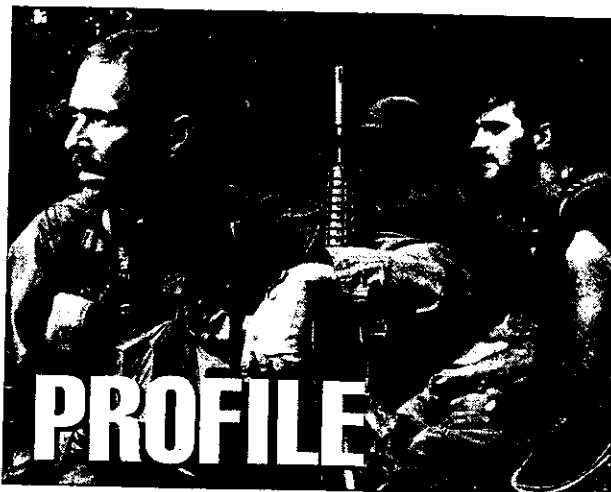


VIETNAM WARRIORS: A STATISTICAL PROFILE



Men of B Co.,
4th Bn., 31st
Inf., Americal
Div. in the
Hiep Duc
Valley. Photo
by Sp4 Bob
Hodierne/
U.S. Army

Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports.

In Uniform and In Country

- Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.
- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975).
- 8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964 – March 28, 1973).
- • 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- • 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 – March 28, 1973).
- Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- Of the 2.6 million, between 1 and 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- • Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

Casualties

- • Hostile deaths: 47,359
- • Non-hostile deaths: 10,797
- • Total: 58,156 (included men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). 27 other men have died of wounds, bringing the total to 58,183.
 - 8 nurses died — 1 was KIA.
 - Married men killed: 17,539
 - 61% of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.

- Highest state death rate: West Virginia — 84.1 (national average 58.9 for every 100,000 males in 1970).

- Wounded: 303,704 — 153,329 hospitalized + 150,375 injured who required no hospital care.

- Severely disabled: 75,000 — 23,214 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.

- Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.

- Missing in Action: 2,338
- Prisoners of War: 766 (114 died in captivity).

Draftees vs. Volunteers

- 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII.)

- Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.
- Reservists killed: 5,977
- National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.

Race and Ethnic Background

- • 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.

- • 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.
- 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.

- xxx • 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.
- 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat

deaths were among blacks.

- 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.
- Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.

Socio-Economic Status

- 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.

- Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.

- Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.

- 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation.)

Winning & Losing

- 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.

- Nearly 75% of the general public agrees that it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

Age & Honorable Service

- Average age of the Vietnam War GI: 19 (26 for WWII).

