I'm not a robot

Weapons used in the Vietnam war Vietnam-era rifles used by the US military and allies. From top to bottom: M14, MAS 36, M16 (30 round magazine), AR-10, M16 (20 round magazine), M21, L1A1, M40, MAS 49 The Vietnam War involved the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA), National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (NLF) or Viet Cong (VC), and the armed forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Soviet Armed Forces, Korean People's Army, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), United States Armed Forces, Republic of Korea Armed Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and New Zealand Defence Force, with a variety of irregular troops. Nearly all United States-allied forces were armed with U.S. weapons including the M1 Garand, M1 carbine, M14 rifle, and M16 rifle. The Australian and New Zealand forces employed the 7.62 mm L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle as their service rifle, with the occasional use of the M16 rifle. The PAVN, although having inherited a variety of American, French, and Japanese weapons from World War II and the First Indochina War (aka French Indochina War), were largely armed and supplied by the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and its Warsaw Pact allies. Further, some weapons—notably anti-personnel explosives, the K-50M (a PPSh-41 copy), and "home-made" versions of the RPG-2—were manufactured in North Vietnam. By 1969 the US Army had identified 40 rifle/carbine types, 22 machine gun types, 17 types of mortar, 20 recoilless rifle or rocket launcher types, nine types of antitank weapons, and 14 anti-aircraft artillery weapons used by ground troops on all sides. Also in use, mostly by anti-communist forces, were the 24 types of armored vehicles and self-propelled artillery, and 26 types of field artillery and rocket launchers. Captured PAVN weapons During the early stages of their insurgency, the Viet Cong mainly sustained itself with captured arms (often of American manufacture)[1] or crude, self-made weapons (e.g. copies of the US Thompson submachine gun[2] and shotguns made of galvanized pipes).[3][4] Most arms were captured from poorly defended ARVN militia outposts.[5] Communist forces were principally armed with Chinese and Soviet weaponry though some VC guerrilla units were equipped with Western infantry weapons either captured from French stocks during the first Indochina war, such as the MAT-49, or from ARVN units or requisitioned through illicit purchase. By Autumn of 1967, all Viet Cong battalions were reequipped with arms of Soviet design such as the AK-47 and the RPG-2.[6] Their weapons were principally of Chinese[7] or Soviet manufacture.[8] The period up to the conventional phase in the 1970, the Viet Cong and NVA were mostly limited to mortars, recoilless rifles, and small-arms and had significantly lighter equipment and firepower relative to the US arsenal, relying on ambushes, with superior stealth, planning, marksmanship, and small-unit tactics to face the disproportionate US technological advantage.[9] Many divisions within the NVA would incorporate armoured and mechanised battalions including the Type 59 tank, BTR-60, Type 60 artillery, and rapidly altered and integrated new war doctrines following the Tet Offensive into a mobile combined-arms force.[10] The North Vietnamese had both amphibious tanks (such as the PT-76) and light tanks (such the Type 62) used during the conventional phase. Experimental Soviet equipment started being used against ARVN forces at the same time, including Man-portable air-defense system SA-7 Grail and anti-tank missiles including the AT-3 Sagger.[11] By 1975, they had fully transformed from the strategy of mobile light-infantry and using the people's war concept used against the United States.[10] A MiG-21 of the Vietnam People's Air Force, which 13 out of 19 of the VPAF's top fighter aces had flown in most of the successful interception missions against USAF and USN aircraft.[12] The American M16 rifle and XM177 carbine, which both replaced the M14, were lighter and considered more accurate than the AK-47 but in Vietnam was prone to "failure to extract", in which the spent cartridge case remained stuck in the chamber after a round was fired, preventing the next round from feeding and jamming the gun.[citation needed] This was ultimately traced to an inadequately tested switch in propellants from DuPont's proprietary IMR 4475 to Olin's WC 846, that Army Ordnance had ordered out of concern for standardization and mass production capacity.[citation needed] The heavily armored, 90 mm gun M48A3 'Patton' tank saw extensive action during the Vietnam War and over 600 were deployed with U.S. forces. They played an important role in infantry support though there were a few tank versus tank battles. The M67A1 flamethrower tank (nicknamed the Zippo) was an M48 variant used in Vietnam. The use of this euphemistically nicknamed tank should not be confused with the widespread use of actual Zippo lighters to burn villages, which gave rise to the nickname of "Zippo squads". (Far from all such squads fielded the tank.) The Zippo nickname was also applied to man-portable flamethrowers.[13] Artillery was used extensively by both sides but the Americans were able to ferry the lightweight 105 mm M102 howitzer by helicopter to remote locations on quick notice.[14][15] With its 17-mile (27 km) range, the Soviet 130 mm M-46 towed field gun was a highly regarded weapon and used to good effect by the PAVN. It was countered by the long-range, American 175 mm M107 Self-Propelled Gun (nicknamed Miller).[16] The United States had air superiority, though many aircraft were lost to surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery. U.S. airpower was credited with breaking the siege of Khe Sanh and blunting the 1972 Easter Offensive against South Vietnam. At sea, the U.S. Navy had the run of the coastline, using aircraft carriers as platforms for offshore strikes and other naval vessels for offshore artillery support. Offshore naval fire played a pivotal role in the Battle of Huế in February 1968, providing accurate fire in support of the U.S. counter-offensive to retake the city.[17] Captured South Vietnamese warplanes in Ho Chi Minh City The Vietnam War was the first conflict that saw wide-scale tactical deployment of helicopters.[18] The Bell UH-1 Iroquois nicknamed "Huey" was used extensively in counter-guerilla operations both as a troop carrier and a gunship.[15] In the latter role it was outfitted with a variety of armaments including M60 machine guns, multi-barrelled 7.62 mm Miniguns and unguided air-to-surface rockets.[15] The Hueys were also successfully used in MEDEVAC and search and rescue roles.[15] Two aircraft which were prominent in the war were the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship and the UH-1 "Huey" gunship. The AC-130 was a heavily armed ground-attack aircraft variant of the C-130 Hercules transport plane; it was used to provide close air support, air interdiction and force protection. The AC-130H "Spectre" was armed with two 20 mm M61 Vulcan cannons, one Bofors 40 mm autocannon, and one 105 mm M102 howitzer. The Huey is a military helicopter powered by one turboshaft engine, and about 7,000 UH-1 aircraft saw service in Vietnam. At their disposal ground forces had access to B-52 and F-4 Phantom II and others to launch napalm, white phosphorus, tear gas and chemical weapons as well.[19] The aircraft ordnance used during the war included precision-guided munition, cluster bombs, a thickening–gelling agent generally mixed with petroleum or a similar fuel for use in an incendiary device, initially against buildings and later mostly as an anti-personnel weapon that sticks to skin and can burn down to the bone. The Claymore M18A1, an anti-personnel mine, was widely used. It is command-detonated, directionally shooting 700 steel pellets into the kill zone. The Ka-Bar knife was the most famous edged weapon of the war. L1A1 and L1A2 bayonets – used on L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle[20] M1905 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M1917 bayonet – used on various shotguns.[20] M1 Bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M3 fighting knife[22] M4 bayonet – used on the M1 and M2 Carbine.[20] M5 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[20] M6 bayonet – used on the M14.[20] M7 Bayonet – used on the M16.[20] Ka-Bar Utility/fighting Knife – used by the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.[23][24] Randall Made Knives – personally purchased by some US soldiers.[25] Bow – used by US Mobile Riverine Force.[26][better source needed] Crossbow – used by South Vietnamese Montagnards[27] Colt M1911A1 – standard US and ARVN sidearm.[28][29] Colt Commander – used by US military officers and US Special forces. Browning Hi-Power – used by Australian and New Zealand forces (L9 pistol).[30] Also used on an unofficial basis by US reconnaissance and Special Forces units.[31] Colt Detective Special – .38 Special revolver, used by some ARVN officers[29] Colt Police Positive Special – .38 Special revolver, used by USAF and tunnel rats[32] FN Baby Browning- .25 ACP pistol, used as a last resort weapon by MACVSOG.[33] High Standard HDM – Integrally suppressed .22LR handgun, supplemented by the Mark 22 Mod 0 in the later stages of the war.[34] Ingram MAC-10 – compact submachine gun used by US special operations forces.[34] Luger P08 – CIA provided pistol[35] Quiet Special Purpose Revolver – .40 caliber suppressed revolver used by tunnel rats. Smith & Wesson Model 10 – .38 Special revolver used by ARVN,[36] by US Army and USAF pilots[37] and by tunnel rats[32] Colt Python – .357 Magnum revolver carried by MACVSOG. Smith & Wesson Mark 22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy" – Suppressed pistol used by US Navy SEALs and other U.S. special operations forces.[34] Walther P38 – CIA provided pistol[35] Walther PPK – Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG recon skydiver team[33] Welrod -Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG.[33] Vietnamese Rangers with M16 rifles in Saigon during the Tết Offensive L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle – used by Australian and New Zealand soldiers[38] A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam, 1967. M1 Garand – used by the South Vietnamese[39] and South Koreans[40] M1, M1A1, & M2 Carbine – used by the South Vietnamese Military, Police and Security Forces,[39] South Koreans,[41] South Vietnamese People's Self-Defense Force militiawomen with M2 carbines M14, M14E2, M14A1 – issued to most U.S. troops from the early stages of the war until 1967–68, when it was replaced by the M16.[41] M16, XM16E1, and M16A1 – M16 was issued in 1964, but due to reliability issues, it was replaced by the M16A1 in 1967 which added the forward assist and chrome-lined barrel to the rifle for increased reliability.[42] CAR-15 – carbine variant of the M16 produced in very limited numbers, fielded by special operations early on. Later supplemented by the improved XM177. XM177 (Colt Commando)/GAU-5 – further development of the CAR-15, used heavily by MACV-SOG, the US Air Force, and US Army.[34] Stoner 63 – used by US Navy SEALs and USMC.[34] T223 – a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK33 built under license by Harrington & Richardson used in small numbers by SEAL teams. Even though the empty H&R T223 was 0.9 pounds (0.41 kg) heavier than an empty M16A1, the weapon had a forty-round magazine available for it and this made it attractive to the SEALS.[34] MAS-36 rifle – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] AK-47, AKM, and Type 56 – Captured rifles were used by South Vietnamese[44] and U.S. forces.[45][46] M1C/D Garand and MC52 – used by CIA advisors, the USMC and the US Navy early in the war.[47][48] About 520 were supplied to the ARVN and 460 to the Thai forces.[49] M1903A4 Springfield – used by the USMC early in the war, replaced by the M40.[48] M21 Sniper Weapon System – sniper variant of the M14 rifle used by the US Army.[50] M40 (Remington Model 700)– bolt-action sniper rifle meant to replace the M1903A4 Springfield rifle and Winchester Model 70; used by the USMC[48] Parker-Hale M82 – used by ANZAC forces[30] Winchester Model 70 – used by the USMC[48] Beretta M12 – limited numbers were used by U.S. Embassy security units.[51] Carl Gustaf m/45 – used by Navy SEALs in the start of the war, but later replaced by the Smith & Wesson M76 in the late 1960s. Significant numbers also used by MAC-V-SOG, South Vietnamese,[34] and small numbers in Laos by advisors, and Laotian fighters. Smith & Wesson M76 – copy of the Carl Gustaf m/45; few were shipped to Navy SEALs fighting in Vietnam.[52] F1 submachine gun – replaced the Owen Gun in Australian service.[53][54] M3 Grease gun – standard U.S. military submachine gun, also used by the South Vietnamese[34][55] M50/55 Reising – limited numbers were used by MACVSOG and other irregular forces.[34] Madsen M-50 – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] MAS-38 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[56] MAT-49 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[43] Captured models were used in limited numbers[34] MP 40 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] Owen Gun – standard Australian submachine-gun in the early stages of the war, later replaced by the F1 and withdrawn from combat use by 1971.[53][54] Sten submachine gun – used by US special operations forces, often with a suppressor mounted.[45] Sterling submachine gun – used by Australian Special Air Service Regiment and other special operations units.[54] Thompson submachine gun – used often by South Vietnamese troops, and in small quantities by US artillery and helicopter units. Uzi – used by special operations forces and some South Vietnamese, supplied from Israel.[45] Ithaca 37 Shotguns were used as an individual weapon during jungle patrol; infantry units were authorized a shotgun by TO&E (Table of Organization & Equipment). Shotguns were not general issue to all infantrymen, but were select issue weapons, such as one per squad, etc. Ithaca Model 37 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States and ARVN.[34][57] Remington Model 10 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States.[58] Remington Model 11-48 – semi-automatic shotgun used by US Army.[59] Remington Model 31 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army, the SEALs and the ARVN.[59][60] Remington Model 870 – pump-action shotgun, main shotgun used by Marines, Army, and Navy after 1966.[34][59][61] Remington 7188 – experimental select fire shotgun, withdrawn due to lack of reliability. Used by US Navy SEALs[34][62] Savage Model 69E – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[37] Savage Model 720 – semi-automatic shotgun.[63] Stevens Model 77E – pump-action shotgun used by Army and Marine forces. Almost 70,000 Model 77Es were procured by the military for use in SE Asia during the 1960s.[64] Also very popular with the ARVN because of its small size.[65] Stevens Model 520/620[57] Winchester Model 1912 – used by USMC.[66] Winchester Model 1200 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[67] Winchester Model 1897 – used by the Marines during the early stages of the war.[68] South Vietnamese soldier with a M1918 Browning Automatic RifleM60 machine gun – standard General-purpose machine gun for US, ANZAC, and ARVN forces throughout the war.[53] US Marine fires his M60 machine gun at an enemy position during the Battle of Huế. Colt Machine Gun – experimental light machine gun deployed by SEAL Team 2 in 1970.[34] M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle – used by the ARVN during the early stages of the war,[69] as well as many that were airdropped into Laos and used by Laotian fighters. FM 24/29 light machine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] RPD machine gun (and Type 56) – captured and used by reconnaissance teams of Mobile Strike Forces, MAC-V-SOG and other special operation forces. Also commonly modified to cut down the barrel.[46] Stoner M63A Commando & Mark 23 Mod.0 – used by Navy SEALs and tested by Force Recon.[34] M134 Minigun – 7.62 mm vehicle mounted machine gun (rare)[70] M1919 Browning machine gun (and variants such as M37) – vehicle mounted machine gun.[71] Meanwhile, still of use by many South Vietnamese infantry.[30] M73 machine gun – tank mounted machine gun.[71] Browning M2HB .50cal Heavy Machine Gun[34] Claymore anti-personnel mine in use in Vietnam AN-M8 – white smoke grenade[72][73] C4 explosive[74] Mark 2 fragmentation grenade[75] M1 smoke pot[74] M26 fragmentation grenade and many subvariants[76][77] M59 and M67 fragmentation grenade[78][79] M6/M7-series riot control grenades[73] – Used to clear NVA/VC out of caves, tunnels and buildings[80] or stop a pursuer.[72] AN/M14 TH3 thermite grenade – Incendiary grenade used to destroy equipment and as a fire-starting device.[72] M15 and M34 smoke grenades – filled with white phosphorus,[25] which ignites on contact with air and creates thick white smoke.[72] Used for signalling and screening purposes, as well as an anti-personnel weapon in enclosed spaces, as the burning white phosphorus would rapidly consume any oxygen, suffocating the victims. M18 grenade Smoke Hand Grenade – Signalling/screening grenade available in red, yellow, green, and purple.[81][72] V40 Mini-Grenade[82] OF 37 grenade and DF 37 grenade, French grenades used by the ARVN in the 1950s[83][84] XM58 riot control grenade – A miniature riot control grenade used by MACVSOG and Navy SEALs.[80] M14 mine – anti-personnel blast mine[25] M15 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M16 mine – bounding anti-personnel fragmentation mine[85] M18/M18A1 Claymore – command-detonated directional anti-personnel mine[29][86] M19 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M1/M2 rifle grenade adapters – used to convert a standard fragmentation grenade (M1) or smoke grenade (M2) into a rifle grenade when used with the M7 grenade launcher. M7 and M8 rifle grenade launcher – rifle grenade launcher used with respectively the M1 Garand and the M1 carbine, used by the South Vietnamese. Could fire the M9 and M17 rifle grenades.[87] M79 grenade launcher – main U.S. grenade launcher used by all branches of the US military, ANZAC forces, and ARVN.[34][87] China Lake grenade launcher – pump action weapon used in very small numbers.[34] XM148 grenade launcher – experimental underbarrel 40 mm grenade launcher attached to the M16 rifle or XM177 carbine. Also issued to Australian Special Air Service Regiment in conjunction with the modified L1A1 and Sterling Submachine Gun.[88] Withdrawn due to safety reasons.[34][87] M203 grenade launcher – one-shot 40mm underslung grenade launcher designed to attach to an M16 rifle (or XM177 carbine, with modifications to the launcher). First tested in combat April 1969.[34][87] Mark 18 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Hand-cranked, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used by the US Navy.[89] Mark 19 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x53mm grenade launcher.[89] Mk 20 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher. Used mostly by riverine crews but also by Air Force Special Operations.[89] XM174 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used mainly by the US Army.[90] Bazooka – The M9 variant was supplied to the ARVN during the early years of the war,[91] while the M20 "Super Bazooka" was used by the USMC and the ARVN until the full introduction of the M67 90mm recoilless rifle and of the M72 LAW.[92] BGM-71 TOW – wire-guided anti-tank missile used in 1972 by the US, and by the ARVN from 1972 to the end of the war.[93] FIM-43 Redeye MANPADS (Man-Portable Air-Defence System) – shoulder-fired heat-seeking anti-air missile, used by the USMC.[94] M72 LAW – 66 mm anti-tank rocket launcher.[95] RPG-2 - Used by MACVSOG[33] XM202 – experimental four-shot 66mm incendiary rocket launcher.[96] M2A1-7 and M9A1-7 flamethrowers[97][98] A US marine carries an M67 recoilless rifle past a burning Viet Cong base camp in Mỹ Tho, South Vietnam, 1968 M18 recoilless rifle – 57mm shoulder-fired/tripod mounted recoilless rifle, used by the ARVN early in the war.[99] M20 recoilless rifle – 75mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle, used by US and ARVN forces early in the war.[100] M67 recoilless rifle – 90mm shoulder-fired anti-tank recoilless rifle, used by the US Army, US Marine Corps, ANZAC and ARVN selected forces.[100][101][102] M40 recoilless rifle 106mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle.[100][101] M2 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the lighter but less accurate and lower-range M19 mortar.[103] M19 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the older, heavier M2 mortar.[103][104] Brandt Mle 27/31 – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces[105] M1 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces.[105] M29 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[105][106] L16A1 mortar – 81mm, used by ANZAC forces.[53] 82-BM-37 – captured 82 mm mortar, few used by USMC with US rounds.[107] M30 mortar 107 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[108][37] M98 Howtar, variant of the latter mounted on a M116 howitzer carriage.[109] Self-propelled Howitzer M109 in Vietnam M55 quad machine gun – used to defend US Army bases and on vehicles[110][111] Oerlikon 20 mm cannon – used on riverine crafts[112] Bofors 40 mm gun – used on riverine crafts[112] 105 mm Howitzer M101A1/M2A1[113][110] 105 mm Howitzer M102[114][110] 155 mm Howitzer M114[110][115] M53 Self-propelled 155 mm gun[116] M55 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[116] M107 Self-propelled 175 mm gun[110][117][118] M108 Self-propelled 105 mm howitzer[110] M109 Self-propelled 155 mm howitzer[119] M110 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[110][117] L5 pack howitzer 105 mm pack howitzer used by Australia[120] and New Zealand[121] MIM-23 Hawk – medium-range surface to air missile used in very small quantities by the US Marines.[122] HE (High explosive) – standard artillery round.[123] High-explosive anti-tank round – fired by 105 mm guns.[123] White phosphorus – used for screening or incendiary purposes.[123] Smoke shells – used for screening.[123] Leaflet shell[123] Beehive flechette rounds – antipersonnel rounds.[124] Improved conventional munition – antipersonnel shell with submunitions.[125] (listed alphabetically by modified/basic mission code, then numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter) A-1 Skyraider – ground attack aircraft[126] A-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based bomber[127] A-4 Skyhawk – carrier-based strike aircraft[128] A-6 Intruder – carrier-based all weather strike aircraft[129] A-7 Corsair II – carrier-based strike aircraft[130] A-26 Invader – light bomber[131] A-37 Dragonfly – ground attack aircraft[132] AC-47 Spooky – gunship[133] AC-119G "Shadow" – gunship[134] AC-119K "Stinger" – gunship[134] AC-130 "Spectre" – gunship[135] AU-24 Stallion – ground attack aircraft[136] B-52 Stratofortress at Thailand Air BaseB-52 Stratofortress – heavy bomber[137] B-57 Canberra – medium bomber[138] Canberra B.20 – Royal Australian Air Force medium bomber[138] C-1 Trader – cargo/transport aircraft C-2 Greyhound – cargo/transport aircraft C-5 Galaxy – strategic lift cargo aircraft[139] C-7 Caribou – tactical cargo aircraft, used by the U.S. Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and the South Vietnamese Air Force[140] C-46 Commando – cargo/transport aircraft[141] C-47 – cargo/transport aircraft[133] C-54 – transport aircraft[141] C-119 Boxcar – cargo/transport aircraft[134] C-121 Constellation – transport aircraft[142] C-123 Provider – cargo/transport aircraft[143] C-124 Globemaster II – cargo/transport aircraft[144] C-130 Hercules – cargo/transport plane[135] C-133 Cargomaster – cargo/transport aircraft[145] C-141 Starlifter – strategic cargo aircraft[146] E-1 Tracer – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] E-2 Hawkeye – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] EA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EA-6B Prowler – carrier-based electronic warfare & attack aircraft[129] EB-57 Canberra – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[138] EB-66 – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EC-121 – radar warning or sensor relay aircraft[142] EF-10 Skyknight – tactical electronic warfare aircraft[148] EKA-3B Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic warfare aircraft[127] F-4 Phantom II – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[149] F-5 Freedom Fighter – light-weight fighter used in strike aircraft role[150] F8F Bearcat – piston fighter-bomber, used by the South Vietnamese Air Force until 1964.[151] F-8 Crusader – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[152] F-14 Tomcat – carrier-based fighter, made its combat debut during Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, in April 1975.[153] F-100 Super Sabre – fighter-bomber[154] F-102 Delta Dagger – fighter[155] F-104 Starfighter – fighter[155] F-105 Thunderchief – fighter-bomber[156] F-111 Aardvark – medium bomber[157] HU-16 Albatross – rescue amphibian[158] KA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[127] KA-6 Intruder – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[129] KC-130 Hercules – tactical aerial refueler/assault transport aircraft[159] KC-135 Stratotanker – aerial refueling aircraft[160] O-1 Bird Dog – light observation airplane[161] O-2 Skymaster – observation aircraft[162] OV-1 Mohawk – battlefield surveillance and light strike aircraft[163] OV-10 Bronco – light attack/observation aircraft[164] P-2 Neptune – maritime patrol aircraft[165] P-3 Orion – maritime patrol aircraft[166] P-5 Marlin – antisubmarine seaplane[167] QU-22 Pave Eagle (Beech Bonanza) – electronic monitoring signal relay aircraft[166] RA-3B Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[127] RA-5C Vigilante – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[168] RB-47 Stratojet – photographic reconnaissance aircraft[169] RB-57 Canberra – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[138] RB-66 – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[127] RF-4 Phantom II – carrier and land-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[149] RF-8 Crusader – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[152] RF-101 Voodoo – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[170] RT-33A – reconnaissance jet[171] S-2 Tracker – carrier-based anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft SR-71 Blackbird – strategic reconnaissance aircraft[172] T-28 Trojan – trainer/ground attack aircraft[173] T-41 Mescalero – trainer aircraft[174] U-1 Otter – transport aircraft[175] U-2 – reconnaissance aircraft[176] U-6 Beaver – utility aircraft[166] U-8 Seminole – transport/electronic survey aircraft[175][177] U-10 Helio Courier – utility aircraft[166] U-17 Skywagon – utility aircraft[178] U-21 Ute – liaison and electronic survey[175][177][179] YO-3 Quiet Star – light observation airplane[180] USS Garrett County at anchor in the Mekong Delta with two UH-1B Iroquois helicopters on deck (listed numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter, then alphabetically by mission code) UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" – utility transport and gunship helicopter[181][182] AH-1G HueyCobra – attack helicopter[182] AH-1J SeaCobra – twin-engine attack helicopter[182] UH-1N Iroquois – twin-engine utility helicopter[183] UH-2 Seasprite – carrier-based utility helicopter[184][185] CH-3 Sea King – long-range transport helicopter[186] HH-3 "Jolly Green Giant" – long-range combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter[186] SH-3 Sea King – carrier-based anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopter[186] OH-6A Cayuse "Loach" (from LOH – Light Observation Helicopter) – light transport/observation (i.e. scout) helicopter[187][188] OH-13 Sioux – light observation helicopter[181] UH-19 Chickasaw – utility transport helicopter[181] CH-21 Shawnee – cargo/transport helicopter[181] OH-23 Raven – light utility helicopter[181] CH-34 Choctaw – cargo/transport helicopter[181][189] CH-37 Mojave – cargo/transport helicopter[181] HH-43 Huskie – rescue helicopter[187][190] CH-46 Sea Knight – cargo/transport helicopter[184][191] CH-47 Chinook – cargo/transport helicopter[192][193] CH-53 Sea Stallion – heavy-lift transport helicopter[184][194] HH-53 "Super Jolly Green Giant" – long-range combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter[194] CH-54 Tarhe "Sky Crane" – heavy lift helicopter[192][195] OH-58A Kiowa – light transport/observation helicopter[187] See also: List of Bombs in the Vietnam War GBUs CBUs BLU-82 Daisy cutter Napalm Bomb, 250 lb, 500 lb, 750 lb, 1000 lb, HE (high explosive), general-purpose Rocket, aerial, HE (High Explosive), 2.75 inch A minigun being fired from a combat search and rescue helicopter in Vietnam M60D machine gun – 7.62mm (helicopter mount)[196] Minigun – 7.62 mm (aircraft and helicopter mount)[197] Colt Mk 12 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[198] M3 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[199] M39 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[154] M61 Vulcan – 20 mm (aircraft mount),[197] M195 was used on AH-1[200] M197 Gatling gun – 20 mm (used on AH-1J helicopters)[201] M75 grenade launcher – 40 mm (helicopter mount)[202] M129 grenade launcher – 40 mm (helicopter mount)[203] AIM-4 Falcon[204] AIM-7 Sparrow[205] AIM-9 Sidewinder[205] AGM-12 Bullpup[206] AGM-22[207] AGM-45 Shrike[208] AGM-62 Walleye[209] AGM-78 Standard ARM[156] AGM-65 Maverick[210] Rainbow Herbicides Agent Orange – While developed to be used as a herbicide to destroy natural obstacles and tree camouflage, it was later revealed that it posed health risks to those exposed to it.[211] Agent Blue – Used to destroy agricultural land that was believed to be used to grow food for the VC/NVA. Agent Green Agent White Napalm[212] CS-1 riot control agent – "Teargas", used in grenades, cluster bomblets or (rarely) shells.[213] CN gas – "teargas"[214] In addition to cargo-carrying and troop transport roles, many of these vehicles were also equipped with weapons and sometimes armor, serving as "gun trucks" for convoy escort duties.[215] M274 Truck, Platform, Utility, 1/2 Ton, 4X4 – Commonly called a "Mechanical Mule".[216][217] Land Rover (short and long wheelbase) – Australian and New Zealand forces.[218][219] CJ-3B and M606 – 1/4 ton jeep[220] M151 – ¼ ton jeep.[221][222][223] Dodge M37 – 3/4 ton truck.[222] M76 Otter – 1¼-ton amphibious cargo carrier used by USMC.[224] M116 Husky – 1¼-ton amphibious cargo carrier, tested by USMC.[225] M733 – 1¼-ton amphibious personnel carrier, M116 variant, tested by USMC.[225] M35 series 2½-ton 6x6 cargo truck[226] M135 2½-ton truck[226] M54 5-ton 6x6 truck[227] M548 – 6-ton tracked cargo carrier[228][229] M520 Goer – 4x4 8-ton cargo truck.[230] M123 and M125 10-ton 6x6 trucks[222] Caterpillar D7E bulldozer – used by US Army[231] Various graders and bulldozers used by the USMC[232] ERDLator[232] M24 Chaffee – light tank; main ARVN tank early in the war,[233] used at least as late as the Tet Offensive. M41A3 Walker Bulldog – light tank, replaced the M24 Chaffee as the main ARVN tank from 1965.[234][235] M48 Patton – main tank of the US Army and Marines[236] throughout the war, and also used by ARVN forces from 1971.[237][238] M67 "Zippo" – flamethrower variant of the M48 Patton, used by USMC.[236] M551 Sheridan – Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle/Light Tank, used by the US Army from 1969.[239] Centurion Mk 5 Main Battle Tank – used by the Australian Army,[240] with AVLB and ARV variants.[241] C15TA Armoured Truck – used by the ARVN early in the war[235] LVTP5 (aka AMTRACs) – amphibious tractors/landing craft used by USMC[236][242] and later by RVNMD[238] Lynx Scout Car Mk II – used by the ARVN[235] M113 – APC (Armored Personnel Carrier)[243][237][244] M113 ACAV – Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle[245] M163 Vulcan – self-propelled anti-aircraft tank[246] M114 – reconnaissance vehicle[242] M132 armored flamethrower[247] M106 mortar carrier[248] M3 Scout Car – used by South Vietnamese forces early in the war.[249] M3 half-track – used by South Vietnamese forces early in the war.[249] Cadillac Gage V-100 Commando – replaced ARVN M8 armored cars in 1967.[250] Also used by US forces as M706 Commando.[251] M8 Greyhound – used by ARVN forces early in the war.[249] M56 Scorpion – limited use in 1965–1966[252] M50 Ontos – self-propelled 106 mm recoilless rifle carrier used by the USMC until 1969.[236][253] M42 Duster – M41 based hull, with a twin 40 mm antiaircraft gun mounted on an open turret[243] M728 Combat Engineer Vehicle – modified M60 Patton tank equipped with dozer blade, short-barrelled 165 mm M135 Demolition Gun, and A-Frame crane.[254] M60 AVLB – armored vehicle launched bridge using M60 Patton chassis.[255][256] M51 armored recovery vehicle – fielded by US Marines.[236] M578 light recovery vehicle[257] M88 recovery vehicle – armored recovery vehicle based on M48 chassis.[258] Wickums armored draisine used by the ARVN.[259] Fast Patrol Craft LCM-6 and LCM-8 – with several modifications: LCMs modified as a river monitors[260] Armored Troop Carrier[261] Command and Communication Boat (CCB)[261] other variants included helipad boats and tankers[261] LCVP – Landing craft vehicle personnel, some made by the French Services Techniques des Construction et Armes Navales/France Outremer and known as FOM[261] Swift Boat – Patrol Craft Fast (PCF)[262] ASPB – assault support patrol boat[260] PBR – Patrol Boat River, all-fiberglass boats propelled by twin water jets, used by the US Navy[260] Hurricane Aircat – airboat used by ARVN and US Army[263] American soldier using the KY-38 "man-pack", part of the NESTOR voice encryption system that was used during the Vietnam War. The upper unit is an AN/PRC-77 radio transceiver. The combined weight of the units, 54 pounds (24.5 kg), proved an obstacle to their use in combat. The geographically dispersed nature of the war challenged existing military communications. From 1965 to the final redeployment of tactical units, numerous communications-electronics systems were introduced in Vietnam to upgrade the quality and quantity of tactical communications and replace obsolete gear: AN/PRT-4 and PRR-9 squad radios – replaced the AN/PRC-6.[264] AN/PRC-6 and AN/PRC-10 – older short range radios, used for outposts[265][266] AN/PRC-25 and 77 – short-range FM radios that replaced the AN/PRC-8-10.[267][268] AN/VRC-12 series (VRC-43, VRC-45, VRC-46, VRC-47, VRC-48)[269] – FM radios that replaced the RT-66-67-68/GRC (including AN/GRC 3–8, VRC 7–10, VRC 20–22, and VRQ 1–3 sets).[264] AN/GRC-106 – AM radios and teletypewriter that replaced the AN/GRC-19.[270] TA-312 and TA-1 field telephones.[269] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (December 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Encryption systems developed by the National Security Agency and used in Vietnam included:[271] NESTOR – tactical secure voice system, including the TSEC/KY-8, 28 and 38 was used with the PRC-77 and VRC-12 KW-26 – protected higher level teletype traffic KW-37 – protected the U.S. Navy fleet broadcast KL-7 – provided offline security A number of paper encryption and authentication products, including one time pads and the KAL-55B Tactical Authentication System[272] Main article: Viet Cong and PAVN logistics and equipment The PAVN and the Southern communist guerrillas, the Viet Cong (VC) as they were commonly referred to during the war, largely used standard Warsaw Pact weapons. Weapons used by the PAVN also included Chinese Communist variants, which were referred to as CHICOM's by the US military. Captured weapons were also widely used; almost every small arm used by SEATO may have seen limited enemy use. During the early 1950s, US equipment captured in Korea was also sent to the Viet Minh. Viet Cong guerrilla stands beneath a Viet Cong flag carrying an AK-47 rifle. A U.S. Army M.P. inspects a Soviet AK-47 recovered in Vietnam in 1968. PAVN troops with PPSh-41 VC soldier with SKS The Ka-Bar knife was also used by the PAVN & Viet Cong A wide variety of bayonets meant for fitting on the many types of rifles used by the NVA and VC. Type 30 bayonet[273] Spears, used during "suicide attacks"[274] Makarov PM (and Chinese Type 59)[275][276] Mauser C96 – Locally produced copies were used alongside Chinese copies and German variants supplied by the Soviets.[277] Nagant M1895[278] M1911 pistol[275] M1935A pistol[275] SA vz. 61 – automatic pistol[279] Tokarev TT-33 – Standard pistol, including Chinese Type 51 and Type 54 copies including Zastava M57[276] Walther P38 – Captured by the Soviets during World War II and provided to the VPA and the NLF as military aid[277] Home-made pistols, such as copies of the M1911, Luger[280] or of the Mauser C96 (Cao Dai 763) or crude one-shot guns, were also used by the Viet Cong early in the war.[277][281] SKS (Chinese Type 56) semi-automatic carbine[282][283] AK-47 – from the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact countries, China and North Korea[282] Type 56 – Chinese-made standard rifle[282] Type 58 – Limited use from North Korea[282][284] PMK – Polish-made AK-47[282] AKM – from the Soviet Union, common modernized variant of the AK-47[285][286] PM md. 63/65 – Romanian variant of AKM[287] AMD-65 – Very limited use from Hungary[288] M1/M2 carbines – common and popular captured semi-automatic rifles[289][283] M1 Garand — Captured from South Vietnamese forces[290][289] vz. 52 rifle semi-automatic rifle, very rarely used[282] Vz. 58 assault rifle[282] Sturmgewehr 44 — Limited[277] Type 63 assault rifle – Limited use, received during the 1970s[291] M14, M16A1 – captured from US and South Vietnamese forces.[275][282] MAS-49 rifle – captured French rifle from First Indochina War[292] Arisaka rifles – Used by Viet Cong early in the war.[293] Berthier rifles- Used by Viet Cong early in the war[290] Chiang Kai-shek rifle – Used by recruits and militias[294

p. 36. ^ Nalty, Watson & Neufeld 1981, p. 120. ^ a b Toperczer 2001b, pp. 93–94 ^ a b Tucker 2011, p. 473. ^ "Mil Mi-8 (Hip)". www.militaryfactory.com. Archived from the original on March 21, 2023. ^ McKenna 2011, p. 260. ^ a b Grandolini 1998, p. 10. ^ a b c d Grandolini, Albert (February 2013). "Objectif Saigon ! 2e partie: Surprise sur les Hauts Plateaux". Batailles & Blindés (in French). No. 53. Caractère. pp. 8–21. ISSN 1765-0828. ^ McKenna 2011, p. 61. ^ a b c d Grandolini 1998, p. 8. ^ a b Grandolini 1998, pp. 10, 65. ^ a b Grandolini 1998, p. 37. ^ a b c Dunstan 1985, p. 40. ^ Grandolini 1998, p. 35. ^ Dunstan 1985, p. 35. ^ Grandolini 1998, pp. 24–25. ^ Grandolini 1998, p. 38. ^ Grandolini 1998, p. 11. ^ a b Grandolini 1998, p. 16. ^ Grandolini 1998, p. 40. ^ a b c d e f Grandolini, Albert (April 2013). "Objectif Saigon ! 3e partie: La chute du régime sud-vietnamien". Batailles & Blindés (in French). No. 54. Caractère. pp. 66–79. 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ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Many weapons were used during the Vietnam War by both sides, some, extremely simple and others, deadly and complex. When researching for this post, I was floored when coming across an extensive list of weaponry comprised of over 600 line items. I sure got an education. I always heard it said that war is a good place for weapon manufacturers to test out their products and get rich – that's probably why there were so many used during the 20-year war. Check out this post and let me know your thoughts. From air power to infantry to chemicals, the weapons used in the Vietnam War were more devastating than those of any previous conflict. United States and South Vietnamese forces relied heavily on their superior air power, including B-52 bombers and other aircraft that dropped thousands of pounds of explosives over North Vietnam and Communist targets in South Vietnam. While U.S. troops and their allies used mainly American-manufactured weapons, Communist forces used weapons manufactured in the Soviet Union, China, and other European communist countries. In addition to artillery and infantry weapons, both sides utilized a variety of tools to further their war aims, including highly toxic chemical defoliants or herbicides (on the U.S. side) and inventive booby traps using sharpened bamboo sticks or crossbows triggered by tripwires (on the North Vietnamese-Viet Cong side). The war saw the U.S. Air Force and their South Vietnamese allies fly thousands of massive low-altitude bombing missions over North and South Vietnam as well as over sites of suspected Communist activity in neighboring Laos and Cambodia. The B-52 heavy bomber, developed by Boeing in the late 1940s, helped the U.S. and South Vietnamese dominate the skies, along with smaller, more easily maneuverable fighter planes like the F-4 Phantom. Also widely used was the Bell UH-1 helicopter, dubbed the "Huey," which could fly at low altitudes and speeds and land easily in small spaces. U.S. forces used the Huey to transport troops, supplies and equipment, aid ground troops with additional firepower and evacuated killed or wounded soldiers. Did you know? The U.S.-made M-16 rifle was redesigned in 1966 to perform better in the wet, dirty conditions that prevailed in ground combat during the Vietnam War, and it became the weapon most commonly associated with U.S. troops in the conflict. Before this change, M16s were plagued with malfunctions that costs many lives during firefights when soldiers could not defend themselves. Among the more devastating explosives used in U.S. and South Vietnamese bombing runs was napalm, a chemical compound developed during World War II. When mixed with gasoline and included in incendiary bombs or flamethrowers, napalm could be propelled greater distances than gasoline and released large amounts of carbon monoxide when it exploded, poisoning the air and causing even greater damage than traditional bombs. Though the large-scale U.S. and South Vietnamese aerial bombardment efforts damaged or destroyed much of the land and population of Vietnam, they proved less destructive to the enemy than expected, as North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops fought an irregular style of guerrilla warfare that proved much more resilient than the Americans had hoped. The M-48 tank, with mounted machine guns, could travel up to 30 mph and was used to provide support for U.S. and South Vietnamese troops. Due to Vietnam's soggy jungle terrain, tanks were not used extensively in combat during the Vietnam War. Armored personnel carriers such as the M-113 transported troops and performed reconnaissance and support functions. A common artillery weapon, previously used in World War II, was the 105mm howitzer, which could be towed behind a truck or carried by helicopter and dropped into position. Operated by crews of eight men each, the howitzers fired high-explosive shrapnel shells or "beehive" cartridges (thousands of small, sharp darts) at a rate of three to eight rounds per minute over a range of some 12,500 yards. One of the most common infantry weapons used by U.S. troops in Vietnam was the M-60 machine gun, which could also be used as an artillery weapon when mounted or operated from a helicopter or tank. The gas-powered M-60 could fire up to 550 bullets in quick succession at a range of almost 2,000 yards, or at short range when fired from the shoulder. One drawback of the M-60 was the heavyweight of its cartridge belts, which limited the ammunition that soldiers could carry. Standard issue for infantrymen in Vietnam was the M-16, a gas-operated, magazine-fed rifle that could fire 5.56 mm-caliber bullets accurately over several hundred yards at 700-900 rounds per minute on its automatic setting; it could also be used as a semi-automatic. Its ammunition came in magazines of 20-30 rounds, making it relatively easy to reload. Most of the weapons, uniforms and equipment used by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces were manufactured by the Soviet Union and China. The portable, shoulder-fired SA-7 Grail missile was one of many anti-aircraft weapons extensively against American aircraft conducting bombing raids in North Vietnam. On the ground, the DP 7.62mm light machine gun (the equivalent to the U.S.