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BEQ Blast Injures 5 In Saigon

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — Five American sailors were injured late Saturday night, two seriously, when a fragmentation grenade exploded in a seventh floor room at the Le Lai bachelor enlisted quarters near Saigon's Central Market.

Witnesses said that five minutes before the explosion some sailors playing cards in the room had quarrelled with two other sailors who wanted to get into the game.

The triggering mechanism of a fragmentation grenade was found inside the room, according to military sources. Military authorities were reportedly hunting for one suspect.

Chief Petty Officer James A. Poland, who said he lived in the room torn apart in the blast, said the two men involved in the quarrel were both Seabees.

Poland said he was in the bathroom when he heard the explosion. He said when he entered the main room he saw the five injured men lying bleeding on the floor.