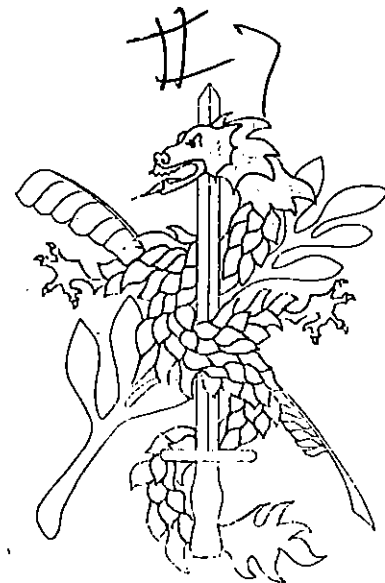


Counterparts

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804



SITREP June 1990 #7

Yes, playing catchup. Delay in SitRep due to number of problems, not expected to recur, or delay future editions. Former editor resigned, so clerk-typist back on job, for now.

This edition will summarize San Jose reunion, provide near term status report, and outline 1991 reunion, planned for Houston.

SAN JOSE: Given short fuse and time/distance factors, large numbers were not expected. Attendees:

Ray Battreal
Jim Barker
Welch Warren
Bill Laurie
Jim Vincent
Mike Little

Bill Steffens
Mike Youngblood
Bob Sampson

Nguyen Quan Vinh and Luong Bui Tung also attended Saturday banquet and further discussed matters the following Sunday.

Bulk of formal discussion took place during all-day meeting on Saturday, April 30, beginning with statement as to how we came about. For those who are wondering: Your clerk-typist was to have met, several years ago, Tom Mahr, a two tour VN Vet who served initially with a line unit, and then in a tour which placed him in an advisor or quasi-advisorial position. From experience of second tour Tom developed a different outlook, which he carried through to the point, long after VN, at which he and I were to meet regarding a proposed 'Big Brother' program for Amerasian children. Before this took place, Tom passed away of natural causes, and yours truly, wondering why an advisor/counterpart network had never been established to harness energies of individuals such as Tom, sent letter to Tom Hebert's VN Newsletter, asking if there were such an association. Paul Brubaker, now serving as adjutant/treasurer/art director/mail drop, wrote saying, if there isn't one, let's start it. And here we are.

With less than quorum present, attendees could only serve as a constituent assembly(sounds good), discussing general status, direction, objectives, organization title, by-law provisions, etc.

Consensus, after sometimes prolonged discussion, was to retain membership categories as delineated in by-laws, enabling association to retain its advisor 'personality' while enlarging membership and 'audience'(specifically in instance of non-Veterans). Association name, if indeed it is ever resolved, stays at 'Co Van My-Viet/Dong Nam A', or 'American-Viet Nameese/Southeast Asian Advisors'(Association). Reason: there were, in effect,

we hope to commemorate, the surmounting of cultural and linguistic barriers towards a common end, rather than dwelling on instances in which such did not occur. Our letterhead, if for no other reason than expediency and simplicity, says 'Counterparts'. If you stop and think about it, this does not necessarily carry the denotation/connotation that VN/SE Asian participants associate with the word, particularly among unknowing 'civilians'. VN translation does have a 'ring' to it, and does identify the association in a way 'counterparts' does not. So, call it/us what you feel comfortable with. We're going to end up with US, VN, Australian, Dega, Lao, New Zealand membership, and CV M-V/DNA best fills the bill.

Immediate needs: We still lack officers. Paul B. is doing a herculean job on his end, but we need a president, editor, treasurer. Your clerk-typist made it quite clear that he did not serve as an advisor, despite frequent/continuous contact w/VN people and coordination w/VN military, and should not serve as president. During trip to latrine was 'shanghai-ed' OK, will continue as chief paper shuffler, and interim editor, for as long as it takes to get association going but please search souls and nominate someone or self for these offices. We can, and will, continue as is, but can do better will full time officers.

Appointments/Volunteers: Mike Little volunteered to serve as Liason Officer w/Dega Association. Mike gave summary of ongoing program to bring medical supplies to Dega in VN, and obstacles encountered w/Hanoi bureaucracy. He prepared and distributed an excellent summary study on Highlands Assistance Project, and has offered to distribute, free, to any members wanting copy of same. Write to Mike at 3421 Eden Drive, Santa Clara, California, 95051. At last notice, Hanoi has granted Kay Reibold permission to hand carry medical supplies directly to Dega clinics in the Highlands, which could go far in alleviating medical problems arising from lack of proper treatment.