-made M-60) was based on a Soviet design and manufactured in both the Soviet Union and China. The simple but deadly accurate AK-47, known to many as the "peasant's rifle," was shorter and heavier than the M-16, with a lower rate of fire (up to about 600 rounds per minute). It was extraordinarily durable, however, and was able to fire 7.62mm bullets either automatically or semi-automatically from a 30-round clip at a rate of up to about 600 rounds per minute, at a range of up to 435 yards. Another widely used semi-automatic rifle was the SKS carbine or "Chicom." In addition to Soviet- or Chinese-supplied arms, Communist forces also carried weapons captured from the French and the Japanese in earlier Indochina wars or used weapons made by hand in Vietnam. Troops in the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) or the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) had access to more standard-issue clothing and weapons, while Viet Cong often used improvised weapons and wore peasant clothing to blend in with the South Vietnamese population. In addition to rifles and machine guns, U.S. infantry troops were armed with hand grenades (such as the Mark-2), which could be thrown or propelled using rifle-mounted launchers. Mines were used to guard the perimeter around campsites; they could be triggered by trip wires or exploded manually. In terms of chemical weapons, U.S. Air Force planes sprayed more than 19 million gallons of herbicides over 4.5 million acres of land in Vietnam from 1961 to 1972 as part of Operation Ranch Hand, a large-scale defoliation program aimed at eliminating forest cover for North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops, as well as crops that might be used to feed them. The most commonly used defoliant, a mixture of herbicides containing the toxic dioxin and known as Agent Orange, was later revealed to cause serious health issues–including tumors, birth defects, rashes, psychological symptoms and cancer–among returning U.S. servicemen and their families as well as among large sections of the Vietnamese population. For their part, North Vietnamese and particularly Viet Cong forces often used explosives captured from U.S. and South Vietnamese forces or cut open unexploded bombs to manufacture their own crude explosives. They also employed booby traps, including hidden bamboo maces or crossbows that could be triggered when soldiers stepped on a tripwire. One particularly common menace was the punji stake trap, a bed of sharpened bamboo stakes that was concealed in a pit for enemy soldiers to stumble across. The information above was obtained from the History.com channel under the same name. Here's the direct link: Here is the list of weapons – over 600 line items – from both sides (citations are available on the original piece on Wikipedia.com). I wasn't prepared for such an extensive list and it blew my mind. Many of the weapons are linked to either a picture or redirected back to Wikipedia for further explanation (not sure how this will work on cellphones). If you do click on the links, use the back arrow at the top left of the screen to return to this article. The KA-BAR knife was the most famous edged weapon of the war. Vietnamese Rangers with M16 rifles in Saigon during the Tết Offensive A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam, 1967. M1 Garand – used by the South Vietnamese and South KoreansM1, M1A1, & M2 Carbine – used by the South Vietnamese Military, Police and Security Forces, South Koreans, U.S. military, and Laotians supplied by the U.S. South Vietnamese People's Self-Defense Force militiawomen with M1 carbines M14, M14E2, M14A1 – issued to most U.S. troops from the early stages of the war until 1967–68, when it was replaced by the M16.M16, XM16E1, and M16A1 – M16 was issued in 1964, but due to reliability issues, it was replaced by the M16A1 in 1967 which added the forward assist and chrome-lined barrel to the rifle for increased reliability.CAR-15 – carbine variant of the M16 produced in very limited numbers, fielded by special operations early on. Later supplemented by the improved XM177.XM177 (Colt Commando)/GAU-5 – further development of the CAR-15, used heavily by MACV-SOG, the US Air Force, and US Army.Stoner 63 – used by US Navy SEALs and USMC.T223 – a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK33 built under license by Harrington & Richardson used in small numbers by SEAL teams. Even though the empty H&R T223 was 0.9 pounds (0.41 kg) heavier than an empty M16A1, the weapon had a forty-round magazine available for it and this made it attractive to the SEALS.MAS-36 rifle – used by South Vietnamese militiasAK-47, AKM and Type 56 – Captured rifles were used by South Vietnamese[41] and U.S forces. Beretta M12 – limited numbers were used by U.S. Embassy security units.Carl Gustaf m/45 – used by Navy SEALs in the beginning of the war, but later replaced by the Smith & Wesson M76 in the late 1960s. Significant numbers were also utilized by MAC-V-SOG, the South Vietnamese, and limited numbers were used in Laos by advisors, and Laotian fighters.Smith & Wesson M76 – copy of the Carl Gustaf m/45. Few were actually shipped to Navy SEALs fighting in Vietnam.F1 submachine gun – replaced the Owen Gun in Australian service.M3 Grease gun – standard U.S. military submachine gun, also used by the South VietnameseM50/55 Reising – limited numbers were used by MACVSOG and other irregular forces.Madsen M-50 – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.MAS-38 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.MAT-49 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias. Captured models were used in limited numbersMP 40 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.Owen Gun – standard Australian submachine-gun in the early stages of the war, later replaced by the F1.Sten submachine gun – used by US special operations forces, often with a suppressor mounted.Sterling submachine gun – used by Australian Special Air Service Regiment and other special operations units.Thompson submachine gun – used often by South Vietnamese troops, and in small quantities by US artillery and helicopter units.Uzi – used by special operations forces and some South Vietnamese, supplied from Israel. Ithaca 37 Shotguns were used as an individual weapon during jungle patrol; infantry units have authorized a shotgun by TO&E (Table of Organization & Equipment). Shotguns were not a general issue to all infantrymen but were select issue weapons, such as one per squad, etc. US Marine fires his M60 machine gun at an enemy position during the Battle of Huế. Claymore anti-personnel mine in use in Vietnam M1/M2 rifle grenade adapters – used to convert a standard fragmentation grenade (M1) or smoke grenade (M2) into a rifle grenade in conjunction with the M7 grenade launcher.M7 and M8 rifle grenade launcher – rifle grenade launcher used with respectively the M1 Garand and the M1 carbine, used by the South Vietnamese. Could fire the M9 and M17 rifle grenades.M31 HEAT rifle grenade – Used primarily by the U.S. Army before the introduction of the M72 LAW. Fired from the M1 Garand and M14 Rifle.M79 Grenade Launcher – primary U.S. grenade launcher used by all branches of the US military, as well as ANZAC forces and the ARVN.China Lake Grenade Launcher – pump-action weapon used in very small numbers.XM148 – experimental under-barrel 40mm grenade launcher that could be attached to the M16 rifle or XM177 carbine. Withdrawn due to safety reasons.M203 grenade launcher – single-shot 40mm underslung grenade launcher designed to attach to an M16 rifle (or XM177 carbine, with modifications to the launcher). First tested in combat in April 1969.Mark 18 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Hand-cranked, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used by the US Navy.Mark 19 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x53mm grenade launcher.Mk 20 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher. Primarily used by riverine crews but also used by Air Force Special Operations.XM174 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used mainly by the US Army.Bazooka – The M9 variant was supplied to the ARVN during the early years of the war, while the M20 "Super Bazooka" was used by the USMC and the ARVN until the full introduction of the M67 90mm recoilless rifle and of the M72 LAW.M72 LAW – 66mm anti-tank rocket launcher.XM202 – experimental four-shot 66mm incendiary rocket launcher.FIM-43 Redeye MANPADS (Man-Portable Air-Defence System) – shoulder-fired heat-seeking anti-air missile, used by the US Army and USMC.BGM-71 TOW – wire-guided anti-tank missile M2A1-7 and M9A1-7 flamethrowers A US soldier carries an M67 recoilless rifle past a burning Viet Cong base camp in Mỹ Tho, South Vietnam, 1968 M18 recoilless rifle – 57mm shoulder-fired/tripod mounted recoilless rifle, used by the ARVN early in the war.M20 recoilless rifle – 75mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle, used by US and ARVN forces early in the war.M67 recoilless rifle – 90mm shoulder-fired anti-tank recoilless rifle, used by the US Army, US Marine Corps, ANZAC and ARVN selected forces.M40 recoilless rifle 106mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle.M2 mortar – 60mm mortar, used in conjunction with the lighter but less accurate and lower-range M19 mortar.M19 mortar – 60mm mortar, used in conjunction with the older, heavier M2 mortar.Brandt Mle 27/31 – 81mm mortar, used by ARVN forcesM1 mortar – 81mm mortar, used by ARVN forces.M29 mortar – 81mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.L16A1 mortar – 81mm, used by ANZAC forces.82-BM-37 – captured 82mm mortar, few used by USMC with US roundsM30 mortar 107mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.M98 Howtar, a variant of the latter mounted on an M116 howitzer carriage Self-propelled Howitzer M109 in Vietnam (listed alphabetically by modified/basic mission code, then numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter) USS Garrett County at anchor in the Mekong Delta with two UH-1B Iroquois helicopters on deck (listed numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter, then alphabetically by mission code) See also: List of Bombs in the Vietnam War A minigun being fired from a combat search and rescue helicopter in Vietnam In addition to cargo-carrying and troop transport roles, many of these vehicles were also equipped with weapons and sometimes armor, serving as "gun trucks" for convoy escort duties. M24 Chaffee – light tank; main ARVN tank early in the war, used at least as late as the Tet Offensive.M41A3 Walker Bulldog – light tank, replaced the M24 Chaffee as the main ARVN tank from 1965.M48 Patton – main tank of the US Army and Marines throughout the war, and also used by ARVN forces from 1971.M67 "Zippo" – flamethrower variant of the M48 Patton, used by USMC.M551 Sheridan – Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle/Light Tank, used by the US Army from 1969.Centurion Mk 5 Main Battle Tank – used by the Australian Army, with AVLB and ARV variants Fast Patrol Craft LCM-6 and LCM-8 – with several modifications:LCVP – Landing craft vehicle personnel, some made by the French Services Techniques des Construction et Armes Navales/France Outremer and known as FOMSwift Boat – Patrol Craft Fast (PCF)ASPB – assault support patrol boatPBR – Patrol Boat River, all-fiberglass boats propelled by twin water jets, used by the US NavyHurricane Aircat – airboat used by ARVN and US Army Soldier using an AN/PRC-77 radio transceiver with the KY-38 secure voice encryptor (below), part of the NESTOR system The geographically dispersed nature of the war challenged existing military communications. From 1965 to the final redeployment of tactical units, numerous communications-electronics systems were introduced in Vietnam to upgrade the quality and quantity of tactical communications and replace obsolete gear: AN/PRT-4 and PRR-9 squad radios – replaced the AN/PRC-6.AN/PRC-6 and AN/PRC-10 – older short-range radios, used for outpostsAN/PRC-25 and 77 – short-range FM radios that replaced the AN/PRC-8-10AN/VRC-12 series (VRC-43, VRC-45, VRC-46, VRC-47, VRC-48) – FM radios that replaced the RT-66-67-68/GRC (including AN/GRC 3–8, VRC 7–10, VRC 20–22, and VRQ 1–3 sets).AN/GRC-106 – AM radios and teletypewriter that replaced the AN/GRC-19.TA-312 and TA-1 field telephones. Main article: Viet Cong and PAVN logistics and equipment The PAVN and the Southern communist guerrillas, the Viet Cong (VC) as they were commonly referred to during the war, largely used standard Warsaw Pact weapons. Weapons used by the PAVN also included Chinese Communist variants, which were referred to as CHICOM's by the US military. Captured weapons were also widely used; almost every small arm used by SEATO may have seen limited enemy use. During the early 1950s, US equipment captured in Korea was also sent to the Viet Minh. Vietcong guerrilla stands beneath a Vietcong flag carrying his AK-47 rifle. A U.S. Army M.P. inspects a Soviet AK-47 recovered in Vietnam in 1968. PAVN troops with PPSh-41 VC soldier with SKS OLYMPUS DIGITAL CAMERA The KA-BAR knife was also used by the PAVN & VietCong SKS (Chinese Type 56) semi-automatic carbineAK-47 – from the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact countries, China and North KoreaAKM – from the Soviet Union, a common modernized variant of the AK-47M1/M2 carbines – common and popular captured semi-automatic riflesvz. 52 rifle semi-automatic rifle, very rarely usedVz. 58 assault rifleSturmgewehr 44 LimitedType 63 assault rifle – Limited use, received during the 1970sM14, M16A1 – captured from US and South Vietnamese forces.M1 Garand – captured semi-automatic rifleMAS-49 rifle – captured French rifle from First Indochina War >Submachine Guns K-50M submachine gun (Vietnamese edition, based on Chinese version of Russian PPSh-41, under license)MAT-49 submachine gun – Captured during the French-Indochina War. Many were converted from 9x19mm to 7.62×25 TokarevPPSh-41 submachine gun (both Soviet, North Korean and Chinese versions)PPS-43 submachine gun (both Soviet and Chinese versions)M3 submachine gun Limited use Thompson submachine gun – including Vietnamese copiesMP 40MP 38 submachine gun – Limited use.MAS-38 submachine gun – Captured from the French in the Indochina War.PM-63 submachine gun – Used by tank crewsM49 submachine gun – limited use, received from YugoslaviaM56 submachine gun – limited use, received from YugoslaviaVietnamese home-made submachine guns, inspired by the Sten or the Thompson, were used by the Viet Cong early in the war. LPO-50 flamethrower Type 74 Chinese-built copy North Vietnamese soldier preparing to fire an SA-7 North Vietnamese SAM crew in front of a SA-2 launcher Mortars The KS-19 Field artillery rockets were often fired from improvised launchers, sometimes a tube fixed with bamboo. Here's the direct link for the list of weapons in Wikipedia: Thank you for taking the time to read this. Should you have a question or comment about this article, then scroll down to the comment section below to leave your response. If you want to learn more about the Vietnam War and its Warriors, then subscribe to this blog and get notified by email or your feed reader every time a new story, picture, video and changes occur on this website – the button is located at the top right of this page. I've also created a poll to help identify my website audience – before leaving, can you please click HERE and choose the one item that best describes you. Thank you in advance. During the war, a wide variety of equipment was used, far too much to cover here. Instead, you will find a few of the more important weapons used during the war and a small description of each. Additionally, the guerilla nature of the Viet Cong troops and the non-uniformity of many North Vietnamese forces makes it difficult to speak of their equipment in comparison to the United States. However, it is important to note that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong did use advanced weapon systems during the war, even if these weapons were used in a limited way and alongside more traditional weapons. Though one gun rarely makes the difference in a battle, for the individual soldier it can often be a matter of life or death. The Vietnam War saw the deployment of two of the most famous and most produced rifles of all time: the AK-47 and the M16. These assault rifles have continued to play a major part in modern warfare today, decades after their introduction. Additionally, the M60 machine gun proved an incredibly useful weapon for many American troops during the war and offered soldiers heavier firepower than their standard rifles could provideIn 1947, Soviet weapon designer Mikhail Kalashnikov produced a new variant of an automatic assault rifle. The Automatic Kalashnikov, model year 1947, was readily adopted by the Soviet military and was quickly used by most members of the Warsaw Pact. The AK-47 fires a 7.62 mm cartridge, and has become one of the most widely proliferated weapons in the world, thanks to its reliability under harsh conditions, cheap manufacturing cost, and the ease with which soldiers can be trained on its use. During the Vietnam War, both the Viet Cong and the People's Army of Vietnam (the North Vietnamese Army) made heavy use of the weapon, thanks to support from the Soviet Union and from the People's Republic of China. The M16 would become the standard service rifle for U.S. troops during the 1960s, seeing widespread use in Vietnam and largely replacing the M14. The weapon was in many ways revolutionary, though not without problems. Firing a 5.56 mm round and with automatic capabilities, the M16 was lighter than the M14 and more compact, which meant more ammunition could be carried by each soldier. Constructed from steel, plastics, and aluminum alloys, the M16 was a sharp visual change from the wood-based rifles which had defined warfare for centuries. The weapon developed a poor reputation for malfunctions amongst its early users, leading to an updated M16A1 version.Introduced at the end of the 1950s, the M60 was a belt-fed light machine gun that fired a 7.62 mm round. The M60's operation was usually a team effort: while one solider carried the weapon, and one solider could operate as an assistant gunner, most other men in a rifle squad could carry ammunition for the M60. The gun was not without problems, though – the tropical climate of Vietnam took a toll on the weapon, and its bulky design proved troublesome for many soldiers. However, the M60 ultimately proved effective, and was used in infantry units and as a mounted gun on helicopters, patrol boats, and vehicles throughout Vietnam.Despite the often uncooperative and non-ideal terrain, the U.S. military deployed a significant number of tanks, armored personnel carriers (APCs), and other heavy vehicles during the war. APCs provided soldiers with protection, mobility, and increased firepower. Tanks were used in both urban and rural operations, and provided heavy support to many troops. Perhaps the two most common and most effective armored vehicles to serve in the American military during the war were the M-48 Patton tank and the M-113 Armored Personnel Carrier. The North Vietnamese also made use of Soviet manufactured armor, but their usage of tanks was heavily limited by overwhelming American airpower until the U.S. withdrew in 1973.The Marines took a few M-48s ashore when they landed at Da Nang in March 1965, and throughout the course of the war, hundreds of Patton tanks would be deployed across South Vietnam. Though there were few tank-to-tank battles, the Pattons served well as infantry support vehicles. With a top speed of around 30 MPH, and a standard 90 mm gun (with some variant using a flamethrower), the Pattons proved capable in Army and Marine Corps service.M-113s often worked alongside M-48s, and both were often found traveling in convoys down the roads of South Vietnam. The M-113 proved itself as a reliable workhorse, as upgraded variants of the vehicle remain in active service with the U.S. military. The M-113s were fielded in an number of different variants, including service as anti-aircraft, flamethrower, mortar, medical vehicles. However, the APC's primary role was to move troops under protection from small-arms fire, with the capacity to carry eleven passengers inside. The usage of armor by the North Vietnamese should not be overstated – tanks were used in a limited fashion during most of the war, and were often destroyed by American air power before having any real effect. However, the North Vietnamese did field Soviet produced tanks during the war, which became more powerful in 1973 when the U.S. left Vietnam. One of the most commonly used tanks was the Russian T-54 (or its Chinese variant, the Type 59). With a 100 mm gun, and a top speed of around 30 mph, the T-54 helped spearhead the final collapse of South Vietnam in 1975.Part of the cultural legacy of the war, and a very real aspect of life for many soldiers, helicopters formed an essential part of the American war effort. Air mobility, the rapid transport and insertion of troops via aircraft, formed a central part of American strategy from 1965 onward. Serving as gunships, ambulances, and transports, helicopters were some of the most effective vehicles in Vietnam. Iconic choppers like the Huey define the collective memory of the war, and helicopters like the Cobra gunship further add to the legacy of Vietnam's air cavalry.The most iconic helicopter of the Vietnam War, the Bell UH-1 Iroquois was originally designated the HU-1, giving rise to its popular nickname "Huey." Adopted by the U.S. Army in the early 1960s, the Huey was the aerial workhorse of the U.S. military, serving prominently with the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force. The Huey formed an essential part of the "air cavalry". Thousands of Hueys were deployed during the war, and while many were shot down, the helicopter proved invaluable to the war effort.The Bell AH-1 cobra attack helicopter would make its first flight in 1965, and would enter service in 1967. Built using many of the components from the UH-1 "Huey", the Cobra would see use during the Tet Offensive and through the end of the American mission in Vietnam. A highly-capable gunship, Cobra provided support for ground forces, worked in "hunter-killer" teams with scout helicopters, and guarded transports. Around 1,000 would serve in Vietnam and would continue service with the Army until being replaced by the Apache attack helicopter, while variants of the Cobra still serve with the Marine Corps. The air war over Vietnam did lead to a few dogfights but these were relatively few and far between: the skies were dominated by American warplanes, which gave the U.S. a great advantage over the North Vietnamese. From fighters to heavy bombers, the United States wielded an array of aircraft that rained devastation, but also conducted reconnaissance, transport, medical evacuation, and supply operations. Although many warplanes served in Vietnam, the F-4 Phantom and B-52 Stratofortress remain two of the most prominent. While the North Vietnamese primarily built air defenses, planes like the MiG-21 occasionally struck at American airmen.The McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II first flew in 1958, and would serve as the primary fighter aircraft during the Vietnam War. The two-seat, twin-engine supersonic Phantom played a large role in the war as both an interceptor and a fighter-bomber. The Navy used a carrier-borne version of the Phantom, and the Marine Corps and Air Force also adopted the aircraft. Phantoms engaged in air superiority battles with Soviet-built, Vietnamese operated MiGs, but more commonly flew ground-attack missions, reconnaissance, or "Wild Weasel" operations aimed at destroying enemy air defenses. A big, ugly, flying fortress, the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress was designed and introduced in the early 1950s. Powered by eight turbojet engines, during the war B-52s were capable of massive aerial bombardment, frequently carrying payloads in the tens of thousands of pounds. Operating out of Guam and Thailand, B-52 strikes were carried out as part of Operations Rolling Thunder, Arc Light, and Linebacker I/II. Airstrikes by B-52 bombers during Vietnam remain some of the most ferocious aerial bombardments in the history of warfare. The plane itself remains active in the U.S. Air Force today, one of the longest serving aircraft in the U.S. military.The Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 was a supersonic fighter designed and produced in the Soviet Union that entered into service by the start of the 1960s. The MiG-21 was the most modern fighter utilized by the North Vietnamese during the war, and its agility made it a threat to heavier American fighter-bombers. The Vietnam People's Air Force (the air force of North Vietnam) never developed into a serious threat during the war, and was constantly outgunned and outnumbered by the combined American air forces. Nonetheless, the North Vietnamese did make successful attacks on American warplanes throughout the war, using planes like the MiG-17, MiG-19, and MiG-21, and their Chinese variants. It is hard to simplify the use of bombs during the Vietnam War. From grenades to mines, to 500 pound bombs and 105 mm shells, the word "bomb" can mean a number of things. It is important to note a few types of ordinance, however, which left a lasting legacy on the war. The first, napalm, is another staple of the public memory of Vietnam. The second, cluster bombs, were heavily used during the war, particularly in Laos (where they still haunt that country today). The third is a broad category: booby traps, today's improvised explosive devices (IEDs).Developed during the Second World War and used in attacks on Japan, napalm is a jellied gasoline mixture that is extremely effective as an incendiary weapon. Napalm burns at an extremely high temperature, and can kill through this burning or through asphyxiation. The U.S. made heavy use of the weapon during the war, and though effective, the horrendous effects of napalm led many to protest its use. Napalm proved an effective physical and psychological weapon during the war, though it was and remains controversial.Cluster bombs are a type of explosive that contain smaller bombs within, and saturate an area with these smaller munitions for increased effect. This type of explosive was heavily used by the U.S. during its aerial bombing campaigns during the war, especially in Laos. In total, the United States flew over 580,000 bombing missions over Laos during the war, dropping over 2.5 million tons of explosives on the country. Many of these smaller bombs did not explode immediately, and many remain a lethal threat within Laos today. Efforts to clear these explosives are still ongoing. The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have made IEDs part of our common terminology, but improvised explosive devices were just as common in Vietnam. While the Vietnamese did make use of punji spikes and other primitive (yet effective) traps, rigged explosives were incredibly common and were frequent killers of American troops. Grenades, mines, artillery rounds – all could be adapted for use as a trap through simple tripwires or pressure plates. Frequently, unexploded American ordinance was used to build these traps.

