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# '50,000 Deserters, Draft Resisters'

**SF Chronicle**  
Washington

The Pentagon and Justice Department, objecting to any general grant of amnesty for Vietnam war resisters, said yesterday more than 50,000 men have deserted the armed forces or violated draft laws in the Vietnam era.

Currently there are an estimated 30,000 deserters, a Pentagon official said at a Senate judiciary subcommittee hearing.

The assistant secretary of defense for personnel, Major General Leo Benade, said that the figure includes 2232 men who have deserted to such foreign countries as Sweden, Canada and Mexico.

"Of those who have deserted to other countries less than 4.1 per cent were motivated by anti-Vietnam or political protest," Benade said.

Other figures came in a letter from Assistant Attorney General Robert C. Mardian, head of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division, to the subcommittee chairman, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.)

As of February 14, he said, there were 4201 fugitives who had been indicted or named in criminal com-

plaints for alleged violations of the Selective Service laws.

Benade said that qualms over the U.S. role in Vietnam are the least significant reason for desertion.

He said the most important reasons include personal or family financial troubles, inability to adjust to the Army, a lack of respect for authority, romantic entanglements, and attempts to escape other punishment.

*Associated Press*

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