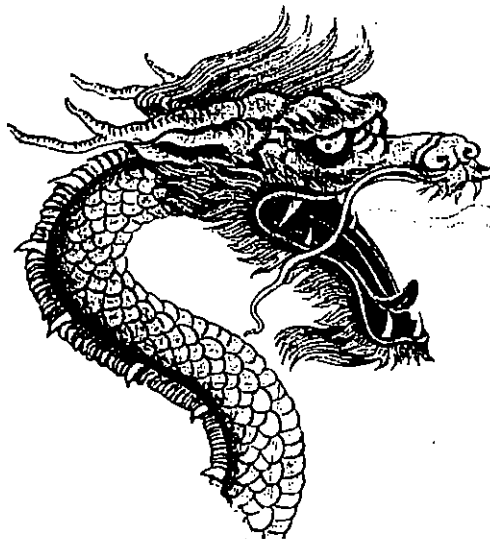


BAO CAO TINH HINH
SỐ 15, Mùa Xuân

SITREP #15, Spring
1992

KLEI MRÃO MRANG #15
Yăn Mnga, 1991



#15



The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TƯỜNG HỮU MỸ VIỆT/ĐỒNG NAM Á, an association of those who served in a counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975. Full membership is available to anyone having served in this capacity, military or civilian, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion on the Indochinese Peninsula. For membership information: Adjutant, Counterparts; P.O. Box 30; Circleville, West Virginia; 26804.

OFFICERS PRO TEM:

Grant McClure,
President/Commanding Officer

Paul Brubaker
Adjutant

J.C. Fischer
Locator/Historian

Quách Hỷnh Hà
Locator

B. Laurie
cor

Mike Little
Liason Officer,
Highlands Assistance Project

Tom Harvey
Liason Officer, Combined
Unit Veterans Association
(CUVA)

Phil Brick
Humanitarian Projects

CHÚC MỪNG NĂM MỚI
VA
KÍNH CHÚC CÁC BẠN CHIẾN
HỮU VÀ BỒU QUYỀN GẶP NHIỀU
PHÚC, LỘC, THOẠI

Happy and Prosperous New
To all

Original intent was to get
this issue out sooner. A
late rush job, so off we go
with a mad typing scramble...

REUNION Steve and Jeanne
Herberth report good response,
and we are guaranteed to have
our biggest reunion ever, with
speakers, videos, displays,

and, to top it all off, some of the best
informal, story-trading memory sessions
many have had in a long, long time. IF
you receive this before the Reunion, and
that is our intent, make your best effort
to be there. If you cannot, and IF you
receive this before, say, 1 March, 1992,
feel free to send a note if you cannot
come. It will be read to the assembled
multitude. We've made some incredible
progress in the past year, and will map
out the coming year at Louisville. Your
presence welcome and hoped for. In case
of late decisions to come, please contact
Steve and Jeanne at 502 491-8517. Hotel:
Breckinridge Inn, 502 456-5050.

Errata and apologies therefor: Sitrep
#14 mis-spelled name of new member and

Cung Chúc Tân Xuân



Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

Happy
New
Year

telephone bulletin board contact, George Lasley. And...names of following were also spelled incorrectly in list of labor camp inmates:

BG Phạm Ngọc Sang
Col. Vĩnh Biểu

Col. Trịnh Bảo Chương
Col. Lê Đình Luân,

while Maj. Đoàn Bá Lộc, S2 Ba Xuyên (Sóc Trăng) Prov., was erroneously titled Dist. Intel. Cẩm ở vạ tội to Col. Lê Nguyễn Bình for these corrections.

LOCATOR/HISTORIAN J.C. Fischer has located two more counterparts long sought by former comrades, and has provided addresses to those seeking same. We have not yet received word from these people, so cannot provide details on the good news at this time. J.C. also received a call from an assistant producer of television's 'Unsolved Mysteries' exploring possibilities of national TV coverage (and an abundance of welcome publicity) regarding our efforts to put people together again. We've made great strides from scratch, yet if this comes through it will generate a snowball of interest and inquiries. Will keep you posted on any decisions the producers make. Meanwhile, contact made with Col. Dave Wiseman (USMC, Ret.), cited in last month's SITREP, produced a chain reaction. After initial phone contact, Col. Wiseman was sent a copy of SITREP #14. When he and Trần Ngọc Hue (AKA 'Harry') looked through it, Hue recognized name of new member Jim Coolican, an advisor with whom Hue had served in '67-'68, highlighted by the recapture of Hue City. Contact was made with Jim, who had 'heard' that Hue had been KIA in opn. Lam Son 719, never suspecting that this was not so. Fortunately, it wasn't, though Hue was captured and spent the next 12 years in a labor camp (4 years of solitary).

