

Wednesday, November 1, 1967
9:15 a. m.

MR. PRESIDENT:

Pres file

Herewith the information you requested on South Vietnamese casualties, broken down by:

- regular forces (ARVN);
- regional forces;
- popular forces.

Broadly speaking, in the past, regular forces operated throughout one of the four corps areas; regional forces operated throughout a province; popular forces were tied to the defense of a hamlet or village, dealing with attacks by local guerrillas.

As you know, a considerable proportion of the regular forces have been assigned to regular security duty in connection with pacification. Regular forces also include air force and navy units, plus forces assigned to certain static defense tasks with respect to security of major urban areas.

As the summary sheet reveals, the casualties taken by regular forces, in relation to their numbers, are not much out of proportion: 46% to 54%. The popular forces do take casualties disproportionate to their numbers: 35% to 23%. This is because VC tactics consist often in concentrating in secret a sizable force and then jumping a village or hamlet under circumstances where the VC have initial tactical superiority. The popular forces then call in aircraft and other support, but bear the brunt of the initial engagement.

W. W. R.

Attachments

800

South Vietnamese Military Order of Battle as of September 1967

	(in thousands)	Percent of Total
Regular	332.5	54
Regional	144.3	23
Popular	141.4	23

Killed in first half of 1967 in:

	<u>Rate per 1,000 OB</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
Regular	7.8	46
Regional	7.4	19
Popular	13.6	35

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RVNAP CASUALTIES
(Regular, Popular and Regional Forces -
By RVN Corps Area)

		1965				1966				1967														
		3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	Jul	Aug	Sep	3rd Qtr	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qtr	Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Qtr	Apr	May	Jun	2nd Qtr	1st Half	Jul	Aug
COUNTRYWIDE																								
REGULAR FORCES																								
KIA	1247	1541	1107	884	346	257	270		873	331	322													
MIA	2747	3764	3151	2693	811	736	768		2315	1118	994	326	979	338	347	482	1167	577	530					
MIA/CAPT	242	555	225	103	39	20	56		115	38	26	227	3017	933	1172	1526	3631	1670	1862					
TOTAL	4236	5860	4483	3680	1196	1013	1094		3303	1487	1342	1458	4287	1290	1553	2152	4995	2268	2431	269	1376	2543	340	383
REGIONAL FORCES																								
KIA	585	755	786	452	212	181	96		489	188	164	202	4287	1290	1553	2152	4995	2268	2431	1249	5948	10943	1600	1720
MIA	1196	1255	1103	879	393	274	248		915	335	363	422	554	222	191	213	626	122	133	166	421	1047	146	205
MIA/CAPT	205	313	329	170	52	126	4		182	58	44	45	147	436	488	570	1494	347	398	421	1166	2660	369	465
TOTAL	1986	2323	2218	1501	657	581	348		1586	581	571	669	1821	707	716	909	2332	519	590	616	1725	4057	553	712
POPULAR FORCES																								
KIA	789	938	809	759	303	291	195		789	392	320	286	998	326	239	427	992	236	365	336	937	1929	179	265
MIA	1517	1714	1262	1206	435	482	483		1400	626	576	524	1726	667	464	690	1821	474	568	725	1767	3588	355	493
MIA/CAPT	754	803	635	237	151	62	117		330	126	131	66	323	97	85	197	379	64	50	106	220	599	34	75
TOTAL	3060	3455	2706	2202	889	835	795		2519	1144	1027	876	3047	1090	788	1314	3192	774	983	1167	2924	6116	568	833
TOTALS																								
KIA	2621	3234	2702	2095	861	729	561		2151	911	806	814	2531	886	777	1122	2785	935	1028	771	2734	5519	665	853
MIA	5460	6733	5516	4778	1639	1492	1499		4630	2072	1933	1851	5856	2036	2124	2786	6946	2491	2828	2122	7441	14387	1932	2280
MIA/CAPT	1201	1671	1189	510	242	208	177		627	222	201	338	761	165	156	467	788	135	148	139	422	1210	124	132
GRAND TOTAL																								
	9282	11638	9407	7383	2742	2429	2237		7408	3215	2940	3003	9148	3087	3057	4375	10519	3561	4004	3032	10597	21116	2721	3265

a/ Data are from DIA worksheets based on USMACV Military Report for period July 1 - September 30, 1967, on USMACV Weekly Summary and OPRP-5 for period September 1 - 30, 1967.

a/ Data are from DIA worksheets based on USMACV Military Report for period July 1 - September 25 and on USMACV Weekly Summary and OPREP-5 for period September 25 to present.