

Counterparts

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804

SITREP #8/SUMMER 1990

Happy. summer to all. Things are cooking and rolling along, if in fits and lurches. Off we go w/letters from members.....

'(excerpted)...I hope you can pass along to Paul and all involved how much I appreciate the certificate, patch and membership card. It gives me the feeling we're making some progress.,.... I hope to get to Houston...If I can help in any way that doesn't require my immediate Mainland presence, please let me know.' -Scott Stone

Ed.-Scott wrote a well articulated response to Trish Kinney/Home of the Brave Project. Worth your while to have, read, pass on to others. Send SASE to Scott(51 Ahuwale Place; Makawao, Hawaii; 96768); you'll be very glad you did. Thank Scott for his eloquent statement of the advisor experience/outlook.

From knife raffle winner Tim Sawyer: '...was surprised and pleased to find package tonight with fine Gerber knife. Have always favored easily worn knives for daily wear, as 'I never leave home without it', and don't carry American Express..... Again, thank you for making my day.

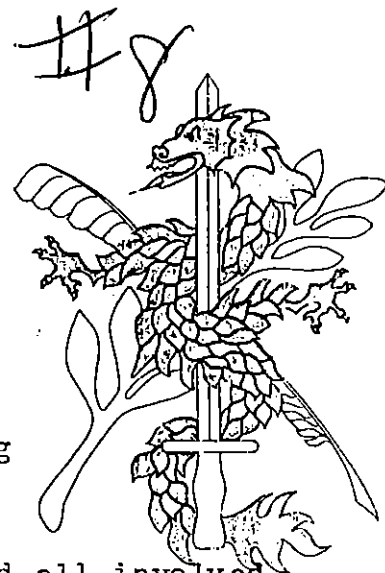
Ed.-Thx for being on board Tim.

From Keith Cossey..'My experiences as an advisor to the RVN PF were 'bittersweet' and are, at times, difficult to dredge up again. But I think that those experiences are not only fundamental to who I was and am but, also, to who I am capable of being---'with a little help from my friends!'

Ed. Friends are here Keith. Your membership welcome and valued.

Charles Pegis sent information explaining how medical supplies/clothing/miscellanea can be sent to friends still in VN. It's legit, and goods do arrive, though sending books or cassette voice tapes is not a good idea. For more info write Charles at: 229 Green Oaks Drive/Riverside, California/92507. Thanks for info. Our sympathies to Charles, who lost his wife of 31 years to cancer.

LTC Terry Carlson writes asking members to donate photos, patches, anything reflecting advisor experience for moving museum display. Terry recently ran several displays at Glenview Naval Air Station Air Show/Open House, sending photos which we'll attempt to xerox on next page. Parting w/patches etc. may be difficult, but it is not hard to get good photos reproduced, enlarged to 8" x 10"(Walgreen's coupon special, for \$1.99) for display. Yours truly will be doing so in next month. Make effort to support this effort, of a member, to show advisor experience to 'rest of the world'. It's to your benefit. Terry can
A Veteran's Association of Advisors in Southeast Asia



be reached at: 2710 N. Monticello Ave./Chicago, Illinois/60647.
Make it happen.

Jim Baker reports he has a new CO, the former Julie Marguerite Goldsworthy, of Leigh-On-Sea, Essex England. This is too late but Jim and Julie invited all to be at their wedding, 19 August, 1430 hours, at U.S.N. Chapel, USNB, San Diego. Congratulations Jim and Julie; see you both in Houston and we'll celebrate there.

Publicity Jim Vincent, at his own time/expense, sent over twenty publicity notices to a number of organizations/publications. Paul Brubaker reports that responses are coming in. Already owe Jim about 15 beers for his work; this pushes it to three or four cases. Thanks again Jim. If anyone wants commemorative 'First Reunion' hat, send \$9.00 to Jim(2408 Golden Rain Road, #1/Walnut Creek, California/94595.

LTC Terry Carlson's
Museum Display.
Add to it.



HOUSTON REUNION Prelim feedback from VN community was that Tet would not be a good time to hold reunion, given time/effort demands on VN community during this weekend, not to mention familial obligations. Tentative date is three weeks after Tet, weekend of 8-10 March 1991. No Reunion task force officer has surfaced yet, and we're still looking. Some groundwork being laid however, to include getting prices on reunion yearbook, list of restaurants/attractions(to include shooting ranges), etc. Bear with us on this one, it will happen. Phone calls & correspondence going back/forth at present.