Here's how it went:

'Thanks for all the info on Counterparts...I'll sign up Harry and myself forthwith. Exciting news to Hue and myself is that we see Jim Coolican's name in your latest SITREP. I never met Jim but he was Hue's advisor during Tet '68. Hue got two US Silver Stars and Jim got the Navy Cross for taking the Hue Citadel back from the NVA. Hue and I have been trying to find him through USMC sources with no luck (not knowing SSN). Please have him call me...'

And then...

'I talked with Harry Hue twice Sunday. I can't tell you what a great experience it was to talk with him again. I was amazed at his recall of events and details. We had a wonderful reunion over the phone. I called Dave and then had an hour conversation with Harry. Later that evening Hue called me just to talk. I sent him a letter with photographs, etc. You can be sure he and I will stay in close contact. I am also going to write Gen. Ngô Quang Trưởng. He was a superb soldier and Commanding General.

COUNTERPARTS is doing a great job. You can count on me to be an active member.

Best wishes and Semper Fi.'

Jim Coolican



David Wiseman and Trần Ngọc Hue, meeting at National Airport, 20 years after Vietnam.

Veteran Friends, Reunited

And, we're just getting started.....

So, please keep eyes peeled for similar articles and spread the word. It may seem fruitless at first, but keep in mind we've already put people together who probably never have met again, ever. Thx to all who've ran checks in their local phone books. Keep it up.

And... 'Military' ran another Locator search list in their February edition. Here it is:

COUNTERPART SEARCH

Counterpart Search is for U.S. advisors and their Vietnamese counterparts who are seeking to locate each other.

Send your requests to J.C. Fisher, 100 Red Oak Circle, Temple, TX 76502-3503.

Maj. Le Xuan Phong is seeking Sgt. Al Cornett or Sgt. Jerry Beckett both with the 5th SF.

David Kincannon is seeking Paul Orben Applegate or Robert J. Smith. Ngoc Truong is seeking SMG Hodge or CWO Daniel D. Sharp, both with 5th SF Co. C, Da Nang.

Nguyen Tai Lam is seeking Mark C. Huss, Robert V. Craig, Geratt T. Carta or Alfred P. Lagatta, all with USAID.

Sincere and humble thanks to Michael Mark, Editor, and the staff at 'Military'. Mike is a Viet Nam Veteran and knows what this means to us. We'll

give them another well deserved plug: \$14.00/year, \$26.00/2 years, \$33.00/3 years (w/7.75% rip-off tax for California delivery) from: 'Military', 2122 28th St., Sacramento, California, 95818-1999. It's a very good monthly publication covering military history from WW II to present, reunion notices, book reviews, and contemporary geopolitical/military news. They'll send you a freebie copy for inspection and review. Anyone meeting Mike in person is obligated to buy him a beer for his help. Mike also asked permission to reprint 'MEDCAP Memory' from SITREP #14. No problem, we're glad to reciprocate.

AMERASIAN PROJECT It's a go, and underway. Tom Harvey, our LO, contacted Pearl Buck Foundation and was advised that PBF no longer helps Amerasians in Viet Nam but is working same program for VN orphans. Grant, Tom and Paul discussed the matter, deciding a child is a child, and gave PBF the go-ahead. We'll have more on our sponsored child at reunion and next SITREP. His name is Nguyen Manh Hung, age 14.

NAME/ADDRESS TO FILE Bruce Burns, Viet Nam Veteran, Founder of Amerasian Registry (by which newly arrived Amerasians can attempt to find their Fathers) is an attorney with direct experience in dealing with Hà Nội's bureaucracy, whose efforts were portrayed in the TV film, 'The Girl Who Came Between Them'. Bruce chopped his way through cubic miles of paperwork permitting American veteran Barry Huntoon to bring his daughter to US from VN, and has now expanded operations to include full spectrum of immigration, refugee, tourist, investment and misc. consultation services. Member Jim Barker knows Bruce well and will vouch for his authenticity. Your editor pro tem will do same. All languages dealt with. For more info: Bruce W. Burns, Attorney at Law; 95 S. Market St.; Suite 300; San Jose, California; 95113. Land lines: (English) 408 995-3225

Maj. Nguyen Minh Chau is seeking Maj. Avery Graham, Di An 68-69, LTC McCoy, Di An 67.

