

“The AZ-LZ”



How Much Do You Know About The Beginning?

The Vietnam War was a conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. It was the second of the Indochina Wars and was officially fought between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. North Vietnam was supported by the Soviet Union, China, and other communist allies; South Vietnam was supported by the United States and other anti-communist allies. The war is widely considered to be a Cold War-era proxy war. It lasted right at 20 years, with direct U.S. involvement ending in 1973. The conflict also spilled over into neighboring states, exacerbating the Laotian Civil War and the Cambodian Civil War, which ended with all three countries becoming communist states by 1975.

The conflict emerged from the First Indochina War between the French colonial government and a left-wing revolutionary movement, the Viet Minh. After the French military withdrawal from Indochina in 1954, the U.S. assumed financial and military support for the South Vietnamese state. The Việt Cộng (VC), a South Vietnamese common front under the direction of North Vietnam, initiated a guerrilla war in the south. North Vietnam had also invaded Laos in 1958 in support of insurgents, establishing the Ho Chi Minh Trail to supply and reinforce the Việt Cộng. By 1963, the North Vietnamese had sent 40,000 soldiers to fight in the south of Vietnam as United States involvement had escalated under President John F. Kennedy, from just under a thousand military advisors in 1959 to 23,000 in 1964.

In the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1964, a U.S. destroyer clashed with North Vietnamese fast attack craft. In response, the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution and gave President Johnson broad authority to increase the U.S. military presence in Vietnam, without a formal declaration of war. Johnson ordered the deployment of combat units for the first time and increased troop levels to 184,000. The People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), also known as the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) engaged in more conventional warfare with U.S. and South Vietnamese forces (Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN)). Despite little progress, the U.S. continued a significant build-up of forces. U.S. and South Vietnam forces relied on air superiority and overwhelming firepower to conduct search and destroy operations, involving ground forces, artillery, and airstrikes. The U.S. also conducted a large-scale strategic bombing campaign against North Vietnam. Upcoming is the **“ROAD TO WAR”**.

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Special points of interest

- Memorial Day Celebrations from the conflicts of:

World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

How Much Do You Know About The Beginning? (cont'd)

The communist Tet Offensive throughout 1968 caused U.S. domestic support for the war to fade. The VC sustained heavy losses during the Offensive and subsequent U.S./ARVN operations, and by the end of the year, the VC insurgents held almost no territory in South Vietnam. In 1969, North Vietnam declared a Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) in the south to give the reduced Viet Cong a more international stature, but from then on, they were sidelined as PAVN forces began more conventional combined arms warfare. Operations crossed national borders, and the U.S. bombed North Vietnamese supply routes in Laos and Cambodia beginning in 1964 and 1969, respectively. The deposing of the Cambodian monarch, Norodom Sihanouk, resulted in a PAVN invasion of the country at the request of the Khmer Rouge, escalating the Cambodian Civil War and resulting in a U.S. and ARVN counter-invasion.

In 1969, following the election of U.S. President Richard Nixon, a policy of "Vietnamization" began, which saw the conflict fought by an expanded ARVN, with U.S. forces sidelined and increasingly demoralized by domestic opposition and reduced recruitment. U.S. ground forces had largely withdrawn by early 1972 and their operations were limited to air support, artillery support, advisors, and materiel shipments. The ARVN, with U.S. support, stopped a large PAVN offensive during the Easter Offensive of 1972. The offensive failed to subdue South Vietnam, but the ARVN itself failed to recapture all lost territory, leaving its military situation difficult. The Paris Peace Accords of January 1973 saw all U.S. forces withdrawn; the Peace Accords were broken almost immediately, and fighting continued for two more years. Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge on 17 April 1975, while the 1975 Spring Offensive saw the Fall of Saigon to the PAVN on 30 April; this marked the end of the war, and North and South Vietnam were reunified the following year.

The war exacted an enormous human cost: estimates of the number of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed range from 966,000 to 3 million. Some 275,000–310,000 Cambodians, 20,000–62,000 Laotians, and 58,220 U.S. service members also died in the conflict, and a further 1,626 of American's remain missing in action.

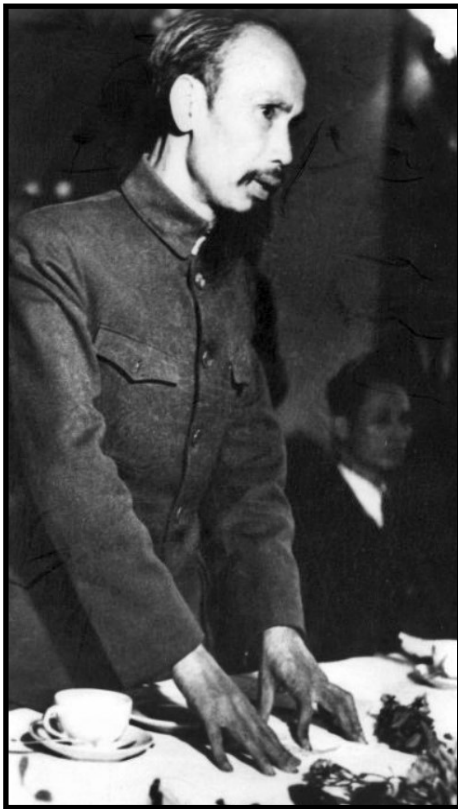


Following the end of the war, the Sino-Soviet split re-emerged and the Third Indochina War began. The end of the Vietnam War would precipitate the Vietnamese boat people and the larger Indochina refugee crisis, which saw millions of refugees leave Indochina, an estimated 250,000 of whom perished at sea. Conflict between the unified Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge began almost immediately with a series of border raids, eventually escalating into the Cambodian–Vietnamese War. Chinese forces

directly invaded Vietnam in the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War, with subsequent border conflicts lasting until 1991. Communist Vietnam fought insurgencies in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Within the U.S., the war gave rise to what was referred to as Vietnam Syndrome, a public aversion to American overseas military involvements, which together with the Watergate scandal contributed to the crisis of confidence that affected America throughout the 1970's.

All in all, the Vietnam War was won by the United States, Thailand, Philippine Islands, South Korea, South Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand because "Communism" was **NOT** spread throughout the entire Eastern Hemisphere as desired by North Vietnam, the Soviet Union and Red China. It only wound up in one building in Hanoi, and the country is run in a "Socialist" manner and operates via a "Capitalist" fashion. It was the first Communist War that lasted twenty years (20) years followed by the Global War on Terror (GWOT) which ran from 11 September 2001 to 31 August 2021, also twenty years (20). When will this ever stop? The world, since the beginning of time has **ONLY** seen two-hundred-sixty-nine (269) years of **NO WAR**. God did not make man to do this. More have died from violence than of natural causes. What a shame.

The Viet Minh And Viet Nam War About To Start — 1945



Ho Chi Minh, leader of the Viet Minh, now declares independence from French colonial rule as he announces the formation of the People's Democratic Republic of all of "Viet Nam". [PDRVN]

Who and What and Were and Why Were The Viet Minh?

In 1941, Vietnamese Communist revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh founded the Viet Minh, or Vietnamese Independence League, in opposition to French and Japanese occupation. By the 1940s Vietnam had struggled against foreign rule for centuries, long before France seized control in the late 1800s. For much of World War II, the Japanese occupiers allowed a puppet French government to retain nominal control over Vietnam. But in March 1945, Japan dispensed with that policy and took direct control of Vietnamese governance.

The Viet Minh gained strength rapidly, becoming the voice of Vietnamese independence, stressing democratic reform, and taking advantage of the intensifying nationalistic feelings in Vietnam. By the time Japan surrendered to the Allies in August 1945, the Viet Minh controlled much of north and central Vietnam. This "August Revolution" in 1945 marked a milestone in the Vietnamese struggle for independence. As Chinese and American occupation forces overseeing the Japanese surrender took time to reach Hanoi in numbers, the Viet Minh stepped into the power vacuum. It took control of the government, and expelled Emperor Bao Dai, who had remained a powerless figurehead throughout the occupations. Three days later, on September 2, 1945, Ho Chi Minh proclaimed Vietnam's independence.



Now it was time to get rid of the French Colonies takeover which lasted from 1844 to 1945, but little did he know that it would take nine (9) years and a huge loss of men and resources to win the first French Indochina War with France departing Dien Bien Phu in Northern Vietnam in 1954. In fact, to this day, France does recognize Vietnam being a part of the Southeast Asia territory. France's military museums has nothing to recognize that France even occupied Vietnam or French Indo-China.

