

## US History The Vietnam War

### Learning Target:

*I can define and identify the Vietnam War as a war of attrition and relate that to one of the first battles, The Ia Drang Valley.*

### **6. The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley**

*The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley illustrates how both sides, the United States and the North Vietnamese, believed that a war of attrition would lead to success in Vietnam.*

#### *Location of the Ia Drang Valley –*

- Located in the central highlands of Vietnam
- Known place of NVA activity

#### *Strategy –*

- Helicopters would chopper in soldiers from bases a safe distance away
- They would use numerous landing zones with names like X-Ray and Albany
- Commanded by Lt. Col. Moore

#### *The First Battle (November 14 – 16, 1965) –*

- Moore's men were dropped off at Landing Zone X-Ray
- To their surprise X-Ray was near the headquarters of three NVA regiments
- US soldiers were outnumbered 10 – 1

#### Air Support –

- Air support was the only thing to save the Americans
- Choppers brought in fresh supplies and troops and took out wounded
- Jets used napalm to push back the NVA troops and neutralize their numbers advantage

#### Casualties –

- United States – 79 dead and 121 wounded
- NVA – 10 times the US amounts

#### *The Second Battle (November 17 & 18, 1965) –*

- A second battalion was sent in to replace Moore's men
- Mission was to march from Landing Zone X-Ray to LZ Albany
- On the way they were ambushed by NVA troops
- Once again US air support saves them

#### Casualties –

- US – 155 dead and 124 wounded
- NVA – 10 times again

#### *Conclusions from the Ia Drang Valley –*

- General Westmoreland declared victory for the US in Ia Drang
- Became convinced that attrition would win the war in Vietnam due the alarming casualties suffered by the enemy
- NVA became convinced of the same thing