

Reader Gives War Reasons

To the Editor:

Americans wonder, as casualties mount in the war of Vietnam, why we cannot beat a band of starving guerrillas in a nation the size of Missouri. Here are six reasons:

1. U.S. Air Force B-52's regularly drop bomb loads a fraction of the size they are capable of carrying.

2. Bombers raiding North Vietnam are restricted to a specified route, so well known to the enemy that it has earned the nickname "Slaughter Alley."

3. Attacks on targets along the famous Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, chief supply route to the Viet Cong, must be confined to an area within 204 feet of the trail.

4. No matter how superficial they may appear, all villages are immune from attack (The enemy is building what look like the roofs of huts from the air over his supply trucks to create "instant villages" in emergencies).

5. North Vietnamese Air Force MIG's may not be attacked on the ground, but have to be in the air and attacking.

6. In most cases, American troops cannot fire upon the enemy without first being fired upon.

What kind of a war is this?

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