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Most Army deserters didn't blame Vietnam

Associated Press

the Vietnam war.

WASHINGTON—A Pentagon report says only 14 per cent of the Army deserters who participated in President Ford's clemency program "mention Vietnam as being in any way responsible for their decision to leave."

"Their reasons for leaving were generally unassociated with the war," said the Pentagon report on the President's program, which was aimed at healing national divisiveness over

the Vietnam war. Half of the men said they deserted because of personal, family or financial problems, the report said. Similar reasons were given by most deserters during World War II and the Korean War, it added.

Most of the remainder were unable to adjust to Army life, according to Pentagon officials, and generally most had limited education, were nonwhite and were under the age of 20 when they entered service.
