SCRIPT

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ashton, representing the newly created I Corps Data Warfare Team. Thank you for being here today. I am excited to present a very interesting and educational historical dataset of U.S. military fatalities from 1980 to 2010. This dataset interested me due to my career, particularly my early career in the 2000s, and my repeated exposure to military fatalities. Additionally, I was interested on the how the military has changed over the 40-year period and how its culture, missions, economic and environmental factors have impacted the force and the data.

[Objective] The main objective of this analysis was to develop visual charts based on the dataset and provide valuable insights into the trends and patterns observed in U.S. military fatalities during that time period. The baseline used was the current calendar year military strength and compare it against the different fatality categories.

[Visualizations] In order to better understand the data, I created a range of compelling visualizations. I utilized several line plots, two variations of doughnut charts, and bar charts to effectively represent the information and uncover significant findings.

The line plots allowed me to present the year-by-year changes in total military strength. I formatted the graphs in a way where the data and trends of that data can be quickly gathered. By observing these charts, we can gain insights into the evolution of the U.S. military over the course of 40 years to include the Cold War, Desert Storm and the subsequent drawdown, and the gradual buildup in the 2000s as the War on Terror started. Additionally, the doughnut charts helped illustrate the distribution of forces across different years, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the military landscape and illustrating the categories by weight.

To explore the categorical breakdown of U.S. military fatalities, I employed doughnut charts, which visually depicted the proportions of different causes such as accidents, illnesses, self-inflicted incidents, hostile actions, homicides, and terrorist attacks. These charts provided valuable insights into the relative significance of each category. The charts also illustrate the percent of the total recorded fatalities for that time period.

Furthermore, I used line charts to analyze the trends in different categories of fatalities per 100,000 soldiers. By focusing on accidents, illnesses, self-inflicted incidents, hostile actions, homicides, and terrorist attacks individually, we were able to observe the changes and identify any notable patterns.

Lastly, I employed bar charts to demonstrate the percentage changes in fatalities per 100,000 soldiers over 5-year periods against accidents, self-inflicted and total deaths. These charts allowed us to assess the effectiveness of safety programs, mental health awareness and treatment strategies, and identify any shifts in trends over time. The total deaths chart explicitly shows the dramatic rise due to the combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

[Key Findings] Among the numerous insights derived from this analysis, one finding stands out as particularly significant. The rate of fatal accidents exhibited a substantial decline from 1980 to 2010. This decline can be attributed to the implementation of safety programs, enhanced military training, the introduction of protective equipment, and cultural shifts within the military. I was able to calculate that between 1980 and 1995, there was a drop of approximately 73%.

[Interpretation and Utilization] The results of this analysis provide historical insights into the U.S. military population, culture, and the impact of various factors on the statistical data. They offer an understanding of how changes in military operations, policy initiatives, training practices, technology adoption, and demographic shifts have influenced the trends in military fatalities over time.

The findings can be utilized to inform decision-making processes within the military, aid in the development of effective safety programs, and contribute to the ongoing efforts to protect and safeguard the lives of our servicemen and women.

[Conclusion] In conclusion, this project provided a comprehensive analysis of U.S. military fatalities from 1980 to 2010, utilizing various visualizations to uncover significant insights. By examining the trends and patterns observed in the data, we gained a deeper understanding of the changes in the military landscape and the measures taken to ensure the safety of our brave military personnel.

Thank you for your attention. I am now open to any questions or further discussion on this captivating topic.