J.C. Fischer has volunteered to serve as locator, and is now setting up a card file system, as well as contacting US unit associations in hopes of locating respective members who served additional tours as advisors. In addition, J.C. will have a co-locator from VN community, working VN publications and community in search of former counterparts. Make it simple for J.C., it's enough work as it is, provide all facts and any specifics: Name, rank, unit/province, etc. in itemized fashion for ease in transcribing onto card file system. J.C. can be reached at 100 Red Oak Circle; Temple, Texas; 76502-3503. Future Sitrep will have details on VN publication/community locator.

In-country locator: We have a contact who has a contact through which in-country information may be available. Forward all inquiries to your clerk-typist (Bill Laurie, 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201) who will then forward to contact of contact. No promises made, and sorry not to divulge links in this chain, but it is a touchy situation. This comes from a good source, and is method used by others, apparently without jeopardizing in-country people.

Ray Battreall provided summary of situation confronting former re-education camp prisoners. Some are now coming out through Orderly Departure Program though process is awkward, convoluted, often requires greasing cadre palms w/\$, and encumbered by spasmodic, at best, mail delivery and failure to deliver Letters of Introduction (LOIs) for subsequent interviews and processing. Along the lines, inquiries have been sent to our wonderful State Department requesting detailed update on re-ed camp inmate immigration. It was canned poop-sheet. Efforts continue.

It is known that re-ed camp prisoners are being permitted to leave, some of whom have spent up to 13 years in forced labor under near-starvation conditions. There's work to be done in this area, and new contacts, more on this below, may facilitate our involvement.

Other subjects discussed....

Members in Memoriam: The following names were submitted of those KIA, or since passed away, as advisors/counterparts to be remembered:

John Paul Vann	Capt. Jack Sigg, USA
LTC Nick Rowe, USA	Capt. Paul Berthiaume, USA
Lt. Rocky Versace, USA	Lt. Bart McCord, USA
Edgar 'Pop' Buell, USAID	Major 'Dy'
LTC Nguyen Van Thanh	Lt. Bong, VNN
Col. Ngo Xuan Soan	Gen. Nguyen Khoa Nam, Army, VNCH
Sgt. Richard Arsenalt, USA	Sgt. Michael E. Flynn, USMC
Col. Ho Ngoc Tran	Lt. Harold Meyerkord, USN
Tom Mahr	

Submit additions to your clerk-typist. List will be maintained and compiled for future publication.

Remember them.

1991 Reunion: Initial discussion revolved around Midwest location-Cincinnati, Louisville, etc. End of discussion: Houston it is. Efforts underway to check w/US & VN communities to ascertain whether Tet 1991 would be good time (in view of often prodigious efforts put forth by VN community during this time.). It will be first part of 1991; next Sitrep will have specific date, after feedback received from Houston.

Anthology: Upon viewing excellent in-country scrapbooks assembled by Jim Vincent and Mike Little, idea of compiling anthology of advisor/advisee/counterpart recollections was rekindled, having been mentioned before. Think about this one. To maintain some coherence/continuity, we'll need to put together a general guide/format. Nothing to restrict one's input, but to more effectively channel it. Suggestions welcome. Preliminary outline in next SitRep (which you will not have to wait a year for). Would be a very interesting view of things, and one not often reflected in 'China Beach'.

Other: As would be expected, most enjoyable portion of entire get together was the inevitable random discussions of memories, experiences, thoughts, people, places, etc. Some were funny, some left room silent, especially in impromptu late night Saturday assemblage. All attendees expressed sense of comradeship not often felt in 'conventional' groups, and shared funny stories/sad stories which have little currency outside of 'Co Van' circles. It was good, and greater numbers at next year's reunion will amplify benefit of this experience. A 'mini-anthology' could have been compiled from San Jose alone.