PUBLICITY(II) Nice write up/publicity release in recent issue of 'Bravo', courtesy of our West Virginia perpetual motion man, Paul Brubaker. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Paul and his CO, Miriam, for their invaluable work. Frankly speaking, Paul's carried most of the ball this past year, and has put up with a few headaches arising from sporadic performance from your clerk-typist pro tem(unavoidable, but pain in butt just the same). Paul reports membership applications coming in from this article. We'll try and get update roster out by next SitRep.

AMERASIANS Pearl Buck Foundation(P.O. Box 181/Perkasie, Pennsylvania/18944-0181) has regained footing in VN and is about to resume programs there, patterned after successful work elsewhere in Asia. Immediate objective is to provide Amerasians with food/roof and educational opportunities. It's work that needs to be done. Send them some spare change. You'll receive their quarterly 'Insight' and constant updates on a situation that demands attention. Conscience so dictates.

LOCATOR J.C. Fischer has been setting up locator files, and begun contacting various unit associations/publications to track down former counterparts. Most recent request: LTC Nguyen Van Lan would like to contact Maj. Peyton, Capt. Hugging, and Sgt. E. Yerta, all of 5th SF Grp (more on LTC below). Another SFer sought by Nguyen Van Chinh, ex-37th ARVN BDQ (Rgr., for those who've forgotten) is looking for Sgt. Al Cornett, former advisor to 302 Recon Co., Tuyen Duc Prov. Also being sought are members of Hau Nghia RF, and 7th ARVN Div., particularly those who served under Nguyen Khoa Nam. You can help as J.C.'s eyes/ears. Spread the word, talk, ask, fire off any info to J.C.

LTC Nguyen Van Lan was featured in a three part series on one of the network TV mush-gab programs. LTC was with the 81st Rgr. Grp. (Commando), members of which used grenades and LAWS, at extremely close range, against NVA armor while outnumbered 5 to 1 at Song Be in January '75. Viewed as incorrigible, Lan was held 13 years in a concentration camp before receiving permission to join his family in US (he'd sent his pregnant wife out, staying with his unit). Contact was made with LTC Lan, via the network correspondent. We're glad to see the family reunited, and wish LTC luck with the book he hopes to write describing concentration camp conditions ('re-education' is not working).

Other reports from different sources indicate concentration/labor camps still hold many, and some of those who have been released are under virtual house arrest, with their children being denied higher education due to their 'tainted' past.

Speaking of nasty things.... You are strongly encouraged (as in 'you are encouraged to join the NCO/Officers/EM club...') to fork over \$10.00 to the Aurora Foundation for their detailed report 'Human Rights Violations in the Socialist Republic (sic) of Viet Nam', a comprehensive 150 page plus examination of this subject. Address: 177 Toyon Road/Atherton, California/94027. Covers documented oppression of former RVNAF personnel, religious/literary figures, ethnic minorities, etc. True, we are not a political organization, but, as agreed in San Jose, human rights are not political, period.

LITERATURE Member John Del Vecchio's FOR THE SAKE OF ALL LIVING THINGS deals with wartime Cambodia, the vortex swallowing sane humans, and an American advisor whose very personal war is at odds with American policy (was there one?). It's be bashed by some critics as being 'revisionist' which, considering the source, is a compliment.

Reprints of SF Magazine Herculean effort by Steve Sherman, reprinting and binding all annual editions of 'Green Beret' magazine, published in-country, from 1966-1970. Five volumes contain total of 52 magazines, w/abundance of photos, historical info/data. These are going to be rare items once print run is out. \$25.00 plus \$2.00 p/h per volume, or \$125.00 for all five, freebie postage. Sell some blood plasma, rent kids out to temporary labor goons, and get these. Very good quality. RADIX Associates, 2314 Cheshire Lane, Houston, Texas/77018.