1Lt. Trinh Van Be is seeking any advisors, Cang Long Dist. Vinh Binh Prov.

1Lt. George Do is seeking Cpt. Bob Ryan, Can Tho G2 70-71.

Lt. Nguyen Nhu Vu is seeking Any Advisor, 33rd Coastal Div.

Col. Le Nguyen Binh is seeking LTC Paul Brinkman, G2 7th Div. 65-66, or LTC James Durand, G2 7th Div. 64-65.

Tom Harvey CAP is seeking RVN Personnel, Luc Luong Hon Hop.

Quach Huyhn Ha is seeking Any Advisors, Ba Xuyen Soc Trang.

James L. Baker is seeking LTC Ton That Dong or Cpt. Larry E. Delp, RD Vinh Binh 69.

Nguyen Thanh Dinh is seeking Maj. William H. Gavan or Cpt. William Leaptrott, PRU Quang Ngai.

Greg Cook is seeking Nguyen Minh Hoang, 2/1 196th Inf. Bde Mar 1970.

Hoa Du Thai is seeking Bernard A. Hill of Hung Dao BEQ.

Maj. Nguyen Van Chinh, 37th Ranger Bn., is seeking Cpt. Myer, Maj. Burness, Sgt. Kirrely, Maj. Trapnell or Capt. Sam Rau, all with MACV 37th Rng Bn. between 1969 - 1972.

LtC Le Nguyen Hoang is seeking Cpt. Fredrick Johnston, Maj. John Meyer (Son G.) or WO Don Arnold with the 630 Sig., 25th Inf. Div. between 1968 - 1974.

Nguyen Duc Dung is seeking Sgt. Looklear, 8th ARVN Cav. 66, Maj. Taylor, 3rd ARVN Cav. 69, Maj. Shimeck, 3rd ARVN Cav. 69, Col. Gay, 21st US Cav. 69 and Cpt. Abrams (Son G.), US 4th Inf. 69.

(Viet Nameese) 408 995-3227; (Chinese), 408 995-3229; (Cambodian) 408 995-3228; and (Laotian) 408 995-3226. FAX: 408 995-3230. Keep these numbers handy. Bruce is a proven paper-work buster, with a long personal involvement in SE Asian matters.

NEW MEMBERS Welcome extended to....

(Col.) Lê Nguyễn Bình, G2 SĐ7(7th Div.), G2 QK4(MR IV), CICV, and other positions during his 24 years of service

Michael J. Slavick, USA, Adv Tm 16, '68-'69

Thomas A. Mellars, USA, MAAG-Laos, '61-'62

James H. Smith, USA, 35th Rgr. Bn./'64; 43rd Rgr. Bn./'68.

Author of WILL THE SUN RISE TOMORROW?, cited in SITREP #13.

Jack B. Rothbart, USN, MAAG-VN, QLVNCH Naval Academy, Nha Trang, '59-'60

Solomon V. 'Sol' Binzer, USA, Pleiku Sector Adv. Tm., '65-'66

Joseph B. Cagney, USA, MAT 91; Adv Tm 86; '69-'70

Thomas W. Stewart, USA, Adv Tm 21, '67-'68.

This association and its members will make every effort to be worthy of trust and confidence you show in signing on. Cảm ơn vạn bội.



Member Owen Kelly, at balmy LZ Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, shown with Jenna Pentland, and Counterparts flag she made at Owen's request. Owen and Pat Wilson, also of the 'Soo', continue in their commendable efforts to spread the word. Our primitive photo-copying does not permit reproduction of photo showing Owen's 'Counterparts' front license plate, or his marching with Counterparts flag in local parade. Owen will be at reunion, with more tips on guerrilla harassment of inept bureaucrats and human-three-toed-sloth school super-intendants. Many thanks to Owen, Pat, and Jenna, for her diligent efforts.