Special thanks: the 'San Jose Three': Jim Vincent, Jim Barker and Mike Little for their efforts in lining everything up during their busy work schedules. Nguyen Vinh Quan (VNAF), Mrs. Anh Cunningham and Hoang, for an outstanding evening banquet at 'Chez Christine'. Lotsa good VN food. All were gorged. Come departure time, payment was refused, our being guests and friends. Accordingly, we requested that \$ collected go to assisting recent re-ed prisoner arrivals in the States, and deal was so cut. Our best wishes to Hoang, currently battling cancer.

Baseball cap: On his own initiative, Jim Vincent had commemorative baseball caps made up, with 'Co Van My-Counterparts 1st Reunion, San Jose, Ca., 1990' on front. Red with gold front panel. Jim has more available for \$9.00, postpaid(2408 Golden Rain Road, #1; Walnut Creek, California; 94595. Another example of Jim's constant efforts on behalf of CVM-V/DNA. By the way, Jim and Lt. Harold Meyerkord(KIA) were written up in Dickey Chapelle's last article from VN, 'Water War in VN'(National Geographic, February, 1966). Thanks Jim, your membership and efforts most appreciated and welcome.

So, all in all the San Jose Reunion was a success, and enjoyed by all. Certificates and patches, courtesy of Paul and Miriam Brubaker were distributed and received with appreciation for all work/effort involved, not to mention initiative taken by our noble adjutant and his CO.

Additional developments took place the following Sunday. Ray Battreall linked up with former counterpart, Col. Duong Van Do, who had just arrived from VN, following years of incarceration. Nice way to cap off the weekend. Mike Youngblood and Bill Laurie attended 'Quoc To' events at a nearby auditorium, and were met by Nguyen Quan Vinh, who in turn introduced us to several other individuals expressed interest in CVM-V/DNA. One, former Deputy Commander of MR I(I Corps) during 1972 Offensive, Lam Quang Thi, followed up with a letter, and with his permission:

'I think that the creation of 'Cố Vấn Đông Nam Á' association would be an excellent idea and personally endorse its concept and implementation. I'll transmit your letter to the executive committee chairman of the Federation of Viet Namese Veterans Association, and will ask him to contact you to provide any assistance which you may need.

Please keep me informed of the progress and let me know if I can be of any assistance.'

Lam Quang Thi.

In subsequent phone call, Gen. Thi indicated he would soon be meeting w/VN community in Houston and pass on word of 1991 Reunion. Thanks to Gen. Thi for his support.

Also, recent contact has been made with Keith Payne, (through member Jerry Dellwo) former member of Australian Training Team, who will be carrying information back 'down under' to publicize CVM-V/DNA and sign up some members. Some logistical matters to be ironed out, primarily postage/local funding/nature of affiliation. Will be reported on next SitRep.

As agonizingly slow as progress may have been to date, it does appear things are about to break loose.

Final ideas/thoughts on Houston, 1991, and please provide feedback on this. First, three day session was enough to handle such official business as was on hand, but four days may be better, given fun in assembling with those having shared experiences. Then too, the late night discussions, a bit more serious, were beneficial to all. We can make it three day 'official' session, with one day early sign up to permit informal sessions of longer duration. Thursday through Sunday sound OK? Advise. Your feedback is necessary, requested. Also, any bugetary limits on hotel costs. \$50.00/night? \$60.00/night? \$70.00/night? Give us an idea.

Before closing with miscellanea, thank-yous need to be extended to additional members who've taken initiative in furthering this association. Pat Sherman and Owen Kelly, both of Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, have gone out of their way to publicize CVM-V/DNA, and extend the word to potential members in their AO, to include Canada. Thanks on behalf of all members Pat and Owen.

Al Hanh has checked out decal prices for us, and forwarded info to Paul B. to use at such time as we're ready. Decals would be an optional and additional cost, though hardly prohibitive, to individual members, and are another means of spreading the word. Thanks Al.

Al and Phil Stephens both sent letters expressing regrets at not being able to attend San Jose, wishing best for all. Letters were read to assembled mini-multitude. We'll all have better chance, and more time to plan, for Houston next spring. Stu Beckley made valiant effort to 'bend' business trip to include San Jose; Scott Stone also tried to break loose from encumbrances of urban life, and come in from Hawaii. Next year.