the ARVN because of its small size.[65] Stevens Model 520/620[57] Winchester Model 1912 – used by USMC.[66] Winchester Model 1200 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[67] Winchester Model 1897 – used by the Marines during the early stages of the war.[68] South Vietnamese soldier with a M1918 Browning Automatic RifleM60 machine gun – standard General-purpose machine gun for US, ANZAC, and ARVN forces throughout the war.[53] US Marine fires his M60 machine gun at an enemy position during the Battle of Huế. Colt Machine Gun – experimental light machine gun deployed by SEAL Team 2 in 1970.[34] M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle – used by the ARVN during the early stages of the war,[69] as well as many that were airdropped into Laos and used by Laotian fighters. FM 24/29 light machine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] RPD machine gun (and Type 56) – captured and used by reconnaissance teams of Mobile Strike Forces, MAC-V-SOG and other special operation forces. Also commonly modified to cut down the barrel.[46] Stoner M63A Commando & Mark 23 Mod.0 – used by Navy SEALs and tested by Force Recon.[34] M134 Minigun – 7.62 mm vehicle mounted machine gun (rare)[70] M1919 Browning machine gun (and variants such as M37) – vehicle mounted machine gun.[71] Meanwhile, still of use by many South Vietnamese infantry.[30] M73 machine gun – tank mounted machine gun.[71] Browning M2HB .50cal Heavy Machine Gun[34] Claymore anti-personnel mine in use in Vietnam AN-M8 – white smoke grenade[72][73] C4 explosive[74] Mark 2 fragmentation grenade[75] M1 smoke pot[74] M26 fragmentation grenade and many subvariants[76][77] M59 and M67 fragmentation grenade[78][79] M6/M7-series riot control grenades[73] – Used to clear NVA/VC out of caves, tunnels and buildings[80] or stop a pursuer.[72] AN/M14 TH3 thermite grenade – Incendiary grenade used to destroy equipment and as a fire-starting device.[72] M15 and M34 smoke grenades – filled with white phosphorus,[25] which ignites on contact with air and creates thick white smoke.[72] Used for signalling and screening purposes, as well as an anti-personnel weapon in enclosed spaces, as the burning white phosphorus would rapidly consume any oxygen, suffocating the victims. M18 grenade Smoke Hand Grenade – Signalling/screening grenade available in red, yellow, green, and purple.[81][72] V40 Mini-Grenade[82] OF 37 grenade and DF 37 grenade, French grenades used by the ARVN in the 1950s[83][84] XM58 riot control grenade – A miniature riot control grenade used by MACVSOG and Navy SEALs.[80] M14 mine – anti-personnel blast mine[25] M15 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M16 mine – bounding anti-personnel fragmentation mine[85] M18/M18A1 Claymore – command-detonated directional anti-personnel mine[29][86] M19 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M1/M2 rifle grenade adapters – used to convert a standard fragmentation grenade (M1) or smoke grenade (M2) into a rifle grenade when used with the M7 grenade launcher. M7 and M8 rifle grenade launcher – rifle grenade launcher used with respectively the M1 Garand and the M1 carbine, used by the South Vietnamese. Could fire the M9 and M17 rifle grenades.[87] M79 grenade launcher – main U.S. grenade launcher used by all branches of the US military, ANZAC forces, and ARVN.[34][87] China Lake grenade launcher – pump action weapon used in very small numbers.[34] XM148 grenade launcher – experimental underbarrel 40 mm grenade launcher attached to the M16 rifle or XM177 carbine. Also issued to Australian Special Air Service Regiment in conjunction with the modified L1A1 and Sterling Submachine Gun.[88] Withdrawn due to safety reasons.[34][87] M203 grenade launcher – one-shot 40mm underslung grenade launcher designed to attach to an M16 rifle (or XM177 carbine, with modifications to the launcher). First tested in combat April 1969.[34][87] Mark 18 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Hand-cranked, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used by the US Navy.[89] Mark 19 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x53mm grenade launcher.[89] Mk 20 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher. Used mostly by riverine crews but also by Air Force Special Operations.[89] XM174 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used mainly by the US Army.[90] Bazooka – The M9 variant was supplied to the ARVN during the early years of the war,[91] while the M20 "Super Bazooka" was used by the USMC and the ARVN until the full introduction of the M67 90mm recoilless rifle and of the M72 LAW.[92] BGM-71 TOW – wire-guided anti-tank missile used in 1972 by the US, and by the ARVN from 1972 to the end of the war.[93] FIM-43 Redeye MANPADS (Man-Portable Air-Defence System) – shoulder-fired heat-seeking anti-air missile, used by the USMC.[94] M72 LAW – 66 mm anti-tank rocket launcher.[95] RPG-2 - Used by MACVSOG[33] XM202 – experimental four-shot 66mm incendiary rocket launcher.[96] M2A1-7 and M9A1-7 flamethrowers[97][98] A US marine carries an M67 recoilless rifle past a burning Viet Cong base camp in Mỹ Tho, South Vietnam, 1968 M18 recoilless rifle – 57mm shoulder-fired/tripod mounted recoilless rifle, used by the ARVN early in the war.[99] M20 recoilless rifle – 75mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle, used by US and ARVN forces early in the war.[100] M67 recoilless rifle – 90mm shoulder-fired anti-tank recoilless rifle, used by the US Army, US Marine Corps, ANZAC and ARVN selected forces.[100][101][102] M40 recoilless rifle 106mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle.[100][101] M2 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the lighter but less accurate and lower-range M19 mortar.[103] M19 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the older, heavier M2 mortar.[103][104] Brandt Mle 27/31 – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces[105] M1 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces.[105] M29 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[105][106] L16A1 mortar – 81mm, used by ANZAC forces.[53] 82-BM-37 – captured 82 mm mortar, few used by USMC with US rounds.[107] M30 mortar 107 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[108][37] M98 Howtar, variant of the latter mounted on a M116 howitzer carriage.[109] Self-propelled Howitzer M109 in Vietnam M55 quad machine gun – used to defend US Army bases and on vehicles[110][111] Oerlikon 20 mm cannon – used on riverine crafts[112] Bofors 40 mm gun – used on riverine crafts[112] 105 mm Howitzer M101A1/M2A1[113][110] 105 mm Howitzer M102[114][110] 155 mm Howitzer M114[110][115] M53 Self-propelled 155 mm gun[116] M55 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[116] M107 Self-propelled 175 mm gun[110][117][118] M108 Self-propelled 105 mm howitzer[110] M109 Self-propelled 155 mm howitzer[119] M110 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[110][117] L5 pack howitzer 105 mm pack howitzer used by Australia[120] and New Zealand[121] MIM-23 Hawk – medium-range surface to air missile used in very small quantities by the US Marines.[122] HE (High explosive) – standard artillery round.[123] High-explosive anti-tank round – fired by 105 mm guns.[123] White phosphorus – used for screening or incendiary purposes.[123] Smoke shells – used for screening.[123] Leaflet shell[123] Beehive flechette rounds – antipersonnel rounds.[124] Improved conventional munition – antipersonnel shell with submunitions.[125] (listed alphabetically by modified/basic mission code, then numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter) A-1 Skyraider – ground attack aircraft[126] A-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based bomber[127] A-4 Skyhawk – carrier-based strike aircraft[128] A-6 Intruder – carrier-based all weather strike aircraft[129] A-7 Corsair II – carrier-based strike aircraft[130] A-26 Invader – light bomber[131] A-37 Dragonfly – ground attack aircraft[132] AC-47 Spooky – gunship[133] AC-119G "Shadow" – gunship[134] AC-119K "Stinger" – gunship[134] AC-130 "Spectre" – gunship[135] AU-24 Stallion – ground attack aircraft[136] B-52 Stratofortress at Thailand Air BaseB-52 Stratofortress – heavy bomber[137] B-57 Canberra – medium bomber[138] Canberra B.20 – Royal Australian Air Force medium bomber[138] C-1 Trader – cargo/transport aircraft C-2 Greyhound – cargo/transport aircraft C-5 Galaxy – strategic lift cargo aircraft[139] C-7 Caribou – tactical cargo aircraft, used by the U.S. Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and the South Vietnamese Air Force[140] C-46 Commando – cargo/transport aircraft[141] C-47 – cargo/transport aircraft[133] C-54 – transport aircraft[141] C-119 Boxcar – cargo/transport aircraft[134] C-121 Constellation – transport aircraft[142] C-123 Provider – cargo/transport aircraft[143] C-124 Globemaster II – cargo/transport aircraft[144] C-130 Hercules – cargo/transport plane[135] C-133 Cargomaster – cargo/transport aircraft[145] C-141 Starlifter – strategic cargo aircraft[146] E-1 Tracer – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] E-2 Hawkeye – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] EA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EA-6B Prowler – carrier-based electronic warfare & attack aircraft[129] EB-57 Canberra – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[138] EB-66 – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EC-121 – radar warning or sensor relay aircraft[142] EF-10 Skyknight – tactical electronic warfare aircraft[148] EKA-3B Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic warfare aircraft[127] F-4 Phantom II – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[149] F-5 Freedom Fighter – light-weight fighter used in strike aircraft role[150] F8F Bearcat – piston fighter-bomber, used by the South Vietnamese Air Force until 1964.[151] F-8 Crusader – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[152] F-14 Tomcat – carrier-based fighter, made its combat debut during Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, in April 1975.[153] F-100 Super Sabre – fighter-bomber[154] F-102 Delta Dagger – fighter[155] F-104 Starfighter – fighter[155] F-105 Thunderchief – fighter-bomber[156] F-111 Aardvark – medium bomber[157] HU-16 Albatross – rescue amphibian[158] KA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[127] KA-6 Intruder – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[129] KC-130 Hercules – tactical aerial refueler/assault transport aircraft[159] KC-135 Stratotanker – aerial refueling aircraft[160] O-1 Bird Dog – light observation airplane[161] O-2 Skymaster – observation aircraft[162] OV-1 Mohawk – battlefield surveillance and light strike aircraft[163] OV-10 Bronco – light attack/observation aircraft[164] P-2 Neptune – maritime patrol aircraft[165] P-3 Orion – maritime patrol aircraft[166] P-5 Marlin – antisubmarine seaplane[167] QU-22 Pave Eagle (Beech Bonanza) – electronic monitoring signal relay aircraft[166] RA-3B Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[127] RA-5C Vigilante – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[168] RB-47 Stratojet – photographic reconnaissance aircraft[169] RB-57 Canberra – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[138] RB-66 – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[127] RF-4 Phantom II – carrier and land-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[149] RF-8 Crusader – carrier-based tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[152] RF-101 Voodoo – tactical photographic reconnaissance aircraft[170] RT-33A – reconnaissance jet[171] S-2 Tracker – carrier-based anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft SR-71 Blackbird – strategic reconnaissance aircraft[172] T-28 Trojan – trainer/ground attack aircraft[173] T-41 Mescalero – trainer aircraft[174] U-1 Otter – transport aircraft[175] U-2 – reconnaissance aircraft[176] U-6 Beaver – utility aircraft[166] U-8 Seminole – transport/electronic survey aircraft[175][177] U-10 Helio Courier – utility aircraft[166] U-17 Skywagon – utility aircraft[178] U-21 Ute – liaison and electronic survey[175][177][179] YO-3 Quiet Star – light observation airplane[180] USS Garrett County at anchor in the Mekong Delta with two UH-1B Iroquois helicopters on deck (listed numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter, then alphabetically by mission code) UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" – utility transport and gunship helicopter[181][182] AH-1G HueyCobra – attack helicopter[182] AH-1J SeaCobra – twin-engine attack helicopter[182] UH-1N Iroquois – twin-engine utility helicopter[183] UH-2 Seasprite – carrier-based utility helicopter[184][185] CH-3 Sea King – long-range transport helicopter[186] HH-3 "Jolly Green Giant" – long-range combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter[186] SH-3 Sea King – carrier-based anti-submarine warfare (ASW) helicopter[186] OH-6A Cayuse "Loach" (from LOH – Light Observation Helicopter) – light transport/observation (i.e. scout) helicopter[187][188] OH-13 Sioux – light observation helicopter[181] UH-19 Chickasaw – utility transport helicopter[181] CH-21 Shawnee – cargo/transport helicopter[181] OH-23 Raven – light utility helicopter[181] CH-34 Choctaw – cargo/transport helicopter[181][189] CH-37 Mojave – cargo/transport helicopter[181] HH-43 Huskie – rescue helicopter[187][190] CH-46 Sea Knight – cargo/transport helicopter[184][191] CH-47 Chinook – cargo/transport helicopter[192][193] CH-53 Sea Stallion – heavy-lift transport helicopter[184][194] HH-53 "Super Jolly Green Giant" – long-range combat search and rescue (CSAR) helicopter[194] CH-54 Tarhe "Sky Crane" – heavy lift helicopter[192][195] OH-58A Kiowa – light transport/observation helicopter[187] See also: List of Bombs in the Vietnam War GBUs CBUs BLU-82 Daisy cutter Napalm Bomb, 250 lb, 500 lb, 750 lb, 1000 lb, HE (high explosive), general-purpose Rocket, aerial, HE (High Explosive), 2.75 inch A minigun being fired from a combat search and rescue helicopter in Vietnam M60D machine gun – 7.62mm (helicopter mount)[196] Minigun – 7.62 mm (aircraft and helicopter mount)[197] Colt Mk 12 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[198] M3 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[199] M39 cannon – 20 mm (aircraft mount)[154] M61 Vulcan – 20 mm (aircraft mount),[197] M195 was used on AH-1[200] M197 Gatling gun – 20 mm (used on AH-1J helicopters)[201] M75 grenade launcher – 40 mm (helicopter mount)[202] M129 grenade launcher – 40 mm (helicopter mount)[203] AIM-4 Falcon[204] AIM-7 Sparrow[205] AIM-9 Sidewinder[205] AGM-12 Bullpup[206] AGM-22[207] AGM-45 Shrike[208] AGM-62 Walleye[209] AGM-78 Standard ARM[156] AGM-65 Maverick[210] Rainbow Herbicides Agent Orange – While developed to be used as a herbicide to destroy natural obstacles and tree camouflage, it was later revealed that it posed health risks to those exposed to it.[211] Agent Blue – Used to destroy agricultural land that was believed to be used to grow food for the VC/NVA. Agent Green Agent White Napalm[212] CS-1 riot control agent – "Teargas", used in grenades, cluster bomblets or (rarely) shells.[213] CN gas – "teargas"[214] In addition to cargo-carrying and troop transport roles, many of these vehicles were also equipped with weapons and sometimes armor, serving as "gun trucks" for convoy escort duties.[215] M274 Truck, Platform, Utility, 1/2 Ton, 4X4 – Commonly called a "Mechanical Mule".[216][217] Land Rover (short and long wheelbase) – Australian and New Zealand forces.[218][219] CJ-3B and M606 – 1/4 ton jeep[220] M151 – ¼ ton jeep.[221][222][223] Dodge M37 – 3/4 ton truck.[222] M76 Otter – 1¼-ton amphibious cargo carrier used by USMC.[224] M116 Husky – 1¼-ton amphibious cargo carrier, tested by USMC.[225] M733 – 1¼-ton amphibious personnel carrier, M116 variant, tested by USMC.[225] M35 series 2½-ton 6x6 cargo truck[226] M135 2½-ton truck[226] M54 5-ton 6x6 truck[227] M548 – 6-ton tracked cargo carrier[228][229] M520 Goer – 4x4 8-ton cargo truck.[230] M123 and M125 10-ton 6x6 trucks[222] Caterpillar D7E bulldozer – used by US Army[231] Various graders and bulldozers used by the USMC[232] ERDLator[232] M24 Chaffee – light tank; main ARVN tank early in the war,[233] used at least as late as the Tet Offensive. M41A3 Walker Bulldog – light tank, replaced the M24 Chaffee as the main ARVN tank from 1965.[234][235] M48 Patton – main tank of the US Army and Marines[236] throughout the war, and also used by ARVN forces from 1971.[237][238] M67 "Zippo" – flamethrower variant of the M48 Patton, used by USMC.[236] M551 Sheridan – Armored Reconnaissance Airborne Assault Vehicle/Light Tank, used by the US Army from 1969.[239] Centurion Mk 5 Main Battle Tank – used by the Australian Army,[240] with AVLB and ARV variants.[241] C15TA Armoured Truck – used by the ARVN early in the war[235] LVTP5 (aka AMTRACs) – amphibious tractors/landing craft used by USMC[236][242] and later by RVNMD[238] Lynx Scout Car Mk II – used by the ARVN[235] M113 – APC (Armored Personnel Carrier)[243][237][244] M113 ACAV – Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle[245] M163 Vulcan – self-propelled anti-aircraft tank[246] M114 – reconnaissance vehicle[242] M132 armored flamethrower[247] M106 mortar carrier[248] M3 Scout Car – used by South Vietnamese forces early in the war.[249] M3 half-track – used by South Vietnamese forces early in the war.[249] Cadillac Gage V-100 Commando – replaced ARVN M8 armored cars in 1967.[250] Also used by US forces as M706 Commando.[251] M8 Greyhound – used by ARVN forces early in the war.[249] M56 Scorpion – limited use in 1965–1966[252] M50 Ontos – self-propelled 106 mm recoilless rifle carrier used by the USMC until 1969.[236][253] M42 Duster – M41 based hull, with a twin 40 mm antiaircraft gun mounted on an open turret[243] M728 Combat Engineer Vehicle – modified M60 Patton tank equipped with dozer blade, short-barrelled 165 mm M135 Demolition Gun, and A-Frame crane.[254] M60 AVLB – armored vehicle launched bridge using M60 Patton chassis.