

TABLE 11.4  
Eighty-five Percent Died At  
25 Years of Age Or Younger

Age at Death	Air Force				Total
	Army	Marines	Navy	Force	
17-18	1,039	1,557	13	0	2,609
19	3,492	3,393	113	9	7,007
20	8,200	3,486	269	26	11,981
21	5,858	1,787	262	36	7,943
Subtotal 19-21	17,550	8,666	644	71	26,931
22-25	7,869	1,902	436	214	10,421
26-30	2,230	433	171	285	3,119
31-35	1,067	231	86	229	1,613
Over 35	840	147	76	202	1,265
Total	30,595	12,936	1,426	1,001	45,958

All U.S. combat deaths through March 1973 (missing not included).  
Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
Directorate for Information Operations, April 4, 1973

TABLE 11.5  
Sixty-five Percent of The Dead  
Had Served Less Than Two Years

Length of Service	Air Force				Total
	Army	Marines	Navy	Force	
Less than 1 year	10,232	4,728	33	2	14,995
1 to 2 years	9,762	4,750	306	35	14,853
More than 2 years	7,174	3,453	1,068	765	12,460
Unknown	3,427	5	19	199	3,650
Totals	30,595	12,936	1,421	1,001	45,958

All U.S. combat deaths through March 1973 (missing not included).  
Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
Directorate for Information Operations, April 4, 1973

TABLE 11.6  
Twice As Many Troops Died During The First  
Half of Their Tour As In The Second Half

Months in Country	Air Force			Total
	Army	Marines	Navy	
First three months	11,502	3,692	367	15,798
Second three months	7,489	2,013	225	9,899
Third three months	5,045	1,349	113	6,645
Fourth three months	1,714	569	52	2,405
Over 12 months	653	176	47	893
Unknown-Not reported	32	3,110	422	3,645
Total	26,435	10,909	1,226	39,285

U.S. combat deaths January 1967 - December 1972.  
Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
Directorate for Information.

TABLE 11.7  
Blacks Accounted for 12 Percent  
Of The Combat Deaths

Race	Air Force			Total
	Army	Marines	Navy	
White	26,280	11,209	1,375	39,827
Black	3,994	1,600	38	5,662
Other	321	127	13	469
Total	30,595	12,936	1,426	45,958

U.S. combat deaths through March 1973 (missing not included).  
Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
Directorate for Information Operations.

**TABLE 11.2**  
**Soldiers And Marines Fighting On The Ground**  
**Suffered 88 Percent Of The U.S. Combat Deaths**

	Army	Marines	Navy	Air Force	Total
Air	2,508	575	244	851	4,178
Ground	28,087	12,361	1,126	150	41,724
Sea	0	0	56	0	56
Total	30,595	12,936	1,426	1,001	45,958

All U.S. combat deaths through March 1973, missing not included.  
 Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
 Directorate for Information Operations, April 4, 1973.

**TABLE 11.3**  
**Ninety Percent Of The Combat**  
**Deaths Were Enlisted Men**

Rank	Army	Marines	Navy	Air Force	Total
Officers & Warrant Officers	3,324	718	226	687	4,955
Enlisted					
E6-9	2,480	359	128	59	3,026
E5	4,116	598	202	97	5,013
E4	9,252	2,030	434	103	11,819
E3	11,040	3,841	414	52	15,347
E2	296	5,079	21	3	5,399
E1	87	311	1	0	399
Total Enlisted	27,271	12,218	1,200	314	41,003
Total Killed	30,595	12,936	1,426	1,001	45,958

All U.S. combat deaths through March, 1973, (missing not included).  
 Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
 Directorate for Information Operations, April 4, 1973.

**TABLE 11.11**  
**Causes Of American Combat Deaths**

	Army	Marines	Navy	Air Force	Total
Aircraft Loss:					
Fixed wing	84	132	172	775	1,163
Helicopter	2,424	443	72	76	3,015
Subtotal	2,508	575	244	851	4,178
Gunshot or Small Arms Fire	12327	5638	398	22	18,385
Indirect Fire					
Artillery/Rocket	2,334	2,117	319	109	4,879
Other explosion <sup>a</sup>	4,133	3,064	259	15	7,471
Multiple fragmen- tation wounds	7,385	1,004	75	1	8,465
Subtotal	13,852	6,185	653	125	20,815
Other causes	1,799	517	113	3	2,432
Unknown or not reported	109	21	18	0	148
Total	30,595	12,936	1,426	1,001	45,958

All American deaths through March 1973 (missing not included).

<sup>a</sup>Grenades, Mines and bombs.

Source: Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller),  
 Directorate for Information Operations.