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The O.S.S. Parachutes into Indo-China — 1945



A seven-man team from the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) special operations forces parachutes from a C-47 into the tiny village of Kim Lung, in a remote and mountainous part of northwestern Indochina. Code named the “Deer Team,” the men are led by Major Allison K. Thomas. Deer Team’s mission is to work with local Vietnamese guerrillas to disrupt or destroy the communications, logistics, weapons, and supplies of the occupying Japanese military ground forces.

lonial government to take direct control of the region.

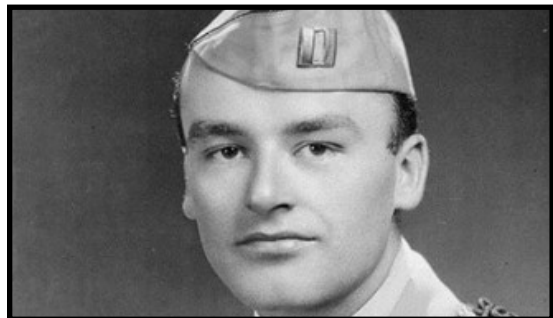
The OSS has previously made contact with a local resistance group called the Viet Minh, and when Deer Team lands at Kim Lung they are met by the Viet Minh’s leaders, including Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap. The U.S. team brings along American arms, explosives, and equipment and begins training approximately 200 Viet Minh fighters in their use. With assistance from the Viet Minh, Deer Team remains active in the region through the month and year of August 1945. Their mission effectively ends when the Japanese announce their plans to unconditionally surrender to Allied forces.

The United States is preparing to land an expeditionary force on the Chinese mainland, and Deer Team’s first goal is to prevent Japan from moving reinforcements from Indochina north to oppose the landing. Their second goal is to gather intelligence on the political situation in Indochina, where the Japanese military has recently ousted the ruling Vichy French co-

The United States and its allies are about to defend the Eastern Hemisphere from Communism.



Dewey Killed By Viet Minh Troops — 1945



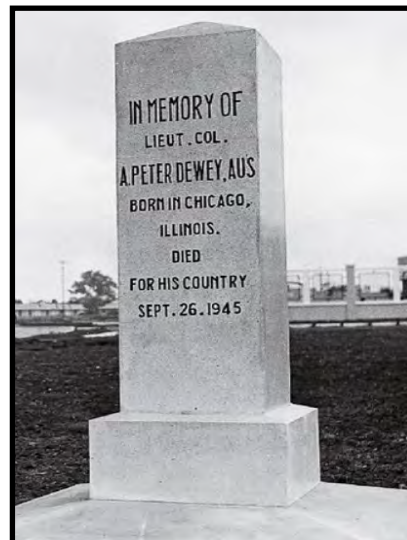
Major A. Peter Dewey is driving a jeep to the Saigon airport when Viet Minh troops mistake him for a French officer and shoot and kill him. Dewey is with the Office of

Strategic Services (OSS) and has been involved in Operation EMBANKMENT, which focuses on the recovery of American World War II Prisoners of War (POWs) and securing American interests in French Indochina. Some later consider Dewey the **"first American casualty in Vietnam"**.

On August 10, 1944, Dewey parachuted into southern France as the leader of a 10-man team from the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Operating behind enemy lines for six weeks, he transmitted intelligence reports on German troop movements. For his service, General William "Wild Bill" Donovan personally awarded him the Legion of Merit and the French gave him the Legion of Honor and a second Croix de Guerre.

Dewey arrived on September 4, 1945, in Saigon to head a seven-man OSS team "to represent American interests" and collect intelligence. Working with the Viet Minh, he arranged the repatriation of 4,549 Allied POWs, including 240 Americans, from two Japanese camps near Saigon, code named Project Embankment. Because the British occupation forces who had arrived to accept the Japanese surrender were short of troops, they armed French POWs on September 22nd to protect the city from a potential Viet Minh attack. In taking control of the city, the French soldiers were quick to beat or shoot Vietnamese who resisted the reestablishment of French authority.

Dewey complained about the abuse to the British commander, General Douglas Gracey, who took exception to Dewey's objections and declared Dewey *persona non grata*. Adhering to strict tradition, Gracey prohibited anyone but general officers from flying flags from their vehicles. Dewey had wanted to fly an American flag for easy identification among the Viet Minh, who Dewey claimed were only concerned about attacking the French. The jeep he rode in prior to his death had a flag wrapped around a pole that was unidentifiable. And the end came very quickly of his life being over with.



President Johnson Bombs Vietnam — 1965

In the immediate wake of the Viet Cong attack at Pleiku, President Johnson reads a report submitted by National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy regarding Bundy's recent trip to South Vietnam. Bundy's report notes that "without U.S. action defeat appears inevitable." Johnson decides to authorize the systematic bombing of North Vietnam in an attempt to prop up the Saigon regime and deter Hanoi's support for Viet Cong insurgents. Initial retaliatory bombings eventually develop into the years-long bombing operation called



ROLLING THUNDER. Johnson is publicly silent about his decision to authorize the bombings. The president's decision to escalate the war by bombing North Vietnam marks a crucial turning point in U.S. involvement in Vietnam. One of the more controversial aspects of Johnson's decisions for escalation in early 1965 is that he chooses to keep the details of his actions from the public. Arguments for why he does so usually note that Johnson believes announcing an escalation of the war would endanger his ambitious domestic agenda—including Great Society and civil rights legislation—and would allow his political opponents to distract Congress from his reform plans. Johnson, historians assert, hopes to avoid the public perception that the United States is embarking on a wider war, which might convince lawmakers and their constituents that they cannot afford to enact his proposed domestic policies.

Farm Gate: 13 January 1962—January 1965

Operation Pierce Arrow: 5 August 1964

Operation Barrel Roll: 14 December 1964—29 March 1973

Operation Flaming Dart: 7 February 1965—24 February 1965

Operation Rolling Thunder: 2 March 1965—2 November 1968

Operation Steel Tiger: 3 April 1965—11 November 1968

Operation Arc Light: 18 June 1965—15 August 1973

Operation Tiger Hound: 5 December 1965—11 November 1968

Operation Commando Hunt: 11 November 1968—29 March 1972

Operation Niagara: January 1968—March 1968

Operation Menu 18 March 1969—26 May 1970

Operation Patio: 24 April 1970—29 April 1970.

Operation Freedom Deal: 19 May 1970—15 August 1973

Operation Linebacker I: 9 May 1972—23 October 1972

Operation Linebacker II: 18 December 1972—29 December 1972

Without a doubt the bloodiest conflict in history was WWII. More people lost their lives during that conflict, through battle, genocide, starvation and disease than any other war. Over six long years, in a conflict that spanned the world, massive amounts of bombs were dropped, and some cities absolutely destroyed. Compare that conflict to later ones, such as Vietnam. That theater of war was a localized one compared to WWII, mainly centered on Vietnam. But it was a long war, lasting over a decade. So it may come as a surprise to learn about the bombs dropped on Vietnam compared to WWII. The war in Vietnam saw a massive amount of bombs dropped on the country compared to Europe in WW2. Laos and Vietnam experienced a bombardment the likes that has rarely been seen. Of all of the bombs dropped from the US aircraft it is believed that between 10 and 15 percent of bombs dropped on Vietnam didn't exploded, while in Laos it is thought that around 30 percent never detonated. Even today, nearly 40+ years after hostilities ended in the region, bombs that have not yet exploded are being discovered. Vietnam villagers are even making a precarious living from digging up and selling old bombs for about \$2 a day.

Women Army Corps Arrive in Vietnam — 1965

Major Kathleen I. Wilkes and Sergeant Betty L. Adams of the U.S. Women's Army Corps (WAC) arrive in Saigon to train South Vietnam's Women's Armed Forces Corps. They are the first WAC representatives to serve in Vietnam since 1963. Many more WAC women later deploy to Vietnam. They served in clerical, administrative, finance, intelligence, logistics, training, and legal and civil affairs assignments in various U.S. military headquarters.



Viet Cong Attacks Near Pleiku — 1965

Early in the morning, while it is still dark, approximately ten Viet Cong insurgents breach the fenced perimeter of the U.S. Army advisory facility near Pleiku, in the South Vietnamese Central Highlands. The infiltrators place demolition charges against several structures, detonate them, and begin throwing additional charges and mortar rounds through windows and damaged walls. The attack lasts for about ten minutes. At the same time, a few kilometers away, two five-man Viet Cong mortar teams enter the aircraft parking area of Camp Holloway, an Army helicopter base and headquarters for the 52nd Aviation Battalion. Over the course of ten minutes, the Viet Cong teams fire mortar rounds and detonate charges against parked aircraft and the lone soldier barracks and buildings. The attacks kill eight Americans and wounded over 100 others. Over a dozen aircraft are destroyed or damaged. The attackers escape both the advisory base and Camp Holloway with no casualties.

