

GIẤY THÔNG-HÀNH



#19

SAFE-CONDUCT PASS TO BE HONORED BY ALL VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND ALLIED FORCES

이 안전보장패스는 월남정부와 모든 연합군에 의해 인정된 것입니다.

รัฐบาลเวียงจันทน์และหน่วยพันธมิตร ยินดีให้เกียรติแก่ผู้ถือบัตรผ่านปลอดภัยนี้.

SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/THDNA, an association of those serving in a counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochinese Wars of 1954-1975. Full membership available to anyone serving in this capacity, in a military or civilian role, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion on the Indochinese Peninsula. Associate memberships also available. Contact Steve Herberth, Adjutant; P.O. Box 22791; Louisville, Kentucky; 40252-0791.

เวียงจันทน์

KLEI MRÃO MRANG

XOV XWM TSHAJ TAWN

BẢO CÁO TỈNH HÌNH

SITREP #19

OFFICERS

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PSB Foundation

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor
Quách Huỳnh Hà
Roy Russell

Humanitarian Proj.
-open-

Hope all are enjoying the early days of summer. Your association progresses along, and a number of interesting developments have presented themselves. Grab a cool one, sprawl in your hammock, and read on....

Historical integrity and related matters...Members may recall an earlier mention of Douglas Valentine's THE PHOENIX PROGRAM(Avon Books, 1992), and questions regarding its accuracy, authenticity, etc. PHOENIX dust jacket blurb called it 'A shattering true account of the CIA's bloodiest reign of terror....', which comes as no surprise given author's intent to create a sensationalistic tome. Valentine relied heavily on accounts from four 'former SEALs', Elton Mazione, John Laboon, Eddie Swetz, and Kenneth Van Lesser. All reportedly participated in 'Phoenix' operations. Well, sometimes things aren't as they appear to be. The Military Personnel Records Center has no record of Manzione, while the other three are US Navy vets, though none were SEALs, none served in Việt Nam. Van Lesser didn't enlist until 1977. Member FRANK BROWN noted these and other glaring discrepancies in a review for the Foreign Intelligence Literary Scene, concluding that 'PHOENIX only proves that 'a penny, held close enough to the eye, can blot out the entire universe.'. Happens all the time.

In another instance, several Counterparts/THDNA members were contacted by an author who was ghost-writing the war chronicles of a 'Green Beret' who appeared to have 'done it all', to include several weeks as a POW in

a remote VC camp. Author in question sought a constructive review and invited suggestions. Three of your fellow members touched base, discussed reviewed portions, and smelled a rat, and politely suggested the author check into matters a bit more closely. He did, and... 'I was quite disappointed to find out that the greater portion of statements given to me by Sgt. 'X' have proven to be fabrications of a delusional mind. His service MOS in fact, was a supply clerk in Việt Nam. The disappointing thing is that I have been unable to legitimately accomplish my goal of promoting Việt Nam Veterans issues. I feel I have mocked them with the story I began to write, and in my ignorance was influenced by the 'hero' before me. Thank you for your time and expertise in reviewing my manuscript.' Perhaps this will keep some rot off highschool library shelves, and tales of collecting ears to verify body counts and every other media cliché. Finally, one member has been invited not to renew his membership for having embellished his bona fides. Oddly enough credentials were valid without creative amplification of same. Invitation was accepted. First time we've had to do this.

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SUNGEI BESI REFUGEE CAMP Still no luck in penetrating diplomatic and political fog. Call placed to US delegate to UN produced no results beyond referral to State Dept., which in turn generated referral to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Oddly enough, US UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright is the daughter of a Czech political refugee. This looks like a situation demanding mosquito fog of letters/calls etc. Write your elected leaders. Member Tom Harvey, previously referred to as 'Member X' (prior SITREP) visited Sungei Besi in early May and found Sungei Besi is run much like a prison. Visits are limited to one hour, in an office outside the camp itself. Visitors may not visit the camp itself or meet with anyone except identified friends. Approximately 9,000 people are in Sungei Besi, and those denied refugee status are kept separate from those passing interviews. Tom had just come from VN and feels refugees would be better back home than in Sungei Besi, where many have been in limbo for four years. He added 'The staff I saw seemed cruel and heartless, treating the refugees like dirt. I was more than a little shocked, greatly saddened.' Elsewhere, the 'Việt Nam Journal' (3 issues/year, \$6.00, from: Viet Nam Human Rights Group; P.O. Box 1163; Burlingame, California; 94011-1163), reports fate of 'Nguyễn T. P.', former interpreter for Australian and US units. Accused of 'working for the CIA', Nguyễn T.P. was subjected to torture, imprisonment, solitary confinement, etc. Upon release, 'T.P.' foraged and scrounged out a living (the family farm having been confiscated) until 1990 when he was tipped off that the authorities wanted him again. He fled to Thailand, where his appeal for political refugee status has been denied. The Journal also reports of United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) complicity in all this, as manifested by UNHCR senior official Christine Mougne's memo advocating cutback in medical services, visitation, education, etc., as a means to raise misery index in camps, thereby encouraging acceptance of forced repatriation. Situation already volatile, with hunger strikes and periodic suicides. 80,000 VN refugees in Thai, Hong Kong, Malaysian, Philippine camps, a good number of whom have credentials similar to 'Nguyễn T.P.'. They were, and are, our Counterparts. Write letters, do something. Situation is not good, not getting better.

'Too often when men stumble over the truth, they tend to pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.'

-Winston Churchill

And, just to prove we're not making this stuff up.....

Indochina Chronology

Names in the News

Nguyễn Quý An. A South Vietnam war hero caught in a Catch 22 situation of almost unbelievable stupidity on the part of the U.S. Government. An received the USAF Distinguished Flying Cross in 1969 for his daring rescue of four American downed airmen. Later, in battle, he lost both arms. The victorious communists deemed him "unqualified" for re-education camp (because he could not take care of himself). Had he gone to a camp he would have

been eligible to come to the U.S. under the Orderly Departure Program. An did serve 17 months in jail for trying to flee Vietnam but that does not qualify him. Vietnam agrees to release him. Meanwhile he ekes out a living as a gardener and English language teacher. Says U.S. Col. Robert Morrison (Ret.) (whose men An saved): "It is difficult to see our country treating someone like this whom we have decorated for valor." The understatement of the year. ("U.S. Decision Traps Vietnam War Hero: Vietnamese Copter Pilot Who Saved U.S. Lives is Trapped in Homeland," by Ken McLaughlin in *San Jose Mercury News*, March 21).

Contact established w/Ken McLaughlin who has promised follow up information. Article as printed in Indochina Chronology.

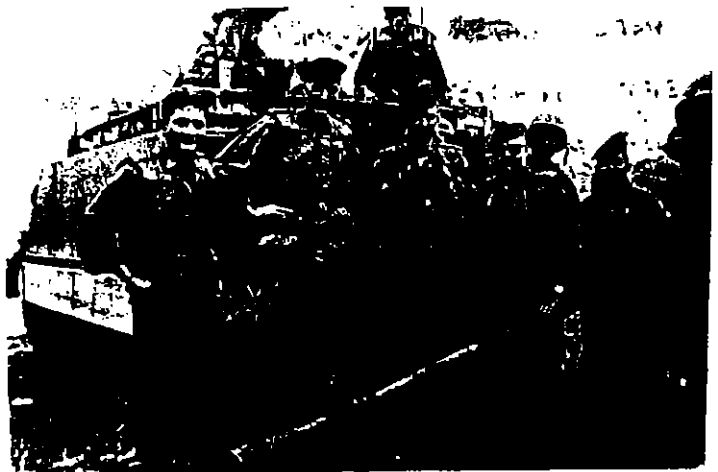
Contact also established with VN Political Detainees Mutual Association, via inquiry as to any political detainees who may have had US Counterparts. This group sent a 7 Feb 93 letter to US Pres. and Congress, requesting consideration be given to 508 former political prisoners now denied refugee status. Response unk. at this time.

