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S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — South Vietnamese troops killed 53 Communists in scattered fighting Tuesday, ARVN spokesmen reported.

Twenty-two enemy soldiers were killed Tuesday when they clashed with two regional forces companies operating 138 miles southwest of Saigon, an ARVN spokesman reported.

The RF militiamen, supported by artillery and tactical air strikes, suffered no casualties, the spokesman said.

A company of the ARVN 1st Inf. Div. destroyed 20 enemy fortifications and killed 13 Communists while on an operation just west of Hue, the Vietnamese command said.

An RF company, operating 62 miles northwest of Saigon, killed nine enemy soldiers in one contact while soldiers of the ARVN 51st Inf. Regt. killed nine members of a Communist unit operating in Quang Nam Province.

American combat activity continued light and scattered Tuesday, the U.S. command reported.

The pilot of a U.S. Air Force A1 Skyraider was killed when his craft crashed five and a half miles north-northeast of A Luoi in Thua Thien Province, a U.S. spokesman said.

The cause of the crash, which destroyed the aircraft, was not known, he said.

Americal Div. units discovered about 11 tons of rice in four caches in Quang Ngai Province, a division spokesman said.

A recon platoon from the 198th Inf. Brigade found 13,000 pounds of rice south of Chu Lai while an element of the 11th Brigade uncovered two caches amounting to 8,800 pounds of rice in the lowlands north of Duc Pho, the spokesman said.

Another Americal unit found 400 pounds of unpolished rice south of Chu Lai.

U.S. sources said two Americans were killed and eight wounded in mine and booby trap incidents in Quang Ngai and Phuoc Tuy Provinces.

A Korean spokesman said ROK forces had no enemy contact during a 24-hour period ending early Wednesday.

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