-o-

'Democracy is possible only if each of its members is capable of outrage at injustice.' -Aristotle

'The true test of civilization is, not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops, -no, but the kind of man the country turns out.' -Ralph Waldo

Emerson



Shoulder patch, 2nd Bn., 32nd Regt., 21st Div/SĐ 21, reproduction of which graciously permitted by Clement Kelly, publisher of Viet Nam Insignia Collectors Newsletter. Title is somewhat misleading, as each issue contains a great deal of history and commentary, going well beyond

insignia collection alone. Clem is also the volunteer insignia consultant for the Viet Nam Memorial in DC and has provided identification of patches and insignia left at The Wall, and is motivated in this and other pursuits, including his newsletter, by a desire to record and document this history before it is lost forever (which is precisely what will happen, and is happening given 'news media' and US public's unwillingness or inability to read anything beyond 'People' magazine). Clem has been kind enough to cover our reunion in his newsletter, print the 'Counterparts' patch, and grant us permission to photo-plagiarize his reproductions. We owe him one. He is now researching QLVNCH TQLC (RVN Marine) insignia and uniforms and has specific questions on the following:

-Marine berets in dark green, one with a gold wire badge but bright light green, and another with a gold wire badge in red. If any members can shed light on these variations, date of use, etc., please write Clem:

Clement V. Kelly Jr./VICN
122 East 21st Ave.
Covington, Louisiana 70433.

Subscriptions to this fine bi-monthly, \$15.00/year, checks payable to Clem, not VICN. We've extended an open invitation to Clem to try and field any questions he may have regarding insignia which comes his way.



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From the J.C. Fischer archives,
17th River Boat Co., My Tho,
1968
Back row: Maj. Keith, Maj. Kinh,
Cpt. Tuong, Cpt. Cat.
Front row: 1Lt Sang, BML Lewis,
1Lt Nhan, 1Lt Tri

J.C. might well have added that My Tho was a beautiful Delta town on one branch of the Mekong. Oh to go back someday.....

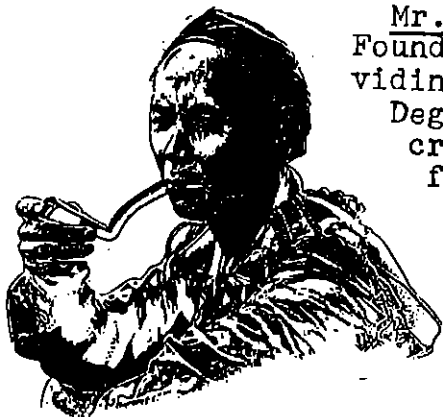


POW/MIA Senators John Kerry (D-Mass) and Robert Smith (R-N.H.) may have developed leads on fate of some POW/MIAs during their recent trip to the Soviet Union, now a confederation of independent states. With KGB files now open for examination Kerry and Smith believe info might be obtained to resolve questions regarding POWs from WW II, Korea and VN. Smith feels 'there are some indications' that some POWs were moved to the Soviet Union, and was told that a US pilot was shot down by a Soviet operated SAM, in North Viet Nam, and was killed upon capture. Vladimir Lukin, new Russian ambassador to US, told a press conference he could see no difficulties with US examination of Soviet archives.Purported photo of US Army Capt. Donald G. Carr now reported to be fraudulent. Incredible likeness notwithstanding, photo now felt to be of a 'man believed to be living in Germany who resembled him.' Jack Bailey, self-described POW/MIA hunter who provided photo, and who has reportedly raised \$3.0 million to support his work, is now possible subject of an investigation requested by Sen. John McCain, himself former resident of Ha Nội's hospitality suites.

News coverage of other known POWs- Dega, Việt Nameese, Khmer, Lao and Hmong people of SE Asia is entirely lacking. There has been no further news coverage on earlier Hà Nội statement that IRC representatives would be permitted to inspect 're-education' camps. There's a lot more ground to be covered.

POW/MIA Bibliography Member Frank Brown has just completed a 24 pp. bibliography on POW/MIA books, articles, research and testimony. This is a very comprehensive listing of POW/MIA literature, in alphabetical listing by author.. Nothing else like it, including everything from Congressional hearings to self-published works of dubious merit. Each entry includes pertinent commentary regarding subject matter and author's qualifications and credibility. Bibliography will be available for purchase by next SITREP, with Frank offering members a discount below standard retail price.

