

23Oct72 Bombing Halt

The U.S. ended all tactical air [TACAIR] sorties into North Vietnam (above the 20th parallel) and brought to a close Operation Linebacker 1.

This gesture of ‘good will’ in terminating the bombing above the 20th parallel was designed to help promote the peace negotiations being held in Paris.

US tactical air sorties during Linebacker 1 operations helped to stem the flow of supplies (south); thereby, limiting the operating capabilities and effectiveness of North Vietnam's army.

The destruction of key LOCs in the north during LB-1 (mainly bridges) was the *pivotal factor during LB-2.

The PAVN never ran out of SA-2 SAMs ...full-up SAMs were still being assembled in Hà Nội and Hải Phòng depot warehouses during LB-2; however, with bridges bombed out during LB-1 TACAIR strikes, PAVN SA-2 logisticians could not cross rivers and valleys to deliver SA-2 replenishments to their ‘Winchester’ SAM battalions.

14 PAVN SA-2 launch batteries fired 266 SA-2 missiles during Operation LB-2, before going C-4 ‘Winchester’.

GAME ~ SET ~ MATCH

So, did SAC B-52s end the DRV's ability to prosecute Việt Nam's reunification during LB-2 ...or, was it actually 7/13th AF TACAIR's destruction of bridging LOCs during LB-1 that changed the course of history?