The Viet Cong or VC, in full, the name was "*Viet Nam Cong San*", English Vietnamese Communists, the guerrilla force that, with the support of the North Vietnamese Army, fought against South Vietnam (late 1950's to 1975) and the United States (early 1960's–1973). The name is said to have first been used by South Vietnamese President. Ngo Dinh Diem to belittle the rebels. Little did they know what they were getting into with the American troops. In plainer language, the VC were also known as traitors to South Vietnam or those in "Black Pajama's".

Pleiku was strategically important during the Vietnam War because it was the primary terminus of the military supply logistics corridor extending westwards along Highway 19 from the coastal population center and port facilities of Qui Nhon. Additionally, its central location on the plateau, between Kon Tum to the north, Buon Ma Thuot to the south, and the North Vietnamese Army's base areas inside Cambodia to the west made Pleiku the main center of defense of the entire highland region of the Republic of Vietnam. This was obvious to both sides; the United States established an armed presence very early in the conflict at Camp Holloway, and the Việt Cộng attack on this base in early 1965 was one of the key escalating events that brought U.S. troops into the conflict.

On 15 June 1972, Cathay Pacific Flight 700Z, operating a Convair 880 (VR-HFZ) from Bangkok to Hong Kong, disintegrated and crashed while the aircraft was flying at 29,000 feet (8,800 m) over Pleiku, Vietnam after a bomb exploded in a suitcase placed under a seat in the cabin, killing all 81 people on board.

Operation CRIMP Begins — 1966

From January 7 to 13, U.S. and Australian army forces mount a large search-and-destroy operation known as CRIMP. The operation is directed against a Viet Cong base area north of Saigon, adjacent to the region known as the Iron Triangle. While conducting a sweep there, and after a fierce firefight, the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment identifies a vast complex of tunnels. The complex contains a Viet Cong regional headquarters. The Australians also discover some 7,500 documents and maps, many of which reveal names and locations of Viet Cong agents. The discovery is one of the biggest intelligence coups of the war.



The Honolulu Conference—1966



From January 17 to February 9, 1966, over 400 staff officers and civilians from the United States and South Vietnam gather in Honolulu, Hawaii, to discuss strategy in Vietnam. Attendees include U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, MACV commander General William C. Westmoreland, South Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky, and South Vietnamese Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu. Representatives from the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Pacific Command also attend. President Johnson arrives on date February 7th 1966.

President Johnson emphasizes that they must spend more effort on what some call the “**other war**” of pacification and political, social, and economic reform in South Vietnam. General Westmoreland agrees that pacification is vital, but argues that their first priority must be the destruction of the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong insurgency before pacification can be successful. The Johnson administration presses U.S. and South Vietnamese leaders to expedite reform programs aimed at fighting Communist influence in the countryside. It assigns MACV to bring 60 percent of the South’s population under protection before the end of the year, among other quantitative goals. Secretaries McNamara and Rusk, along with the representatives of the Joint Chiefs and Pacific Command, concur with General Westmoreland’s view that, for the time being, the priority must remain the defeat of Communist troops on the battlefield, and the administration promises Westmoreland more troops toward this goal. The decisions that emerge from the Honolulu Conference determine much about the course and conduct of the war for the coming two years.

Operation Masher/White WING Begins — 1966



The U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division begins Operation MASHER in Binh Dinh Province on the Bong Son Plain, a strip of land along the central coast of South Vietnam. MASHER is a large search-and-destroy operation employing multiple airmobile assaults into the narrow valleys, mountain spurs, and coastal plains north of the town of Bong Son. Shortly after the operation begins, presidential adviser McGeorge Bundy requests that MACV change MASHER's name, because the Johnson administration fears the reaction it might elicit from an American public that is increasingly skeptical of U.S. troops commitments. Bundy believes the title "MASHER"

is inflammatory. In response, General William C. Westmoreland changes the operation's name to WHITE WING.

Operation MASHER/WHITE WING lasts for 41 days. Airmobile cavalymen make a series of assaults into the Viet Cong-dominated region and, in a string of running engagements, push Communist forces toward blocking positions occupied by American, South Vietnamese, and Korean troops. Allied forces deal the Communist troops a heavy blow, killing 1,300 men, capturing 600 prisoners, and taking in 500 defectors. American losses include 228 dead and 834 wounded. The 1st Cavalry also captures several significant weapon and supply caches.



TET and Shifting Views —1968

Lima Site 85, on top of Phou Pha Thi Mountain, in Laos, supports a covert U.S. tactical navigation station installed in late 1967. The station directs U.S. bombers to their targets in North Vietnam. Though important to the allied bombing campaign and defended by CIA, Air Force, and Hmong troops, Site 85 is highly vulnerable to being overrun.

The “Pathet Lao” and “North Vietnamese” forces begin to converge on Lima Site 85, planning to destroy it. The U.S. Air Force and the CIA direct numerous airstrikes against the attacking troops, hoping to keep the site operational for as long as possible. On January 12, the North Vietnamese conduct their first air strike of the war against ground troops when two biplanes attack the site with 120-millimeter mortar shells. Both enemy planes are shot down by the crew of an Air America helicopter.



The Siege of Khe Sanh Begins — 1968

In late 1967 the North Vietnamese Army begins a carefully prepared operation against the U.S. Marine base at Khe Sanh, in the northwest corner of I Corps. By January 1968, between 15,000 and 30,000 Communist troops converge on the area around the base.

The base, with a small airfield for resupply, guards a primary infiltration route into South Vietnam from Laos. It is the westernmost outpost of the McNamara Line, with some 6,000 Marine defenders, roughly 3,000 garrisoned at Khe Sanh itself. On January 20, North Vietnamese troops attack a U.S. patrol. Early the next morning, a main assault follows. The U.S. reinforces Khe Sanh with artillery and air support, including the massive air campaign, Operation NIAGARA. Intense fighting and artillery barrages last into April.

Throughout the siege, there is some discord between General Westmoreland’s MACV headquarters and Marine Corps leadership. Complex and ill-defined command structures between MACV and III MAF lead General Westmoreland to create MACV Forward at Phu Bai, a new headquarters to oversee the battle for I Corps and bring the Marine fixed-wing aircraft under Air Force control.



So. Korea Division Engagement at Phu Cat — 1968



Between January 23 and 29 of 1968, the South Korean Army Capital Division deploys six companies on a search-and-destroy mission near Phu Cat, in South Vietnam. Following contact with a North Vietnamese force, the Koreans quickly execute an encircling maneuver, trapping the enemy. Over six days, the Korean troops slowly tighten the cordon. The North Vietnamese lose 278 men to 11 killed of the South Korean Army. The successful action demonstrates the ongoing effectiveness of Korean troops in their area of operations.

Operation Bold Mariner Begins — 1969

In Operation Bold Mariner, a U.S. Navy Seventh Fleet task force puts a brigade-size Marine force ashore on the Batangan Peninsula, Quang Ngai Province, in South Vietnam. The region has long been a Viet Cong stronghold. The operation's objective is to identify and clear out Viet Cong agents and secure the civilian population. The Marines, working in concert with U.S. Army and South Vietnamese troops, screen some 12,000 civilians and remove them from their villages for resettlement further south. They then identify and destroy nearly eight miles of enemy tunnels. The main portion of BOLD MARINER lasts until early February and is the largest amphibious operation of the war.



The peninsula was believed to be supporting elements of the Viet Cong (VC) 38th Main Force Regiment, the 48th Local Force Battalion, P-31st Local Force Company and C-95th Sapper Company all of which posed a threat to Quảng Ngãi and allied forces in the area. The operation was planned to be the Marine Corps' largest amphibious assault since the Korean War with Battalion Landing Team (BLT) 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines and BLT 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines assaulting the north of the peninsula by helicopter and landing craft while the 23rd Infantry Division's *Task Force Cooksey*, composed of elements of the 46th Infantry Regiment and 1st Cavalry Regiment and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 2nd Division launching Operation Russell Beach sealing the southern boundary.

Fire Aboard The USS Enterprise — 1969

During the morning of 14 January 1969, while being escorted by the destroyers USS *Benjamin Stoddert* and USS *Rogers*, a MK-32 Zuni rocket loaded on a parked F-4 Phantom exploded when ordnance cooked off after being overheated by an aircraft start unit. The explosion set off fires and additional explosions across the flight deck. The fires were brought under control relatively quickly (when compared with previous carrier flight deck fires), but 27 sailors were killed and an additional 314 sailors were injured. The fire destroyed 15 aircraft, and the resulting damage forced *Enterprise* to put in for repairs at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii, primarily to repair the flight deck's armored plating. On 1 March 1969, repairs to the ship were completed and the ship proceeded on her scheduled Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployment to Vietnam and the Tonkin Gulf. These destinations were delayed by events in the eastern Sea of Japan.

