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21 More Secret U.S. War Dead

Washington

The Pentagon added 21 Americans yesterday to the list of those killed in secret missions in Laos and Cambodia during the Indochina war, and there may be more.

That means there were at least 102 casualties misreported to Congress as having died in South Vietnam. On Wednesday, a Pentagon spokesman disclosed that the families of 81 men killed on secret missions in Laos and Cambodia were originally told the GIs had died in South Vietnam.

The misreporting resulted from a double accounting system designed to keep the intelligence missions from becoming public knowledge.

The Pentagon said the statistics on the ground operation and others showing 3630 bombing raids in Cambodia in 1969 and '1970 were stored in computers.

In the ground operations, teams of Americans were sent into Laos and Cambodia during much of the Indochina war to keep tabs on movements of North Vietnamese troops along the Ho Chi Minh trail and to measure the effect of B-52 bombing raids.

Associated Press