

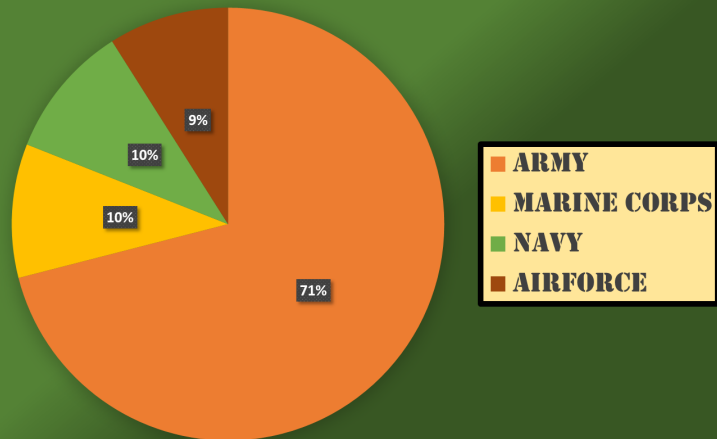
PROJECT 100,000

"I WANT YOU TO TAKE CHARGE OF GUPTON – GO WITH HIM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. HE'S GONNA NEED HELP FILLING OUT PAPERWORK WHEN YOU GET TO FORT BENNING. MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET LOST.

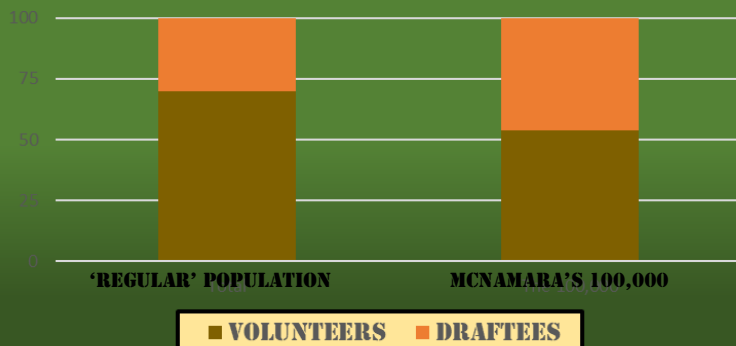
HE'S ONE OF MCNAMARA'S MORONS."

Project 100,000, known also as *McNamara's Folly* was a program by the US Department of Defense, initiated by Defense Secretary Robert McNamara to meet the growing demands of the American involvement in the Vietnam War by drafting individuals who would previously have fallen below minimum requirements— this included those with low IQ, those with physical disabilities and those who were over or underweight.

DISTRIBUTION OF ENLISTED (% OF 354,000)



PERCENTAGES OF VOLUNTEERS VS DRAFTED (%)



The Pentagon lowered the lowest required score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test to just 10 out of 100—the second lowest band the test allowed for. This allowed McNamara to increase the available manpower without resorting to the politically unpopular moves of calling up students or the reserves.

But at what cost?

TRIPLE FATALITY RATE

According to Hamilton Gregory, those in *McNamara's 100,000* suffered triple the fatality rate of the 'regular' US forces, with nearly 5,500 deaths and 20,000 long term injuries.

REDUCED QUALITY OF LIFE

RAND concluded in 1989 that veterans of the program, in comparison with non-veterans, were more likely to be unemployed, significantly lower levels of education, higher rates of divorce and income differences of \$5,000 to \$7,000.

41% of these 'New Standards Men' were black, while the population of the US was only 11% black.

"PROJECT 100,000 WAS A FAILED EXPERIMENT. IT PROVED TO BE A DISTRACTION FOR THE MILITARY AND OF LITTLE BENEFIT TO THE MEN IT WAS CREATED TO HELP."

Kelly M. Greenhill, 2006

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