

This thesis addresses the participation of the Republic of Korea Army in the Vietnam War. It is a not very well known fact that the Korean Army was the second largest force allied to the United States in South Vietnam. Korean participation still carries a certain amount of controversy, especially in regards to Vietnamese/Korean relations.

The Republic of Korea deployed to the Republic of Vietnam two infantry divisions and one Marine Corps brigade. The Korean Army worked closely with US Army elements and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam in a range of combat actions. This was the first overseas deployment since the Korean defense forces known as ROKA were established. Korean soldiers were trained by American army instructors and the Americans were curious they would perform in the combat arena.

Chapter One is a brief history of Vietnam War. Due to special importance of allied forces presence in Vietnam for the theme I describe the Vietnam War history only until 1973.

Chapter Two introduces the Korean Army participation through eyes of US Army authorities. The text is mostly based on Larsen and Collins' "Allied Participation In Vietnam". This chapter describes a way that led to official agreements about the Korean participation and a Korean Forces functioning in the South Vietnam combat arena. There are a brief notes about Korean combat operations and about a Korean areas of responsibility.

Chapter Three focuses on the same thing as the Chapter Two however in a slightly different way. I introduce more Korean combat troops, a brief history of their foundation, operations they were involved in and other troops they engaged with.

Chapter Four reflects the Korean participation in South Vietnam in foreign news and touches the problematic question of massacres and other war crimes Korean soldiers were involved in.