

2020 sag

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focus 2 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, APRIL 15—^{of} ^{in support of} In seventy days, American aircraft dropped 95,000 tons of bombs around the Khe Sanh combat base—a tonnage equivalent of nearly five atomic bombs of Hiroshima vintage. More tonnage was dropped in support of Khe Sanh than was dropped by all Allied aircraft ~~during World War II~~ on Europe in 1942 and 1943 combined, and more than all the conventional ordnance (excluding the atomic bombs) than was dropped on ~~in~~ Japan ⁱⁿ throughout World War II. The support of Khe Sanh from ~~Jan 2~~ January 21, when the siege began, to March 31, when the ground ^{AMERICAN} offensive began, represented one-fifth of the tonnage of ~~Allied~~ bombers during all of the Korean War.

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focus 3 (normass/deepe)

U. S. Air Force, Navy and Marine ~~tactical~~ tactical aircraft flew 21,890 individual strike sorties—one plane on one strike. The giant eight-engine B-52's few 425 millions missions, varying between ^{WERE} three to twelve aircraft per mission. B-52 sorties are not released.

Because of the devastation to the green hills and surrounding jungles, Khe Sanh became known to Air Force as "the Big Red Scar," as more and more red clay was churned up. ~~the~~

The B-52 missions marked the first in the Vietnam war—and in history—SAC bombers were used ^{MASSIVE HAND} for tactical support of ground troops on such a ~~sustained~~ sustained basis. The Marines in Khe Sanh, while under siege, called the B-52 raids "the No. 1 song on our hit parade. That's really sweet ~~music~~ music." The low rumble, the whirring of the bombs, the shaking hills—sometimes only 1500 meters from the Marine frontlines—caused one low-ranking American Air Force officer to comment, "This really is something historic for me...to see a B-52 ² raid a raid so close to human beings. Even Air Force generals have never seen this."