The U.S.S. *Enterprise* (CVN-65), formerly CVA(N)-65, is a decommissioned United States Navy aircraft carrier. She was the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the eighth United States naval vessel to bear the name. Like her predecessor of World War II fame, she is nicknamed "Big E". At 1,123 feet (342 m), she is the longest naval vessel ever built. Her 93,284-long-ton (94,781 displacement ranks her as the 12th-heaviest carrier, after the ten carriers of the *Nimitz* class and USS *Gerald R. Ford*. *Enterprise* had a crew of some 4,600 service members. The only ship of her class, *Enterprise* was, at the time of inactivation, the third-oldest commissioned vessel in the United States Navy after the wooden-hulled USS *Constitution* and USS *Pueblo*. She was inactivated on 1 December 2012, and officially decommissioned on 3 February 2017, after over 55 years of service.



Operation Dewey Canyon Begins — 1969

From January 22 to March 19, the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment conducts Operation DEWEY CANYON. Its objective is to eliminate a North Vietnamese buildup in the Da Krong Valley, an enemy supply route between the Laotian border and the A Shau Valley. Over the course of two months, Marine infantry units, transported and supported by helicopters, operate in the two valleys constructing fire bases and clearing out North Vietnamese troops. The operation accounts for numerous enemy casualties and the capture or destruction of thousands of tons of enemy arms, ammunition, and supplies.



Throughout 1967 and into 1968, the United States Marine Corps units in the northern I Corps region had been tied to their combat bases along the South Vietnam border as part of the McNamara Line. This "line" was a combination of infantry units and ground sensors devised to stop PAVN infiltration into South Vietnam across the border and along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. When Maj. Gen. Raymond G. Davis took command of the 3rd Marine Division, he ordered Marine units to move out of their combat bases and engage the enemy. He had noted that the manning of the bases and the defensive posture they developed was contrary to the aggressive style of fighting that Marines favor.

In early 1969, intelligence reports indicated there had been a large PAVN build-up in the A Shau and Đa Krông Valleys. The A Shau was just 10 km east of the Laotian border and some 34 km long, while the Đa Krông was several kilometers further east and separated by two mountain ranges.

The operation, named Operation Dawson River South was to comprise 3 distinct phases: first was the southern movement of the 9th Marines and supporting units into mutually supporting firebases near the objective area, second was a period of intensive patrolling around the firebases and finally, the Regiment would attack into the PAVN base areas. The Marine operation would be coordinated with supporting actions by the 101st Airborne Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 2nd Regiment, 2nd Division east of the operations area.

General Davis would later state that the purpose of the operation was to disrupt PAVN logistics, not engage PAVN units stating "There was no [PAVN] force down there, we knew that. Our primary target was to go in and ferret out this system - without any thought that there was a major force down there."



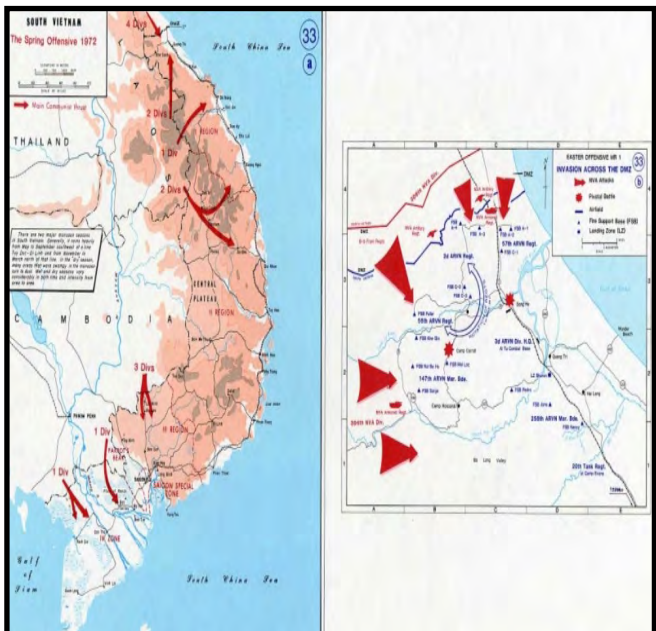
North Vietnamese Easter Offensive — 1972

The North Vietnamese launch the Nguyen Hue Campaign, also known as the Easter Offensive, with a multipronged attack across the DMZ and the Laotian and Cambodian borders into multiple regions of South Vietnam. The attacking forces are well equipped: armed with new weapons, heavy artillery, and tanks from the Soviet Union and China. It is the largest offensive launched by the North Vietnamese Army in the war. There are fewer than 70,000 U.S. troops left in Vietnam.

U.S. military advisers play a crucial role rallying South Vietnamese units in retreat. After suffering heavy losses, the South Vietnamese army—with ample help from U.S. air support—slows and reverses the offensive by the end of the summer. They stabilize the front in Quang Tri Province and successfully hold out against attacks around Hue, Kontum, and Saigon.

The North Vietnamese lose much of their armor and equipment and as many as 100,000 troops. South Vietnamese casualties are approximately 43,000, including 10,000 killed. The Easter Offensive also results in the deaths of about 25,000 Vietnamese civilians and leaves almost one million homeless. On March 30, 1972, some 30,000-40,000 North Vietnamese Army regulars streamed southward across the Demilitarized Zone and eastward from Laos in a strike against the recently formed 3rd Infantry Division of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Over the next month this force in northern South Vietnam would involve three divisions and two dozen independent regiments supported by 200 tanks, long-range 130 mm artillery guns and air defense units. About 60 miles to the south, another North Vietnamese division headed toward Hue.

The March 30 attack marked the opening of the North Vietnamese Spring-Summer Offensive of 1972 (*Chien dich Xuan he 1972*). The offensive consisted of a three-pronged assault that hit South Vietnam in its northern, central and southern regions. The goal was to destroy as many ARVN forces as possible, which would enable the North Vietnamese to occupy key cities and put communist troops in position to threaten Saigon and President Nguyen Van Thieu's government, according to captured documents and information from NVA prisoners after the invasion. This is the START OF THE END of the Vietnam War.



The Battle of Quang Tri — 1972

As the Easter Offensive begins, four North Vietnamese army divisions, with nearly 200 armored vehicles and tanks, move into I Corps. They rout the South Vietnamese 3d Division and attack Quang Tri City. Cloud cover hinders the effectiveness of U.S. air support, and the city's civilians flee south toward Hue. Many of them are killed by North Vietnamese artillery on Highway 1 and near the Truong Phoc Bridge. North Vietnamese forces capture Quang Tri City on May 1. South Vietnamese forces retake the city on September 15. Casualties on both sides are very high, and the city is left destroyed.



The ARVN 3rd Division was generally responsible for Quảng Trị Province. Its headquarters under the command of Brigadier General Vũ Văn Giai, former deputy commander of the 1st Division, was located at Ái Tử Combat Base. The newly activated 56th and 57th Regiments were deployed over a series of strongpoints and fire support bases dotting the area immediately south of the DMZ and from the coast to the mountains in the west. The 56th Regiment was headquartered at Camp Carroll while the 57th Regiment was located at Firebase C1. The 2nd Regiment occupied Camp Carroll with two of its battalions at Firebase C2. Camp Carroll was the lynchpin of the ARVN northern and western defense line situated on Route 9, the main road west to the Laos border. The Division's 11th Armored Cavalry Squadron was located at Landing Zone Sharon south of Quảng Trị.



In addition to its organic units the Division had operational control of the two Marine brigades of the general reserve. The 147th Marine Brigade was headquartered at Mai Loc Camp 2 km east of Camp Carroll and the 258th Brigade was at Firebase Nancy. The Marines and 56th Regiment presented a strong west-facing defense as this was assumed to be the most likely direction of attack.



On 30 March the 3rd Division was in the middle of rotating its units between the various defensive positions. The 56th Regiment was taking over Camp Carroll, Firebase Khe Gio and Firebase Fuller from the 2nd Regiment. The 57th Regiment was taking over the area from Đông Hà Combat Base north to the DMZ and east to the coast. The 2nd Regiment was taking over the combat bases north of Cam Lộ Combat Base. The commander of the 56th Regiment was Lieutenant Colonel Pham Van Dinh who had fought in the Battle of Huế and Operation Lam Son 716.