Article available Four page article on Major Le Xuan Phong and former counterparts(SF) Al Cornett and Jerry Beckett. They served together for many years in VN. Phong ended up in re-ed camp, was tortured/had leg broken, and eventually escaped, ending up in Germany where he was reunited with Cornett and Becket, still serving with US Army. Interesting story. Efforts made to contact Phong, via newspaper editor(Stars & Stripes), unsuccessful to date. Copy of article sent to anyone sending SASE. Will check w/SF assn. on reaching either Cornett or Beckett.

Letters to Editor(pro tem): write 'em, they'll be printed. Send to this loc. for duration of pro-tem editorship(B. Laurie, 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201).

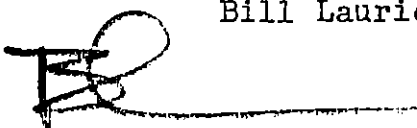
SitReps: Save for future reference. Each issue will have names/addresses that may be of value after SitRep is thrown away. All back issues on file if need arises.

Screw up time: Reverse side of this page explains efforts of Trish Kinney to produce a theatrical cross section of VN Vet thoughts and experiences. Bill Steffens put us in contact with Trish and follow up discussion confirms validity and honesty of her project. This is a chance to let your feelings and experiences be known, by an American public inundated with 'statements' of-trying to be polite here-dubious veracity or less than universal application. The screw up is in my not getting this out sooner, but Trish indicated there is still work to be done, and still time to include an advisorial viewpoint. Call her if questions arise, but in any case submit something which cogently and clearly expresses your outlook, driving points home. Many, with good reason, complain that 'our story' is never told. Here's a chance. Thanks to Bill Steffens for this contact.

OK, all for now. Era of infrequent SitReps is over. Three more coming your way before year's end. Next issue will have update specifics on Houston. Stay well.

Clerk-typist pro tem

Bill Laurie



"HOME OF THE BRAVE"

Home of the Brave is a dramatic production being developed out of Phoenix, Arizona. Its purpose is educational in nature designed to promote awareness and understanding throughout the non-veteran community regarding the impact of the Vietnam war on its veterans and the country. It will have a theatrical debut at the Herberger Theatre in ██████████ 1990 at which time it will be professionally videotaped for use as a teaching tool at the high school and college level. All of the text has been contributed by veterans.

Many different themes are approached in the piece and due to obvious time constraints, they are addressed in a fairly general way in an effort to spark awareness and further consideration by the audience, many of whom will be young. For the most part, it should be assumed that the audience has no significant knowledge of the Vietnam war.

Having spoken with Bill Laurie, I am convinced that it would be worthwhile to include the valuable perspective of the "advisor" population in the piece. Text must be contributed in either written form or cassette. Any or all thoughts, reflections, opinions or insights are solicited. I will continue to work with contributors through the development phase to insure that material actually used in the production accurately reflects their position. I am doing no writing for the piece, only editing, producing, directing, coordinating etc.

I offer the following as background on myself:

1. BA Degree from Arizona State University, Theatre Arts 1973
2. Over twenty years professional theatre experience
3. Daughter of retired Air Force Colonel, veteran of both Korea and Vietnam. Raised in military environment around the world
4. President of Kinney Management Services, service corporation based in Phoenix. Full office in Tucson with Las Vegas and New Mexico branches to open soon. 150 employees. Provides management, maintenance and consulting to planned communities.

For further information, please contact me.

Trish Kinney for
"Home of the Brave"
6303 S. Rural #7
Tempe, AZ 85283
(602) 820-3451

(Ed. note: DO IT.)

First Year: \$10.00 initiation, \$12.00 Annual Dues; \$22.00 Total
\$12.00 annually thereafter
\$120.00 Lifetime

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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COUNTERPARTS/Co Van Dong Nam A

Membership Application Form

last name, first name, middle initial/sobriquet

street or mailing address

town/city,state/provence, country, postal code

publish/withhold name from roster

telephone

day/evening

catagory: member/associate

agency or branch of service

country of assignment

duty assignment

assignment specifications: dates, unit, headquarters, place, supervisor's

name, counterpart's name, distinctions (include documentary evidence).

(use additional sheets if necessary)(supporting documents will be retained)

I, the undersigned applicant, certify that this information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that my service in southeast Asia was honorable. I authorize the Association to verify my eligibility. I support the principles and camaraderie of the Association.

date

signature

Mail to: Paul Brubaker/Adjutant; P.O. Box 30
Circleville, West Virginia 26804

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