

**TOP SECRET**

1 February 1967

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director****SUBJECT : Estimates of Casualties in North Vietnam**

1. This memorandum is for your information. It shows that the estimates of casualties in North Vietnam in the latest study prepared for Secretary McNamara are consistent with those in the previous study and in other papers derived from it; i.e., memoranda to the President and to Senator Russell and the proposed press release.

2. The casualty tables from the two studies are attached. A comparison of these tables shows the following:

a. The estimates for 1965 are identical.

b. The estimates for 1966 are higher because the latest study (Table 1) covers the full year while the earlier study (Table 2) covered only the first nine months.

c. The 1966 estimates in the latest study are given as a range, based on alternate methodologies. The lower end of the range is derived from exactly the same methodology used in the earlier study. The upper end of the range is based on a new method which takes into account the tons of ordnance dropped and affects only the estimate of civilian casualties inflicted by armed reconnaissance attacks (marked in red). ~~Because we are not yet certain which method yields more accurate results, we have included both and labelled the 1966 column in Table 1 preliminary.~~

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/s/ R. J. Smith

**R. J. SMITH****Deputy Director for Intelligence**

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Estimated Casualties from Rolling Thunder

Table 1

Study Dated January 1967

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966<sup>a/</sup></u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Civilians</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>17,900 to 20,200</u>	<u>23,900 to 26,200</u>
Fixed targets	<u>2,000</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>2,900</u>
Armed reconnaissance	<u>4,000</u>	<u>17,000 to 19,300</u>	<u>21,000 to 23,300</u>
<u>Military</u>	<u>7,200</u>	<u>4,650</u>	<u>11,850</u>
Fixed targets	<u>4,300</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Armed reconnaissance	<u>2,900</u>	<u>4,250</u>	<u>7,150</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>13,200</u></b>	<b><u>22,550 to 24,850</u></b>	<b><u>35,750 to 38,050</u></b>

<sup>a/</sup> Preliminary estimates

Table 2

Study Dated December 1966

	<u>1965</u>	<u>Jan-Sep 1966</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Civilians</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>11,900</u>	<u>17,900</u>
Fixed targets	<u>2,000</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>2,900</u>
Armed reconnaissance	<u>4,000</u>	<u>11,200</u>	<u>15,200</u>
<u>Military</u>	<u>7,200</u>	<u>3,800</u>	<u>11,000</u>
Fixed targets	<u>4,300</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Armed reconnaissance	<u>2,900</u>	<u>3,400</u>	<u>6,300</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>13,200</u></b>	<b><u>15,700</u></b>	<b><u>28,900</u></b>

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