Advisor Diary Member Frank Brown has published his diary, verbatim, from his tour in Chau Doc, '69-'70. Straight forward, as it was experienced, without schlock/glop of some VN lit. Good item for non-vets to read, and for anyone else. 28 pp, 8½ x 11, w/b/w photos. \$4.50, pp., from Rice Paddy Press, 18 Reed Avenue/Hamilton Township, New Jersey/08610. Worth it, get it, read it, have a high school student.

Advisor Bibliography Efforts underway to compile annotated bibliography of VN Advisor literature. Number of titles/articles greater than most would suppose. Target date: mid-1991. Suggestions/thoughts welcome.

Anthology-last issue of SitRep indicated prelim guideline/outline for anthology would be forthcoming, this issue. Ain't here. Working on it. Suggestion: pick up small note book, jot down ideas/thoughts/experiences/recollections/experiences once they come to you, whether drinking coffee in the morning or whatever. As you begin to write things down, more will come. Start now, and you'll have refined and amplified your thoughts (and re-remembered others) by the time this gets underway.

Tropical Diseases Beneath all warranted discussion of Agent Orange lies another cause for concern: tropical diseases which can lie dormant for years, and sometimes manifest themselves with serious or fatal consequences. This is not an 'Elvis Presley is alive and working at a Keokuk, Iowa K-Mart' myth; it is medical fact. Melioidosis and Paragonomyiasis are two of the nasty ones. Diagnosticians unskilled in tropical diseases can miss symptoms. For more info, send SASE (and \$1.00 courtesy for printing costs) to: Jack Taylor/1500 1/2 W. Pleasant St./Springfield, Ohio/45506 (Ph. 513 324-2579). There are documented Stateside fatalities from this stuff. Within past five years or so British Vets from CBI Theatre have developed over symptoms of Strongylides. Anyone WIA reportedly has higher risk for Melioidosis. You owe it to yourself, and keep in mind some of these infestations have no overt symptoms.

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Additions to the role:

Lt. Richard Holzer
Capt. Bobby L. Palk
LTC Roy Couch

-all advisors to 1st Bn./8th Regt.,
5th ARVN Div.

Lt. Ken Spencer

-IV Corps Advisory Staff(S-2),

Efforts now underway to write brief bio, to extent possible, and relevant info on VN service. Any who have submitted names are asked to fill a page w/factual info. Write ups will be retyped and placed in three ring binder pending, someday, publication for members.

Former NLF Member Sought Political Asylum in Paris

Professor Le Van Hao, former Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Hue during the Tet 1968 Offensive, has sought political asylum in France. Hao defected while serving as visiting professor at the University of Paris at the invitation of the French government.

Interviewed by Que Me, Hao denied having responsibility for the massacre at Hue, because he had "no real power" and was "not in Hue at the time." He predicted that the communist regime in Vietnam will fall because "in the long run nothing that is against the will of the people, the truth, and justice, can last" (Que Me, Nos 105-106, January 1990).

Defector of the month, as printed in Indochina Institute Report. \$22.00 quarterly, from Indochina Institute/George Mason University/4400 University Drive/Fairfax, Virginia/22030-4444. Good source for info on VN/SE Asia and stateside studies thereof.

Upcoming fund raisers: All of our published author members have offered to donate signed copies of their books for a raffle to be held in Houston. This includes works by Scott C.S. Stone, Curt Rich, John Del Vecchio, and perhaps more when raffle drawing comes about. Don't forget next knife raffle. Don't have tickets? Ask, you'll get them.

Members in the News Bob Sampson of San Jose was the subject of a documentary, 'Heart of the Warrior', comparing the experience of a US VN Vet, and Soviet Afghan Vet, both amputees. Filming involved Bob's going back to VN, and to exact locations where he'd been in heavy contact. Check Stars & Stripes, 14 May 1990 edition, p. 13 for full story, or send SASE to clerk typist in Mesa, Az.

VN MEMORIAL Curt Rich advises that cracks have developed in some panels of 'The Wall', and funds are need for replacement stone and general upkeep. Supply of black granite is apparently limited, and it is necessary to stockpile inventory now. Donations to: Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc./1360 Beverly Road/McLean, Virginia/22101-3685.