DEGA Kay Reibold's video, IN SEARCH OF THE KING OF FIRE is now complete, and available from Kay at 4108 Yates Pond Road; Raleigh, North Carolina; 27606. \$40.00. Tape runs approx. one hour, and includes footage from the Highlands and Dega people in the US. A very well done work involving many interviews with Dega, Dega background music, religious ceremonies, and insights into Dega life. In addition to considering purchase of same, members are encouraged to contact local PBS TV stations asking if they might include this in their programming. Most US people, and US news media, are entirely oblivious to what is taking place in VN now, and just who the Dega people are. Televising this video will help to erase some of this ignorance. HIGHLANDS ASSISTANCE PROJECT. ...Member Mike Little and Kay Reibold are leaving for VN 24 Feb, hoping to personally deliver medical supplies to the Highlands. They are hoping for permission to visit Ban Mê Thuôt, Kontum and Pleiku. Mike has promised a full report upon his return. Here's hoping all goes well. MONTAGNARD FOUNDATION... The Foundation is trying to seek grant money which will enable them to reprint books in the Dega language, particularly elementary school primers which are no longer made available to Dega school children in VN. Not all tribal groups had written languages, using Roman alphabet phoneticization, but some did, and these are neither permitted nor encouraged by Hà Nội, which appears intent on absorbing the Dega cultures.



RHADE

Mr. Kok Ksor, President of the Montagnard Foundation, will be at the reunion and providing details, and the Foundation will have Dega blankets and other works of Dega crafts for sale as a fundraising effort for the Montagnard Foundation programs to preserve Dega culture. This, along with the subject of 're-education' camps, is something that should be on the table during normalization discussions with Washington and Hà Nội. Members are encouraged to write their Senators and Congressmen, if not the White



M'NONG GAR

House and State Department. Many thx to Kok Ksor and the Montagnard Foundation for guidance in this matter.

VC/NVA Hoi Chanhs: '65/11,123, '66/20,271, '67/27,196, '68/17,836
'69/47,088, '70/31,998, '71/20,943, '72/10,052, '73/19,180
'74/4,283

Kindred spirits speak...

'I fondle many pictures in my mind-
my heart still echoes with a peasant's song
the rhythm of the shuttle on a loom.
I cherish hills and jungles, dim and dark,
both dense with mystery and aswarm with life.'

-Nguyễn Chí Thiện (from 'If Someday, If Tomorrow I should die')

'I loved Việt Nam more than any other place, for the beauty and strangeness of it. I always had a weird feeling in Việt Nam, as though I were in the presence of exotic, mystical happenings. As though I had arrived in a place where spirits prowled and sorcerers plucked at strings that controlled natural laws. I felt valid there, as though this was my place and my time and where I counted. I was happy.'

-Jim Morris, quoted from his book WAR STORY

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MEMBER PROFILE Jim Vincent was asked if he'd kick off this new section, and, in keeping with the enthusiasm he's demonstrated from the onset, he was happy to comply. Jim retired from the Navy in '73 as a LTCMDR, and after having served advisory tours in both VN and Thailand. After his 1948 enlistment, intended only to be a 'three year hitch', and subsequent duties aboard a Submarine Rescue Ship as a deep diver, Jim was assigned as a drydock advisor to the VN Navy. As Jim tells it: 'After a couple of weeks of boredom I was sent to the field. My orders took me to the Junk Force at An Thoi on Phú Quốc Island. After 2 weeks I had become so impressed with the 'junkies', their problems, lack of equipment, and unusually high morale (thanks to their officers and advisors), that I requested and received reassignment to the Junk Force. My love affair, and that's what it was, with the 'junkies' began slowly, and it was in direct proportion to my fluency in their language. I desperately wanted to learn Việt Nameese so I could function without a translator. I also knew learning the language would help me stay alive. Most of the time Junk Force advisors traveled in pairs, but sometimes we visited junk bases unaccompanied. The longest I went without seeing another American was 2 weeks. It wasn't long before I realized that I owed my life to these 'junkies'. They took care of me. Many times they were the advisors-I was the advisee! There was nothing I wouldn't do for them, and many was the time they gave me their last cigarette, or whatever we were sharing. I recall one time, while at Junk Division 34, we found a 2 kilo mine on our path to a village. It was a 'command' type yet the VC forgot to hide the wire! We took it out into the field for target practice, at a 75 yard range. The skipper squeezed off 2 shots without effect. I laughed and fired two rounds from my M2 carbine with no result. A junkie accompanying us asked if he could try. One shot was all he needed. When we returned to the base the story was out. I don't know how many bottles of warm Biere La Rue I had to buy. I proudly wore the black beret of the junk fleet.' Jim later served as a counter-insurgency instructor at Coronado Naval Base, and served a later tour on the USS HANCOCK for airops. He is now retired from the Navy and owns a real estate brokerage in Walnut Creek, California. Jim and his wife Pat have two grown sons, Mike, who served with the Army in VN and received Bronze Star and Purple Heart, and Joe, the youngest