Suffice it to say an entire SITREP could be dedicated to detailed documentation on this subject. When will the war be over? Situation demands pressure on elected officials.

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Left to Right: Nguyễn Ly Hữu, CO, 3/4 Cav.; MG Lam, 2nd Div CG; Sgt. Song; MEMBER Ben Myers, at awards ceremony following opn outside Quảng Ngãi City, Feb 67



Left to right: Thiếu Tá Cửa; Maj. Francis, MEMBER Ben Myers, Capt. Tucker and others, posing w/captured Chicom 75 mm RR. Not visible here is .50 Cal hole in RR muzzle.

Both photos from Ben's files. All members encouraged to send in copies (any good photographer can shoot off a photo) to avoid loss in the mail. Thx to Ben for time/effort in sending these in.

LOCATOR/HISTORIAN J.C. continues hard at work. No 'finds' this go-around, which does not signal any decline in the monumental mailing and search effort. Concurrently, J.C. has compiled, through official records and other sources, a list of approximately 3,500 US who served as Cõ Vãns in SE Asia, adding approx. 500 names since the last reunion. Thx also to Associate Member Glenn Helm who forwarded a historical compilation of all MACV advisory teams to J.C. Incoming search requests:

Pham Long	looking for	Capt. Schwab, Mr. Cann, both served in Chương Thiện
Hoàng Trần	" "	Ken Ferguson, Maj., SF, 1966, Biên Hòa.

Please check your local phone books and do not hesitate to make a call if one of these names appears. Forward all info to J.C. Fischer; 100 Red Oak Circle; Temple, Texas; 76502. Our Locator efforts have been greatly assisted by Ben Myers, as well as word of mouth inquiries generated by the very existence of this association. Members Kok Ksor and Roy Russell have both found former counterparts, with whom contact had been lost for over 20 years. Ben, via the all-seeing eye of the Prodigy computer bulletin board, made contact with Hoang Le, of Foster City, California, who will help out in finding former RVNAF/QLVNCH personnel.

If this Assn. does nothing else, it has reunited many people who would otherwise never have seen each other again, ever. This is no small accomplishment, and makes all the work worthwhile.

Hats off and Hoan Hô to Ben, J.C., and all others who have helped in the Locator effort.

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'Why is it that people spend money for toilets, sewers, garbage disposals and such, to remove sewage and garbage from their households, and then spend more money on TV and cable to bring it back in?'

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An cơm trưa..chow
time for members of
TD 37, BÐQ/37th Rgr.
Bn, QLVNCH

Courtesy of Member
Bobby Jackson



Your Association does the right things.....

Commendation
to Trần Văn Ca
and VNAH.

Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped

P.O. Box 6554 • McLean, VA 22106 • Telephone (703) 847-9582 • Fax (703) 448-8207

While no distinction is made between either side an amputee may have served with, VNAH makes a supreme effort to help former QLVNCH personnel who have heretofore been denied help available to disabled veterans.

This is a worthy project and deserves continued support.

Members are encouraged to send individual contributions to address above.

We hope to develop an 'in-country' locator eventually, and this may be as good an avenue as any.

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April 7, 1993

Mr. Steve Herberth
Adjutant
Counterparts
P. O. Box 22791
Louisville, KY 40252

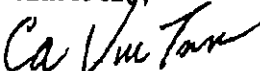
Dear Mr. Herberth:

I would like to thank Counterparts for your recent contribution of \$100.00 to Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped. Please excuse the long delay in acknowledging your contribution but I have only recently returned from Viet-Nam and am now catching up on long delayed correspondence.

Since our founding, VNAH has provided over 1700 artificial limbs and 135 wheel-chairs to our former veteran amputees and others who are still suffering the wounds of war. Our next mission to Viet-Nam is scheduled for the latter part of this month and at that time we plan to deliver an additional 50 wheel-chairs and 100 artificial limbs to amputees at the Can Tho Clinic.

Again, thank you and your fine organization Counterparts for your compassion and generous financial support.

Sincerely,


Ca Van Tran
President

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NEW MEMBERS Please welcome aboard:

Preston L. Funkhouser
Dist. Intel and Prov. Phoenix **Cố Vấn**

James W. Bramlett
3/33/21 SĐ 21(21st Div.)

Craig A. Mitchell
Radio Research, SĐ 5

Steven D. Orr
USAID, II Corps

Gail Goodloe Jr.
Tm 162(Airborne)

Bill Tusin Jr.
Tm 21

James S. O'Neal
DSA, Armor(Thiết Giáp)

Maureen J. Orr
Nha Trang Hosp., Nurse
Advisor

(You read it right. We have our first husband and wife full members.)

Kenneth R. Maynard Jr.
268 ABN Pathfinder Det.

John Murray
Tms 33 & 2

William R. Coviello
Tm 20, Sr. Dist. Advisor

William V. Loder
Tm 27

Jerry E. Jensen (Assoc.)
615 MP Co.

Robert A. Atkins Sr.
Sr. Engr., Tm 21

Brian Zawacki (Assoc.)
3rd USMC Div.

Thomas E. Olby (Assoc.)
USN Seawolf, IV Corps

Dr. Phan Quang Dan
Dep. Prime Minister, Refugee Relief and Resettlement, Rural
Development. (See previous SITREP for review of Ray Fontaines's
book on Dr. Dan)

New members need not be bashful and wait to see how things are.
You're amongst friends who appreciate your membership and welcome
all thoughts, suggestions, comments, etc. Help COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA
live up to all our expectations, and thanks for signing on.

Cám ơn van bội.





No phone #s/addresses w/new member listing this edition. Updated
roster coming out soon with all data.

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COUNTERPARTS SUMMER PICNIC 25 Jul 93 at Bob Cunningham's farm, just
outside of Pratts, Virginia (approx 90 mi. SE Washington, D.C.).
Attendees enjoyed this summer event last year; anyone in driving
distance or in general area are welcome. Map provided in last
issue. If not received or misplaced Call Bob at 703 948-6542. Good
opportunity to meet members who heretofore have only been names on
a roster. Excellent chance to trade old war stories and memories.
Please RSVP, and be sure to thank Bob and Rita for their hospitality.

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COUNTERPARTS LIT, In Print...

SPECIAL FORCES BOOKS		
	THE GREEN BERET (1966-1970)	
	All Five Volumes (w/display box) \$125.00	
	Year Sets ('66,'67,'68,'69,'70) each \$29.95	
	Special Hardbound, Num- bered Collector's Edition (2 parts) \$300.00	
	Special Forces of the U.S. Army (1952-1982) by Ian Sutherland \$47.50	
	Official Lite History [and Cookbook] of the Vietnam War \$7.50	
	Official Lite History [and Cookbook] of the Gulf War \$7.50	
		Prices include postage. For Visa/Master Card Orders, call (713) 683-9076 or send check/money order to: RADIX 2314 Cheshire Houston, TX 77018

Previous mention made of bound editions of GREEN BERET, the in-country
SF publication; quality of same warrants repeat mention for new
members. Worthy and noble effort by former SF Steve Sherman, preserving
history which might otherwise be lost. Expensive? Yes. Worth it? Yes.