[255][256] M51 armored recovery vehicle – fielded by US Marines.[236] M578 light recovery vehicle[257] M88 recovery vehicle – armored recovery vehicle based on M48 chassis.[258] Wickums armored draisine used by the ARVN.[259] Fast Patrol Craft LCM-6 and LCM-8 – with several modifications: LCMs modified as a river monitors[260] Armored Troop Carrier[261] Command and Communication Boat (CCB)[261] other variants included helipad boats and tankers[261] LCVP – Landing craft vehicle personnel, some made by the French Services Techniques des Construction et Armes Navales/France Outremer and known as FOM[261] Swift Boat – Patrol Craft Fast (PCF)[262] ASPB – assault support patrol boat[260] PBR – Patrol Boat River, all-fiberglass boats propelled by twin water jets, used by the US Navy[260] Hurricane Aircat – airboat used by ARVN and US Army[263] American soldier using the KY-38 "man-pack", part of the NESTOR voice encryption system that was used during the Vietnam War. The upper unit is an AN/PRC-77 radio transceiver. The combined weight of the units, 54 pounds (24.5 kg), proved an obstacle to their use in combat. The geographically dispersed nature of the war challenged existing military communications. From 1965 to the final redeployment of tactical units, numerous communications-electronics systems were introduced in Vietnam to upgrade the quality and quantity of tactical communications and replace obsolete gear: AN/PRT-4 and PRR-9 squad radios – replaced the AN/PRC-6.[264] AN/PRC-6 and AN/PRC-10 – older short range radios, used for outposts[265][266] AN/PRC-25 and 77 – short-range FM radios that replaced the AN/PRC-8-10.[267][268] AN/VRC-12 series (VRC-43, VRC-45, VRC-46, VRC-47, VRC-48)[269] – FM radios that replaced the RT-66-67-68/GRC (including AN/GRC 3–8, VRC 7–10, VRC 20–22, and VRQ 1–3 sets).[264] AN/GRC-106 – AM radios and teletypewriter that replaced the AN/GRC-19.[270] TA-312 and TA-1 field telephones.[269] This section needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources in this section. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. (December 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Encryption systems developed by the National Security Agency and used in Vietnam included:[271] NESTOR – tactical secure voice system, including the TSEC/KY-8, 28 and 38 was used with the PRC-77 and VRC-12 KW-26 – protected higher level teletype traffic KW-37 – protected the U.S. Navy fleet broadcast KL-7 – provided offline security A number of paper encryption and authentication products, including one time pads and the KAL-55B Tactical Authentication System[272] Main article: Viet Cong and PAVN logistics and equipment The PAVN and the Southern communist guerrillas, the Viet Cong (VC) as they were commonly referred to during the war, largely used standard Warsaw Pact weapons. Weapons used by the PAVN also included Chinese Communist variants, which were referred to as CHICOM's by the US military. Captured weapons were also widely used; almost every small arm used by SEATO may have seen limited enemy use. During the early 1950s, US equipment captured in Korea was also sent to the Viet Minh. Viet Cong guerrilla stands beneath a Viet Cong flag carrying an AK-47 rifle. A U.S. Army M.P. inspects a Soviet AK-47 recovered in Vietnam in 1968. PAVN troops with PPSh-41 VC soldier with SKS The Ka-Bar knife was also used by the PAVN & Viet Cong A wide variety of bayonets meant for fitting on the many types of rifles used by the NVA and VC. Type 30 bayonet[273] Spears, used during "suicide attacks"[274] Makarov PM (and Chinese Type 59)[275][276] Mauser C96 – Locally produced copies were used alongside Chinese copies and German variants supplied by the Soviets.[277] Nagant M1895[278] M1911 pistol[275] M1935A pistol[275] SA vz. 61 – automatic pistol[279] Tokarev TT-33 – Standard pistol, including Chinese Type 51 and Type 54 copies including Zastava M57[276] Walther P38 – Captured by the Soviets during World War II and provided to the VPA and the NLF as military aid[277] Home-made pistols, such as copies of the M1911, Luger[280] or of the Mauser C96 (Cao Dai 763) or crude one-shot guns, were also used by the Viet Cong early in the war.[277][281] SKS (Chinese Type 56) semi-automatic carbine[282][283] AK-47 – from the Soviet Union, Warsaw Pact countries, China and North Korea[282] Type 56 – Chinese-made standard rifle[282] Type 58 – Limited use from North Korea[282][284] PMK – Polish-made AK-47[282] AKM – from the Soviet Union, common modernized variant of the AK-47[285][286] PM md. 63/65 – Romanian variant of AKM[287] AMD-65 – Very limited use from Hungary[288] M1/M2 carbines – common and popular captured semi-automatic rifles[289][283] M1 Garand — Captured from South Vietnamese forces[290][289] vz. 52 rifle semi-automatic rifle, very rarely used[282] Vz. 58 assault rifle[282] Sturmgewehr 44 — Limited[277] Type 63 assault rifle – Limited use, received during the 1970s[291] M14, M16A1 – captured from US and South Vietnamese forces.[275][282] MAS-49 rifle – captured French rifle from First Indochina War[292] Arisaka rifles – Used by Viet Cong early in the war.[293] Berthier rifles- Used by Viet Cong early in the war[290] Chiang Kai-shek rifle – Used by recruits and militias[294] Mosin–Nagant – Bolt-action rifles and carbines from the Soviet Union and China (especially M44).[295][296] Mauser Kar98k – Bolt-action rifle, captured from the French during the First Indochina War and also provided by the Soviets as military aid.[277] MAS-36 rifle[276] Lee–Enfield – Used by the Viet Cong[297] Lebel rifle – Used earlier in the war.[275][276] M1903 Springfield – Used by Viet Cong forces[298] M1917 Enfield – Used by Viet Cong forces[299] SVD Dragunov – Soviet semi-automatic sniper rifle in limited use[300] vz. 24 – Used by Viet Cong forces.[301] Older or rarer rifles were often modified by the Viet Cong early in the war: Gras mle 1874 carbines were rechambered to .410 bore while Destroyer carbines were modified to accept the magazine of the Walther P38.[293] Home-made rifles, often spring-action rifles made to look like a M1 Garand or a M1 Carbine, were also used by the Viet Cong.[281] K-50M submachine gun (Vietnamese edition, based on Chinese version of Russian PPSh-41, under licence)[302] MAT-49 submachine gun – Captured during the French-Indochina War. Many were converted from 9×19mm to 7.62×25mm Tokarev[34] PPSh-41 submachine gun (both Soviet, North Korean and Chinese versions)[303][284] PPS-43 submachine gun (both Soviet and Chinese versions)[304] M3 submachine gun Limited use[289] Thompson submachine gun[289] – including Vietnamese copies[233] MP 40[305] Provided by the Soviet Union as a military aid. Smith and Wesson M76 submachine gun - captured from US forces [293] MAS-38 submachine gun – Captured from the French in the Indochina War.[306] PM-63 submachine gun – Used by tank crews[307] M56 submachine gun – limited use, received from Yugoslavia[308] Vietnamese home-made submachine guns, inspired by the Sten or the Thompson, were used by the Viet Cong early in the war.[281][293] Homemade shotguns, some inspired by the BAR or the Arisaka Type 99, were used by the Viet Cong early in the war.[309][281] Various models captured from ARVN and US forces[293] Remington Model 10 – pump-action shotgun used by the Viet Cong[310] IZh-58 double-barreled shotgun[citation needed] Bren light machine gun, used by Viet Cong[277] Degtyarev DP (DPM and RP-46 variants and Chinese Type 53 and Type 58 copies)[311] DShK heavy machine gun (including Chinese Type 54)[311][312] FM-24/29 – used by Viet Cong Forces[313] KPV heavy machine gun[314] Lewis gun[315] M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle[316] M1917 Browning machine gun – captured from ARVN/US forces M1919 Browning machine gun – captured from ARVN/US forces[311] M60 machine gun – captured from ARVN/US forces[311] M2 Browning[311] – captured from ARVN/US forces MG 34 – captured by the Soviets during World War II and provided to the VPA and the NLF as military aid[277] Maxim machine-gun M1910[304] PK Very limited use general-purpose machine gun from Soviet Union[317] Reibel Machine gun[318] RPD light machine gun (and Chinese Type 56 and North Korean Type 62 copies) – first used in 1964[319][320][284] RPK light machine gun of Soviet design[321] SG-43/SGM medium machine guns including Type 53 and Type 57 Chinese copies of these guns[311] Type 11 light machine gun[322] Type 24 machine gun (Chinese-made MG-08) – used by the Viet Cong Forces[323] Type 67 machine gun[324] Type 92 heavy machine gun[325] Type 99 light machine gun[326][323] Uk vz. 59 general-purpose machine gun[327] ZB vz. 26 light machine gun (included Chinese copies)[328][323] Home-made grenades and IEDs[329] F1 grenade (Chinese Type 1)[311][330] M29 grenade – captured[331] M79 grenade launcher – captured from US or ARVN forces[332] RG-42 grenade (Chinese Type 42)[73][311] RGD-1 and RGD-2 smoke grenades[73] RGD-5 grenade (Chinese Type 59)[311] RKG-3 anti-tank grenade (Chinese Type 3)[73][333] Type 67[broken anchor] and RGD-33 stick grenades[72][73] Type 64 rifle grenade – fired from AT-44 grenade launchers, fitted to Mosin-Nagant carbines[296] Type 89 grenade discharger[273] LPO-50 flamethrower[334] Type 74 Chinese-built copy[335] North Vietnamese soldier preparing to fire an SA-7 Recoilless rifles were known as DKZ (Đại-bác Không Giật).[336] RPG-2 recoilless rocket launcher (both Soviet, Chinese and locally produced B-40 and B-50 variants used)[337] RPG-7 recoilless rocket launcher[338] Type 51 (Chinese copy of the M20 Super Bazooka) – used by Viet Cong as late as 1964[95] B-10 recoilless rifle[339][312] B-11 recoilless rifle[339] SPG-9 73 mm recoilless rifle[289][312] M18 recoilless rifle (and Chinese Type 36 copy) and captured from US or ARVN forces[312][340] M20 recoilless rifle (and Chinese Type 52 and Type 56 copies) and captured from US or ARVN forces[312][341] PTRD Limited use by the Viet Cong Forces.[277] 9K32 Strela-2 (SA-7) anti-aircraft weapon[342] 9M14 Malyutka (AT-3 Sagger)[343] North Vietnamese SAM crew in front of a SA-2 launcher The KS-19 Brandt Mle 1935 – 60 mm mortar[289] M2 mortar (including Chinese Type 31 and Type 63 copies) – 60 mm mortars[289] M19 mortar – 60 mm mortar[289] M1 mortar – 81 mm[289] M29 mortar – 81 mm[289] Brandt Mle 27/31 – 81 mm mortar[289] 82-PM-37 (including Chinese Type 53 copy) – 82 mm mortar[289] Type 67 mortar – 82 mm mortar[104] M1938 107 mm mortar 120-PM-43 mortar[289] M1943 160 mm mortar (including Chinese Type 55 copy)[289] Field artillery rockets were often fired from improvised launchers, sometimes a tube fixed with bamboo.[95] 102 mm 102A3 rockets[344] 107 mm Type 63 MRL – used with one-tube or 12-tube launchers[344][345] single-tube 122mm 9M22M rocket taken from BM-21 Grad MRL[344][345] single-tube 140mm M14-OF rocket taken from BM-14 MRL[344] 57 mm anti-tank gun M1943 (ZiS-2)[346] 70 mm Type 92 battalion gun[347][304] Type 41 75 mm mountain gun, supplied by China[304] 7.5 cm Pak 40[348] 75 mm M116 pack howitzer,[349] supplied by China 76 mm divisional gun M1942 (ZiS-3) (and Chinese Type 54)[349][350][304] 85 mm divisional gun D-44[349] 100 mm field gun M1944 (BS-3)[349][350] Type 91 10 cm howitzer, supplied by China[304] M101 howitzer[349] 122 mm gun M1931/37 (A-19)[349][350] 122 mm howitzer M1938 (M-30)[349][350] D-74 122 mm field gun[351][350] 130 mm towed field gun M1954 (M-46)[349][350] 152 mm howitzer-gun M1937 (ML-20)[349] 152 mm towed gun-howitzer M1955 (D-20)[342] M114 155 mm howitzer[352] ZPU-1/2/4 single, double, and quad 14.5 mm anti-aircraft machine guns[353] ZU-23 twin 23 mm anti-aircraft cannon[354] M1939 37 mm anti-aircraft gun (and Chinese Type 55)[355][356] S-60 57 mm anti-aircraft gun[357][355] 85 mm air defense gun M1944[354] 100 mm air defense gun KS-19[354] 8.8 cm Flak 18/36/37/41[358] S-75 Dvina Soviet high-altitude air defence system[359][360] S-125 Neva Soviet high-altitude air defence system[361] Aero Ae-45 trainer aircraft[362] Aero L-29 Delfín trainer aircraft[363] An-2 utility aircraft[364] Cessna A-37 Dragonfly attack aircraft – limited use of captured or defected[365] Ilyushin Il-12 transport aircraft[366] Ilyushin Il-14 transport aircraft[366] Ilyushin Il-28 jet bomber[367] Lisunov Li-2 transport aircraft[366] Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15 (and Chinese F-4) jet trainer[368] MiG-17 jet fighter[369][370] MiG-19 jet fighter[371] MiG-21 jet fighter[372] North American T-28 Trojan – 1 ex-Laotian used in 1964[373] Shenyang J-5 jet fighter Shenyang J-6 jet fighter Yakovlev Yak-18 trainer aircraft[374] Gryazev-Shipunov GSh-23[375] Nudelman-Rikhter NR-30[376] Nudelman N-37[377] Nudelman-Rikhter NR-23[378] K-5 (missile) (RS-2US)[205][379] K-13 (missile) (R-3S)[205][375][379] Mi-4[380] Mi-6[380] Mi-8[381] M24 Chaffee – light tank, captured from the French and used for training early in the war[306] M41 Walker Bulldog – light tank, captured from the ARVN.[382][383] M48 Patton – captured from the ARVN.[384] PT-76 amphibious tank[255][385][386] SU-76 self-propelled gun[255][386] SU-100 self-propelled guns in limited numbers.[387] SU-122 self-propelled gun in limited numbers[255][387] T-34-85 medium tank, from 1959[255][388] T-54 main battle tanks,[389][386] used from 1965[348] Type 59 main battle tanks[389] Type 63 amphibious tank[390] ZSU-57-2 anti-aircraft self-propelled systems[391] ZSU-23-4 anti-aircraft self-propelled systems[389] BTR-40 APC[392] BTR-50 APC[386] BTR-60PB APC[393] BTR-152 APC[394] M3 half-track and M8 light armored car – first NVA armored vehicles. Used to protect air bases in the North.[395] M113 armored personnel carrier – captured from the ARVN[383] MTU-20 armored bridge-layer[396] Type 63 APC[364][388] AT-L light artillery tractor[357] AT-S and ATS-59 medium artillery tractors[357][397] Beijing BJ212[384] GAZ-46 light amphibious car[398] GAZ-51 truck (and Chinese copy)[399] GAZ-63 truck[400][401] GAZ-69[395] IFA W 50[384] Jiefang CA-10 trucks [397] Jiefang CA-30 trucks [370][402] KrAZ-255 heavy truck[403] Mazur D-350 artillery tractor[404] MAZ-502 truck[401] M35 truck series (captured)[397] M54 truck series (captured)[397] M151 jeep (captured)[384] ZIS-150 trucks[397] UralZIS-355M truck[401] ZIL-130 truck[357] ZIL-151 truck[405] ZIL-157 and ZIL-157K trucks [370][402] ZiS-485 amphibious vehicle[406][397] Swatow-class gunboats[407] P4 and P6 torpedo boats[407] Hainan class submarine chaser T43-class minesweeper Kronshtadt-class submarine chaser Countless civilian-type sampans – mainly used for smuggling supplies and weapons[408] NLF and PAVN strategy, organization and structure NLF and PAVN logistics and equipment NLF and PAVN battle tactics Weapons of the Laotian Civil War Weapons of the Cambodian Civil War Weapons of the First Indochina War ^ Sheehan 2009, p. 813.3. ^ Sheehan 2009, p. 187.2. ^ FSTC 381-4012 Typical Foreign Unconventional Warfare Weapons (U) ^ Sheehan 2009, p. 994.1. ^ Sheehan 2009, p. 814.4. ^ Sheehan 2009, p. 1883.5. ^ Seals, Bob (23 September 2008). 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Archived from the original on April 23, 2023. Retrieved 4 February 2019. ^ Ezell 1988, p. 155. ^ a b c Rottman 2010, p. 45. ^ a b c Rottman 2017, p. 11. ^ Rottman 2011b, p. 40. ^ a b Rottman 2012, p. 22. ^ a b c d Association, National Rifle. "An Official Journal Of The NRA | Behind Enemy Lines: Guns of Vietnam's SOG Warriors

actions.Tank versus tank battles, as were common in World War 2, were uncommon in Vietnam. There is one reported incident in 1969 at Ben Het involving the NVA's 69th Armor using about a dozen Soviet PT 76 tanks to support a large body of NVA troops. Their tanks mounted 76.2 big guns and engaged the beseiged camp through the night. The Americans with their Montenard Highland allies were dug in the Ben Het Camp about 7 miles from the Cambodian border. Their perimeter was stretched thin as they were supported by only three tanks in addition to their artillery battery. The Americans repulsed the attack and lost two of their tanks. They confirmed an equal number of destroyed enemy tanks with evidence of damage to others. In 1972, the north commenced their Easter Offensive. Their infantry was supported by 100 tanks in its attack on An Loc. The south's ARVN forces were armed with the American M72 anti tank weapons (above) and destroyed 80 enemy tanks. When the American forces signed a cease fire agreement with North Vietnam January 1973, the enemy already controlled a large swath of the south. The U.S. bequeathed many of their tanks to the South Vietnam military. The north was not deterred and continued their advances toward the South's capital in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh Offensive). By 1975, Congress cut off aid to South Vietnam which meant no gas or ammunition for the tanks. The North now used their tanks to rapidly advance south running over the ARVN defenders and ending the struggle when they entered Saigon April 30,1975. Vietnam War Weapons Although the NVA had a modernly equipped ground force, supply was a problem when they operated in South Vietnam. Roads were under sky observation and air strikes were a constant threat. The NVA solution was the utilization of a system of paths and trails that stretched from North Vietnam to the southern end of south Vietnam. This mainly dirt track consisted of hundreds of trails that straddled the mountain and jungle borders of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The latter two countries were reputedly neutral, but were not immune from probing American patrols issued from near by fire bases on the Vietnamese side of the border. American bombers dropped their loads on neutral areas when attempting to interdict troops and war materiel.The paths were strewn with burned wrecks.The North Vietnam home front efforts included use of the the Ho chi Minh trail that was named for the president of the country. The services of all ages were utilized including the bicycles of the NVA Transport corps. Each rider could move hundreds of pounds along the trails. .