Media gripes: Fed up w/media portrayals of VN? VN Vet(USMC) and English professor Peter Rollins/English Dept./Oklahoma State Univ./Stillwater, Oklahoma/74708(405 744-9474) is editing a textbook to be titled VIET NAM ON FILM AND VIDEO: PRO & CON. He's seeking 'colorful' essays on the subject. In previous writings Pete has been highly critical of inferences/suggestions/micro-truths passed off as the 'real story'. Yeah, it takes up your time, and yeah, we're all busy, BUT there is an obligation here. This is not a suggestion to whitewash/forget/cover up 'bad things' in VN; no shortage of those. There were other things not deemed 'newsworthy' however, presumably because of insufficient gore/depravity/etc. Do not sit quietly and bitch/grumble to no one. Here's your chance.

Need incentive? A recent edition of 'Earthwatch'(Aug 1990, p. 21) suggests that US Army Corps of Engineers drained the Mekong Delta to deny hiding places to VC, and then--'remove(d) any lingering hiding places by dropping napalm across the entire delta.' End quote. Canals were built in 19th century for rice cultivation, and were impossible to dredge(19 gazillion miles of canals in Delta). End result, according to this article was 'with water gone, and plants obliterated.....'. The entire delta? People watch 'China Beach', see 'Platoon' and believe this nonsense. For those of you not serving in Delta, neither overflights(on the deck, pp to 1500 Ft.), nor footmobile, nor sampan travel would remotely corroborate a sliver of a fraction of a shadow of 'Earthwatch' description. Write Peter Rollins.

TAPS Hoang, one of our cordial hosts in San Jose, succumbed to cancer after a long fight. Condolences to his family and Ba Anh Cunningham, a good friend. Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Huy, author and political scientist also succumbed to cancer. Unknown to many Westerners, Dr. Huy was an articulate scholar and spokesman for political freedom in VN and SE Asia. Both will be remembered, both will be missed.

Last, and for no good reason beyond last minute scrambling and phone discussion with Mike Little, Dega Assn. Liaison Officer, this evening.....

Kay Reibold, Coordinator of Highlands Assistance Project, was able to meet with Dega Representatives in Saigon, this past May, and deliver approximately 20-25 boxes of basic medical supplies, vitamins and, badly needed, Leprosy serum. Kay was not permitted to deliver supplies to Highlands, with Hanoi authorities indicating security was a problem. Mike also indicated that a movie is being made, for network TV, covering the Dega diaspora from the Highlands, and an American SFer who was instrumental in arranging for their emigration as a group. Film wrap up/broadcast date unknown at this time.

More Dega-related info: Outfit called ADF(America's Defenders of Freedom Foundation Inc.)/P.O. Box 56895/Orlando, Florida/32856-8795) is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving Dega culture/heritage in US, and assisting Dega Community in this end. They plan to sponsor 45 kinsmen of US Dega already here, and laud(deservedly so) US-residing Degas for avoidance of welfare and desire to be self-sustaining. No argument with that. Literature suggests that Dega handicrafts may be sold as means to both preserve handicraft skills(Dega blankets are work of art) and achieve economic independence in part through sales of Dega products. Mike has spoken with them briefly, says they seem OK. Members should feel free to inquire as individuals. 'Official' contact will be made shortly to determine common areas of interest/effort/support. More info next SitRep.

Star Spangled Banner transcribed in Viet Nameese. Available from Lamson Language Center; P.O. Box 5192; Inglewood, California; 90310. Xuan Tung of Inglewood did translation. Source did not cite cost. Postcard inquiry should do the trick.

OK, that about wraps this one up. Appropriate repetition: thanks to all for their work and energy and support. Membership ranks are growing and we've got some good projects underway. With luck, and effort necessary to manufacture luck, we hope to bring about some reunions of individual counterparts in Houston next March. Begin making general plans now, stuff some spare cash under the mattress. No feedback on preferred hotel price range so will carry on assuming 'moderate' will be OK, meaning respectable quality accommodations. Your ideas/suggestions/thoughts are actively solicited and welcome, as are news items for SitRep. Ain't no fun preaching to comatose congregation. If San Jose Inaugural Reunion is any indication at all, Houston will be well worth everyone's time. Remember to act as eyes/ears for de facto worker bees. This association wants your participation. And.....anyone want to be CO? Editor? I'll hang on, but others have better credentials and less insidious work schedule. Whatever, we're moving along.

Stay well. Thanks for being on board.

Bill Laurie

