

STATISTICS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY...

- Vietnam Vets were 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 military 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 - 1.6 million (40 - 60%) either fought in combat, provided close support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- 7,484 women served in Vietnam. (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses)
- Peak troop strength in Vietnam was 543,482 (April 30, 1968)

CASUALTIES...

- Hostile deaths: 47,378
- Non-hostile deaths: 10,800
- Total: 58,202 (Includes men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
- 8 nurses died -- 1 was KIA.
- Married men killed: 17,539
- 61% of the men killed were 21 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 requiring 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 Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.
- Missing in Action: 2,338
- POWs: 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.**
- **Total draftees (1965 - 73): 1,728,344.**
- **Actually served in Vietnam: 38%**
- **Marine Corps Draft: 42,633.**
- **Last man drafted: June 30, 1973.**

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.**
- **70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent.**
- **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.**
- **Religion of Dead: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%**

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.)**
- **Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South -- 31%, West -- 29.9%; Midwest -- 28.4%; Northeast -- 23.5%.**

WINNING & LOSING...

- **82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was not lost by the U.S. but was lost by the South Vietnamese, and that the American Military was denied the right to win because of lack of political will.**
- **Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.**

HONORABLE SERVICE...

- **97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.**
- **91% of actual Vietnam War veterans are proud to have served their country.**
- **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!!!!**

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