

#27A  
Mùa Hè  
Summer  
1996

#27A

Reunion  
Special  
Edition



វង្សានុវង្ស      XOV XWM TSHAM      SITREP  
BÁC CÁO TÌNH HÌNH      ឧបត្ថម្ភការងារ      KLEI MRĂW MRANG

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The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TRƯỜNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á, an association of those serving in any counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975, or beyond. 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 in SE Asia. Associate memberships also available. Membership inquiries and correspondence: Ben Myers; P.O. Box 6019; Lake Worth, Florida; 33466-6019.

This issue is a special edition containing all reunion info, raffle tickets, list of raffle items, a reunion survey form to determine preferred time/location for 1997 reunion, as well as nomination form for the XO position, the only slot opening and to be voted on for this year.

Before getting into details, many thanks going out to those who paid their dues, and additional thanks going to those sending in donations. Anyone not paying dues is encouraged to do so ASAP. Newsletter printing/ mailing costs are a hefty chunk of our budget, and we regrettably cannot continue to mail SITREPs to anyone not current. It is not fair to dues paying members. So, please stay current, and please keep Ben (address above) alert to address and/or area code changes, which greatly helps minimize paperwork. Your help in these matters is appreciated, and helpful to the Association.

REUNION      REUNION      REUNION      REUNION      REUNION      REUNION

Date: 2-5 July, 1996.

Place: Orange County Airport  
Hilton (directly across  
street from John Wayne  
Airport, Irvine, Calif.)

Room rates: \$59.00/night (double beds)

Reservations: Ask for Marsha, Counterparts Reunion  
Coordinator, at 1-714-833-9999.

Note: Hilton has recently changed over from the Radisson franchise. Was Radisson, is now Hilton.

Joe West and Hugh Mulvaney have done an outstanding job of putting this one together. As mentioned earlier, our reunion

precedes the ARVN Armor Assn. reunion and dinner, and members are invited to attend banquet on 6 July, at their expense.

A number of events are planned. We'll have a video on the work of Viet Nam Assistance for the Handicapped, a group which provides prosthetic limbs for former RVNAF personnel. Mike Little will update us on the Highlands Assistance Project, and his recent trip to the Highlands.

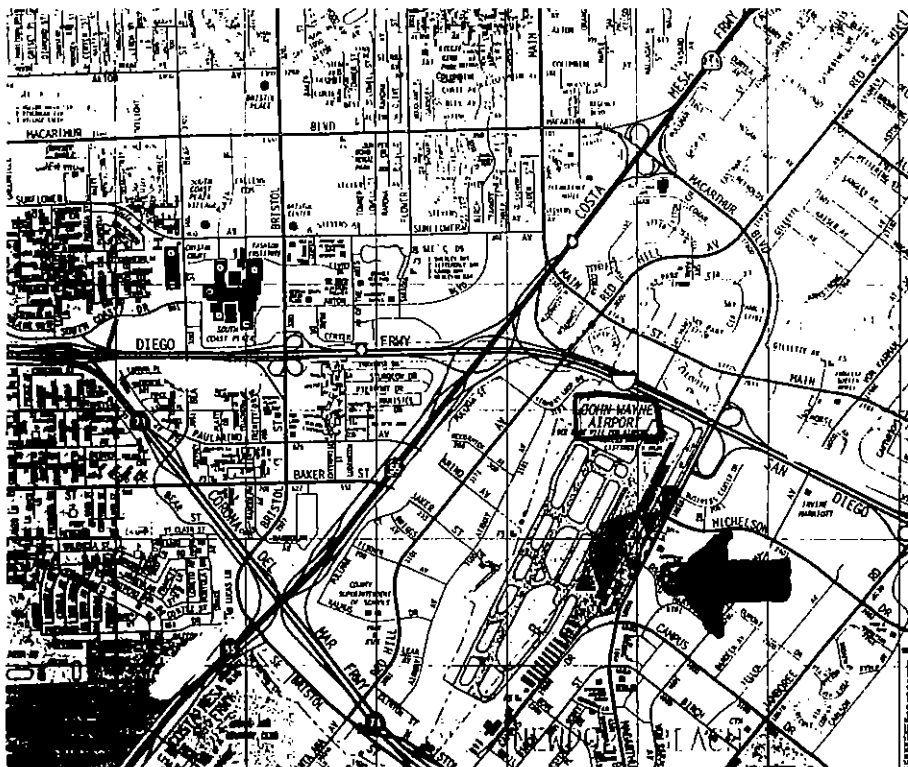
A Hmong cultural group will perform traditional dances and music. We plan to have an update on the 'Lost Commandos', as well

as the 'Boat People' situation, which is not going well at this moment. On-site Locator searches will be conducted by Ben Myers along with an individual from the VN community. In addition to these and other programs, there will be a museum display of NVA militaria, filling a conference room, which is also open to general public for \$3.00/ticket. COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐÔNG NAM Á members get in for \$2.00. Publicity coming from local VN language newspapers such as 'Người Việt', as well as LA Times, with reporter Gil Reza having been a *Cố Vấn*. Coverage also expected from San Jose Mercury News, with distinct possibility of local TV coverage in LA area.