Vietnam War Weapons click to enlarge Flak jackets were introduced to the United States Army Air Force in 1945. Later technologies refined the protective gear for the marine and army infantry that protected chest, abdomen and back from small arms fire and grenade fragments. By 1962, protective cover was extended to the neck. The garment weighed about 10 pounds. The outerwear was either full jacket or vest. In the air service, gunners wore full body armor and pilots only frontal protection. The inner surface was a composite of aluminum oxide and ceramics. Leg armor was formed in steel. Weight of the full armor was about 25 pounds.The M52 vest contained 2 rows for hanging grenades. For river patrols, floating armor was made of a composite of titanium and nylon. The jacket was impervious to flechettes used in underwater small arms. The United States had built, but never used, a supply that carried biological chemicals. Although body armor is a minor niche in the study of weaponry, its history is enlightening as a microcosmic study of weapon development. Each evolution takes years of scientific research, and each step requires getting the technologists on board. Then begins the slow grind to transfer the theoretical to the practical application. The threat of violence, or war, has always galvanized technology, be it primitive or modern, to create weapons with greater destructive power than those in the arsenal of the enemy. In counter point, there is always pressure to defend against those weapons. The progression of "bigger and better" is a basic tenet of weapons history. As the velocity of a bullet increased its penetrating power, preserving the lives of those on the battlefield also gained importance. The need for a solution was prioritized. We noted, above, the 1945 solution to protect pilots, trained at great cost, and highly vulnerable to career ending wounds (or worse), stimulated industry to "invent" an answer to the problem. One such breakthrough occurred with the development of Kevlar. It began in 1965, when a DuPont research scientist, Stephanie Kwolek succeeded in synthesizing a stiff-chain polymer solution that spun into a fiber that was 5 times stronger than steel at equal weight. The hurdles to develop a practical approach to commercialization were scientifically staggering. Efforts continued for several years until an economically feasible process was developed. During that period a parallel research effort was aggressively pursued to identify end-use applications for Kevlar, including bullet resistant vests. A shooting range was constructed, and new body armor was born. Then the ball was handed to the engineers for design, and ultimately the construction of a special plant in 1982, with an expenditure of almost one-half billion dollars. In the Vietnam era. we found that innovative technology could increase the protective power of body armor. But the military inherently sought the next, more destructive weapon and, hence, the next best defense. It is now commonplace to find that industry is no longer bound to the status quo, and their scientists, engineers and technicians continue to experiment to create the next generation of weapons.We were fortunate to elicit the following information from David Tanner the scientist who directed a team effort over a number of years to improve body armor."In the 1970s, a team of scientists and technologists at DuPont, were able to use a synthetic fiber to reinforce helmets and vests. DuPont had developed "Kevlar" during the early years of the Vietnam War. Kevlar fiber is 5 times stronger than steel on an equal weight basis. This enabled development of light-weight bullet-resistant vests that are comfortable enough to help improve mobility and reduce fatigue for soldiers in the field. Kevlar fiber is also inherently flame resistant, helping to provide thermal protection from blasts and fire".The military was prepared for the First Gulf War. Examining grenade's blast effect on Kevlar helmet. Vietnam War Weapons The big guns, cannon, were integral to the infantry operations of the Americans. In contrast to the air force bombers, their ammunition was more diverse, their firing more sustainable, and most significantly, more accurate. Their arsenal, common to most armies included direct and indirect firing guns. The direct uses guns with a longer barrel and greater range, and the indirect, a shorter barrel, producing an arcing trajectory and shorter range. Generally, each U.S. division depended on a battalion of direct fire support per brigade and a battalion of general artillery per division. Artillery fire doctrine was in play. It relied on maneuverability (movement to gain a combat advantage) and fire power (destructive force). U.S. forces in Vietnam relied on 68 artillery battalions supporting 93 maneuver battalions.Their ARVN ally had 44 battalions of 105mm howitzers.An additional layer of complexity was extant in Vietnam. The artillery was no longer the only source of fire power. The utilization of air power, fixed and rotary wing used by each service, (army, navy and marines) required integration and synchronization. Nevertheless, artillery fire was most feared by the enemy. Their responsive tactic was referred to as "hugging". The enemy would lie in areas close to the U.S. ground troops to avoid the shelling. Every response was met with counter measures. A "cordon" was formed by assault helicopters to encircle the enemy and formed a perimeter to surround the enemy. Essentially, herding the enemy. Then the big guns would do their work. In the early years of the war, military planners believed that these methods would wear down the enemy by attrition through similar tactics. Unfortunately, the mind set of the enemy was "never give up". Factually, attrition was the enemy of the United States. This was a war in which the Americans controlled the air and, judging results, their artillery was not effective enough to produce long term victory.In earlier wars, the rule was that the artillery was most effective when firing in mass. However, in Vietnam, there rarely were massed targets. The need for forward observers to identify targets was extremely important---and dangerous duty. Some of this duty devolved to helicopters. Then there were other considerations before firing on a target. When civilian populations were in the target area, artillery paused to await a decision from the sector HQ. Often that decision would take up to an hour to deliver a response. By that time, the enemy had dispersed. In Vietnam, most of the U.S. long guns were mounted on their tanks. However, the U.S. arsenal carried a variety of heavy howitzers and mortars which were either self propelled or towed. Some like the M102, 105 mm howitzer, could be air lifted to forward lines by the Boeing Chinook Ch-47 helicopter. Howitzers were also mounted on tanks. These newly designed guns arrived in Vietnam in 1966 not only adding destructive power in zones not covered by long barreled guns, but added mobility with the ability to traverse 360 degrees. A definite improvement over the M101A that had also seen service in Korea. Technology repackaged the basic high explosive (HE) shell that had been used in earlier wars. The fire bases manned by Americans relied on anti personnel shells. Often their fire was directed point blank at the charging enemy. Canister shot was also used by the big guns. The Arvn were also supplied with heavy weapons that approximated those of their American counterparts. These included the much utlized 105 and 155 mm howitzers as well several types of self propelled howitzers. Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons self propelled M102 155mm howitzer In the discussion of the SAM missile (above), we noted the significance of the anti-aircraft guns in the air defense of North Vietnam. They used three main weapons from the Soviet arsenal that proved to be the most effective against American airplanes. They were easy to operate and handled by both sexes in the NVA, Vietnam War Weapons The M1939 37mm was the work horse of the north's air defense. It was an automatic firing weapon weighing about 4600 lbs and capable of traversing 360 degrees. The larger S-60. 10,000 lbs required a 7 man crew. Its firing power was critical at lower altitudes between 1200 feet and 4500 feet.The Russian 85 mm was a large 10,000 lb gun with 360 traversing mobility. Its vertical range was 34,000 feet.Another soviet weapon was added to the defense of North Vietnam. The ZU-23 twin auto cannon. The 23mm caliber was manually operated and loaded. However, it was quite nimble and easily moved. Its range was 2 miles. 1939 37mm. ZU-23 23mm Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons click to enlarge The majority of the guns on both sides of the line were mortars ranging from light to heavy. The latter ranged from 120mm to 300mm. American fire bases were subjected to nightly mortar attacks from light, portable mortars such as the Chinese 55mm below. Each American base had gun pits for at least one battery, and the camps were protected by at least 25,000 sand bags. There is a general belief that no fire base was ever overrun by the enemy. The American defenders were as fierce as the enemy. Vietnam War Weapons The VC were almost entirely dependent on mortars and rockets and had no conventional artillery. Any larger weapons in their possession were acquired from captured ARVN arsenals. These included U.S. 75 mm howitzers. On the other hand, the regular PAVN army were stocked with Russian and Chinese guns. In the final years of the war, They moved 400 big guns as their regular troops advanced south.These included 122 and 155 mm field guns as well 82, 107, mm mortars. The PAVN mainly relied on the 130 and 152 mm howitzer as well as the big 155mm towed howitzer.The katyusha rocket was introduced by the Soviet in World War 2. This surface to surface weapon became a mainstay of both PAVN and their southern guerrilla ally, the Viet Cong. Initially the 2 man crew operated the BM series 122mm resting on a primitive base. As the war proceeded, they were supplied with light, medium and heavy rockets and truck bases to increase mobility and stability. This rocket was not designed for accuracy and used for area damage. In an attack on the American base during the enemy Tet offensive (1968), the enemy attempted to take out hangars and run ways.Their rockets struck a hospital hundreds of yards away. Vietnam War Weapons The 4.2 inch mortar retained its popularity with the marines and still in use from the Korean War. The mortar was used in tanks, mounted vehicles and even in the navy's Riverine patrol boats in the southern Mekong Delta. The marines reported that they used delayed fuses against VC tunnels because it effectively created a destructive air burst, Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons An interesting comparison found that in the first Indochina war (1946-1954) in 1951, the French fired one-half million rounds. The VC defeated the French at Dien Bien Phu by firing 2,000 rounds per day. In 1969, the United States fired 10,000,000 rounds in Vietnam. As was the case in all modern wars to date, the machine gun occupied an all important niche in the belligerents arsenals. They were mounted on boats, tanks, helicopters, fixed wing planes, and in the case of the U.S. and ARVN infantry a staple in every squad. Most significantly, machine guns like the M-60, a general purpose weapon (GPMG), were basic elements in U.S. and ARVN infantry squads. The M-60 came in several models including light and medium. This 7.62 mm gun was the infantry's main fire power in Vietnam. The gun was gas operated, air cooled and belt fed. Its effective range is 1200 yards. The gunner in the squad lugged 23 lbs and added 15 lbs more if used with tripod. Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons infantry M60 marines at Hue Prior to the introduction of the M60, the M1921 .50 caliber Browning, successor to the M1918 and 1919, was widely used in Vietnam. A powerful gun that could fire a 12.7mm cartridge. When it was used in action in Vietnam, with its various improvements, it was known as M2HB. The gun was water cooled and with the water cooling jacket weighed 121lbs. It required a crew of seven---mostly used to carry the gun. Water cooling was a liability after rapid fire of 75 rounds. Although built to fire up to 600 rounds per minute, it often overheated the barrel. The high velocity could pierce armor. Ultimately, with an improvement that made the barrel heavier, and adding a quick change extra barrel to overcome the heating problem, the gun was extremely serviceable. The gun was effectively used on boats, tanks, and planes from World War 2 and well into the Vietnam conflict. Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons Weapons historians have identified over 20 types of machine guns, and as many models of sub machine guns, used by the NVA and VC. The guns ranged from light to heavy. The Degtyarov a light, general purpose gun was a gas operated 7.62 caliber weapon. It could fire 500 rounds per minute with a range of 2400 yards. It weighed 20 lbs and was loaded with 47 rounds from a circular pan. It was also equipped with a flash suppressor. The RP 46 was a heavy general purpose gun fed with a 50 round belt and considered comparable with similar American guns. The NVA employed the same flexibility as the Americans in adapting the machine gun to diverse platforms. The guns were not only used by their infantry, but utilized as anti-aircraft weapons. Vietnam War Weapons Vietnam War Weapons Air Forces _____ For Sources and References:See Vietnam War Facts History of American Wars | Vietnam War Timeline | Vietnam War Weapons Top of Vietnam War Weapons Weapons used in the Vietnam war Vietnam-era rifles used by the US military and allies. From top to bottom: M14, MAS 36, M16 (30 round magazine), AR-10, M16 (20 round magazine), M21, L1A1, M40, MAS 49 The Vietnam War involved the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA), National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (NLF) or Viet Cong (VC), and the armed forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Soviet Armed Forces, Korean People's Army, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), United States Armed Forces, Republic of Korea Armed Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and New Zealand Defence Force, with a variety of irregular troops. Nearly all United States-allied forces were armed with U.S. weapons including the M1 Garand, M1 carbine, M14 rifle, and M16 rifle. The Australian and New Zealand forces employed the 7.62 mm L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle as their service rifle, with the occasional use of the M16 rifle. The PAVN, although having inherited a variety of American, French, and Japanese weapons from World War II and the First Indochina War (aka French Indochina War), were largely armed and supplied by the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and its Warsaw Pact allies. Further, some weapons—notably anti-personnel explosives, the K-50M (a PPSh-41 copy), and "home-made" versions of the RPG-2—were manufactured in North Vietnam. By 1969 the US Army had identified 40 rifle/carbine types, 22 machine gun types, 17 types of mortar, 20 recoilless rifle or rocket launcher types, nine types of antitank weapons, and 14 anti-aircraft artillery weapons used by ground troops on all sides. Also in use, mostly by anti-communist forces, were the 24 types of armored vehicles and self-propelled artillery, and 26 types of field artillery and rocket launchers. Captured PAVN weapons During the early stages of their insurgency, the Viet Cong mainly sustained itself with captured arms (often of American manufacture)[1] or crude, self-made weapons (e.g. copies of the US Thompson submachine gun[2] and shotguns made of galvanized pipes).[3][4] Most arms were captured from poorly defended ARVN militia outposts.[5] Communist forces were principally armed with Chinese and Soviet weaponry though some VC guerrilla units were equipped with Western infantry weapons either captured from French stocks during the first Indochina war, such as the MAT-49, or from ARVN units or requisitioned through illicit purchase. By Autumn of 1967, all Viet Cong battalions were reequipped with arms of Soviet design such as the AK-47 and the RPG-2.[6] Their weapons were principally of Chinese[7] or Soviet manufacture.[8] The period up to the conventional phase in the 1970, the Viet Cong and NVA were mostly limited to mortars, recoilless rifles, and small-arms and had significantly lighter equipment and firepower relative to the US arsenal, relying on ambushes, with superior stealth, planning, marksmanship, and small-unit tactics to face the disproportionate US technological advantage.[9] Many divisions within the NVA would incorporate armoured and mechanised battalions including the Type 59 tank, BTR-60, Type 60 artillery, and rapidly altered and integrated new war doctrines following the Tet Offensive into a mobile combined-arms force.[10] The North Vietnamese had both amphibious tanks (such as the PT-76) and light tanks (such the Type 62) used during the conventional phase. Experimental Soviet equipment started being used against ARVN forces at the same time, including Man-portable air-defense system SA-7 Grail and anti-tank missiles including the AT-3 Sagger.[11] By 1975, they had fully transformed from the strategy of mobile light-infantry and using the people's war concept used against the United States.[10] A MiG-21 of the Vietnam People's Air Force, which 13 out of 19 of the VPAF's top fighter aces had flown in most of the successful interception missions against USAF and USN aircraft.[12] The American M16 rifle and XM177 carbine, which both replaced the M14, were lighter and considered more accurate than the AK-47 but in Vietnam was prone to "failure to extract", in which the spent cartridge case remained stuck in the chamber after a round was fired, preventing the next round from feeding and jamming the gun.[citation needed] This was ultimately traced to an inadequately tested switch in propellants from DuPont's proprietary IMR 4475 to Olin's WC 846, that Army Ordnance had ordered out of concern for standardization and mass production capacity.[citation needed] The heavily armored, 90 mm gun M48A3 'Patton' tank saw extensive action during the Vietnam War and over 600 were deployed with U.S. forces. They played an important role in infantry support though there were a few tank versus tank battles. The M67A1 flamethrower tank (nicknamed the Zippo) was an M48 variant used in Vietnam. The use of this euphemistically nicknamed tank should not be confused with the widespread use of actual Zippo lighters to burn villages, which gave rise to the nickname of "Zippo squads". (Far from all such squads fielded the tank.) The Zippo nickname was also applied to man-portable flamethrowers.[13] Artillery was used extensively by both sides but the Americans were able to ferry the lightweight 105 mm M102 howitzer by helicopter to remote locations on quick notice.[14][15] With its 17-mile (27 km) range, the Soviet 130 mm M-46 towed field gun was a highly regarded weapon and used to good effect by the PAVN. It was countered by the long-range, American 175 mm M107 Self-Propelled Gun (nicknamed Miller).[16] The United States had air superiority, though many aircraft were lost to surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery. U.S. airpower was credited with breaking the siege of Khe Sanh and blunting the 1972 Easter Offensive against South Vietnam. At sea, the U.S. Navy had the run of the coastline, using aircraft carriers as platforms for offshore strikes and other naval vessels for offshore artillery support. Offshore naval fire played a pivotal role in the Battle of Huế in February 1968, providing accurate fire in support of the U.S. counter-offensive to retake the city.[17] Captured South Vietnamese warplanes in Ho Chi Minh City The Vietnam War was the first conflict that saw wide-scale tactical deployment of helicopters.[18] The Bell UH-1 Iroquois nicknamed "Huey" was used extensively in counter-guerilla operations both as a troop carrier and a gunship.[15] In the latter role it was outfitted with a variety of armaments including M60 machine guns, multi-barrelled 7.62 mm Miniguns and unguided air-to-surface rockets.[15] The Hueys were also successfully used in MEDEVAC and search and rescue roles.[15] Two aircraft which were prominent in the war were the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship and the UH-1 "Huey" gunship. The AC-130 was a heavily armed ground-attack aircraft variant of the C-130 Hercules transport plane; it was used to provide close air support, air interdiction and force protection. The AC-130H "Spectre" was armed with two 20 mm M61 Vulcan cannons, one Bofors 40 mm autocannon, and one 105 mm M102 howitzer. The Huey is a military helicopter powered by one turboshaft engine, and about 7,000 UH-1 aircraft saw service in Vietnam. At their disposal ground forces had access to B-52 and F-4 Phantom II and others to launch napalm, white phosphorus, tear gas and chemical weapons as well.[19] The aircraft ordnance used during the war included precision-guided munition, cluster bombs, a thickening–gelling agent generally mixed with petroleum or a similar fuel for use in an incendiary device, initially against buildings and later mostly as an anti-personnel weapon that sticks to skin and can burn down to the bone. The Claymore M18A1, an anti-personnel mine, was widely used. It is command-detonated, directionally shooting 700 steel pellets into the kill zone. The Ka-Bar knife was the most famous edged weapon of the war. L1A1 and L1A2 bayonets – used on L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle[20] M1905 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M1917 bayonet – used on various shotguns.[20] M1 Bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M3 fighting knife[22] M4 bayonet – used on the M1 and M2 Carbine.[20] M5 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[20] M6 bayonet – used on the M14.[20] M7 Bayonet – used on the M16.[20] Ka-Bar Utility/fighting Knife – used by the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.[23][24] Randall Made Knives – personally purchased by some US soldiers.[25] Bow – used by US Mobile Riverine Force.[26][better source needed] Crossbow – used by South Vietnamese Montagnards[27] Colt M1911A1 – standard US and ARVN sidearm.