

Ex-Green Beret Says U.S. Still Hides Actions in War

by Seymour M. Hersh

Washington, July 26 - A former Green Beret sergeant accused the Pentagon today of continuing to cover up the extent of secret United States military operations in Laos and Cambodia. He also charged that Government officials had deliberately understated the number of Americans killed on those operations.

"Now that the cat's out of the bag," said Thomas J. Marzullo of Stamford, Conn., who served with the Army Special Forces in Southeast Asia from 1969 to 1971, "Why in the hell can't we at least be honest?"

Mr. Marzullo, 24 years old, was referring to the Pentagon admission Tuesday that 81 American servicemen have been killed in action while on intelligence or rescue missions in Laos and Cambodia since 1965.

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Casualties were frequently heavy, [Marzullo] recalled, but only those whose bodies were returned and identifiable were officially listed as killed in action. The dead who were left behind, he added, were listed as missing.

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"I'm quite madé about this," he coninued. "Dammit, these people put their lives on the line just like a lot of other people. Don't they deserve at least to have their families told that they're dead so they don't expect them to come walking through the door?"

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