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Uniforms

## **HEIGHT ISSUES WITH SOLDIERS OF SMALL PHYSICAL STATURE & STANDARD US MILITARY UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

### **RIFLES:**

Vietnamese troops were happy to receive the M-16 as a replacement for the heavier M-1 in 1968, according to MACV's Quarterly Evaluation, 1 Apr-30 Jun 68, 18 Aug (VN File-J3, Base), which includes App 1 to Annex F, "An Evaluation of the Impact of Arming the Vietnamese Army with the M-16 rifle." It indicates that the ARVN soldier averaged 5'2" and 108 pounds, that he did not carry his M-1 at a readiness position in the field because of its weight, and that he flinched when firing the M-1 because of the recoil. According to Jac Weller's "Good and Bad Weapons for Vietnam," Mil Rev (Oct 1968), page 60:

The M1, or even the M14, is poor for arming men who, in many instances, do not weigh 100 pounds nor stand five feet tall. These two, full rifle power weapons with 10 pounds. The ARVN troops do not have, on the average, as much strength and stamina pound for pound as the ROK or American troops. Heavy rifles and ammunition curtail mobility. Furthermore, only a small fraction of these smaller men ever learn to shoot the M1 accurately because the rifle kicks so badly when it is fired from a prone position. This is not true with the M16.

GEN Westmoreland reported that receipt of the M-16 was "a major psychological and morale boost for ARVN" but neglected to explain why in his Report on the War in Vietnam (MACV, Mil Hist Branch, 30 Jun 1968), p. 203. (DS552U55-Draft).

Also, during WWI the British experienced problems with their own special troops, see:

Allinson, Sidney. "The Men Also Fought and Died." Army Museum Newsletter (No 23, 1983): pp. 30-34. Per.

See p. 33 on issue of suitable rifles to Bantam battalions.

### **OTHER EQUIPMENT:**

In 1970 MACV reviewed logistics problems with Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. The resulting Combined Logistics Offensive Plan (CLOP) listed as Problem #9 the 20-liter water can being too bulky and heavy for the Vietnamese and often lost or damaged during operations. See:

U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. HQ. Logistics Offensive II, 1 July 1970-30 June 1971,  
29 Jun 1970. p. A-27. VNFile-J4, Base.

**UNIFORMS:**

In the Korean War, Thais, Filipinos, and Greeks required smaller sizes of US clothing. Similar problems resulted from outfitting the French, Japanese-Americans and WAACS in WWII and the Koreans in the 1950s. See:

Moore, F.W. "Class II & IV Supply in the ROK Army." Quartermaster Rev (Mar/Apr 1953): p. 13.  
Per.

Newman, Russell W. Clothing Size Requirements for Korean Military Personnel. Report, QM Climatic Research Lab, Apr 1953. 15 p. UC485K6N48.

Risch, Erna. A Wardrobe for the Women of the Army: Q.M.C. Historical Studies No 12. Wash, DC: OQMG History Sec, 1945. pp. 7-8, 43. UC34A2no12.

Shirey, Orville C. Americans: The Story of the 442d Combat Team. Wash, DC: Inf Jrnl, 1946.  
p. 28. #603-442.1946/2.

U.S. Army Forces, Far East. HQ. "Logistics in the Korean Operations." Vol. IV, n.d. DS920.5L6L63.

Vigneras, Marcel. Rearming the French. In USAWWII series. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1957. pp. 258-59.  
D769A533v8pt3.