

Submission No 2

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In my first submission change para 2 to read:

Also included from Vietnam are 521 Australian troops who died, 58, 300 US troops, 1.1m Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops, and 200-250000 South Vietnamese troops. In Iraq 460,000 civilians in one estimate, 16623 Iraq military and police over 7 years, 179 UK troops, 11 Spanish troops to 2009, and 139 deaths from 23 countries except the US, and 4902 US persons. Australia I believe had 4. That is without the many with permanent injury, physical and mental, with 47000 waiting for case resolution at present. So apart from the direct cost of the war, there is an enormous cost to military personnel and their families and to the public, both financial and emotional, running for many years after a conflict. For example, 20% of the 60,000 personnel in Vietnam have or have had PTSD.

Add a first new paragraph

On additional issue is that of conscription. In the case of Vietnam, arguing that we were entering the war in breach of a UN resolution was not considered valid grounds for exemption from military service. Does our current commitment to IRBO, the international rules based order, now allow such an exemption?

Add a second last paragraph

The basing of US B52 bombers at Tindal airbase means that in the event of the US becoming involved in a war with China, the Australian government is left with no agency as to its involvement in the war, even though fifty years ago we agreed that Taiwan was a province of the Peoples Republic of China.