Marine Aircraft Group 15 Deploys To Da Nang — 1972



At the beginning of 1970, USMC units at Da Nang AB included VM CJ-1, VMF (AW)-225, VMF (AW)-242 and VMFA-542. In late January 1970 as part of Operation Keystone Bluejay VMFA-542 departed Vietnam and VMO-2 moved to the base from Marble Mountain Air Facility. In July–August as part of Operation Keystone Robin Alpha, VM CJ-1 and VMF (AW)-242 departed Vietnam while the withdrawal of Marine Aircraft Group 13 from Chu Lai Air Base saw the relocation of VMFA-115 and VMA-311 to Da Nang Air Base as part of MAG-11. During 1970 Marine engineers constructed 170 "Wonderarch" concrete and steel aircraft protection shelters at Da Nang Air Base and Marble Mountain Air Facility.



Beginning in January 1971, as part of Operation Keystone Robin Charlie the 1st MAW headquarters and VMFA-115 departed Da Nang AB for MCAS Iwakuni while VMO-2 returned to the US, leaving MAG-11 with two squadrons, VMF (AW)-225 and VMA-311 and other assorted assets, by 22 June 1971 all USMC aviation units had left South Vietnam.



On 31 January 1971, 8 PAVN rockets hit the base igniting a 50,000 gallon fuel tank and damaging two KC-130s. On 21 February another rocket attack destroyed a C-130.

On 6 April 1972, USMC squadrons returned to Da Nang Air Base to confront the PAVN Easter Offensive, with VMFA-115 and VMFA-232 redeploying to the base under the command of Marine Aircraft Group 15 (MAG-15). On 12 April the base was hit by 122mm rockets killing 14 Vietnamese civilians. On 14 April VMFA-212 arrived at the base followed the next day by H&MS-15. On the 24th April the base was hit by PAVN 122mm rockets, prompting a call for Marines to provide base security, and on 25 May the 3rd Battalion 9th Marines was deployed to the base.



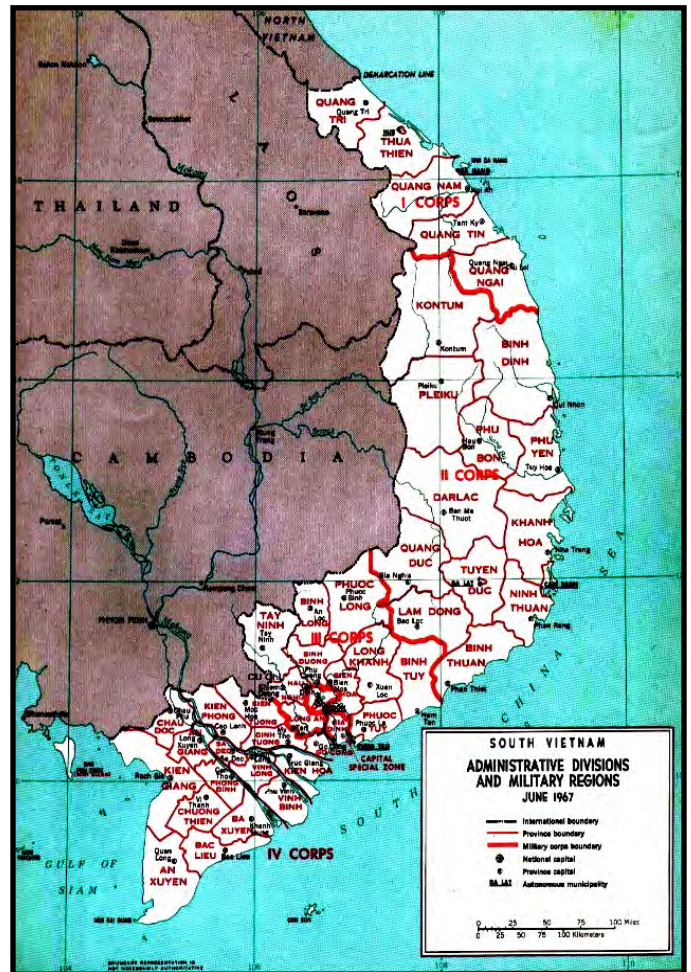
From June 16th, The unit referred to as MAG-15 began moving to Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong, while USMC operations at Da Nang Air Base were reduced to rearming and refueling. On 18 August 1972 the PAVN fired 43 rockets at the base, hitting the base and adjacent housing and killing 27 South Vietnamese civilians and one U.S. airman, wounding 24 civilians and 21 U.S. airmen and destroying two aircraft with ten damaged. On 26 January 1973, the date before the Paris Peace Accords were to come into effect, two MAG-15 F-4s were damaged by PAVN rocket fire as they rearmed at Da Nang Air Base.

The Fall of I CORPS — 1975

I Corps (Vietnamese: *Quân đoàn I*) was a corps of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), the army of the nation state of South Vietnam that existed from 1955 to 1975. It was one of four corps of the ARVN. This was the northernmost region of S. Vietnam, bordering North Vietnam at the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). These five provinces are Quảng Trị Province, (Khe Sanh, Đông Hà, Quảng Trị City), Thừa Thiên-Huế Province, (Phu Bai, Huế City), Quảng Nam Province, (Đà Nẵng, Hội An), Quảng Tín Province, (Tam Kỳ, Chu Lai) and Quảng Ngãi Province, (Quảng Ngãi).

President Thieu orders his commanders to move two divisions to the Saigon area, and to begin further withdrawals south. I Corps is defended by 3 South Vietnamese army divisions, a marine division, an armor brigade, and three ranger regiments. Highway 1 becomes choked with refugees, complicating troop movements. Five North Vietnamese divisions, with multiple armor, sapper, artillery, and anti-aircraft regiments in support, press east. They cut Highway 1 and force a So. Vietnamese withdrawal toward coastal pockets at Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Hue. With a lack of government support, collapsing troop morale, and masses of refugees, I Corps falls under the NVA.

Military Region 1's forces disintegrated during the 1975 Spring Offensive (the Hue–Da Nang Campaign). The situation for the South Vietnamese in Military Region 1 had regained some stability after the defeat of a three-division PAVN push during late 1974. By early the following year, Military Region 1 fielded three infantry divisions (the 1st, 2nd and the 3rd), the elite Airborne and Marine Divisions, four Ranger Groups and the 1st Armored Brigade (established in 1969 to parent all the armored cavalry regiments in the MR). Until mid-March, the North Vietnamese had limited their offensive operations to attempts to cut Highway 1, the main north/south line of communication, between Huế and Da Nang and Da Nang and Chu Lai. To confront the South Vietnamese, PAVN BG Lê Trọng Tấn had amassed a force of the crack 2nd, 304th, 324B, 325C and 711th Divisions and 9 independent infantry regiments, 3 sapper regiments, three armored regiments, 12 anti-aircraft and 8 artillery regiments.



So. Vietnam President Withdraws All Forces South—1975



Facing military pressure from the North Vietnamese and ebbing U.S. support, South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu orders his troops to retreat south to a defensive line running west from Tuy Hoa on the coast, in II Corps. He also orders South Vietnamese forces to recapture areas south of that line that have been lost to the Communist forces. Enemy roadblocks and ambushes, roads choked with refugees, and poor execution of the retreat lead to the disintegration of many units in II Corps and the failure to retake Ban Me Thuot. Elements of the three North Vietnamese divisions advance across II Corps and press their advantage against the badly outnumbered South Vietnamese forces making their way south.



By this time the Paris Peace Talks had been completed and the Vietnam Cong and the North Vietnam armed forces totally surrendered. Upon the resignation of President Nixon and Vice President Agnew, the North Vietnamese government decided to “undo the surrender” and make their way with every “man-woman-and-child” through the Ho Chi Minh Trail and the mountains and valleys of North and South Vietnam until they reached the main cities of South Vietnam and those along the water port cities of the South China Sea. At this juncture, the United States military had pulled 70% of all of their heavy armed forces (Infantry-Artillery-Armor) from Vietnam. Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and the Philippine Islands had pulled all of their armed forces from this area as well. Therefore, most of the foreign and allied armed forces had left the war zone with the “thinking that North Vietnam had surrendered” and in fact they did; they simply reneged on their agreement. The bulk of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy had also departed. The only military branch which is the “forgotten one” known as the USMM or the United States Merchant Marines stayed to take the bulk of the military equipment home by way Quin Nhon and Cam Ranh Bay right off of the South China Sea.



The year 1975 marked the end of the Vietnam War, sometimes called the Second Indochina War or the American War from Vietnam's perspective. The North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam launched the Spring Offensive in March; the South Vietnamese Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) was quickly defeated. The North Vietnamese captured Saigon on April 30, accepting the surrender of South Vietnam. In the final days of the war, the United States, which had supported South Vietnam for many years, carried out an emergency evacuation of its civilian and military personnel and more than 130,000 Vietnamese. At the beginning of the Spring Offensive the balance of forces in Vietnam was approximately as follows; North Vietnam: 305,000 soldiers, 600 armored vehicles and 490 heavy artillery pieces in South Vietnam and South Vietnam: 1.0 million soldiers, 1,200 to 1,400 tanks and more than 1,000 pieces of heavy artillery.



