

Air Force Bombards North Of Saigon To Blunt Viet Strikes

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SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Air Force B52s blasted an arc about 80 miles north of Saigon with up to 750 tons of explosives Monday in a move to blunt an expected new round of enemy strikes.

The U.S. Command said the eight-engine planes flew five missions against "enemy activity, base camps, bunkers, supply and staging area" close to the Cambodian border.

All the raids were within 10 miles of the key district capital of Loc Ninh, scene of bitter fighting when the Communist command kicked off its fall campaign Aug. 11-12.

On the ground, two bloody battles flared late Monday south of Da Nang in the area that has seen the heaviest recent fighting.

US Kill 74

Soldiers of the U.S. Americal Division's 196th Light Infantry Brigade were reported to have killed 74 enemy in one fight 30 miles south of Da Nang, suffering one killed and 49 wounded.

U.S. Marines lost 11 killed and 41 wounded in another clash

only two miles away, said U.S. headquarters. Enemy losses there were unknown.

Fighting in the area had died down over the weekend after a series of bitter engagements last week, and field officers had said they believed the North Vietnamese had pulled back to regroup and resupply.

In the same general area, to the west of Tam Ky, South Vietnamese soldiers were reported to have found about 100 enemy dead Monday, apparent victims of air strikes several days earlier.

B52 bombers carried out eight more air strikes overnight northwest of Saigon.

The concentrated pounding of a known major enemy infiltration corridor leading from Cambodia was prompted by indications that the enemy plans to launch another series of attacks around Sept. 1.