

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROSTOW

In regard to the article in the New York Times this morning stating that statistics indicate the burden of fighting has passed ~~indecisively~~ to the Americans, I have assembled the following charts:

1. US and GVN Force Strength
2. US and GVN KIA
3. US and GVN KIA per Corps Area
4. Ratio of GVN KIA/MIA/Cap to US KIA
per 1,000 OB
5. GVN KIA/MIA/Cap and US KIA
per 1,000 OB

The figures used in the Times article are essentially correct, i.e., there have been more US casualties in May and June than GVN, so I don't think we can argue statistical data with them -- the only thing we can do is try to find fault with the conclusions.

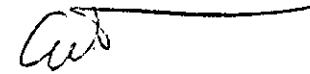
The following facts stand out to me:

1. On a per 1,000 OB basis, they could have written the same article at this time last year, i.e., proportionately there were more US casualties than GVN casualties during the same period.
2. GVN casualties have remained rather stationary, as has their force strength, while US casualties have increased in about the same line as the US force strength.

3. In May and June, almost 50 percent of the US casualties were suffered in the First Corps area, reflecting the heavy fighting between US and North Vietnamese forces along the DMZ.

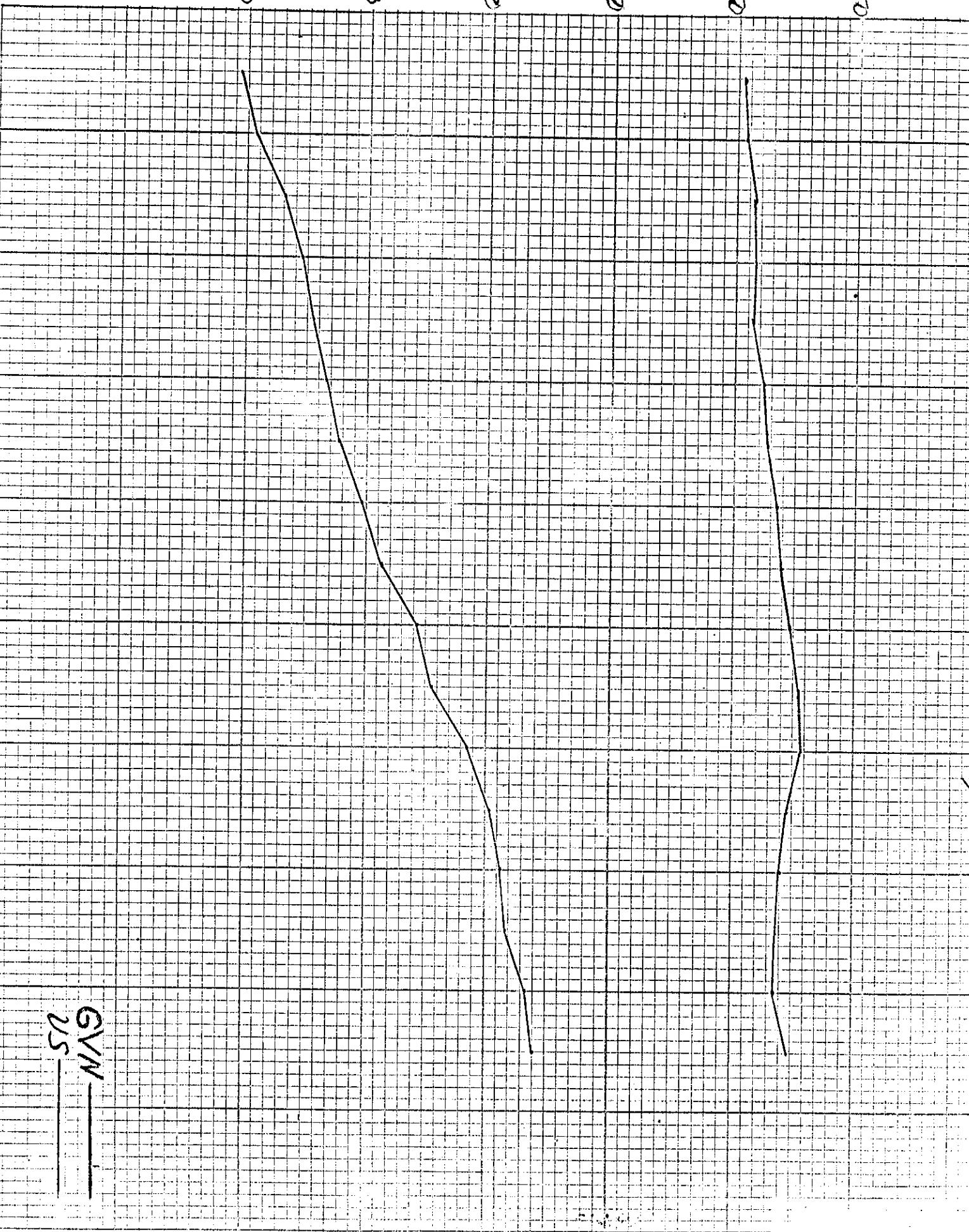
4. Another factor that enters into this would be the increased movement of ARVN forces into the pacification program -- now involving 55 of the 154 RVNAF battalions (some 22 of these are in the First Corps). This GVN effort is still an unknown quantity since they have admittedly not yet gotten off the ground in the pacification work. How this will go in the future will be hard to foretell, but it is possible that with the VC emphasis on RD teams ^{and} in the pacification effort, the GVN forces involved will start taking a large share of the action, especially if the enemy Main Forces resist combat for any extensive period.