The City Of Hue Falls—1975

Having been evacuated by the South Vietnamese army, the old Vietnamese imperial capital of Hue falls to North Vietnamese forces. Many of the city's residents join the masses of refugees retreating south and east, to the coast, hoping for evacuation.

The Hue–Da Nang Campaign was a series of military actions conducted by the People's Army of Vietnam against the Army of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, also known in Vietnam as the American War. The campaign was centered on the cities of Huế (Thừa Thiên-Huế Province) and Da Nang (Quảng Nam Province), with secondary fronts in the provinces of Quảng Trị and Quảng Ngãi. The campaign began on March 5 and concluded on April 2, 1975.

During the spring season of 1975, the PAVN High Command in Hanoi made the decision to seize the major South Vietnamese cities of Huế and Da Nang, and also destroy the various South Vietnamese units in I Corps Tactical Zone, led by ARVN General Ngô Quang Trưởng. Originally, the campaign was planned to take place over two phases; during the seasons of spring-summer and autumn. However, as the North Vietnamese forces rolled over South Vietnamese defenses on the outskirts of Huế and Da Nang, President Thiệu ordered General Trưởng to abandon all territories under his control, and pull his forces back to the coastal areas of I Corps. The South Vietnamese withdrawal quickly turned into a rout, as the PAVN 2nd Army Corps picked off one South Vietnamese unit after another, until Huế and Da Nang were completely surrounded. By March 29, 1975, the North Vietnam troops had full control of Huế and Da Nang, while South Vietnam lost all territories and most of the units belonging to I Corps.

The fall of Huế and Da Nang did not spell the end of the misery suffered by the ARVN. On March 31, ARVN General Phạm Văn Phú—commander of II Corps Tactical Zone—attempted to form a new defensive line from Qui Nhon to cover the retreat of the South Vietnamese, 22nd Infantry Division, but they too were destroyed by the PAVN. By April 2nd, South Vietnam had lost control of the northern provinces, as well as two army corps.

In many ways, things are about to come to an end. North Vietnam is pouring all they have into this timeframe to take over South Vietnam and it appears that they will. The big question is this. Did the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Philippines and South Korea win the war? Answer: **YES**. The Eastern Hemisphere did **NOT** and is **NOT** under massive Communist control.



The Bottom Line—2022

Today is June and the year is 2022. The Vietnam War is well over with and the country of Vietnam is a good partner and ally of the United States. The war was over with in May of 1975 and consisted of a lot differing political and physical battles that lasted right at twenty (20) years, or 1955-1975 the same length as the Global War on Terror (2001-2021).

One of the first things to go in our person is our memory and we need to document our time in the service, our time in training, our time in Vietnam or other country in which you served such as Germany, Guam, Korea or Japan. You served no matter what or where. And it is important that YOU, the Vietnam Veteran to document your time in service as a legacy and memory for you, your children and family.

There are many generations that have been born since the end of the War in Vietnam and many of them know no little or nothing about the Vietnam War. When it comes to what countries go through (especially your own), kids need to know about the effects of conflict especially what we (America and the rest of the world) are going through with the Ukraine and Russian War. None of us knows where this is going to wind up as World War III or a loss on the part of either one or involvement of a new country such as Iran or Eastern Europe.

I don't need to remind any of you that time goes by fast and much faster than we would like and before too much time flies by, seriously consider documenting yourself in its entirety, teach your family about your time in the military; show your family what you did while in the military and especially in Vietnam, create a visible memory of you for your family with details of your time in the service and even your personal life.

Most of us are in our mid-to-late 70's and maybe early 80's and we need to act as quickly as we can. Consider filming your life, along with your time in the military where your family will see you on camera as it will service as a precious memory for everyone. Don't wait as I mentioned that time is flying by and life will be over with sooner than you think.

Most of us reading this newsletter have been with Vietnam Veterans of America for many, many years and we all have memories of great times with VVA over the hundreds of meetings consisting of Chapter and State Council, the military parades, Veterans day events, photo events, the National Conventions, the Leadership Conferences and the list goes on and on. These are special memories for us and should be for your family members.

Consider going back to Vietnam with one or two of your children and show them where you were and travel by bus or train from the Me Kong Delta to Hanoi and Hai Long Bay. I did the trip in 2011 and it was a trip of a lifetime. We only get one chance to do certain things in our life and we need to create those opportunities for them and yourself.

The bottom line is this. Do what you can for yourself and others, remember your times with VVA. Create a legacy for yourself and your family before it is too late. Keep positive memories about everything in life, teach your family about Vietnam and keep that big smile on your face as we all know "**That life is too short**" to have anything else.

Honor and Remember Memorial Day— 1918 to 2022



--And I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free. And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me. (*Lee Greenwood*)

-- It's better to fight for something in life than die for nothing. (*General George S. Patton*)

-- As we set today aside to honor and thank our veterans, let us be mindful that we should do this every day of the year and not just one. (*Beth Pennington*)

--And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice. (*President Ronald Reagan*)

-- This is the day we pay homage to all those who didn't come home. This is not Veterans Day, it's not a celebration, a day of solemn contemplation over the cost of Freedom (*Tamra Bolton*)

-- Without memory, there is no culture. Without memory, there would be no civilization, no society, no future (*Elie Wiesel*)

-- The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment." (*Judd Gregg*)

-- Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. (*General Douglas MacArthur*)

Memorial Day For All Veterans — May 2022



Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May at national cemeteries, by placing flowers and American flags on graves of military personnel. It was formerly observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place an American flag on graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

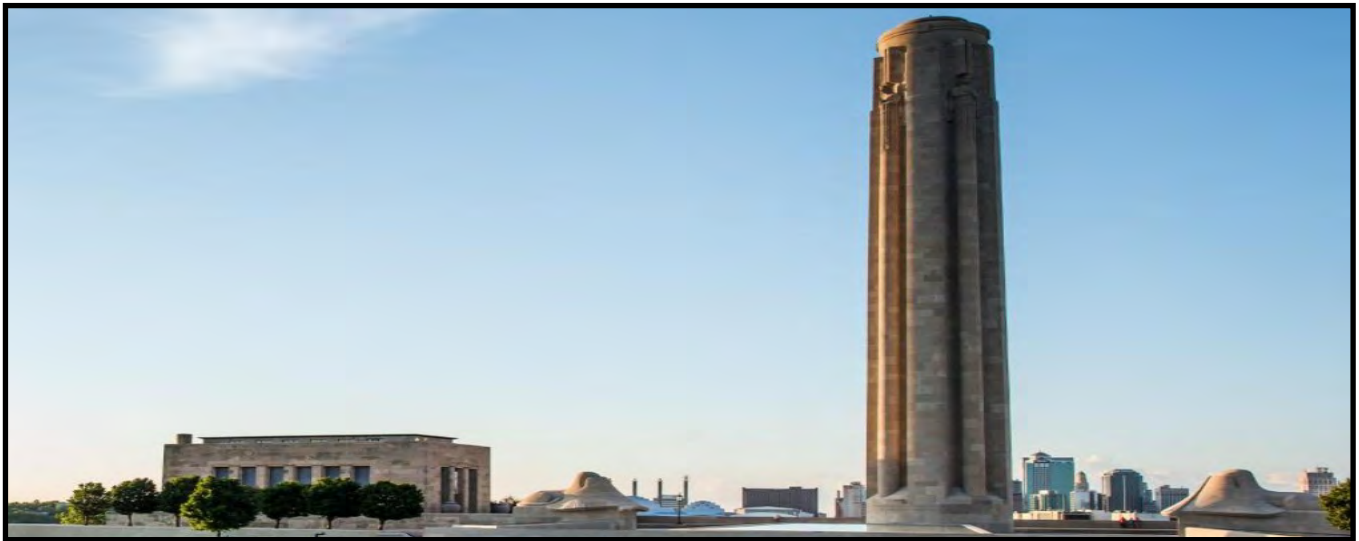
The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the day was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic for the purpose of honoring Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones, between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to have first celebrated the event.



Official recognition as holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The World Wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the United States military who died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in the month of May.

