

14 Die, 30 Hurt In Crash of C123 At Viet Airstrip

SAIGON (AP)—A U.S. Air Force C123 Provider with 40 passengers and 4 crewmen aboard crashed Tuesday a mile and a half south of Chu Lai.

The U.S. Command said first reports indicated 14 persons were killed and most of the 30 others aboard were injured.

An Air Force spokesman said the twin-engined transport cart-wheeled and burst into flames minutes after taking off from the Chu Lai airstrip 58 miles south of Da Nang.

"An investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of the accident," the spokesman said.

Names of the victims were withheld pending notification of kin.

The spokesman said 10 of the survivors suffered burns and three were in serious condition. The others suffered scratches and bruises as they were thrown or crawled free of the wreckage. All aboard were believed to be Americans.

"We don't know if it was hit by enemy ground fire or not," the spokesman said. "It had just taken off and it would have been easy to hit at that low an