I am not sure this effort of mine will help you, but I think it does show some interesting facts and, as was said this morning, you can take any statistics for any particular period and write the story you want. But, as our statistics show, you must look at it over a long-range period and not just for one month or two months. If I had been projecting statistics on the basis of figures of last May and June, I think I may have written the same story. But, as the remainder of the year demonstrated, it would not have been true.

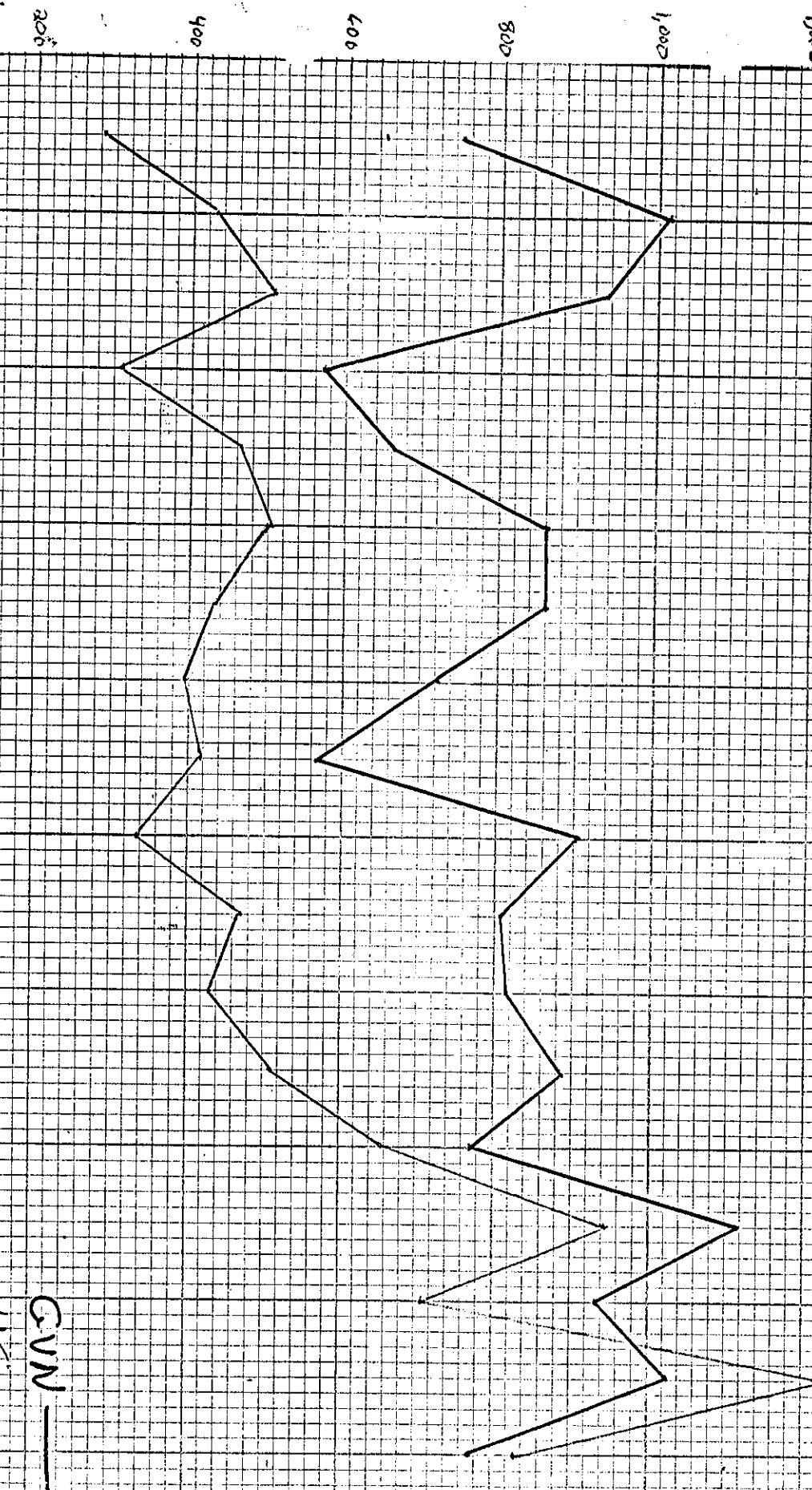

Art McCafferty

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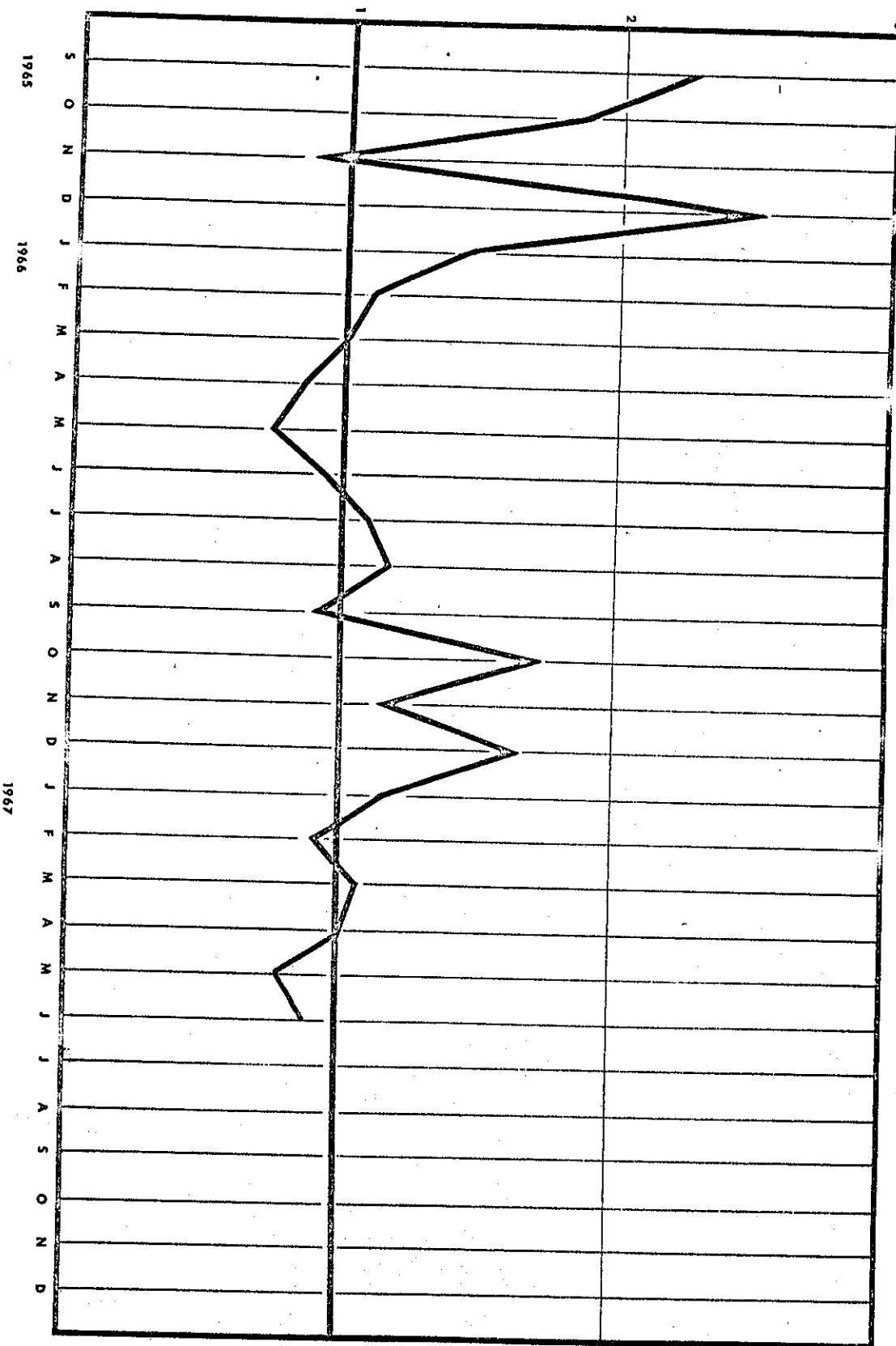
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Ratio GVN KIA/MIA/Cap to US KIA
Per 1,000 OB



GVN KIA/MIA/Cap and US KIA

Per 1,000 OB