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day (which is earlier in May), an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day (on November 11), which honors those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Memorial Day For World War I Veterans — 1918



- There was believed to be around 8 million Frenchmen fighting, 13 million Germans, 9 million Austro-Hungarian men, 9 million British soldiers, 18 million Russians, 6 million Italians and 4 million from the United States. Here's the "official" break down:
- France: 1.4 million dead, 4.2 million injured.
- Germany: 1.8 million dead, 4.2 million injured.
- Austria-Hungary: 1.4 million dead, 3.6 million injured.
- Russia: 1.8 million dead, 5 million injured.
- Britain and British Empire: 900,000 dead, 2 million injured.
- Italy: 600,000 dead, 1 million injured.
- Ottoman Empire: 800,000 dead.
- Serbia suffered the greatest losses to their military. Nearly three quarters of their soldiers were either killed (130,000) or wounded (135,000).
- The battles of Verdun and the Somme in 1916 left 770,000 and 1.2 million (respectively) missing, wounded or dead from both sides.
- Some of the most devastating losses were caused in the beginning weeks of the world war. In one day, August 22, 1914, nearly 27,000 French soldiers were killed. That day remains to be the deadliest day in France's history in regards to military men killed.
- It has been said that 70% of those wounded or killed in combat was due to artillery gun fire.
- Somewhere between 5 and 6 million troops were mutilated for life because of this. 20,000 lives were lost due to the introduction of poison gas being used on the battlefield. While this is a low number compared to the overall losses, it is still a significant amount of bodies.
- Military people were not the only lives lost because of WWI. Millions of civilians were casualties of the fighting. One million Armenians were slaughtered by Turkish forces. Some historians believe that close to 5 million people were killed in the Russian Civil war.
- The Spanish influenza epidemic broke out at the end of the war and this caused another 20 to 40 million deaths among the populace that already was suffering from deprivation.
- Of course, all of these numbers do not account for the missing and the unaccounted for the 6 million prisoners of war.
- It is believed there were 20 million people living in areas that were occupied by German, Austro-Hungarian, and Bulgarian rule. 10 million people sought refuge in countries across Europe.
- The war left 3 million widows and nearly 6 million children without parents.
- There were 1.3 billion shells fired with most of them originating from the Western front. This includes 330 million fired by French artillery and 60 million was fired during the Battle of Verdun.
- There were 10 billion letters/packages sent between soldiers and families during 4 years of war.
- It is believed that nearly \$180 billion was spent by the six nations. This was the war to end all wars as one word described its mission and that was "PRIDE".

Memorial Day For World War II Veterans — 1945

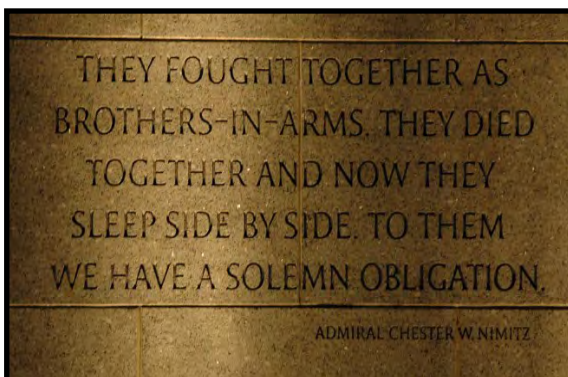


World War II or the Second World War, often abbreviated as WWII or WW2, was a global war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. It involved the vast majority of the world's countries—including all of the great powers—forming two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis powers. In a total war directly involving more than 100 million personnel from more than 30 countries, the major participants threw their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities behind the war effort, blurring the distinction between civilian and military resources. Aircraft played a major role in the conflict, enabling the strategic bombing of population centers and the only two uses of nuclear weapons in war. World War II was by far the deadliest conflict in human history; it resulted in 70 to 85 million fatalities, a majority being civilians. Tens of millions of people died due to genocides (including the Holocaust), starvation, massacres, and disease. In the wake of the Axis defeat, Germany and Japan were occupied, and war crimes tribunals were conducted against German and Japanese leaders.

Country Military Civilian Total

USSR	12 mil	15 mil	27 mil
China	1.8 mil	7.5 mil	9.3 mil
Poland	400,000	5.86 mil	6.26 mil
Germany	3.25 mil	2.44 mil	5.69 mil
Japan	1.5 mil	500,000	2 mil
Yugo.	305,000	1.35 mil	1.66 mil
Romania	450,000	465,000	915,000
Hungary	200,000	600,000	800,000
France	245,000	350,000	595,000
Britain	403,000	92,700	495,000
Italy	330,000	100,000	430,000
Austria	280,000	125,000	405,000
USA	407,000	6,000	413,000
Greece	60,000	350,000	410,000
Czech.	7,000	315,000	322,000
Holland	13,700	236,000	249,000
Philippine	27,000	91,000	118,000
Belgium	23,000	76,000	99,000
Finland	80,000	10,000	90,000
Bulgaria	10,000	51,000	61,000
Canada	9,000	39,000	48,000
Australia	35,000	35,000	70,000
Albania	20,000	10,000	30,000
India	25,000	25,000	50,000
New Zea	17,000	17,000	34,000

The exact causes of World War II are debated, but contributing factors included the Second Italo-Ethiopian War, the Spanish Civil War, the Second Sino-Japanese War, the Soviet–Japanese border conflicts and rising European tensions since World War I. World War II is generally considered to have begun on 1 September 1939, when Nazi Germany, under Adolf Hitler, invaded Poland. The United Kingdom and France subsequently declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939. Under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact of August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union had partitioned Poland and marked out their "spheres of influence" across Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. From late 1939 to early 1941, in a series of campaigns and treaties, Germany conquered or controlled much of continental Europe, and formed the Axis alliance with Italy and Japan (along with other countries later on). Following the onset of campaigns in North Africa and East Africa, and the fall of France in mid-1940, the war continued primarily between the European Axis powers and the British Empire, with war in the Balkans, the aerial Battle of Britain, the Blitz of the UK, and the Battle of the Atlantic. On 22 June 1941, Germany led the European Axis powers in an invasion of the Soviet Union, opening the Eastern Front, the largest land theatre of war in history. And Germany surrendered on May 8, 1945.

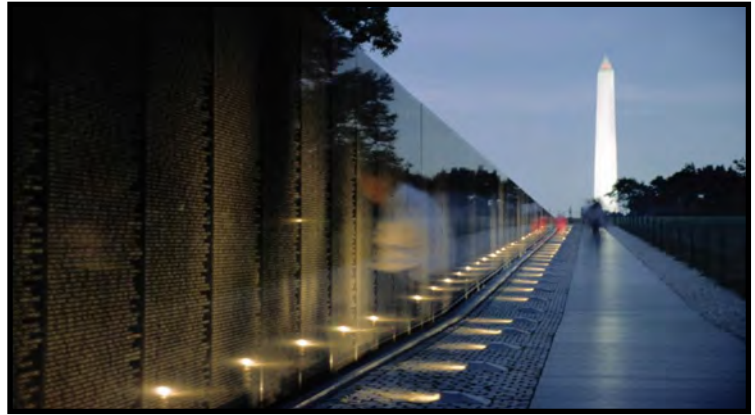
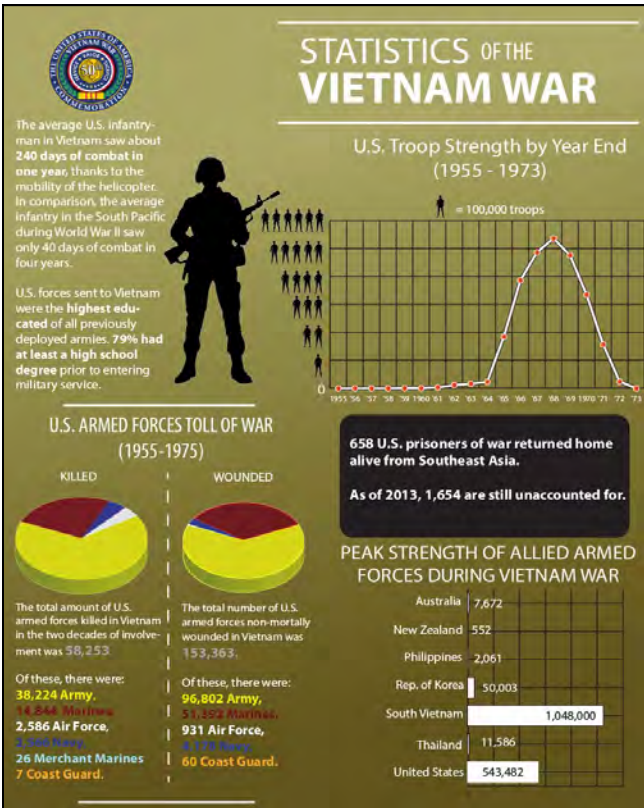