who graduated from high school in Bangkok during Jim's advisory tour there, and later served in the Air Force. Many thanks to Jim for his efforts, donations, publicity efforts and encouragement throughout the embryonic phases of Counterparts, not the least of which is his teaming with Mike Little and Jim Barker to set up our 1st reunion in 1990. Jim still has a few souvenir encribed baseball caps, which he had made up himself, commemorating the reunion. They're collector's items now, and are available for \$10.00, pp., from Jim at 2408 Golden Rain Road, #1; Walnut Creek, California; 94595.



Jim and fellow Co Van Jim Dyer with captured VC flag. An atypical design similar to North Korean flag, and believed to be a slap at visiting S. Korean medical team.



Jim and Ensign Tai, QLVNCH HQ (RVN Navy) in blast crater left by aforementioned mine. Thus we begin this new feature

of the SITREP. Each issue will have another member's experiences, thoughts and feelings on the entire matter. As stated previously, random draw will determine who's next, though anyone wishing to submit a profile need only ask, and yee shall receive. Lot easier than dealing with the motor vehicle department.

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Great moments in Western Civilization, #92: Media mogul Ted Turner has announced he will launch a 24 hour cartoon station, seeking to tap a growing market for advertising aimed at children. One wonders whether or not this has already been done, in the form of CNN telecasts of congressional hearings, sometimes more cartoonish than 'Daffy Duck'. In viewing either, be careful not to mistake some of our fearless leaders for Elmer Fudd or Yosemite Sam (which may be casting implied aspersions on the latter).

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HMONG Contact continues with Mr. Vang Pobzeb, Chairman of the Lao Human Rights Council. Regretably, Mr. Pobzeb will not be able to attend the reunion, and is in the midst of planning a trip to Thailand, with some congressional aids, to investigate situation on refugee camps, as well as the matter of forced repatriation. We'll try to summarize these findings in future SITREP issues. We also hope to receive info regarding recent flareup of hostilities which took place early January along the Thai/Laotian border across from Thailand's Loei Province. The action occurred when approx. 100 well armed rebels attacked and overran the Lao government's 614 Bn. base at Ban Wang, approx 100 KM west of Vientiane. Mortars, RPGs and M-79s were

in the atk. More than 1,000 Lao refugees fled across the Mekong into Thailand. Pathet Lao troops later recaptured the outpost, pulling down down the rebel flag, with three-headed elephant, identical to the old Royal Laotian Govt.'s flag of pre-1975. All above reported in Bangkok Post. No mention of activity in other areas of Laos. There has been no conventional news media coverage of note.

Report on Forced Repatriation available from Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children; 386 Park Avenue South; New York, New York; 10016. Titled 'Can Hmong Refugees Begin to Look Homeward', the 25pp. cites an abundance of problems and difficulties in eventual repatriation, which the authors view as inevitable. The report is free, though courtesy of a donation is commendable. Many subjects are examined: health and health training issues, conditions in Chiang Kham Refugee Camp, educational needs, with conclusions that a comprehensive program is needed if Hmong people are to return safely, and able to re-establish their villages and culture. Proposed plans and programs for eventual repatriation, seen as a foregone conclusion, sound good, but depend on a great extent to the good will and efficacy of international organizations, to include the UNHCR, and Lao and Thai governments. Whether or not these conditions will apply is conjectural. Not a guaranteed roadmap for success, but at least agencies in the US are looking at the problem.

Repatriation and Reintegration:
Can Hmong Refugees Begin
To Look Homeward?



