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46 Per Cent, Army Study Says

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# More Vietnam GIs Using Pot

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LONG BINH, Vietnam—The percentage of GIs in Vietnam using marijuana increased from 31.7 to 46 per cent over the two-year period from 1967 to 1969, according to sample studies, informed sources disclosed here Monday.

Although they said data available is insufficient, informed sources seem convinced drug use is an ill-defined problem here and are grappling with it now in both sociological and legal terms.

The sources also said field commanders have reported no adverse effects on their units' operational capabilities and said military police authorities say they have found no reported crimes attributed to the use of drugs.

A 1967 study of soldiers ranked E-2 through E-6 who were leaving Vietnam showed 31.7 per cent used marijuana, the sources said. A similar study in 1969 showed 46 per cent had used marijuana.

A third study done in the spring of this

year of 1,064 members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade revealed 68 per cent had tried marijuana at least once, sources reported.

Twenty-two per cent of the GIs sampled in the 173rd first tried marijuana in Vietnam.

In the two earlier studies 19 per cent of the GIs had become acquainted with marijuana in Vietnam, statistics show.

The studies done by two Army psychiatrists reveal the typical drug user in 1967 was a 22-year-old white Protestant, a draftee and either a field soldier or a support troop, while the typical user two years later was also a draftee, 21, often dissatisfied with his job and the Army.

Other drugs also are used, sources said, though to a lesser degree.

They said commanders were encouraged in October 1969 to adopt an amnesty program to help on a one-time basis the drug user who wants help. Sources said little is known of the program's success to date, although they said there have been individual successes. If the user does not stay off drugs, commanders are urged to take

prompt action to discharge him or begin legal proceedings against him, sources said.

They describe those who seek amnesty as persons having previously shown indications of maladjustment or immaturity and see drug abuse as an attempt to escape frustration or depression and reject conventional standards.

Soldiers convicted of drug offenses under an article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice written in 1951 can draw a dishonorable discharge, total forfeiture of pay and allowances, reduction in rank, plus a 10-year maximum sentence for those involved with hard drugs, five years for marijuana and two years for barbiturates and amphetamines, sources said.

Little rehabilitation is available in stockades in Vietnam, although serious medical cases are transferred to hospitals, they said.

Informed sources point to better results by military police in finding and confiscating drugs in recent months but indicated help from the Vietnamese authorities is sometimes less than desired because marijuana growing has become a part of the Vietnamese economy even though it is also illegal in Vietnam.