Memorial Day For Korean War Veterans — 1953

The Korean War began at 4:30 a.m. on June 25, 1950, and ended on July 27, 1953. There are still more than 7,000 U.S. soldiers missing in action from the war. The Korean War took a heavy toll up to a total of 5 million dead, wounded, or missing, and half of them civilians. Although actual hostilities during the Korean War ended on July 27, 1953, Congress lengthened the war period to January 31, 1955, to extend benefit eligibility for soldiers because peace was so uncertain after the 1953 peace negotiations. The Korean War was the first Cold War conflict and the Korean War was the first military action of the Cold War. North Koreans who were born after the Korean War in the late 1950s are on average about 2 inches shorter than South Koreans. In March 2013, North Korea declared the 1953 armistice that rendered the Korean War invalid. There were 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period, from June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955. There were 54,200 American deaths during the period of hostilities (June 27, 1950-July 27, 1953). Of these, 33,700 were actual battle deaths. The U.S. dropped more bombs in Korea (635,000 tons, as well as 32,557 tons of napalm) than in the entire Pacific theater during WW II. One of the most embarrassing incidents during the Korean War was when U.S. Army Brigadier General Francis Townsend Dodd was held hostage by North Korean POWs during a camp uprising. The incident led to a North Korean propaganda victory, and Dodd suffered career-ending embarrassment. Although millions of people died during the Korean War, no one side can claim it won the war. At best, South Korea can claim that it stopped North Korea from taking over and turning it into a communist nation. Both countries still remain divided, and North Korea is still a communist nation. Months before the North Korean army crossed the 38th parallel, the CIA noted that North Korean troops were moving south. During the Korean War, South Korea was supported by the United States, Great Britain, and the United Nations, which all supported democracy and opposed communism. Even though 16 countries participated in the Korean War, it is still not considered a "world war." Fifteen UN countries sent combat troops to Korea: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey. Four countries sent medical India, Italy, Norway, and Sweden.



Memorial Day For Vietnam War Veterans — 1975



Numbers

- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam War (5Aug1955-7May1975).
- 8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (5 August 1964-28 March 1973)
- 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the SE 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; (1 January 1965 - 28 March 1973)
- 50,000 men served in Vietnam from 1960-1964
- Of the 2.6 million, between 1 to 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were exposed to enemy attack.
- 7,484 women served in RVN, 6,250 were nurses.
- Strength in Vietnam was 543,482 on 30Apr 1969.
- Approximately 2,594,000 US Servicemen served in country during the Vietnam War.
- 1,736,000 were US Army; 391,000 were US Marines, 293,000 were US Airmen; 174,000-Naval

Casualties:

- Hostile deaths: 47,359; Non-hostile deaths: 10,797
- Total: 58,156 (including MIA casualties).
- Highest state death rate: West Virginia--84.1. (The national average death rate for males in 1970 was 58.9 per 100,000).
- WIA: 303,704-153,329 required hospitalization.
- Severely disabled: 75,000, 23,214 were classified 100% disabled. 5,283 lost limbs, 1,081 amputation
- 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.
- MIA: 2,338 and POW's 766, of whom 114 died in captivity.
- 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.



Memorial Day For Global War on Terror — 2021



- At least 929,000 people have died due to direct war violence, including armed forces on all sides of the conflicts, contractors, civilians, journalists, and humanitarian workers.
- Many times more have died indirectly in these wars, due to ripple effects like malnutrition, damaged infrastructure, and environmental degradation.
- Over 387,000 civilians have been killed in direct violence by all parties to these conflicts.
- Over 7,050 U.S. soldiers have died in the wars.
- We do not know the full extent of how many U.S. service members returning from these wars became injured or ill while deployed.
- Many deaths and injuries among U.S. contractors have not been reported as required by law, but it is likely that approximately 8,000 have been killed.
- 38 million people have been displaced by the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and the Philippines.
- The U.S. government is conducting counterterror activities in 85 countries, vastly expanding this war across the globe.
- The post-9/11 wars have contributed significantly to climate change.
- The wars have been accompanied by erosions in civil liberties and human rights at home and abroad.
- The human and economic costs of these wars will continue for decades with some costs, such as the financial costs of U.S. veterans' care, not peaking until mid-century.
- Most U.S. government funding of reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan has gone towards arming security forces in both countries. Much of the money allocated to humanitarian relief and rebuilding civil society has been lost to fraud, waste, and abuse.
- The cost of the post-9/11 wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, and elsewhere totals about \$8 trillion. This does not include future interest costs on borrowing for the wars.

The 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War-2010-2025



The Commemoration of the Vietnam War which ran from 1955-1975 is nearly over with and we (Vietnam Veterans) should get ready as the end of our lives are nearly here. We need to create, find, remember the memories of Vietnam and our time in the service whether it was in country or elsewhere. It is imperative that we leave our families with as much as we can to have them remember us, the war itself as to what we did during the 1950's to 1970's. Time is running out, don't wait. And enjoy one last Vietnam Commemoration event with yourself and the family.



Vietnam Veterans represented nearly 10% of their generation. They fought under challenging conditions, and when their service ended, were not always welcome when they returned home. President Obama highlighted that one of our country's most painful times was Vietnam and how we treated our service members who served there. "You were often blamed for a war you didn't start when you should have been commended for serving your country with valor," he said. "You came home and sometimes were denigrated when you should have been celebrated." The Vietnam War 50th Commemoration is our opportunity to celebrate the Veterans' and families' service and sacrifice.

We honor all who served on active duty in the U.S. Army and their families at any time between November 1, 1955 - May 15, 1975, regardless of duty location.

VIETNAM WAR 50TH YEAR COMMEMORATION

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense and launched by President Obama in 2012.

By Presidential proclamation, the Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025. Our nation will commemorate this 50th anniversary over a 13-year period.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by President Obama in 2012 to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam Veterans and their families for service and sacrifice. President Obama officially inaugurated this commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., on May 28, 2012. By Presidential proclamation, the Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025. Our nation will commemorate this 50th anniversary over a 13-year period.

We invite you to join us in thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. Since its inception, the Commemoration publicly thanked more than 3 million Vietnam Veterans at over 21,000 ceremonies.

Vietnam in 2022 — Consider A Visit



Our Personal Time Is Running Out

**Vietnam Veterans of
America National**

Arizona State Council

Phoenix, Arizona

Chapter within Arizona are

**Chapter 95—Prescott
P.O. Box 1343
Prescott, AZ 86302**

**Chapter 106—Tucson
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85713**

**Chapter 432-Phoenix
P.O. Box 10363
Phoenix, AZ 85064**

**Chapter 975-Kingman
P.O. Box 184
Kingman, AZ 86402**

**Chapter 1011—Phoenix
P.O. Box 402
Phoenix, AZ 85205**

**Chapter 1093-Sierra
Vista
2871 Palmer Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650**

“The AZ-LZ” newsletter began its start in year 2011 and has won three (3) VVA National Awards and is one of the most read newsletters in America.

It has a readership of over 20,000 personnel and the content of this newsletter is noted on the “informational, educational and personal” point of view of VVA itself as well as the thinking that it’s nice to read something from another point of view.

I know you have heard this before and you have undoubtedly seen it before, maybe on television or your children or your doctor or you, or your, take your pick. The questions, is **WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?**

When it comes to VVA-Arizona, our State Council and Chapters are not like they were about 10 years ago. We were younger, healthier, could do more, we thought a lot more, did a quite a bit more and now here it is June of 2022 and things are somewhat different within VVA-Arizona. Chapter 835 in Yuma and Chapter 1043 have closed within the year 2021 and yes while there are memories left of them, we need to do what we can for the remaining six (6) chapters in Prescott (95) and West Phoenix (432) and Kingman (975), East Phoenix (1011), Tucson (106) and Sierra Vista (1093).

There is not a lot we can do about our age except take good care of our bodies and still make a difference in people’s lives. We all have had some good and bad experiences while in Vietnam, but, please **FOCUS on the GOOD times** of your time in the military as well as your personal life. Leave those memories to the two or three generations that we all are leaving behind. There are likely scores of events, thoughts, as well as other memorable things in your life you would like to and should pass on to your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

If you have not been to a chapter meeting or you are a delegate or officer and you have the opportunity to attend a state council meeting, seriously doing it and provide your insight to helping VVA-Arizona grow in the next few years before its closing. VVA-Arizona is seeking those with thoughts, the gift to give something to VVA and the use of your talents before it is too late.

Finally, the “AZ-LZ” author would like to ask all of us to seriously consider leaving a little bit of our wealth to Vietnam Veterans of America National. We cannot take any of it with us and we by far, will leave the vast majority to family, our church, children, etc. Please note what Vietnam Veterans of America has done for all of us for the past 20-30 years.

We are one of the most invigorating fraternal organizations in America and we all need to leave behind and keep the memories and good thoughts about our military time in the military, our time and fun times in Vietnam and in general our entire life.