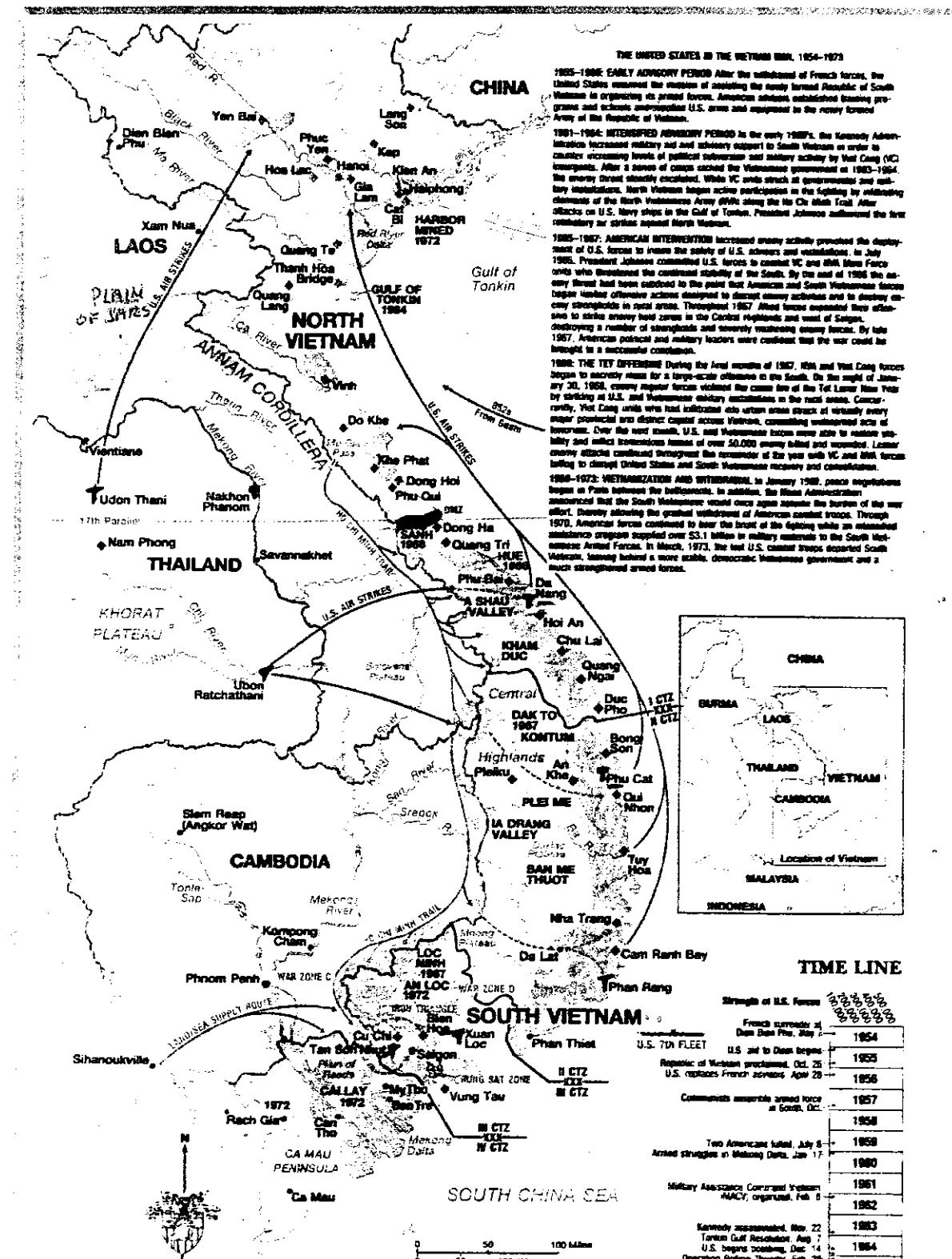
- 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.

Pride in Service

- 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.

- 66% of Vietnam vets say they would serve again if called upon.

- 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.



THE UNITED STATES IN THE VIETNAM WAR, 1954-1973

1954-1960: EARLY ADVISORY PERIOD After the withdrawal of French forces, the United States assumed the mission of assisting the newly formed Republic of South Vietnam in organizing its armed forces. American advisors established training programs and schools unopposed U.S. arms and equipment to the newly formed Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

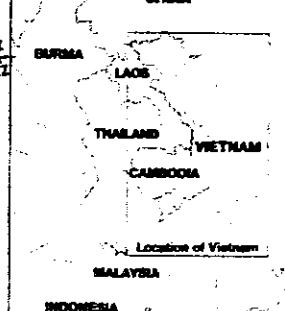
1961-1964: INTENSIFIED ADVISORY PERIOD In the early 1960s, the Kennedy Administration increased military aid and advisory support to South Vietnam in order to counter increasing levels of political subversion and military activity by Viet Cong (VC) insurgents. After a series of coups ousted the Vietnamese government in 1963-1964, the enemy threat steadily escalated. While VC units struck at government and military installations, North Vietnamese began active participation in the fighting by infiltrating elements of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. After attacks on U.S. Navy ships in the Gulf of Tonkin, President Johnson authorized the first retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnam.