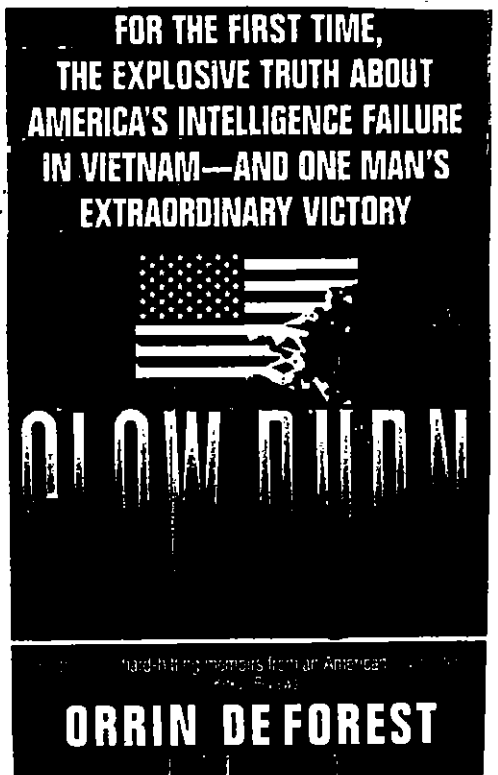
THE BLACK TIGERS

The factual accounts of the elite Vietnamese Ranger units and their American Advisors



THE BLACK TIGERS, by Mike Martin (CSM, Ret) and McDonald Valentine (LTC, Ret), and other contributors, all of whom were Cõ Vãns to QLVNCH Rangers. A compilation of Cõ Vãn experiences, this work sets out to 'tell the true story of the VN Rangers' and let the world know of their US Cõ Vãns. As co-editor Martin puts it: 'This is a straightforward book that recounts the heroic saga of the VN Rangers and the US Advisors. You are shown at close quarters the action, heartbreak and humor, violence and terror.... It has captured the image of the VN Ranger that was seldom reported—as fierce and deadly as any 'military elite' to have graced the battlefields of Indochina. I'm proud to have been a part of it.'. Order from: Harmony House Publishers; P.O. Box 90; Prospect, Kentucky; 40059-9979. 9" x 11.5" hardbound, 136 pp., 158 b/w photos, 8 pp. color photos. \$24.95 plus \$3.50 p/h; Kentucky residents add \$1.50 sales tax. Phone orders for plastic \$: 502-228-4446. Sounds like a good one. Press run is limited so don't delay. Thx to authors/editors and Harmony House for their efforts.

SLOW BURN, by Orrin De Forest. Author, a skilled intel operative, arrived in VN in late 1968, finding inexcusably poor handling of POW data/interrogations, and resultant ignorance of VC structure, organizational dynamics. Like many, De Forrest extended, and extended, consumed by personal commitment to get things done, and done the way they should be. Working with an expanding and craftily assembled agent network, author began running things as they should have been run in 1961, often succeeding in spite of bozo policies/decisions obzing from US Embassy or CIA HQ. Excellent work, concluding with author's embittered departure from VN in 1975, his success and that of his VN Counterparts negated by clumsy execution of flawed policies and absence of a true strategy. SLOW BURN will cause heartburn, and is written w/deep personal conviction.



A DOVE IN VIETNAM

MIKE McGRADY

WINNER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARD FOR
BEST DAILY NEWSPAPER INTERPRETATION
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Out of Print....A DOVE IN VIET NAM, Mike McGrady, 1968. Author, a self-professed dove went to VN in 1967 to see for himself. Much of his book is what would be expected: an indictment, however civil and devoid of radical fulminations, of the war. Many of his complaints are valid and have been echoed by COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA members. Bias notwithstanding, McGrady speaks well of a US CỐ VẤN, dedicating one chapter appropriately titled 'Major Priddy's War'. Priddy, a DSA in Phụng Hiệp Dist., Phụng Định Prov., 'did not napalm the houses, burn the towns, shoot livestock or destroy rice crops.' (author's words). McGrady goes on to say 'It is not simple to fight Maj. Priddy's kind of war. It requires patience, skill, imagination and intelligence. It requires bravery of the highest order; it requires flexibility that too often seems lacking in the military mind. It requires-above all-an interest in the people of Việt Nam.....'. McGrady also notes efforts in building clinics, schools, and improving

sanitation, midwife training programs etc., and concludes that while VC presence is formidable in Phụng Hiệp, 'the VC are losing the battle'. Eyes thus opened, McGrady backs away from an 'immediate withdrawal' position, but insists we send more advisors who speak VN and will work with the people, as opposed to increments of conventional units, the presence of which-in his view-is overly costly, destructive and counterproductive: 'Major Priddy's victory represents a striking departure from this country's general policy of warfare in VN.' Indeed. Priddy sounds like a guy we should track down.

Periodicals Việt Nam magazine, Aug 93 edition has article 'Heroic Allies', by Harry F. Noyes III (USAF VN Vet), in which authors spares little praise for QLVNCH forces. Citing instances of bravery as well as weaknesses, Noyes makes a key point typically overlooked: QLVNCH experienced much the same growing pains as did the US Revolutionary forces in 1776, and throughout the War for Independence. He also notes that the war began seven years before US line units showed up, and continued five years after they left. Somebody was fighting, and that somebody was RVN forces, who sustained somewhere in the area of 225,000 combat fatalities (at this percentage of population, we would need about fifty 'Walls' to list US KIA). Noyes also takes a few appropriate swipes at news media, and lethal cutbacks in US aid at a time when NVA forces were better equipped than ever.

Members are encouraged to submit articles to VIỆT NAM. Request writer's guide from: Việt Nam; 602 S. King St., Suite 300; Leesburg, Virginia; 22075 (landline: 703 771-9400). We have many stories to tell, and they should be told.

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Counterparts Quotes: 'Our war was our battalion (SB 21/21st ARVN Div) spending days at a time in some far-flung area of the U-Minh or Năm Căn forests, hunting for reinforced VC regiments. (Our) recon platoon leader, a Sgt., had fought with the Việt Minh against the French. He came over to the government side and had been fighting the Communists ever since. This guy had been wounded fifteen or twenty times. He was absolutely marvelous. I couldn't have respected the man more.'

Ken Moorefield, former CỐ VẤN to 21st ARVN Div., as cited in Al Santoli's TO BEAR ANY BURDEN.

