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Tan Son Nhut AFB 1969-1970, Honorably Discharged (USAF E-5/Instructors  
Wings/Commendation Medal) April, 1971

## PROJECT 100,000

(350,000 from October 1966- December 1971)

Presidents - , Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford

Secretary of Defense: Robert McNamara ("Best and the Brightest")

1A – draft status eligible for conscription mostly in the Army (Viet Nam)  
within months. Many enlisted in the other services (4yrs) to avoid the Army  
(2yrs).

College graduates without a deferment and 1A reluctantly enlisted due to  
limited OCS slots.

2.8 million *Americans* served in Viet Nam from 1964- 1973.

## **Project 100,000 October 1966 – December 1971**

### **New Standards Men (NSM)**

#### **OVERVIEW and PURPOSE**

New Standards Men (all were men)/ derisively called McNamara's Morons

1.8 million Young Men attained military age annually.

600,000 of these 1.8 million were disqualified annually.

- Qualify 100,000 of these disqualified men each year by lowering test scores, educational standards and some physical standards.

- Reduce number of persons *drafted* for the Viet Nam War. Avoid drafting men from the upper and middle class.
- Take people out of poverty and give those skills and/or a career track (6% actually reenlisted)

There is no record of support for NSM except President Johnson and Secretary Robert McNamara. Officers on the ground derisively called these soldiers "McNamara's Morons."

### **NSM - WHO WAS RECRUITED**

Recruiters concentrated on *inner-city urban ghettos* and economically depressed *Appalachian hill country*, taking some youths with I.Q.s below what is considered mentally retarded.

Some NSM had Borderline Mental Retardation [IQs 85-70 (2 standard deviations below the mean)].

Prior to NSM lowest score on the AFQE (?) was 30 out of 100.

NSM qualified as low as 10 out of 100.

Chance alone could result in a score of 10.

State Institutions during the 1950s/60s often had patients with similar IQs.

In 1969, out of 120 Marine Corps volunteers from California, nearly 90 percent scored under 31; more than 70 percent were black or Hispanic.

Large RED Letter stamped on their enlistment contracts and maintained in their personnel file.

Some were unable to speak or write simple English phrases beyond an elementary level,

Promoted as providing "rehabilitation," remedial education, and an escape from poverty

Instead, the program offered a *one-way ticket to Vietnam*, where these men fought and died in disproportionate numbers.