[28][29] Colt Commander – used by US military officers and US Special forces. Browning Hi-Power – used by Australian and New Zealand forces (L9 pistol).[30] Also used on an unofficial basis by US reconnaissance and Special Forces units.[31] Colt Detective Special – .38 Special revolver, used by some ARVN officers[29] Colt Police Positive Special – .38 Special revolver, used by USAF and tunnel rats[32] FN Baby Browning- .25 ACP pistol, used as a last resort weapon by MACVSOG.[33] High Standard HDM – Integrally suppressed .22LR handgun, supplemented by the Mark 22 Mod 0 in the later stages of the war.[34] Ingram MAC-10 – compact submachine gun used by US special operations forces.[34] Luger P08 – CIA provided pistol[35] Quiet Special Purpose Revolver – .40 caliber suppressed revolver used by tunnel rats. Smith & Wesson Model 10 – .38 Special revolver used by ARVN,[36] by US Army and USAF pilots[37] and by tunnel rats[32] Colt Python – .357 Magnum revolver carried by MACVSOG. Smith & Wesson Mark 22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy" – Suppressed pistol used by US Navy SEALs and other U.S. special operations forces.[34] Walther P38 – CIA provided pistol[35] Walther PPK – Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG recon skydiver team[33] Welrod -Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG.[33] Vietnamese Rangers with M16 rifles in Saigon during the Tết Offensive L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle – used by Australian and New Zealand soldiers[38] A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam, 1967. M1 Garand – used by the South Vietnamese[39] and South Koreans[40] M1, M1A1, & M2 Carbine – used by the South Vietnamese Military, Police and Security Forces,[39] South Koreans,[41] South Vietnamese People's Self-Defense Force militiawomen with M2 carbines M14, M14E2, M14A1 – issued to most U.S. troops from the early stages of the war until 1967–68, when it was replaced by the M16.[41] M16, XM16E1, and M16A1 – M16 was issued in 1964, but due to reliability issues, it was replaced by the M16A1 in 1967 which added the forward assist and chrome-lined barrel to the rifle for increased reliability.[42] CAR-15 – carbine variant of the M16 produced in very limited numbers, fielded by special operations early on. Later supplemented by the improved XM177. XM177 (Colt Commando)/GAU-5 – further development of the CAR-15, used heavily by MACV-SOG, the US Air Force, and US Army.[34] Stoner 63 – used by US Navy SEALs and USMC.[34] T223 – a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK33 built under license by Harrington & Richardson used in small numbers by SEAL teams. Even though the empty H&R T223 was 0.9 pounds (0.41 kg) heavier than an empty M16A1, the weapon had a forty-round magazine available for it and this made it attractive to the SEALS.[34] MAS-36 rifle – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] AK-47, AKM, and Type 56 – Captured rifles were used by South Vietnamese[44] and U.S. forces.[45][46] M1C/D Garand and MC52 – used by CIA advisors, the USMC and the US Navy early in the war.[47][48] About 520 were supplied to the ARVN and 460 to the Thai forces.[49] M1903A4 Springfield – used by the USMC early in the war, replaced by the M40.[48] M21 Sniper Weapon System – sniper variant of the M14 rifle used by the US Army.[50] M40 (Remington Model 700)– bolt-action sniper rifle meant to replace the M1903A4 Springfield rifle and Winchester Model 70; used by the USMC[48] Parker-Hale M82 – used by ANZAC forces[30] Winchester Model 70 – used by the USMC[48] Beretta M12 – limited numbers were used by U.S. Embassy security units.[51] Carl Gustaf m/45 – used by Navy SEALs in the start of the war, but later replaced by the Smith & Wesson M76 in the late 1960s. Significant numbers also used by MAC-V-SOG, South Vietnamese,[34] and small numbers in Laos by advisors, and Laotian fighters. Smith & Wesson M76 – copy of the Carl Gustaf m/45; few were shipped to Navy SEALs fighting in Vietnam.[52] F1 submachine gun – replaced the Owen Gun in Australian service.[53][54] M3 Grease gun – standard U.S. military submachine gun, also used by the South Vietnamese[34][55] M50/55 Reising – limited numbers were used by MACVSOG and other irregular forces.[34] Madsen M-50 – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] MAS-38 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[56] MAT-49 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[43] Captured models were used in limited numbers[34] MP 40 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] Owen Gun – standard Australian submachine-gun in the early stages of the war, later replaced by the F1 and withdrawn from combat use by 1971.[53][54] Sten submachine gun – used by US special operations forces, often with a suppressor mounted.[45] Sterling submachine gun – used by Australian Special Air Service Regiment and other special operations units.[54] Thompson submachine gun – used often by South Vietnamese troops, and in small quantities by US artillery and helicopter units. Uzi – used by special operations forces and some South Vietnamese, supplied from Israel.[45] Ithaca 37 Shotguns were used as an individual weapon during jungle patrol; infantry units were authorized a shotgun by TO&E (Table of Organization & Equipment). Shotguns were not general issue to all infantrymen, but were select issue weapons, such as one per squad, etc. Ithaca Model 37 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States and ARVN.[34][57] Remington Model 10 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States.[58] Remington Model 11-48 – semi-automatic shotgun used by US Army.[59] Remington Model 31 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army, the SEALs and the ARVN.[59][60] Remington Model 870 – pump-action shotgun, main shotgun used by Marines, Army, and Navy after 1966.[34][59][61] Remington 7188 – experimental select fire shotgun, withdrawn due to lack of reliability. Used by US Navy SEALs[34][62] Savage Model 69E – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[37] Savage Model 720 – semi-automatic shotgun.[63] Stevens Model 77E – pump-action shotgun used by Army and Marine forces. Almost 70,000 Model 77Es were procured by the military for use in SE Asia during the 1960s.[64] Also very popular with the ARVN because of its small size.[65] Stevens Model 520/620[57] Winchester Model 1912 – used by USMC.[66] Winchester Model 1200 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[67] Winchester Model 1897 – used by the Marines during the early stages of the war.[68] South Vietnamese soldier with a M1918 Browning Automatic RifleM60 machine gun – standard General-purpose machine gun for US, ANZAC, and ARVN forces throughout the war.[53] US Marine fires his M60 machine gun at an enemy position during the Battle of Huế. Colt Machine Gun – experimental light machine gun deployed by SEAL Team 2 in 1970.[34] M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle – used by the ARVN during the early stages of the war,[69] as well as many that were airdropped into Laos and used by Laotian fighters. FM 24/29 light machine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] RPD machine gun (and Type 56) – captured and used by reconnaissance teams of Mobile Strike Forces, MAC-V-SOG and other special operation forces. Also commonly modified to cut down the barrel.[46] Stoner M63A Commando & Mark 23 Mod.0 – used by Navy SEALs and tested by Force Recon.[34] M134 Minigun – 7.62 mm vehicle mounted machine gun (rare)[70] M1919 Browning machine gun (and variants such as M37) – vehicle mounted machine gun.[71] Meanwhile, still of use by many South Vietnamese infantry.[30] M73 machine gun – tank mounted machine gun.[71] Browning M2HB .50cal Heavy Machine Gun[34] Claymore anti-personnel mine in use in Vietnam AN-M8 – white smoke grenade[72][73] C4 explosive[74] Mark 2 fragmentation grenade[75] M1 smoke pot[74] M26 fragmentation grenade and many subvariants[76][77] M59 and M67 fragmentation grenade[78][79] M6/M7-series riot control grenades[73] – Used to clear NVA/VC out of caves, tunnels and buildings[80] or stop a pursuer.[72] AN/M14 TH3 thermite grenade – Incendiary grenade used to destroy equipment and as a fire-starting device.[72] M15 and M34 smoke grenades – filled with white phosphorus,[25] which ignites on contact with air and creates thick white smoke.[72] Used for signalling and screening purposes, as well as an anti-personnel weapon in enclosed spaces, as the burning white phosphorus would rapidly consume any oxygen, suffocating the victims. M18 grenade Smoke Hand Grenade – Signalling/screening grenade available in red, yellow, green, and purple.[81][72] V40 Mini-Grenade[82] OF 37 grenade and DF 37 grenade, French grenades used by the ARVN in the 1950s[83][84] XM58 riot control grenade – A miniature riot control grenade used by MACVSOG and Navy SEALs.[80] M14 mine – anti-personnel blast mine[25] M15 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M16 mine – bounding anti-personnel fragmentation mine[85] M18/M18A1 Claymore – command-detonated directional anti-personnel mine[29][86] M19 mine – anti-tank mine[85] M1/M2 rifle grenade adapters – used to convert a standard fragmentation grenade (M1) or smoke grenade (M2) into a rifle grenade when used with the M7 grenade launcher. M7 and M8 rifle grenade launcher – rifle grenade launcher used with respectively the M1 Garand and the M1 carbine, used by the South Vietnamese. Could fire the M9 and M17 rifle grenades.[87] M79 grenade launcher – main U.S. grenade launcher used by all branches of the US military, ANZAC forces, and ARVN.[34][87] China Lake grenade launcher – pump action weapon used in very small numbers.[34] XM148 grenade launcher – experimental underbarrel 40 mm grenade launcher attached to the M16 rifle or XM177 carbine. Also issued to Australian Special Air Service Regiment in conjunction with the modified L1A1 and Sterling Submachine Gun.[88] Withdrawn due to safety reasons.[34][87] M203 grenade launcher – one-shot 40mm underslung grenade launcher designed to attach to an M16 rifle (or XM177 carbine, with modifications to the launcher). First tested in combat April 1969.[34][87] Mark 18 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Hand-cranked, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used by the US Navy.[89] Mark 19 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x53mm grenade launcher.[89] Mk 20 Mod 0 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher. Used mostly by riverine crews but also by Air Force Special Operations.[89] XM174 grenade launcher – Automatic, belt-fed, 40x46mm grenade launcher used mainly by the US Army.[90] Bazooka – The M9 variant was supplied to the ARVN during the early years of the war,[91] while the M20 "Super Bazooka" was used by the USMC and the ARVN until the full introduction of the M67 90mm recoilless rifle and of the M72 LAW.[92] BGM-71 TOW – wire-guided anti-tank missile used in 1972 by the US, and by the ARVN from 1972 to the end of the war.[93] FIM-43 Redeye MANPADS (Man-Portable Air-Defence System) – shoulder-fired heat-seeking anti-air missile, used by the USMC.[94] M72 LAW – 66 mm anti-tank rocket launcher.[95] RPG-2 - Used by MACVSOG[33] XM202 – experimental four-shot 66mm incendiary rocket launcher.[96] M2A1-7 and M9A1-7 flamethrowers[97][98] A US marine carries an M67 recoilless rifle past a burning Viet Cong base camp in Mỹ Tho, South Vietnam, 1968 M18 recoilless rifle – 57mm shoulder-fired/tripod mounted recoilless rifle, used by the ARVN early in the war.[99] M20 recoilless rifle – 75mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle, used by US and ARVN forces early in the war.[100] M67 recoilless rifle – 90mm shoulder-fired anti-tank recoilless rifle, used by the US Army, US Marine Corps, ANZAC and ARVN selected forces.[100][101][102] M40 recoilless rifle 106mm tripod/vehicle-mounted recoilless rifle.[100][101] M2 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the lighter but less accurate and lower-range M19 mortar.[103] M19 mortar – 60 mm mortar, used with the older, heavier M2 mortar.[103][104] Brandt Mle 27/31 – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces[105] M1 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by ARVN forces.[105] M29 mortar – 81 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[105][106] L16A1 mortar – 81mm, used by ANZAC forces.[53] 82-BM-37 – captured 82 mm mortar, few used by USMC with US rounds.[107] M30 mortar 107 mm mortar, used by US and ARVN forces.[108][37] M98 Howtar, variant of the latter mounted on a M116 howitzer carriage.[109] Self-propelled Howitzer M109 in Vietnam M55 quad machine gun – used to defend US Army bases and on vehicles[110][111] Oerlikon 20 mm cannon – used on riverine crafts[112] Bofors 40 mm gun – used on riverine crafts[112] 105 mm Howitzer M101A1/M2A1[113][110] 105 mm Howitzer M102[114][110] 155 mm Howitzer M114[110][115] M53 Self-propelled 155 mm gun[116] M55 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[116] M107 Self-propelled 175 mm gun[110][117][118] M108 Self-propelled 105 mm howitzer[110] M109 Self-propelled 155 mm howitzer[119] M110 Self-propelled 8-inch howitzer[110][117] L5 pack howitzer 105 mm pack howitzer used by Australia[120] and New Zealand[121] MIM-23 Hawk – medium-range surface to air missile used in very small quantities by the US Marines.[122] HE (High explosive) – standard artillery round.[123] High-explosive anti-tank round – fired by 105 mm guns.[123] White phosphorus – used for screening or incendiary purposes.[123] Smoke shells – used for screening.[123] Leaflet shell[123] Beehive flechette rounds – antipersonnel rounds.[124] Improved conventional munition – antipersonnel shell with submunitions.[125] (listed alphabetically by modified/basic mission code, then numerically in ascending order by design number/series letter) A-1 Skyraider – ground attack aircraft[126] A-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based bomber[127] A-4 Skyhawk – carrier-based strike aircraft[128] A-6 Intruder – carrier-based all weather strike aircraft[129] A-7 Corsair II – carrier-based strike aircraft[130] A-26 Invader – light bomber[131] A-37 Dragonfly – ground attack aircraft[132] AC-47 Spooky – gunship[133] AC-119G "Shadow" – gunship[134] AC-119K "Stinger" – gunship[134] AC-130 "Spectre" – gunship[135] AU-24 Stallion – ground attack aircraft[136] B-52 Stratofortress at Thailand Air BaseB-52 Stratofortress – heavy bomber[137] B-57 Canberra – medium bomber[138] Canberra B.20 – Royal Australian Air Force medium bomber[138] C-1 Trader – cargo/transport aircraft C-2 Greyhound – cargo/transport aircraft C-5 Galaxy – strategic lift cargo aircraft[139] C-7 Caribou – tactical cargo aircraft, used by the U.S. Air Force, the Royal Australian Air Force and the South Vietnamese Air Force[140] C-46 Commando – cargo/transport aircraft[141] C-47 – cargo/transport aircraft[133] C-54 – transport aircraft[141] C-119 Boxcar – cargo/transport aircraft[134] C-121 Constellation – transport aircraft[142] C-123 Provider – cargo/transport aircraft[143] C-124 Globemaster II – cargo/transport aircraft[144] C-130 Hercules – cargo/transport plane[135] C-133 Cargomaster – cargo/transport aircraft[145] C-141 Starlifter – strategic cargo aircraft[146] E-1 Tracer – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] E-2 Hawkeye – carrier-based airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft[147] EA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EA-6B Prowler – carrier-based electronic warfare & attack aircraft[129] EB-57 Canberra – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[138] EB-66 – tactical electronic reconnaissance aircraft[127] EC-121 – radar warning or sensor relay aircraft[142] EF-10 Skyknight – tactical electronic warfare aircraft[148] EKA-3B Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical electronic warfare aircraft[127] F-4 Phantom II – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[149] F-5 Freedom Fighter – light-weight fighter used in strike aircraft role[150] F8F Bearcat – piston fighter-bomber, used by the South Vietnamese Air Force until 1964.[151] F-8 Crusader – carrier and land based fighter-bomber[152] F-14 Tomcat – carrier-based fighter, made its combat debut during Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of Saigon, in April 1975.[153] F-100 Super Sabre – fighter-bomber[154] F-102 Delta Dagger – fighter[155] F-104 Starfighter – fighter[155] F-105 Thunderchief – fighter-bomber[156] F-111 Aardvark – medium bomber[157] HU-16 Albatross – rescue amphibian[158] KA-3 Skywarrior – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[127] KA-6 Intruder – carrier-based tactical aerial refueler aircraft[129] KC-130 Hercules – tactical aerial refueler/assault transport aircraft[159] KC-135 Stratotanker – aerial refueling aircraft[160] O-1 Bird Dog – light observation airplane[161] O-2 Skymaster – observation aircraft[162] OV-1 Mohawk – battlefield surveillance and light strike aircraft[163] OV-10 Bronco – light attack/observation aircraft[164] P-2 Neptune – maritime patrol aircraft[165] P-3 Orion – maritime pat

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Media related to Weapons of the Vietnam War at Wikimedia Commons Retrieved from " Weapons used in the Vietnam war Vietnam-era rifles used by the US military and allies. From top to bottom: M14, MAS 36, M16 (30 round magazine), AR-10, M16 (20 round magazine), M21, L1A1, M40, MAS 49 The Vietnam War involved the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA), National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (NLF) or Viet Cong (VC), and the armed forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Soviet Armed Forces, Korean People's Army, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), United States Armed Forces, Republic of Korea Armed Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and New Zealand Defence Force, with a variety of irregular troops. Nearly all United States-allied forces were armed with U.S. weapons including the M1 Garand, M1 carbine, M14 rifle, and M16 rifle. The Australian and New Zealand forces employed the 7.62 mm L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle as their service rifle, with the occasional use of the M16 rifle. The PAVN, although having inherited a variety of American, French, and Japanese weapons from World War II and the First Indochina War (aka French Indochina War), were largely armed and supplied by the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and its Warsaw Pact allies. Further, some weapons—notably anti-personnel explosives, the K-50M (a PPSh-41 copy), and "home-made" versions of the RPG-2—were manufactured in North Vietnam. By 1969 the US Army had identified 40 rifle/carbine types, 22 machine gun types, 17 types of mortar, 20 recoilless rifle or rocket launcher types, nine types of antitank weapons, and 14 anti-aircraft artillery weapons used by ground troops on all sides. Also in use, mostly by anti-communist forces, were the 24 types of armored vehicles and self-propelled artillery, and 26 types of field artillery and rocket launchers. Captured PAVN weapons During the early stages of their insurgency, the Viet Cong mainly sustained itself with captured arms (often of American manufacture)[1] or crude, self-made weapons (e.g. copies of the US Thompson submachine gun[2] and shotguns made of galvanized pipes).[3][4] Most arms were captured from poorly defended ARVN militia outposts.[5] Communist forces were principally armed with Chinese and Soviet weaponry though some VC guerrilla units were equipped with Western infantry weapons either captured from French stocks during the first Indochina war, such as the MAT-49, or from ARVN units or requisitioned through illicit purchase. By Autumn of 1967, all Viet Cong battalions were reequipped with arms of Soviet design such as the AK-47 and the RPG-2.[6] Their weapons were principally of Chinese[7] or Soviet manufacture.[8] The period up to the conventional phase in the 1970, the Viet Cong and NVA were mostly limited to mortars, recoilless rifles, and small-arms and had significantly lighter equipment and firepower relative to the US arsenal, relying on ambushes, with superior stealth, planning, marksmanship, and small-unit tactics to face the disproportionate US technological advantage.[9] Many divisions within the NVA would incorporate armoured and mechanised battalions including the Type 59 tank, BTR-60, Type 60 artillery, and rapidly altered and integrated new war doctrines following the Tet Offensive into a mobile combined-arms force.[10] The North Vietnamese had both amphibious tanks (such as the PT-76) and light tanks (such the Type 62) used during the conventional phase. Experimental Soviet equipment started being used against ARVN forces at the same time, including Man-portable air-defense system SA-7 Grail and anti-tank missiles including the AT-3 Sagger.[11] By 1975, they had fully transformed from the strategy of mobile light-infantry and using the people's war concept used against the United States.[10] A MiG-21 of the Vietnam People's Air Force, which 13 out of 19 of the VPAF's top fighter aces had flown in most of the successful interception missions against USAF and USN aircraft.[12] The American M16 rifle and XM177 carbine, which both replaced the M14, were lighter and considered more accurate than the AK-47 but in Vietnam was prone to "failure to extract", in which the spent cartridge case remained stuck in the chamber after a round was fired, preventing the next round from feeding and jamming the gun.[citation needed] This was ultimately traced to an inadequately tested switch in propellants from DuPont's proprietary IMR 4475 to Olin's WC 846, that Army Ordnance had ordered out of concern for standardization and mass production capacity.[citation needed] The heavily armored, 90 mm gun M48A3 'Patton' tank saw extensive action during the Vietnam War and over 600 were deployed with U.S. forces. They played an important role in infantry support though there were a few tank versus tank battles. The M67A1 flamethrower tank (nicknamed the Zippo) was an M48 variant used in Vietnam. The use of this euphemistically nicknamed tank should not be confused with the widespread use of actual Zippo lighters to burn villages, which gave rise to the nickname of "Zippo squads". (Far from all such squads fielded the tank.) The Zippo nickname was also applied to man-portable flamethrowers.