1965-1967: AMERICAN INTERVENTION Increased enemy activity prompted the deployment of U.S. forces to insure the safety of U.S. advisors and installations. In July 1965, President Johnson committed U.S. forces to combat VC and NVA. Many French units who threatened the continued stability of the South. By the end of 1965 the enemy threat had been confined to the point that American and South Vietnamese forces began limited offensive actions designed to disrupt enemy activities and to destroy enemy strongholds in rural areas. Throughout 1967, American forces expanded these offensive to strike enemy held zones in the Central Highlands and west of Saigon, destroying a number of sanctuaries and severely weakening enemy forces. By late 1967, American political and military leaders were confident that the war could be brought to a successful conclusion.

1968: THE TET OFFENSIVE During the final months of 1967, NVA and Viet Cong forces began to secretly move for a large-scale offensive in the South. On the night of January 30, 1968, these forces attacked the command line of the Tet Lunar New Year by striking at U.S. and Vietnamese military installations in the rural areas. Consequently, Viet Cong units were able to inflict urban areas which included every major populated and distinct capital across Vietnam, causing widespread acts of terrorism. Over the next month, U.S. and Vietnamese forces were able to reverse stability and inflict tremendous losses of over 50,000 enemy killed and wounded. Lesser enemy attacks continued throughout the remainder of the year with VC and NVA forces failing to disrupt United States and South Vietnamese economy and communications.

1968-1972: VICTIMIZATION AND BATTERING In January 1968, peace negotiations began in Paris between the belligerents. In addition, the Nixon Administration announced that the South Vietnamese would once again assume the burden of the war effort, thereby reducing the gradual withdrawal of American combat troops. Through 1970, American forces continued to bear the brunt of the fighting while an estimated assistance program supplied over \$3.1 billion in military materials to the South Vietnamese Armed Forces. In March, 1973, the last U.S. combat troops departed South Vietnam, leaving behind a more stable, democratic Vietnamese government and a much strengthened armed forces.

CHINA



CHINA

DURMA

LAOS

THAILAND

Vietnam

CAMBODIA

MALAYSIA

INDONESIA

Location of Vietnam

TIME LINE

Strength of U.S. Forces
French withdraw at Dien Bien Phu, May 7
U.S. aid to Diem begins
Republic of Vietnam proclaimed, Oct. 25
U.S. replaces French advisors, April 25
Communists assemble armed force at Hanoi, Oct. 22
Two Americans killed, July 8
Armed struggles in Mekong Delta, Jan. 17
Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) organized, Feb. 8
Johnson assassinated, May 22
Tonkin Gulf Resolution, Aug. 7
U.S. begins bombing, Dec. 14
Operation Rolling Thunder, Feb. 25
U.S. Marines land at Da Nang, March 9
Deserters return in Saigon, Hanoi, & Da Nang, March 12
Antiwar demonstration in U.S., April 30
Tet Offensive, Jan. 30-31
Bombing of North Vietnam halted, Oct. 31
Peace talks begin, Jan. 25
Secret 535 strike in Cambodia
Caribou bases attacked, April 1
Tonkin Gulf Resolution repealed, June 24
Invasion of Laos, Feb.-March 8
Communist Easter Offensive, December 27
Last U.S. ground troops leave, March 29
North Vietnamese recognition takes back seat, April-May
Communist offensives in Cambodia & Vietnam, Jan.-April
South Vietnamese surrenders, April 30

TOURS

1 47

2 40

3 30

4 75

THE VIETNAM WAR 1954-1975

- ◆ U.S. Base Area
- Area of Confrontation
- Major Engagement
- U.S. Bombing Target Area
- U.S. Air Strikes
- Corps Tactical Zone Boundary
- ◆ North Vietnamese Base
- Viet Cong Base Area
- Enemy Supply Route
- Enemy External Supply Route
- Route of Infiltration