DELEGATION TO LAOS AND THAILAND
WOMEN'S COMMISSION FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN
1991

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CAMBODIAN PEACE ACCORDS Not having developed, yet, any contacts in the Cambodian community, we are forced to rely on standard news media reports. 21 Feb 92 Reuters article describes planned 22,000 man UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia(UNTAC), which is to disarm competing factions, supervise Cambodian ministries, and enforce a fragile cease fire, all leading to open and free elections in April or May, 1993. Estimated cost: \$2.0 billion, 30% of which will be borne by US. Yasushi Akashi of Japan will head up UNTAC and has said this will be the largest and most complex mission in the UN's history. 'OB' for UNTAC: 16,000 multi-national military personnel (some Aussies already there), 3,600 police monitors, and 750 civilian admin types. Total of Cambodian factions: estimated 200,000 regulars, and 250,000 irregulars. Good luck, Cambodia needs it.

CUVA Our 'cousin' organization of former USMC CAP/CAG people had 48 attendees at their November '91, DC reunion, and 10 honored guests including CO Grant McClure and Adjutant Paul Brubaker, from whom all CUVA members received an open invitation to attend our Louisville reunion: 'I had good feelings about the fine character of many of your members, who spoke thoughtfully at both the meeting and the dinner. The fellowship was fine and I wish it known that COUNTERPARTS welcomes any CUVA member to attend our reunion as a guest.' Thx also extended to CUVA (and Counterparts) members Arlis Wilhite and Mike Peterson for their contributions to the Amerasian Project fund. The most recent edition of the CAP NEWS (now a quarterly rather than bi-annual publication)

carried letter from CUVA member A. 'Sunny' Sundberg, which deserves space here:

'We who served in the Combined Action Program got to see the other side of the war. We got to know the Viet Nameese as human beings. We became very attached to our villagers, especially the kids. I remember a few of the people. The names are faded but not the memories. I served with 2nd CAG in CACOs 2-4, 2-8 & 2-9, and was honored to serve as a CAP leader in all three. This was in 1969 and 1970. We worked with the Viet Nameese and gave them protection. They in turn gave us information on the local VC and helped keep us alive. Pacification did work. Too bad the rest of our Forces never saw it. That was the only way to win. You had to have the Viet Nameese on your side. Burning villes, relocating the people and killing or wounding them was never the answer. Most CAPs were under strength. On the average they had 9 men instead of the 15 alloted. Still, we did a very good job. I am proud to have been chosen for CAP, and very proud to have served with the best, in the best.' -A. 'Sunny' Sundberg.

Also, the excellent account of USMC CAPs, THE VILLAGE, by F.J. West, is available from CUVA, for \$14.00 pp., from Bob Patrikios, 1639 Cone Avenue; Apex, North Carolina; 27502. This true account records the village war, in all its lethal forms, in Binh Nghia Village of northern Quang Ngai Prov., and should be on the shelf of anyone with any interest in Viet Nam. It does not conform to anything portrayed in or suggested by the film 'Platoon'; to the contrary, it describes a very effective program which took freedom of night movement away from the VC and, as indicated by the letter above, permitted US and VN to know each other as people. In one notable incident, the CAPs received intel that their 40 plus/minus man 'fort' was to be targeted by a Bn-sized VC ground Atk. Not willing to be pushed out, and sidestepping orders to withdraw, the CAPs ambushed point elements of their would-be attackers, and foiled the impending atk. Not a major victory in the military sense, but a meaningful victory in gaining villager trust, knowing the CAPs would not di-di. One of the better VN books. Approx. 260 pp., w/b/w photos. Get one.

ARCHIVAL CAP info: 'Life' magazine, 25 Aug 1967, carried approx 14 pp. story on the CAPs, w/numerous b/w photos. Very well done piece of writing on an intriguing subject. Shows CAP members digging wells and engaged in other civic action projects, while describing hazards involved, implicit recognition of VC concern over CAP effectiveness. Hollywood has not yet seen fit to produce a film covering CAPs and their unique role and history. It should.

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'Men hate those to whom they have to lie.' -Victor Hugo

F. J. West, Jr. THE VILLAGE



The true story of 17 months in the life of a Vietnamese village, where a handful of American volunteers and Vietnamese militia lived and died together trying to defend it.



LIFE

The 'Other War' in Vietnam
TO KEEP A VILLAGE FREE

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Joe Smith, CORDS
 L/CPL Thomas A. Williams,
 CAP 3-1-4
 Bob Poulton, US DAO

We also have a list of approximately 35 Cố Vấn, advisors to QLVNCH ND (RVN Airborne) who were KIA but as a matter of courtesy are going to request permission for Society of Việt Nam Airborne before carrying them on our Memoriam Roster.

