

## 20 Deadliest U.S. Battles of the Vietnam War, 1965 – 1973

| <b>Battle</b>                | <b>Deaths</b> | <b>Dates</b>         |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Ia Drang Valley*             | 300           | Oct 23 – Nov 26, '65 |
| Khe Sanh                     | 205           | Jan 20 – Apr 14, '68 |
| Dak To**                     | 192           | Nov 1 – Dec 1, '67   |
| Cu Nghi                      | 121           | Jan 28 – 31, '66     |
| Hue                          | 119           | Feb 2 – Mar 2, '68   |
| Kim Son Valley               | 107           | Feb 16 – 28, '66     |
| Con Thien (ambush near)      | 84            | Jul 2, '67           |
| “Nine Days in May”           | 79            | May 18- 28, '67      |
| Dak To                       | 76            | Jun 22, '67          |
| Firebase Ripcord***          | 75            | Jul 1 – 23, '70      |
| Vin Huy                      | 73            | May 30 – Jun 2, '67  |
| Ong Thang                    | 70+           | Oct 17, '67          |
| Hamburger Hill (Ap Bia)      | 70            | May 10 – 20, '69     |
| Dong Ha                      | 68            | Apr 29 – May 4, '68  |
| Tam Quan                     | 58            | Dec 6 – 20, '67      |
| LZ Bird                      | 58            | Dec 27, 66           |
| Dong Son                     | 54            | Sep 4, '67           |
| Con Thien                    | 51            | Jul 2-3 '67          |
| Thom Tham Khe                | 48            | Dec 27 – 28, '67     |
| Tan Son Nhut Air base (near) | 48            | Mar 2, '68           |

\* LZ Albany alone claimed 155 KIA on Nov 17, making it the single deadliest U.S. action of the war. LZ X-Ray resulted in another 79 KIA over two days, Nov 14 – 16.

\*\* 158 of the KIA were sustained at Dak To over six days, Nov 17 – 23.

**Note:** Lengthy operations are excluded. Only actions that could be categorized as single or directly related engagements are tabulated.

*Source: From VFW magazine, November 2001; reprinted from Sigler, David B. Vietnam Battle Chronology; U.S. Army and Marine Corps Combat Operations, 1965 – 1973.*

**Editor's Note: Battle deaths in Sigler's book for FSB Ripcord are listed as 61. Based on Keith Nolan's research a better figure is 75 KIA, including one ARVN interpreter attached to A Co., 2/506th Infantry. This makes the battle of Fire Base Ripcord the 10th deadliest battle of the Vietnam War. – Chuck Hawkins, editor**

*Special thanks go to Rick Blythe (HHC, 2/506) for supplying this information to Ripcord report.*