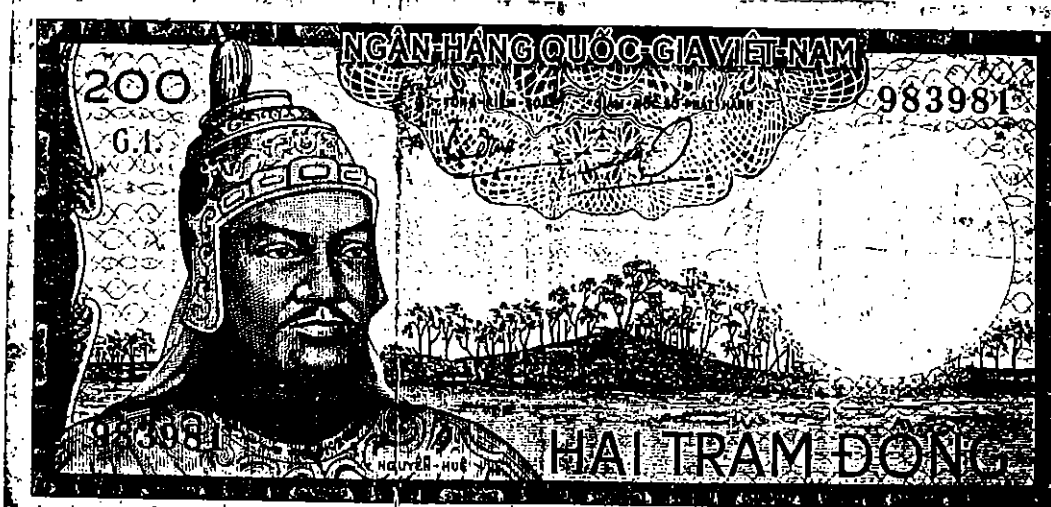
Quotes, cont.... 'Jerry was not only our advisor but our friend as well. He dedicated more than twenty years of his life to us and we grew to know him in name and in spirit. I guess we love Jerry so much because we always knew that he honestly cared for us.'

-Hmong General Vang Pao, at funeral services for Jerry 'Hog' Daniels, a US 'Sky' advisor and Raven pilot, 9 May 82, as cited in TRAGIC MOUNTAINS.

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For those who'd like to install some nostalgic landscape features: The 'Temperate Bamboo Quarterly' deals with intricacies of planting, maintaining and caring for bamboo, as well as related subjects of insects, nutrition, diseases, and craft use. \$24.00/year from: Temperate Bamboo Quarterly; 30 Myers Road; Summertown, Tennessee; 38483-9768.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE VIET NAM Inaugural reception for Eastern Regional Chapter held 27 June 93, in New York City. COUNTER-PARTS/THONA represented by Grant McClure, Roy Russell, Kok Ksor and John Del Vecchio. Additional invitees: Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt and Vang Pobzeb of Lao Human Rights Council. Gathering was unique and noteworthy insofar as it did not solely focus on Human Rights Violations in VN, committed against VN people, and instead took a wider perspective, addressing deplorable situations of the Dega and Hmong peoples, as direct result of Hà Nội policies. Prelim reports indicate all went well. The ICFVN is to be congratulated for inviting Kok Ksor to speak on behalf of the Dega, and Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt on behalf of the Hmong. Members should be advised that the ICFVN is truly an international organization, having members all over the world, with an impressive membership list of scholars, politicians, professionals of many stripes, and takes no position beyond advocating human, civil and economic individual rights in SE Asia. In related matters, our CO, Grant McClure will accompany Dr. Le Nghia to Việt Nam, and is in-country as you read this. Grant and Dr. Nghia will be meeting with pro-democracy leaders in Việt Nam to gain direct knowledge of present conditions and developments. Grant will no doubt be in contact with some former counterparts, and will try to meet with our sponsored VN orphan in Hà Nội. Detailed trip report will be presented to members.

HIGHLANDS ASSISTANCE PROJECT/DEGA Matters From H.A.P. Liason Officer Mike Little: Kay Reibold's March 93 visit to VN did not result in permission to enter the Highlands, though some progress made in other areas: Officials at Highlands University (Ban Mè Thuôt) accepted terms for English/computer program, and 50% admission rate for Dega students; Well construction begun, and vitamins/clothing provided for Roglai Leprosarium at Suoi Tien (visit denied in '92); materials for well construction provided to construct 3 wells for Leprosarium in Kontum; feasibility study for proposed silkworm project for Chru villagers in Lâm Đông (home of Han Cao Dung, Dega brought to US for back surgery; Dung can now walk without a cane); meetings with Dega families to discuss reunification with families and ODP matters; leprosy sandal program in Qui Nhon expanded; and contract signed with Sài Gòn construction firm to build leprosarium in Cheo Reo. Kay's next trip scheduled for November. Donations welcome and put to good use. Send to Mike for forwarding: Mike Little; 2919 Lake Colony Dr; Missouri City, Texas; 77459.

Members Kok Ksor and Roy Russell travel to Geneva to speak before UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19 Jul-30 Jul. As reported by Roy: 'With the Montagnard issue thrust in full world view by recent events COUNTERPARTS/THDNA members are working to gain UN recognition for the Dega as an Indigenous People, which would qualify them for various Human Rights protection efforts under UN auspices. Grant McClure, Mike Little and Roy Russell have teamed up and prepared a formal funding application to enable Kok to attend the Geneva Human Rights workshop. This application documents Dega history and qualifies Kok Ksor and the Montagnard Foundation to represent Montagnards still residing in SE Asia.'

Donations to help fund this trip, cost of which is entirely borne by attendees themselves, are welcome. Send to Mike (address above), w/ checks to: Montagnard Foundation. Ken Swain also going to Geneva.

Any success in this venture will open doors for other Human Rights inquiries in VN, Laos, Cambodia.

A worthy cause. Do what you can to help. Final note, member Nay Rong's son has still not been permitted to leave VN, having been bluntly told that his family is an 'enemy of the people' or some such thing. Extreme case of malignant sour grapes at work here.

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MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE Member Don Souder recalls... 'As team medic (Tm 98) in Biên Hòa, '68, I was on a MEDCAP outside of Dĩ An. One patient had a bad cough, and I gave him some small pills for the ailment. Priding myself on learning Việt Nameese, I gave him instructions to take one pill three times a day. He stared at the pill vial questioningly, and I asked him what was wrong. He paused, then asked how to cut the tiny 4 mg pill into three pieces. When I'd told him to take one pill, three times a day, that's exactly what he was going to do. Needless to say, I decided I had better learn a lot more about the language and the people.'

Don has another story for next edition, along w/mini bio of Don's VN tours. Thx for sharing this one Don, and providing yet another example of the difficulties in know^{ing} some of a language, while not being 100% fluent.

SCOTT C.S. STONE

MEMBER PROFILE: I came out of the Tennessee hills as a teenager and went to Korea, serving two tours. After that, I went back to the U.S. to finish college and ended up in Hawaii, where I work as a writer. Along the way I became an Army Reserve officer, resigning when I couldn't get into Special Forces because of a quota system. I accepted a Navy Reserve commission and this led to me being assigned to the Junk Force in Vietnam, going there first in 1964.

The first day in country was memorable: The Navy Captain I reported to gave me a direct order to shave my beard and I as directly refused; a few hours later I was drinking "33" on the beach at Vung Tau and thinking I'd gone to paradise instead of war; a few hours after that I found myself alongside COUNTERPARTS member Jim Vincent in the rain, darkness and mud of our compound, returning fire on Viet Cong who were doing their damndest to eradicate our base. When I finally closed my eyes that night I was wondering if my entire time in Vietnam would be as interesting. It was.

Prior to Vietnam I had spent considerable time in Asia, in a job that took me into most places between California and India. I loved Asia, and fell in love quickly with Vietnam. I suspected that I would learn more than I would teach, and this was the case. In subsequent assignments, mostly in the Delta, I became increasingly frustrated, angry and depressed at the U.S. government's policies. I knew that if they let the Captains run the war instead of the politicians, we could win it. In civilian status between my assignments in Vietnam, I wrote about the Hmongs and the Khmers and others. I'd been illegally in both Laos and Cambodia and gotten good looks at some of the situations that my COUNTERPARTS colleagues know better than I. In military status I kept going back to RVN. It was heartbreaking to see a nation of such fine people, by and large, drifting inexorably toward chaos. I think we all saw it coming, but the U.S. government seemed paralyzed.