Photo at right as at RVN's national cemetery, equivalent to US Arlington. Both statue and graves have since been removed, under doctrine of 'malice towards all'.

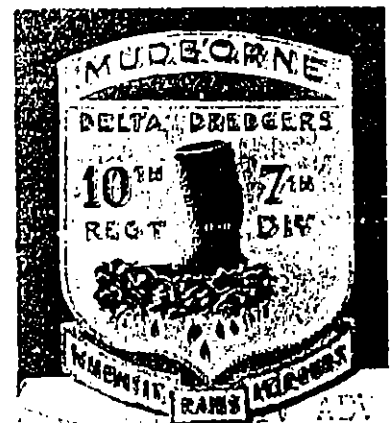
Remember Them

Contact made with Mike George of Society of Viet Nameese Airborne, who reunion will be held this 24-27 June at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. If any COUNTERPARTS member is in the area, eligible for membership, and/or would like to attend, contact CSM(Ret.) James Collier; 7755 Strawberry Hill; Goodlettsville, Tennessee; 37072(615 876-3642).

The Society, like COUNTERPARTS/Tướng Hữu Mỹ Việt/Đông Nam Á, accepts as full members anyone who served with Tm 162, regardless of nationality or place of birth. VN chapters are found in San Jose, Tiger(Oregon), Seattle, Cleveland, Springfield(Virginia), Houston, Santa Ana, Keuner(Louisiana) and Yukon(Oklahoma). If anyone from this assn. can attend the Society's June reunion it may pave the way for cooperative efforts in future. Anyone?

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Observations from Mark Duchon in his inquiry about COUNTERPARTS: My last stint in VN was with MAC-MA. The mission was to visit advisory teams to resolve real or imagined problems between US Advisors and Counterparts. As worked out, 95% of the problems were based on a failure to communicate. In many instances it was the quirk in the American supposition that the only correct way of doing anything was the American way. A lack of maturity was a suspect contributing factor. The 'Peter Principle' is applicable to all nationalities. It was an interesting assignment, visiting advisory teams mainly in I Corps, while filling in for other Corps areas.



'Beercan' insignia of 10th, Regt., 7th Div. Adv. Tm. Note 'Mudborne' at top, 'When it rains it pours' on bottom scroll.

'The great majority of mankind is satisfied with appearances as though they were realities, and are often more influenced by the things that seem, than by those that are.' -Machiavelli

Land reform program deed distribution to formerly landless tenant farmers, Đức Huệ District, Hậu Nghĩa Province, circa 1974. Area had been highly contested in 1960s. Location was reached, in this instance, by 2 US and 1 VN driving unescorted in a jeep. Several of RFs (Nghĩa Quân) on hand were ex-VC. New houses visible in background. For the first time in their lives, these farmers and their families had their own land, only to have it taken back under 'collectivization' policies instituted after 1975.



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OK, that's it for issue #15. With luck, this will get to most people before the reunion. Please remember to send in short narratives of a memorable person, place and/or event from your tour of duty, and reduced photocopies of pictures from your archives. If originals are sent they will be returned, but possibility of lost mail always present. Not 100% safe to send original, one-and-only copies. We still have an abundance of 'Counterparts' coffee cups, w/logo, for \$10.00 from our congenial adjutant at LZ Circleville. Many, many thanks to member Lam Quang Bui, who has, once again, absorbed all printing costs for this SITREP. If anyone has any printing needs, including 4 color heavy stock fancy stuff, you can have it done at Lam's printshop: Complete Print Shop; 4234 University; Phoenix, Arizona 85034. 602 437-0207. Upcoming issues will have info on Mike Little's VN trip, more detailed info on Locator 'finds', and summary of reunion events and discussions.

'Til then, stay well, stay at it and Đừng làm việc quá nhiều (Don't work too hard). Your membership is appreciated and reports/comments from your AOs most welcome. Keep those cards and letters comin'. HQ listens!

Chào tạm biệt

Col. Le Nguyen Binh and MG William Potts at CICV, 1970. Photo courtesy of Le Nguyen Binh.

15th Armored Squadron Insignia, QLVNCH. Inscription: 'Valiant & Brave!'



Courtesy of Clement Kelly Jr., Việt Nam Insignia Collector Newsletter