earth moved under him

SAIGON (UPI) — The United States Monday sent more than 165 U.S. warplanes to attack targets in the southern part of North Vietnam, below the 20th parallel bomb line drawn by President Nixon during the Paris peace talks which resumed half-a-world away.

Five fighter-bombers accidentally bombed the Da Nang Air Base in an apparent navigational error during the attacks north and south of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), military sources said.

The U.S. command reported that its fighter-bombers made 124 single-plane sorties into North Vietnam's Panhandle in the 24 hours ending early Monday and there were 15 B52 missions into the same area during the same period. Each B52 mission is at least three and as many as 20 planes.

Nineteen waves of B52s struck targets in South Vietnam, 14 of them in the Kontum area of the Central Highlands, where North Vietnamese troops are believed to be massing for a major attack, the command reported.

Nine Americans and a Vietnamese woman civilian were injured in the accidental attack on Da Nang, 370 miles northeast of Saigon, UPI correspondent Kenneth F. Englade reported. He said the most seriously injured was an American who broke both ankles scrambling for safety.

A UH1 Huey helicopter suffered minor damage and three fuel storage tanks, each capable of holding half a million gallons of petroleum, were set afire. Two other tanks were scorched by the flames.

Englade said the three tanks continued to burn Monday night, more than 12 hours after the bombing.

Englade was at the base at the time of the bombing and said everyone thought the explosions were caused by Communist rockets. A U.S. air cavalry unit sent a helicopter to look for launching sites. He said no one heard the planes fly over and he could only find one American who actually heard the falling bombs.

A sailor said, "It sounded like an F8 (Crusader fighter) coming over." Another said, "It didn't sound like a rocket. It whistled."

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