I was in Hawaii when the end came. I remember telling somebody that the Communists would screw up the country for the next 30 years, and I haven't changed my mind...unless, of course, the U.S. conveniently forgets the war and the MIAs and POWs and the atrocities and broken promises and the illogic of an unworkable economic and political system...unless the U.S. forgets all that and rushes into a too-soon recognition of and aid to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. In which case, we will truly have lost.

I'm not a joiner, but I treasure my membership in COUNTERPARTS/THDNA because I feel I am among kindred spirits, and especially among people who know much of the nitty-gritty of IndoChina, and people who respect the fine qualities of the Asian people. After I came out of Vietnam for the last time I refused to talk about the country or the war with anyone who hadn't been there. This has evolved into my refusal to talk about it with anyone who hadn't been in combat while there. I still think this is a good policy. But I am pleased to be among people in COUNTERPARTS who know what they're talking about. I'm proud to hold Life Membership card #001.

--We're glad you're on board Scott, and were instrumental in getting this group off the ground. Scott is author of THE COASTS OF WAR(1966), novel of junk fleet C8 Vans in the Delta, SONG OF THE WOLF, and co-authored WRAPPED IN THE WIND'S SHAWL, one of the first books describing fate and conditions of the 'Boat People'.

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Capt. William 'Ike' Eisenbrann(SF)
 S/Sgt. William Brown(SF)*
 S/Sgt. Robert Owen(SF)*

Sgt. Russell P. Bott(SF)*
 Sgt. Gerald Biber(SF)*
 Sgt. Glen O. Lane(SF)*

*MIA

Col. Marcus W. Hansen, Tm 162(Died 12/91, natural causes)

Following individuals died in reeducation camps(sic), taken from a list provided by Member Bui Quang Lam. It is presumed that anyone with rank of Thiếu Tá/Major, or above, served with a counterpart. Names from this roster will be carried over into future issues.

Th/tá Bùi Văn Ba Dist. Chief, Vũng Liêm(Vĩnh Long)	Tr/tá Lý Thành Ba SD 3/KQ(VNAF 3rd Div.)
Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Bình TĐ/54, SD 3(54th Regt., 3rd Div)	Đ/Tá Huỳnh Hữu Ban F5/BTTM(JGS, Civil Operatins)
Th/tá Trần Văn Bé P2/TK Mỹ Tho(Mỹ Tho S2)	Th/tá Trần Thế Any Đơn Vị 101, Tuyen Duc(Intel)
Tr/ta Trần Văn Bom BTTM, Ban hóa học(JGS Chem Corp)	Tr/tá Đoàn Văn Anh TMT/QK4(IV Corps, Prov Staff)
Th/tá Võ An Bình TK An Giang(An Giang Prov)	Đ/ta Chung Văn Bông BB, TT Mỹ Tho(Inf., Mỹ Tho Prov Ch.)
Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Bằng BB(Inf)	Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn An LLĐB(VN SF)
Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Bé ANQĐ, Mỹ Tho(MSS, Mỹ Tho)	Th/tá Vũ Xuân Chén CHT QV, Vĩnh Long(Vĩnh Long Staff)
Đ/ta Ngô Văn Chung SD 3, BB(3rd Div, Inf)	Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Châu F2, TQLC(Marine S2 staff)
Tr/tá Trương Cuội QT Hiếu Lễ(Hiếu Lễ Dist Chief)	Th/tá Hồ Bá Đông TP3, Phan Thiết(S3, Phan Thiết)
Đ/ta Hồ Đắc Cua SD 23, BB(23 Inf Div)	Đ/ta Nguyễn Khoa Dánh BTL/QK(Unspec. Corp HQ)
Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Chất Unspecified position	Th/tá Đậu Quang Dương TB, Mỹ Tho(Intel, Mỹ Tho)
Th/tá Nguyễn Văn Chiêu Không rõ đơn vị(unit unk.)	Th/tá Lê Danh Cháp F7/TTM(Sec. 7, Gen. Staff)
Đ/ta Nguyễn Cả Hội đàm Ba Lê(Paris Negotiator)	Th/tá Lo Ngan Dzũng Kỹ Thuật/BTTM(JGS Tech Staff)
Th/tá Dương ANQĐ(MSS)	Đ/ta Trần Hữu Dũng Đơn Vị không rõ(Unk unit)
Th/tá Lương Đình Chi ANQĐ(MSS)	Đ/ta Trần Văn Chử CSQG(National Police)

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM(cont.)

Tr/tá Lê Thành Đố
CHT, Quân Kyuyển(Scout Dog CO)

Th/tá Đoàn Thế Đôn

Th/tá Hồ Văn Đồi
BB(Inf)

Th/tá Trần Mạnh Đàm
Đơn vị 3, Quản trị(Unit 3, Admin)

Đ/tá Lê Ngọc Đầy
BB, TTHL Quang Trung
(Inf, Quang Trung Training Ctr.)

Th/tá Đức
Không rõ đơn vị(unk. unit)

Th/tá Đàng
Quân cụ(Ordnance)

Tr/tá Ngô Hùng
CTCT(Pol. War)

Tr/tá Trần Hàng
CSQG(National Police)

Tr/tá Hùng
Quân Cụ(Ordnance)

Tr/tá Mai Xuân Hậu
TT, Phú Yên(Phú Yên Prov. Chief)

Tr/tá Hoàng Xuân Hy
P5/BTMM(JGS, Civil Opns)

Đ/tá Nguyễn Xuân Học
ANQĐ(MSS)

Đ/tá Trần Vĩnh Đắc
CTCT/Political Warfare

Th/tá Lò Văn E

Tr/tá Đường
CSQG, Chương Thiện(Chuong Tien
National Police)

Đ/tá Tôn Thất Đình
Nha Động Viên(Mobilization)

Th/tá Dốt
DPQ, Sóc Trang(Soc Trang RF)

Tr/tá Nguyễn Văn Đồi
Quân Bưu(Military Postal Service)

Tr/tá Cao Tân Hạp
TT, Vĩnh Bình(Vinh Binh Prov. Chief)

Tr/tá Ngô Hoàng
QĐ 1(I Corps)

Đ/tá Phan Đăng Hân
Ph tá TT, Quảng Ngãi
(Quảng Ngãi Dep. Prov. Chief)

Tr/tá Hiến
Không rõ đơn vị(unk unit)

Th/tá Hợp
TD trưởng, TĐ2, TQLC
Bn CO, 2nd Marine Bn

Tr/tá Hồng
Đơn vị không rõ(unk unit)

Đ/tá Phan Như Hiến
CHT, TSQ(CO, Jr. Military Academy)

List will be continued next issue. Ed. note: Th/tá : Major; Tr/tá :
LTC; Đ/tá : Colonel. Our 'Moving Wall' still needs an appropriate
inscription. Members encouraged to submit respective choices.

Không Bao Giờ Quên Bạn Chiến Hữu
Remember Them

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'Don't wait for the Last Judgement. It takes place every day.'

