



Fact Sheet Vietnam War

PROFILE OF U.S. SERVICEMEN

- The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in one year thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years.ⁱ
- U.S. forces sent to Vietnam were the highest educated of all previously deployed armies. 79% had a high school degree or better when they entered military service.

- Survivability of those deployed to Southeast Asia was around 58:1. To explain the ratio fully, one service man or woman was killed in-theatre for every 58 deployed.
- Of those deployed to Southeast Asia 1 out of 22 were wounded – not mortal.
- Average monthly base pay for an E-1 and O-1 in 1958 was \$83.20 and \$222.30 respectively. By the end of the war in 1975 an E-1 and O-1 monthly base pay was \$361.20 and \$666.00 respectively.

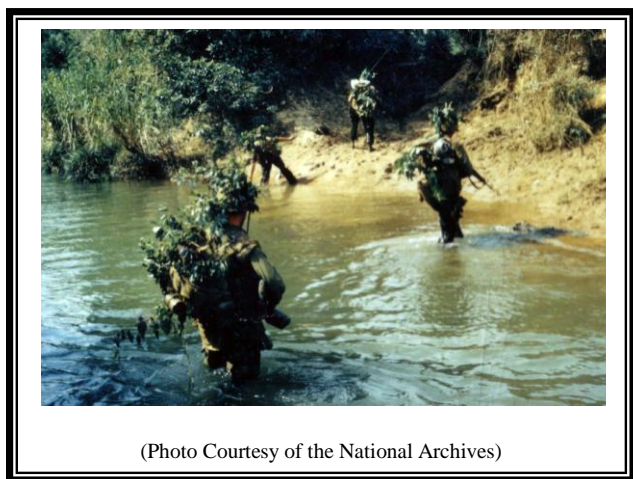
U.S. ARMED FORCES TOLL of WAR (1955-1975) ⁱⁱ

Killed		Wounded – Not Mortal	
Air Force	2,586	Air Force	931
Army	38,224	Army	96,802
Coast Guard	7	Coast Guard	60
Marines	14,844	Marines	51,392
Navy	2,566	Navy	4,178
Merchant Marine	26	Total	153,363
Total In-Theater	58,253		

TROOP STRENGTHS BY YEAR END (1955-1973)

YEAR	TROOP TOTAL*
1955	
1956	342
1957	
1958	
1959	760
1960	900
1961	3,025
1962	11,300
1963	16,300
1964	23,300
1965	184,300
1966	385,300
1967	486,000
1968	536,040
1969	475,200
1970	334,600
1971	156,800
1972	24,200
1973	50

*All totals are estimates from MAAG-V and MACV Yearly Command Histories.



(Photo Courtesy of the National Archives)

PEAK STRENGTH OF ALLIED ARMED FORCES DURING VIETNAM WARⁱⁱⁱ

Australia	7,672	South Vietnam	1,048,000
New Zealand	552	Thailand	11,586
Philippines	2,061	U.S.	543,482
Republic of Korea	50,003		
Estimated Figures			



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(Photo Courtesy of the National Archives)

CURRENT UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA^{iv}

Component	Country of Loss					Totals
	VN	VS	LA	CB	CH	
Air Force	186	129	212	17	0	544
Army	10	427	78	28	0	543
Coast Guard	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marines	22	165	17	8	0	212
Navy	258	84	18	0	7	367
Civilians	1	19	6	6	0	32
TOTALS	478	829	335	59	7	1698

Key

VN – North Vietnam; VS – South Vietnam; LA- Laos; CB – Cambodia; CH – China

POW/MIA IN 1973^{vii}

Country	Vietnam	Laos	Cambodia	China	Total
Military Personnel	1,971	575	90	10	2,646
Merchant Marine					2

U.S. ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL 1955-1975^v

Locations	TOTAL	USA	USAF	USMC	USN	USCG
Worldwide	8.744 million	4.368 million	1.740 million	794,000	1.842 million	unknown
Southeast Asia	3.403 million	2.276 million	385,000	513,000	229,000	8,000 ^{vi}
South Vietnam	2.594 million	1.736 million	293,000	391,000	174,000	unknown

COSTS BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WAR (in U.S. Dollars)

U.S.	\$11 billion*
Australia	\$218.4 million
New Zealand	
North Vietnam	
Philippines	
Republic of Korea	
South Vietnam	
Thailand	

*1965-1975, Cost estimate of military operations only and do not reflect costs of veterans' benefits, interest on war-related debt, or assistance to allies. Figures are DOD estimates of the incremental costs of operations, meaning the costs of war-related activities over and above the regular, non-wartime costs of defense.^{viii}



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- ⁱ Westmoreland, William C., Larry Clark, and Gary Roush. "General Westmoreland's Address to the VHPA at the Third Annual Reunion." Speech. Third Annual Reunion of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. 5 July 1986. *VHPA Historical Reference Directory*. Vol. 2A. 42-46. Print.
- ⁱⁱ United States of America. Department of Defense. Personnel & Procurement Reports and Data Files. [Http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/](http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/). Defense Manpower Data Center, 16 May 2008. Web. 27 Sept. 2010. <<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Larsen, Stanley Robert., and James Lawton. Collins. *Allied Participation in Vietnam*. Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 1975. Print.
- ^{iv} United States of America. Department of Defense. Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office. [Http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/). 23 Nov. 2010. Web. 30 Nov. 2010. <<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/vietnam/statistics/>>.
- ^v United States of America. Department of Defense. Personnel & Procurement Reports and Data Files. [Http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/](http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/). Defense Manpower Data Center, 16 May 2008. Web. 27 Sept. 2010. <<http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm>>.
- ^{vi} Havern, Christopher. "U.S. Coast Guard Vietnam War Statistics." E-mail interview. 27 Sept. 2010.
- ^{vii} United States of America. Department of Defense. Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office. [Http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/). 23 Nov. 2010. Web. 30 Nov. 2010. <<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/vietnam/statistics/>>.
- ^{viii} United States of America. Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service. *Costs of Major U.S. Wars*. By Stephen Daggett. 29 June 2010. Web. 30 Sept. 2010. <<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RS22926.pdf>>.