



Vietnamese authorities look over rubble scattered on the ground outside the Tan Son Nhut Airport terminal after the building was shattered by a Viet Cong bomb. At least 46 persons, including 36 U.S. servicemen, were injured. (AP Radiophoto)

HIT DURING SAFETY LECTURE

46 Americans Injured in Airport Blast



Officials look over the bomb-shattered interior of the Tan Son Nhut airport terminal building. The explosion ripped a hole in the roof and filled the building with flying glass and debris. (AP Radiophoto)

SAIGON (UPI)—About 100 newly-arrived U.S. servicemen were getting a safety lecture at Tan Son Nhut Airport Wednesday when the terminal was shattered by a Viet Cong bomb.

They had arrived by plane two hours earlier and were being advised on what areas of Saigon were considered unsafe when the blast shook the lecture room.

"It sort of shook me up, happening so soon after we arrived," said one sailor, SK3 Richard Mellen, 21, of Victory Mills, N.Y.

A U.S. military spokesman said 10 to 20 pounds of explosive detonated on a balcony overlooking the waiting room injured at least 46 persons, including 36 American servicemen.

Most of the injuries were due to flying glass.

Ten servicemen and five civilian airport employees were hospitalized.

The explosion went off at 9:40 a.m., barely 20 minutes too late to catch another group of servicemen checking through for a homeward bound commercial charter flight.

It ripped a six-foot hole in the roof of the waiting room and filled the area with flying glass and debris. The two-story airport terminal was extensively remodeled only last year. It is used for both civilian and military traffic.

Pacific Stars and Stripes
Jun 18, 1965, page 8