-Camus

CUVA Our cousin group has its reunion, 8-12 Nov, '93 at Travelodge Hotel on the River, San Antonio, Texas. Reservations: 1 800-554-4678. Info: 512 226-2271, or contact Tom Harvey, CUVA L.O.: 703 939-4593/P.O. Box 128; Millboro, Virginia; 24460. Excerpted from 'CAP NEWS': Connie Menefee, Associate Member of both CUVA & COUNTERPARTS/THDNA, compiled following information: CAP units averaged 11 USMC and 24-27 PFs, operating in a village area of approx 4 square Km, w/3,500 villagers. In Jan 68, CAPs were less than 3% of US forces in I Corps, and accounted for 43% of small unit En KIAs. Less than 1.5% of USMC were in CAPs. Overall CAPs accounted for 7.6% of VC/NVA casualties, while sustaining 3.2% of USMC casualties. 1969 was peak year, w/114 platoons, made up of 1,710 USMC, 119 USN Corpsmen. 75% of patrols conducted at night. Estimated annual cost to run a CAP: \$172,000.00. If CAPs had been used in contested hamlets (base of 10,400, many of which were not in bona fide 'bad' areas), ten year cost of war would be \$18.0 billion, contrasted w/\$140.0 Bn actual at end '73. Of paramount importance, VN village people would have known US types on daily basis, rather than having been merely exposed to large unit sweeps and such. Thx to Connie for compiling this information.

And, had we had more CAP type units, more vets would feel like Richard Lust, whose letter in CAP News reads...' For years I've been telling people what kind of unit I was in and even many VN Vets look at me like I'm nuts. I hated being in a line company...when I let it be known that I would extend to get to a CAC unit everybody thought I was crazy. (After) raising holy hell...I was sent to a CAP near Chu Lai. .. I was with them for about 6 or 7 months. When I left Việt Nam I actually cried. I left some great people behind.'

Contrast that opinion with what US non-vets, and some vets, might infer from watching 'Platoon' and 'Apocalypse Now'.

CUVA will soon be handling orders for A PERSONAL WAR IN VIỆT NAM, by Robert Flynn, the true story of USMC-PF units in southern Quảng Nam Prov., near LZ Baldy. Check w/Tom Harvey for more info.

Final and happy note from CAP NEWS: CUVA member Dave Harrington located former CAP 2-3-5 Trung Si Tran Bui, who did 5 years in 'reeducation' camps; Dave also found two young men who were boys and 'little friends' to USMC CAPs, Dan and Mia. Dan is a farmer in VN; Mia lives in Canada. Remember, if you have any former PF, KCS counterparts still in I Corps, Tom may be able to help find them.

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Counterpart Quote: 'I liked Ta so much. He and Hien and Sgt. Trao and 'Porky' were loyal and courageous. We could always count on them. I'd rather have these guys backing me up than any squad of Marines I'd ever met.'

Former CAP Jack Estes in his book, A FIELD OF INNOCENCE

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POW/MIA matters... Controversy continues over Soviet document alleging more US POWs than Hà Nội admits to. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA has received copy, in both Russian and English, and it does state numbers reported. No hard confirmation or denial available, like much of information coming to surface. Things get bitter and lawsuits are in the air, with several POW/MIA activists being sued by those holding contrary opinions. Odds are good for continued acrimony and mutual accusations.

POW/MIA(cont.) US delegation meets w/Hà Nội officials to begin joint archival research effort, delving into Hà Nội documents and viewing film footage. Sen. John Kerry optimistic about ability to digest more info. Sen. John McCain blows fuse when Hà Nội spokesman speaks of 'humane treatment' of US POWs: 'Come on Mr. Dich, stop saying that. It is not true. I never got any magazines to read. We were not treated humanely. Let's get on to the next subject. This is not the truth.' Also in attendance: Sen.s John Glenn, and Reps. Pete Peterson(former POW), Lane Evans, Dana Rohrabacker, and leaders from other veterans groups. A month later, Sen. Bob Smith and Robert Garwood, the latter being either a former POW or a collaborator, return to VN in search of evidence supporting Garwood's assertion that he saw other POWs after 1973(Garwood returned to US in '79). Ho Xuan Dich, director of Hà Nội's POW office, stepped in again, suggesting Garwood was 'an officer in the Việt Nameese Army at the time'. Garwood erupted, shoving finger in Dich's face and saying 'You are my enemy. I'm not your friend. I was never your friend.' Mr. Dich will no doubt be scheduled for cultural sensitivity seminars in preparation for his future dealings with Americans.

Garwood/Smith mission returns with no concrete results, though Sen. Smith concluded US quite guilty of 'sloppy research' in compiling and acting upon POW/MIA reports. Later, Sen. Smith addressed annual meeting of National League of Families, stating that Hà Nội's position has hardened, and he had been told that US would get 'additional information when we(Hà Nội) are ready.', implying they'll be 'ready' when US embargo is lifted. Presidential adviser Samuel Berger also addressed the League, indicating Clinton will not lift embargo and/or open diplomatic relations until he is satisfied Hà Nội has done everything possible to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, Clinton lifted US opposition to Hà Nội access to World Bank development funds. League Ex. Director Ann Mills Griffiths not happy with that, viewing it as 'most disastrous decision in years', frittering away US bargaining position. Finally, US officials turn over part of 'huge collection' of captured NVA documents to assist Hà Nội researchers. We shall see.....

And,....Adm. James Stockdale, former POW is honorary chairman of the POW Memorial Museum, now under construction in Andersonville, Georgia(site of an infamous Confederate POW camp during Civil War, where 13,000 of 45,000 Union POWs died of malnutrition, starvation, disease). Museum is to preserve memory and history of all US POWs, from all wars. More info from: Anderson POW Museum; Andersonville National Historical Site; Andersonville, Georgia; 31711.

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Milestones of Democracy:

'The rate of pay for the offices referred to under Section 703 (a)(2)(B) of the Ethics Reform Act of 1989(5 U.S.C. 5318 note) shall be the rate of pay that would be payable for each such office if the provisions of Section 703(a)(2)(B) and 1101(a) (1)(A) of such act(5 U.S.C. 5318 note and 5305) had not been enacted.'

Above text enabled Senate to raise each member's salary by \$23,200.00/annum.

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'Freedom is not something you get as a present.'

-Ignazio Silone



itions in VN, some of which is plagiarized in the SITREP. If you know of anyone who might be eligible, please pass the word.

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CAMBODIAN UPDATE Note article at right. Thou shalt not flee to Cambodia attempting to dodge taxes. Expatriates must pay for senatorial salary ~~extert~~ ~~ien~~ hikes and Ag. Dept. Sweet Potato pricing guides just as the rest of us.....

Election results: Prince Ranariddh's party has 58 seats in provisional govt., Hun Sen's group has 51, Buddhist Liberal Party (Son Sann's group) has 10, and Moulinaka has 1. UN Mission leaves 25 Aug 93, after

which it's anyone's call. Post election sour grapes compelled one of Sihanouk's sons (w/Hun Sen) to threaten secession of eastern provinces, long the stomping grounds of Hà Nội faction of Khmer Rouge. Elections not without bloodshed. KRs fired on UN contingents. UN's 'Strategic Investigation Team' scours countryside to ID and deport ethnic VN; ID/screening criteria reportedly cursory and operating under expeditious guidelines.

