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focus 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, SEPTEMBER 9--The "black noodle" has joined the electronic exotica used by the Allies to defend Saigon and other major South Vietnamese cities. Still highly-classified, the "black noodle" (bunden in Vietnamese) as Vietnamese officers call it, is an electronic sensor used to detect Communist movements along ~~the~~ sparsely populated "corridors of infiltration" leading to Saigon and other major cities. The kinky, wire-type device is as long as spaghetti--about two-feet--but is as thin as vermicelli--the ~~circum~~ circumference of a pinhead. Millions have been dropped from helicopters along ~~non-populated paths~~ remote paths and streams, ~~the~~ once the rubber-tire sandals or jungle boots of the Communist troops unknowingly squash the black ~~noodle~~ noodle, the sensor emits electronic signals that are received on a recording screen manned by American Vietnamese Special Forces soldiers, who have also been dropped into the area. The device has also been implanted around <sup>some</sup> Special Forces camps and seems to have been particularly effective in forewarning the Communist attacks on Katum, a remote ~~the~~ Green Beret camp in Tay Ninh province near the Cambodia border that was targeted when the Communist third ~~offensive~~ offensive began August 18.

== end reuter