

Post 3/3/67

## U.S. Fatalities Decline

# Enemy Deaths Reach Record High

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, March 2 — Communist forces in Vietnam lost a record number of dead while American fatalities decreased slightly during the week ending Feb. 25, the U.S. Military command announced today.

The reported Communist loss of 2332 men killed surpassed the previous high week of Nov. 14-20, 1965, when there was heavy fighting in the Ladrang Valley in the Central Highlands.

[Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara said in Washington yesterday that Communist casualties for the past three months have been running 40 to

50 per cent higher than in earlier months of the war.]

The American figures for the number of enemy slain were 129 less than those reported on Monday by the South Vietnamese headquarters.

The two commands' totals of enemy dead rarely agree, and U.S. officers said the difference resulted because the American report is issued later, it contains more information, and evaluation methods are slightly different.

While the number of Americans killed dropped nine to 163, it was still the third highest number of American dead for any week of the war. The number of U.S. wounded rose by almost 14 per cent.

The U.S. command also reported that 1108 Vietcong defected from the enemy's ranks, the highest number ever reported. Defections were said to be running at twice the rate they were during the first few weeks of 1966.

American spokesmen said that 1000 more U.S. troops arrived in the country during the week, increasing the total of American forces here to 415,000.

	KILLED		WOUNDED		MISSING OR CAPTURED	
	Feb. 25	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	Feb. 18	Feb. 25	Feb. 18
U.S.	163	172	919	802	(not given)	10
Viet- namese	286	110	(not given)	(not given)	45	33
Allied	21	40	69	76	(not given)	(not given)
*Com- munist	2332	2029	(not given)	(not given)	(not given)	(not given)

\*As reported by the U.S. command