Wings of the World Inc. (1200 William St.; P.O. Box 706; Buffalo, NY; 14240-0706) has travel packages to Cambodia, and publishes periodic 'Wings-O-Gram' describing same. 'Wings' requests used books to bring to Cambodia, which they tote along on their tours and distribute to Cambodians seeking to learn English, citing appreciation of cyclo driver who uses Hemingway novel as his self-instruction English text. Not a bad idea, so bundle up any old books you might otherwise give away. Mail to address above; postal book rate is fairly cheap.

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'If we listened to our intellect, we'd never have a love affair. We'd never have a friendship. We'd never go into business, because we'd be cynical. Well, that's nonsense. You've got to jump off cliffs all the time and build your wings on the way down.'

-Ray Bradbury

NOTICE

Notice from the
U.S. Mission

U.S. CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS:

Did you know that you are liable for Federal taxes on your worldwide income?

If your total income was over \$5,900 in 1992, you have until June 15 to get your return back to I.R.S. You may not have to pay any taxes, but you must file.

Tax forms are on display at the U.S. Mission's Consular Section (entrance on Street 228 between Streets 51 & 63), Monday through Friday, 8 - 12 a.m. and 1 - 5 p.m.

U.S. CITIZENS: ARE YOU REGISTERED?

If you are here as a private visitor, you are strongly urged to register. Even if you are already listed with the U.N. or your N.G.O., you are very welcome to complete our registration form, also available at the Consular Section.

From: Phnom Penh
Post, April 1993



LAOTIAN UPDATE Not much new, and nothing good. Forced repatriation continues apace. Thai govt. plans to close out all border refugee camps by 1994. Food supplies cut off to anyone refusing to register for repatriation. Martin Brennan, US Embassy, Bangkok official in charge of refugee matters, meets w/Hmong in US, stating US will help those who do not want to return to Laos, and who are not eligible to resettle US, return safely to Laos. No explanation as to how their rights would be protected. Members are reminded of House Bill H.R. 3552 and Senate Bill S.1970, both designed to expedite naturalization of Hmong who served, essentially in a joint US-Hmong command, in Special Guerrilla Units. SGUs were responsible for saving lives of US pilots shot down in hostile territory, succeeding on more than a few occasions. Press run of TRAGIC MOUNTAINS reportedly halted at 2,000 copies, reflecting less than intense US reading public interest in the subject, and corresponding preference for now familiar escapist literary swill and Donahue-Oprah 'exposes'. This book should be in every college and public library in this country. It isn't, and even if it were, few would read it. Had US or Royal Lao Govt.s implemented these forced relocation policies 25 years ago, a deluge of protest would have occurred. Makes you wonder.

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'If you think you're too small to be effective, you've never been in bed with a mosquito.'

-Anita Roddick

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Wondering some more..... In 1964, Thích Quang Duc immolated himself, protesting religious persecution; photos of his flaming body, in the sublime lotus position, were on front pages of newspapers worldwide.

In July, 1975, after the 'end of the war', Buddhist monks in Cần Thơ immolated themselves, protesting religious persecution. CBS was not there to film it; world response conspicuous in its absence.

In April, 1993, Buddhist elder Pham Gia Binh immolated himself, protesting religious persecution of Buddhists in VN; his Ellington, Connecticut associates were arrested.

In May, 1993, Buddhist monk Ho Quang Da, protesting religious persecution of Buddhists, immolated himself at Huế's historic Linh Mụ Pagoda. Photos of his flaming body did not appear on front pages of world papers.

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VN Econ/Travel/Etc. Israel and VN establish diplomatic relations,VN hosted a surfing tour, w/US kids showing VN kids intricacies of surfing; international surfing competition scheduled for 4-11 Oct., at China Beach; beach volleyball tournament scheduled for Aug at Sam Son, 105 Mi. S. of Hà Nội VN stock exchange planned to open by year's end. Hà Nội directs 10,000 state-controlled businesses to privatize.. rice exports up 30% over last year, while 4 million children are reported to suffer from malnutrition (can't have your export receipts and eat 'em too), Hà Nội MBA students play 'Monopoly' to learn about free markets... S. Korea firm and VN agency plan fibre optics joint venture ...Bank of America opens branch in Hà Nội..

MEMBERS SPEAK 'I oppose in strongest possible terms Counterparts decision to formally oppose normalization of relations w/Viet Nam. My conviction was solidified during a 1989 visit to VN to help build a medical clinic, when effects of US-orchestrated isolation was visible. Ordinary people suffer, especially-ironically enough-former QLVNCH allies left behind, and who are now the lowest of the low in terms of access to VN's scant social services, such as schools. Counterparts/THDNA has a very valid concern with VN's Human Rights record ...nevertheless I believe that improvement of those abuses would be effected through normalization, and resulting exposure that would entail. Counterparts has taken a stand which I know to be wrong precisely because I have seen ramifications of such a stance, first hand, in Việt Nam.' -Mike Peterson

Ed.-Mike is correct. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA, as an organization, is not to take a position on normalization or other political matters, human rights violations excepted. We are proscribed from this by our own by-laws as well as our now existing tax-exempt, non-profit status (profuse ~~tax~~ to Joe Cagney). While most members probably oppose normalization at this time, and have sincere reasons for their opinions, the fact remains that all members are free to make their own decision on this, whereas COUNTERPARTS/THDNA restricts itself to putting facts on the table. As long as we do this, and as long as we recognize the inherent logic and merits of conflicting opinions, we will do fine. Counterparts/THDNA will continue to advocate restoration of civil rights to former comrades still in-country, as well as an honest resolution of POW/MIA matters, irrespective of the normalization question. We are big people now, and need not squabble over conflicting, yet sincere, opinions. Thx to Mike for calling this out.

'I will feel happy and honored to join COUNTERPARTS/TƯỜNG HỮU ĐỒNG NAM Á. I was Deputy Prime Minister in charge of Social Welfare, Refugee Relief and Resettlement, Land Development and Hamlet Building. Ray Fontaine worked closely with me for almost 6 years, and we visited practically every district and village in the Mekong Delta, MR III, the coastal regions of Regions I and II, as well as the Highland forests. We were many times shot at by the Vietcongs, and had other accidents but, thanks to God, we always emerged unscathed. Ray came to know me and the VN people quite well, and I came to know the dedicated, brave and kind-hearted GIs whom I met in the provinces. When I visited the US during the war, I was shocked by the unfair way US soldiers were treated by the media and public opinion, and I took to their defense with vigor and consistency. I hope that our cooperation will grow in coming months and years. US VN War Veterans can help influence White House and Congress to adopt policies promoting freedom and democracy. This is the best way to pay tribute to US and VN and other allies who fought and died for freedom. With warmest regards and a hearty hello to all our friends in COUNTERPARTS/THDNA.'

-Dr. Phan Quang Dan

Ed.-Welcome on board Dr. Dan. We're honored to have a man of your experience and dedication, and long record of concern and work for the people of SE Asia. (Note: last SITREP had review of Ray Fontaine's book on his experiences working with Dr. Dan, who performed Herculean tasks of refugee resettlement during and after the 1972 Nguyen Hue Offensive.)

That's it for this issue. Enjoy the summer, keep those letters going out, and PLEASE keep Steve advised of address changes, while staying current with annual dues, minimizing already time-consuming admin burden.

Vạn sự như ý

BCH/THDNA

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

We lied. There's more, courtesy of Col. Noboru Masuoka (USAF, Ret.), who is leading effort to get Maj. Nguyen Quy An to US (see page 3, this SITREP). Dcoments provided indicate Maj. An flew SOG missions for 4½ years prior to being shot down and losing his arms.