[13] Artillery was used extensively by both sides but the Americans were able to ferry the lightweight 105 mm M102 howitzer by helicopter to remote locations on quick notice.[14][15] With its 17-mile (27 km) range, the Soviet 130 mm M-46 towed field gun was a highly regarded weapon and used to good effect by the PAVN. It was countered by the long-range, American 175 mm M107 Self-Propelled Gun (nicknamed Miller).[16] The United States had air superiority, though many aircraft were lost to surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery. U.S. airpower was credited with breaking the siege of Khe Sanh and blunting the 1972 Easter Offensive against South Vietnam. At sea, the U.S. Navy had the run of the coastline, using aircraft carriers as platforms for offshore strikes and other naval vessels for offshore artillery support. Offshore naval fire played a pivotal role in the Battle of Huế in February 1968, providing accurate fire in support of the U.S. counter-offensive to retake the city.[17] Captured South Vietnamese warplanes in Ho Chi Minh City The Vietnam War was the first conflict that saw wide-scale tactical deployment of helicopters.[18] The Bell UH-1 Iroquois nicknamed "Huey" was used extensively in counter-guerilla operations both as a troop carrier and a gunship.[15] In the latter role it was outfitted with a variety of armaments including M60 machine guns, multi-barrelled 7.62 mm Miniguns and unguided air-to-surface rockets.[15] The Hueys were also successfully used in MEDEVAC and search and rescue roles.[15] Two aircraft which were prominent in the war were the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship and the UH-1 "Huey" gunship. The AC-130 was a heavily armed ground-attack aircraft variant of the C-130 Hercules transport plane; it was used to provide close air support, air interdiction and force protection. The AC-130H "Spectre" was armed with two 20 mm M61 Vulcan cannons, one Bofors 40 mm autocannon, and one 105 mm M102 howitzer. The Huey is a military helicopter powered by one turboshaft engine, and about 7,000 UH-1 aircraft saw service in Vietnam. At their disposal ground forces had access to B-52 and F-4 Phantom II and others to launch napalm, white phosphorus, tear gas and chemical weapons as well.[19] The aircraft ordnance used during the war included precision-guided munition, cluster bombs, a thickening–gelling agent generally mixed with petroleum or a similar fuel for use in an incendiary device, initially against buildings and later mostly as an anti-personnel weapon that sticks to skin and can burn down to the bone. The Claymore M18A1, an anti-personnel mine, was widely used. It is command-detonated, directionally shooting 700 steel pellets into the kill zone. The Ka-Bar knife was the most famous edged weapon of the war. L1A1 and L1A2 bayonets – used on L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle[20] M1905 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M1917 bayonet – used on various shotguns.[20] M1 Bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M3 fighting knife[22] M4 bayonet – used on the M1 and M2 Carbine.[20] M5 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[20] M6 bayonet – used on the M14.[20] M7 Bayonet – used on the M16.[20] Ka-Bar Utility/fighting Knife – used by the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.[23][24] Randall Made Knives – personally purchased by some US soldiers.[25] Bow – used by US Mobile Riverine Force.[26][better source needed] Crossbow – used by South Vietnamese Montagnards[27] Colt M1911A1 – standard US and ARVN sidearm.[28][29] Colt Commander – used by US military officers and US Special forces. Browning Hi-Power – used by Australian and New Zealand forces (L9 pistol).[30] Also used on an unofficial basis by US reconnaissance and Special Forces units.[31] Colt Detective Special – .38 Special revolver, used by some ARVN officers[29] Colt Police Positive Special – .38 Special revolver, used by USAF and tunnel rats[32] FN Baby Browning- .25 ACP pistol, used as a last resort weapon by MACVSOG.[33] High Standard HDM – Integrally suppressed .22LR handgun, supplemented by the Mark 22 Mod 0 in the later stages of the war.[34] Ingram MAC-10 – compact submachine gun used by US special operations forces.[34] Luger P08 – CIA provided pistol[35] Quiet Special Purpose Revolver – .40 caliber suppressed revolver used by tunnel rats. Smith & Wesson Model 10 – .38 Special revolver used by ARVN,[36] by US Army and USAF pilots[37] and by tunnel rats[32] Colt Python – .357 Magnum revolver carried by MACVSOG. Smith & Wesson Mark 22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy" – Suppressed pistol used by US Navy SEALs and other U.S. special operations forces.[34] Walther P38 – CIA provided pistol[35] Walther PPK – Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG recon skydiver team[33] Welrod -Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG.[33] Vietnamese Rangers with M16 rifles in Saigon during the Tết Offensive L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle – used by Australian and New Zealand soldiers[38] A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam, 1967. M1 Garand – used by the South Vietnamese[39] and South Koreans[40] M1, M1A1, & M2 Carbine – used by the South Vietnamese Military, Police and Security Forces,[39] South Koreans,[41] South Vietnamese People's Self-Defense Force militiawomen with M2 carbines M14, M14E2, M14A1 – issued to most U.S. troops from the early stages of the war until 1967–68, when it was replaced by the M16.[41] M16, XM16E1, and M16A1 – M16 was issued in 1964, but due to reliability issues, it was replaced by the M16A1 in 1967 which added the forward assist and chrome-lined barrel to the rifle for increased reliability.[42] CAR-15 – carbine variant of the M16 produced in very limited numbers, fielded by special operations early on. Later supplemented by the improved XM177. XM177 (Colt Commando)/GAU-5 – further development of the CAR-15, used heavily by MACV-SOG, the US Air Force, and US Army.[34] Stoner 63 – used by US Navy SEALs and USMC.[34] T223 – a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK33 built under license by Harrington & Richardson used in small numbers by SEAL teams. Even though the empty H&R T223 was 0.9 pounds (0.41 kg) heavier than an empty M16A1, the weapon had a forty-round magazine available for it and this made it attractive to the SEALS.[34] MAS-36 rifle – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] AK-47, AKM, and Type 56 – Captured rifles were used by South Vietnamese[44] and U.S. forces.[45][46] M1C/D Garand and MC52 – used by CIA advisors, the USMC and the US Navy early in the war.[47][48] About 520 were supplied to the ARVN and 460 to the Thai forces.[49] M1903A4 Springfield – used by the USMC early in the war, replaced by the M40.[48] M21 Sniper Weapon System – sniper variant of the M14 rifle used by the US Army.[50] M40 (Remington Model 700)– bolt-action sniper rifle meant to replace the M1903A4 Springfield rifle and Winchester Model 70; used by the USMC[48] Parker-Hale M82 – used by ANZAC forces[30] Winchester Model 70 – used by the USMC[48] Beretta M12 – limited numbers were used by U.S. Embassy security units.[51] Carl Gustaf m/45 – used by Navy SEALs in the start of the war, but later replaced by the Smith & Wesson M76 in the late 1960s. Significant numbers also used by MAC-V-SOG, South Vietnamese,[34] and small numbers in Laos by advisors, and Laotian fighters. Smith & Wesson M76 – copy of the Carl Gustaf m/45; few were shipped to Navy SEALs fighting in Vietnam.[52] F1 submachine gun – replaced the Owen Gun in Australian service.[53][54] M3 Grease gun – standard U.S. military submachine gun, also used by the South Vietnamese[34][55] M50/55 Reising – limited numbers were used by MACVSOG and other irregular forces.[34] Madsen M-50 – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] MAS-38 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[56] MAT-49 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese militias.[43] Captured models were used in limited numbers[34] MP 40 submachine gun – used by South Vietnamese forces, supplied by the CIA.[55] Owen Gun – standard Australian submachine-gun in the early stages of the war, later replaced by the F1 and withdrawn from combat use by 1971.[53][54] Sten submachine gun – used by US special operations forces, often with a suppressor mounted.[45] Sterling submachine gun – used by Australian Special Air Service Regiment and other special operations units.[54] Thompson submachine gun – used often by South Vietnamese troops, and in small quantities by US artillery and helicopter units. Uzi – used by special operations forces and some South Vietnamese, supplied from Israel.[45] Ithaca 37 Shotguns were used as an individual weapon during jungle patrol; infantry units were authorized a shotgun by TO&E (Table of Organization & Equipment). Shotguns were not general issue to all infantrymen, but were select issue weapons, such as one per squad, etc. Ithaca Model 37 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States and ARVN.[34][57] Remington Model 10 – pump-action shotgun used by the United States.[58] Remington Model 11-48 – semi-automatic shotgun used by US Army.[59] Remington Model 31 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army, the SEALs and the ARVN.[59][60] Remington Model 870 – pump-action shotgun, main shotgun used by Marines, Army, and Navy after 1966.[34][59][61] Remington 7188 – experimental select fire shotgun, withdrawn due to lack of reliability. Used by US Navy SEALs[34][62] Savage Model 69E – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[37] Savage Model 720 – semi-automatic shotgun.[63] Stevens Model 77E – pump-action shotgun used by Army and Marine forces. Almost 70,000 Model 77Es were procured by the military for use in SE Asia during the 1960s.[64] Also very popular with the ARVN because of its small size.[65] Stevens Model 520/620[57] Winchester Model 1912 – used by USMC.[66] Winchester Model 1200 – pump-action shotgun used by the US Army.[67] Winchester Model 1897 – used by the Marines during the early stages of the war.[68] South Vietnamese soldier with a M1918 Browning Automatic RifleM60 machine gun – standard General-purpose machine gun for US, ANZAC, and ARVN forces throughout the war.[53] US Mar

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We do not sell any of the items showcased on this site. Please direct all other inquiries to militaryfactory AT gmail.com. No A.I. was used in the generation of this content. Part of a network of sites that includes Global Firepower, WDMMA.org, and WDMMW.org. ©2025 www.MilitaryFactory.com • All Rights Reserved • Content ©2003-2025 (22yrs) Weapons used in the Vietnam war Vietnam-era rifles used by the US military and allies. From top to bottom: M14, MAS 36, M16 (30 round magazine), AR-10, M16 (20 round magazine), M21, L1A1, M40, MAS 49 The Vietnam War involved the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) or North Vietnamese Army (NVA), National Liberation Front for South Vietnam (NLF) or Viet Cong (VC), and the armed forces of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Soviet Armed Forces, Korean People's Army, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), United States Armed Forces, Republic of Korea Armed Forces, Royal Thai Armed Forces, Australian Defence Force, and New Zealand Defence Force, with a variety of irregular troops. Nearly all United States-allied forces were armed with U.S. weapons including the M1 Garand, M1 carbine, M14 rifle, and M16 rifle. The Australian and New Zealand forces employed the 7.62 mm L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle as their service rifle, with the occasional use of the M16 rifle. The PAVN, although having inherited a variety of American, French, and Japanese weapons from World War II and the First Indochina War (aka French Indochina War), were largely armed and supplied by the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union, and its Warsaw Pact allies. Further, some weapons—notably anti-personnel explosives, the K-50M (a PPSh-41 copy), and "home-made" versions of the RPG-2—were manufactured in North Vietnam. By 1969 the US Army had identified 40 rifle/carbine types, 22 machine gun types, 17 types of mortar, 20 recoilless rifle or rocket launcher types, nine types of antitank weapons, and 14 anti-aircraft artillery weapons used by ground troops on all sides. Also in use, mostly by anti-communist forces, were the 24 types of armored vehicles and self-propelled artillery, and 26 types of field artillery and rocket launchers. Captured PAVN weapons During the early stages of their insurgency, the Viet Cong mainly sustained itself with captured arms (often of American manufacture)[1] or crude, self-made weapons (e.g. copies of the US Thompson submachine gun[2] and shotguns made of galvanized pipes).[3][4] Most arms were captured from poorly defended ARVN militia outposts.[5] Communist forces were principally armed with Chinese and Soviet weaponry though some VC guerrilla units were equipped with Western infantry weapons either captured from French stocks during the first Indochina war, such as the MAT-49, or from ARVN units or requisitioned through illicit purchase. By Autumn of 1967, all Viet Cong battalions were reequipped with arms of Soviet design such as the AK-47 and the RPG-2.[6] Their weapons were principally of Chinese[7] or Soviet manufacture.[8] The period up to the conventional phase in the 1970, the Viet Cong and NVA were mostly limited to mortars, recoilless rifles, and small-arms and had significantly lighter equipment and firepower relative to the US arsenal, relying on ambushes, with superior stealth, planning, marksmanship, and small-unit tactics to face the disproportionate US technological advantage.[9] Many divisions within the NVA would incorporate armoured and mechanised battalions including the Type 59 tank, BTR-60, Type 60 artillery, and rapidly altered and integrated new war doctrines following the Tet Offensive into a mobile combined-arms force.[10] The North Vietnamese had both amphibious tanks (such as the PT-76) and light tanks (such the Type 62) used during the conventional phase. Experimental Soviet equipment started being used against ARVN forces at the same time, including Man-portable air-defense system SA-7 Grail and anti-tank missiles including the AT-3 Sagger.[11] By 1975, they had fully transformed from the strategy of mobile light-infantry and using the people's war concept used against the United States.[10] A MiG-21 of the Vietnam People's Air Force, which 13 out of 19 of the VPAF's top fighter aces had flown in most of the successful interception missions against USAF and USN aircraft.[12] The American M16 rifle and XM177 carbine, which both replaced the M14, were lighter and considered more accurate than the AK-47 but in Vietnam was prone to "failure to extract", in which the spent cartridge case remained stuck in the chamber after a round was fired, preventing the next round from feeding and jamming the gun.[citation needed] This was ultimately traced to an inadequately tested switch in propellants from DuPont's proprietary IMR 4475 to Olin's WC 846, that Army Ordnance had ordered out of concern for standardization and mass production capacity.[citation needed] The heavily armored, 90 mm gun M48A3 'Patton' tank saw extensive action during the Vietnam War and over 600 were deployed with U.S. forces. They played an important role in infantry support though there were a few tank versus tank battles. The M67A1 flamethrower tank (nicknamed the Zippo) was an M48 variant used in Vietnam. The use of this euphemistically nicknamed tank should not be confused with the widespread use of actual Zippo lighters to burn villages, which gave rise to the nickname of "Zippo squads". (Far from all such squads fielded the tank.) The Zippo nickname was also applied to man-portable flamethrowers.[13] Artillery was used extensively by both sides but the Americans were able to ferry the lightweight 105 mm M102 howitzer by helicopter to remote locations on quick notice.[14][15] With its 17-mile (27 km) range, the Soviet 130 mm M-46 towed field gun was a highly regarded weapon and used to good effect by the PAVN. It was countered by the long-range, American 175 mm M107 Self-Propelled Gun (nicknamed Miller).[16] The United States had air superiority, though many aircraft were lost to surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery. U.S. airpower was credited with breaking the siege of Khe Sanh and blunting the 1972 Easter Offensive against South Vietnam. At sea, the U.S. Navy had the run of the coastline, using aircraft carriers as platforms for offshore strikes and other naval vessels for offshore artillery support. Offshore naval fire played a pivotal role in the Battle of Huế in February 1968, providing accurate fire in support of the U.S. counter-offensive to retake the city.[17] Captured South Vietnamese warplanes in Ho Chi Minh City The Vietnam War was the first conflict that saw wide-scale tactical deployment of helicopters.[18] The Bell UH-1 Iroquois nicknamed "Huey" was used extensively in counter-guerilla operations both as a troop carrier and a gunship.[15] In the latter role it was outfitted with a variety of armaments including M60 machine guns, multi-barrelled 7.62 mm Miniguns and unguided air-to-surface rockets.[15] The Hueys were also successfully used in MEDEVAC and search and rescue roles.[15] Two aircraft which were prominent in the war were the AC-130 "Spectre" Gunship and the UH-1 "Huey" gunship. The AC-130 was a heavily armed ground-attack aircraft variant of the C-130 Hercules transport plane; it was used to provide close air support, air interdiction and force protection. The AC-130H "Spectre" was armed with two 20 mm M61 Vulcan cannons, one Bofors 40 mm autocannon, and one 105 mm M102 howitzer. The Huey is a military helicopter powered by one turboshaft engine, and about 7,000 UH-1 aircraft saw service in Vietnam. At their disposal ground forces had access to B-52 and F-4 Phantom II and others to launch napalm, white phosphorus, tear gas and chemical weapons as well.[19] The aircraft ordnance used during the war included precision-guided munition, cluster bombs, a thickening–gelling agent generally mixed with petroleum or a similar fuel for use in an incendiary device, initially against buildings and later mostly as an anti-personnel weapon that sticks to skin and can burn down to the bone. The Claymore M18A1, an anti-personnel mine, was widely used. It is command-detonated, directionally shooting 700 steel pellets into the kill zone. The Ka-Bar knife was the most famous edged weapon of the war. L1A1 and L1A2 bayonets – used on L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle[20] M1905 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M1917 bayonet – used on various shotguns.[20] M1 Bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[21] M3 fighting knife[22] M4 bayonet – used on the M1 and M2 Carbine.[20] M5 bayonet – used on the M1 Garand.[20] M6 bayonet – used on the M14.[20] M7 Bayonet – used on the M16.[20] Ka-Bar Utility/fighting Knife – used by the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.[23][24] Randall Made Knives – personally purchased by some US soldiers.[25] Bow – used by US Mobile Riverine Force.[26][better source needed] Crossbow – used by South Vietnamese Montagnards[27] Colt M1911A1 – standard US and ARVN sidearm.[28][29] Colt Commander – used by US military officers and US Special forces. Browning Hi-Power – used by Australian and New Zealand forces (L9 pistol).[30] Also used on an unofficial basis by US reconnaissance and Special Forces units.[31] Colt Detective Special – .38 Special revolver, used by some ARVN officers[29] Colt Police Positive Special – .38 Special revolver, used by USAF and tunnel rats[32] FN Baby Browning- .25 ACP pistol, used as a last resort weapon by MACVSOG.[33] High Standard HDM – Integrally suppressed .22LR handgun, supplemented by the Mark 22 Mod 0 in the later stages of the war.[34] Ingram MAC-10 – compact submachine gun used by US special operations forces.[34] Luger P08 – CIA provided pistol[35] Quiet Special Purpose Revolver – .40 caliber suppressed revolver used by tunnel rats. Smith & Wesson Model 10 – .38 Special revolver used by ARVN,[36] by US Army and USAF pilots[37] and by tunnel rats[32] Colt Python – .357 Magnum revolver carried by MACVSOG. Smith & Wesson Mark 22 Mod.0 "Hush Puppy" – Suppressed pistol used by US Navy SEALs and other U.S. special operations forces.[34] Walther P38 – CIA provided pistol[35] Walther PPK – Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG recon skydiver team[33] Welrod -Suppressed pistol used by MACVSOG.[33] Vietnamese Rangers with M16 rifles in Saigon during the Tết Offensive L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle – used by Australian and New Zealand soldiers[38] A U.S. soldier with an M14 watches as supplies are dropped in Vietnam, 1967. M1 Garand – used by the South Vietnamese[39] and South Koreans[40] M1, M1A1, & M2 Carbine – used by the South Vietnamese Military, Police and Security Forces,[39] South Koreans,[41] South Vietnamese People's Self-Defense Force militiawomen with M2 carbines M14, M14E2, M14A1 – issued to most U.S. troops from the early stages of the war until 1967–68, when it was replaced by the M16.[41] M16, XM16E1, and M16A1 – M16 was issued in 1964, but due to reliability issues, it was replaced by the M16A1 in 1967 which added the forward assist and chrome-lined barrel to the rifle for increased reliability.[42] CAR-15 – carbine variant of the M16 produced in very limited numbers, fielded by special operations early on. Later supplemented by the improved XM177. XM177 (Colt Commando)/GAU-5 – further development of the CAR-15, used heavily by MACV-SOG, the US Air Force, and US Army.[34] Stoner 63 – used by US Navy SEALs and USMC.[34] T223 – a copy of the Heckler & Koch HK33 built under license by Harrington & Richardson used in small numbers by SEAL teams. Even though the empty H&R T223 was 0.9 pounds (0.41 kg) heavier than an empty M16A1, the weapon had a forty-round magazine available for it and this made it attractive to the SEALS.[34] MAS-36 rifle – used by South Vietnamese militias[43] AK-47, AKM, and Type 56 – Captured rifles were used by South Vietnamese[44] and U.S. forces.[45][46] M1C/D Garand and MC52 – used by CIA advisors

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