Full documentation of Maj. An's DFC citation (downgraded from Silver Star recommendation), includes statement at right, w/similar statements from two other US on mission. Two, including Robt. Stratiff, have been located by Ben Myers and have connected w/ Col. Masuoka, who reports of their anger at An's fate, and obtus screening procedures of US refugee screeners.

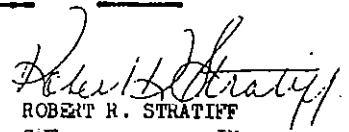
Letters to officials have produced zero results, and responses having patronizing text of mass mailing for vinyl siding.

By virtue of SOG service, Maj. An qualifies for COUNTERPARTS/THDNA membership. By virtue of his actions, he deserves far better treatment from US govt. Members are encouraged to write letters on Maj. An's behalf (Emigration case # IV467764) to elected officials and to Mr. David Pierce, Counselor of Embassy; Refugee and Migration Affairs; Embassy of the United States; Bangkok, Thailand; APO AP 96546. If possible, send copies to editor (1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201) for forwarding to Col. Masuoka, or send direct to: P.O. Box 174; Moffett Field; California; 94035. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA has notified Special Operations Association, Special Forces Association, VN Helicopter Pilot Association and 'Military' magazine.

In another Locator matter, a UN High Commissioner of Refugees representative had long been seeking anyone who could verify bona fides of Dang Tran Nghia, former interpreter for PRUs, and named three individuals (US type) with whom Mr. Nghia served. Ben Myers went to work, and found one, relaying info to UNHCR rep and presumably clearing the way for Nghia's emigration to US. Neither Nghia's service w/PRUs nor Maj. An's receipt of US award for valor enhances the social standing of either of the individuals in VN. We may have problems here and there, but we're still getting things done.

On 17 January 1969, I was flying as pilot on an unarmed helicopter of the 189th AHC. We were operating out of Dak To and working with the "King Bee" helicopters of VNAF. Late in the afternoon we were scrambled to insert a platoon into a classified area west of Dak To. CPT Nguyen Quy An was "King Bee Lead." He and his 2 helicopters were to insert the bulk of the platoon while CPT Liner and myself were to insert the remaining 6 men. CPT An and his crew, LT Vu Tung, pilot, and WO Nguyen Quang Hien, crewchief, lead the flight into the LZ. As they approached the lip of the bomb crater clearing they came under fire and notified the rest of the flight as to the direction of fire. We couldn't see the enemy fire but we were able to spot the positions by his crewchiefs return fire. After the "King Bees" made their departure we were on short final to the LZ. We made the insertion without incident and began to hover out. We were informed not to break over the dirt road adjacent to the LZ because of recent enemy vehicular traffic. As we broke left we were struck by what was later determined to be a 37mm round. It struck our fuel cell and we caught fire. It seemed like only a split-second later that I saw a "King Bee" helicopter off our right side. It was CPT An who had left his orbit high above and (as we later learned) spotting our burning "slick," had entered a high-speed dive to catch up with us. As we were frantically searching for a forced landing area CPT An radioed us that there was a clearing to our northwest and we should try to make it. Meanwhile he was vectoring the gunships toward us. As we approached the proposed LZ CPT An was right next to us. He saw (as did we) that the stumps and trees would not permit even a reasonably safe landing. He then maneuvered his ship so as to prevent our landing and at the same time told us that there might be a better area over the ridgeline in the valley. We were getting very low on fuel and the hydraulic lines had burst. As CPT An said, we did find a better LZ in the valley. As we were breaking left to land he was breaking right and shooting a parallel approach. It was great seeing him there, as we were now so low on fuel (200 lbs) that another abort was impossible. We landed and left our burning aircraft, taking the radios and crew served weapons with us. As we thrashed our way through the 15 foot tall elephant grass, CPT An's crewchief, WO Hien was making his way toward us. He helped us all aboard and only after we were all safe did CPT An and LT Tung take off. These gallant men saved our lives. If it were not for their prompt and heroic actions I feel sure that we could not have made it.

I highly recommend CPT An, LT Tung and WO Hien for American Valor awards.


ROBERT R. STRATIFF
CPT, IN
Executive Officer
189th AHC

MACV WINDOW STICKERS were subject of prior inquiry from Curt Rich. A source has been found: D & G Enterprises; 180 Lee RD 935; P.O. Box 180; Salem, Alabama; 38674-0180. Phone orders: 205 749-9222. D&G run by Dave Grieger, VN Vet, and offers abundance of decals, pins, bumper stickers, t-shirts, videos, etc., w/many unit insignias. Full color brochure: \$2.00. MACV window stickers are \$1.50; bumper stickers are \$2.50; postage/handling per order: \$3.65. \$25.00 minimum charge card order. Dave also has very nice 'Việt Nam Veteran' license plate frames. Best thing to do is order brochure first, then pick from items available. Some members have already ordered, received goodies promptly, have no complaints.

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Other Vet groups: U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association seeking eligible members, open to all ship's company including Marine and aviation detachments: U.S.N.C.S.A; c/o Ronald J. Maciejowski; 55 Donna Terrace; Taunton, Massachusetts; 02780.

Gamewardens of Việt Nam (Brown Water Navy, VN) has reunion scheduled 5-8 August, Norfolk, Virginia. Contact John Williams; P.O. Box 5523; Virginia Beach, Virginia; 23455-0523. Landline: 804 489-1076 (0900-1100 hours, Virginia time). Gamewardens also requesting input for a 'Gamewardens of VN History Book', scheduled for publication in Spring, '94. Very short fuse on this, w/input to be in 15 Aug 93 (info just received by COUNTERPARTS/THDNA). Brownwater Navy Vets can write Turner Publishing/Gamewardens of Viet Nam; P.O. Box 3101; Paducah, Kentucky; 42002-3101; or call 502 443-0121 to request more info.

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Original COUNTERPARTS/THDNA patches, on black shield w/dragon logo to be available in response to member request. Check w/Adj. Steve for details.

Jack De Boer's phone # not in last roster. Per Jack's request, here it is: 616 455-0802.

Bears repeating: Please advise Adj. Steve of any address changes, and avoid waiting for third reminder on annual dues. Time spent on repetitive admin matters detracts from time spent in more productive areas. Help Steve out on this.

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In the letterbox: 'Hi Ben(Myers), I had no idea that there was an organization for Việt Nam Advisors/Counterparts. I was Sector(Province) advisor in Định Tường Prov., Oct 63 to Oct 64. I agree that former advisors cannot be considered your typical VN Vet. Please send me any information on the group.' -Kenneth F. McFall, Col. AUS(ret).

Above letter representative of other inquiries coming in. Ben has offered to locate lost friends for COUNTERPARTS/THDNA members, whether from VN service or not. Send name, middle initial, last name, and last know home of record to Ben Myers; 6105 Rainbow Circle; Lake Worth, Florida; 33463-3606.

Hết rồi!! All for now. Keep cards and letters coming in, let us know what's going on in your respective AOs. Still in market for good Public Information Officer, Humanitarian Projects Officer. Think about it.

"I don't smoke, drink, gamble, chew or run around. You wouldn't think that I've had much fun. (Pause) And I sure haven't."

— Notre Dame's oldest living alumnus, Ed Story, 100

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