Early publicity in *Người Việt* has already generated significant response, and correspondence has been received from many seeking old friends, and planning to attend. Representatives of the RVN Navy, Marines and Rangers will be there. In the course of advance publicity, we've already signed on new members, and reunited a number of lost friends.

Hence, this has all the hallmarks of our best reunion ever. All are strongly encouraged to make every effort to attend. We'll also need volunteer help to man a few tables, pass out membership info, etc. We'll also have a retail sales booth, with books and some outstanding prints, one of which is an 11" x 14" color photo of the infantryman statue at the former VNCH National Military Cemetery (since plowed under by Hanoi ideologues).

Aside from hotel costs, there is a \$10.00 registration fee to help cover banquet room expenses, and a separate fee, no more than \$20.00, for the formal Friday Night banquet. Room sharing/ride sharing can be arranged through Nevin Williams, who has graciously offered to operate our 'telephone bulletin board'. Here's how it works: you call Nevin (916-966-2214/916-966-3846 FAX), on your nickel/piastre, and state you would like to share a room, and/or driving. He will check to see if others have expressed same wish, and advise you of their phone number/location. Rest is up to you.



Our better halves can attend jaunts to nearby Little Saigon, hosted by local wives familiar with the area.

So, it's an event not to be missed. Your attendance is eagerly requested. Though we do have a larger staff now, we still need help in some areas, and need your ideas, suggestions, comments to build this Association to everything it should be. Make a special effort to be there, and enjoy a gathering the likes of which you may not have seen for a long time, if ever. Our hats are off to Joe West and Hugh Mulvaney for making this all happen. They've both worked hard and diligently to assemble a reunion which will not soon be forgotten.

Schedule Outline: Tuesday and Wednesday(2 and 3 July): check in, museum tour, get acquainted ~~bullsh~~ ~~war-story~~ sessions. Counterparts Officers will meet in a planning session on the evening of 2 July.

Thursday, 4 July: Association business meeting, XO election, raffle drawing, presentations, etc. Formal banquet in evening, w/guest speaker.

Friday, 5 July: Hội Thiết Giáp/ARVN ARMOR check in, general get-together/informal gatherings.

Saturday, 6 July: ARVN Armor/Hội Thiết Giáp formal meeting, to include guest speakers from US and VN communities. 1830 hours: reunion banquet.

All in all, not an event to be passed up. We're expecting several hundred people, and more will drift in having heard or read of the event in local papers and TV. Call Marsha at the Orange County Hilton to make your reservations now: 1-714-833-9999. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Bring your best 'war stories'.

XO POSITION: Charles Thurmond's term as XO ends this year, and we need to elect a new one. Feel free to nominate yourself, or anyone else you know who is capable and willing. A proxy ballot will be in your next SITREP, for those who cannot attend.

LOCATOR POSITION Though not an elected slot, we need someone to direct all-important, and sometimes complex, Locator efforts. Laura Harris resigned, and Ben Myers, in addition to all else he is doing, has tried to do some of the work, but more manpower is needed. Anyone willing to volunteer is welcome to do so. We've already encountered a bulge in Locator requests arising from reunion publicity, and will no doubt see further increase during and after the reunion. Think about it. It is possible we'll need a team of two-three people to deal with Locator requests.

RAFFLE ITEMS Raffle tickets in this special edition, to be mailed in by those unable to attend. The following items are available, and tickets are \$1.00 unless otherwise noted:

#### BOOKS

LONG GRAY LINE. West Point Class of 1966.  
WAR IN CAMBODIA, 1970-1975.  
BOUNCING BACK. Ex-POWs come home.  
BEJES BASTARDS. Valor under fire.  
SHRAPNEL IN THE HEART. Remembrances from VN Memorial.  
VIET NAMESE TRADITION ON TRIAL, 1920-1945.  
ARMY AVIATION. Development of Army Aviation.

RAFFLE ITEMS(cont.):

BOOKS:

- IN THERE DEFENSE. VN authors defends US troops in VN.  
CHAINED EAGLE. Story of Everett Alvarez Jr., US POW.  
\*ONCE A WARRIOR KING. Factual account of US Advisor.  
\*DELTA ADVISOR. " " " " " "  
ARVN: A STOIC ARMY. VN author presents balanced view of RVN troops.  
LOSE IS ARE PIRATES. Analytical indictment of TV's VN portrayals.  
GREEN BERET MAGAZINE Vol. II, 1967 (\$2.00)  
GREEN BERET MAGAZINE Vol. III, 1968 (\$2.00)  
GREEN BERET MAGAZINE Vol. IV, 1969 (\$2.00)  
GREEN BERET MAGAZINE Vol. V, 1970. (\$2.00)

Note: these are bound reprints of SF in-country publication  
for years noted.

\*-Authors are members

OTHER:

Prints:

Patton's address to his troops, 31 May 1944.  
Pen/ink drawing by Mike Kelley.. Skull, viewed by 101st Airborne  
troop, 1970.

Etched Mirror Clock w/COUNTERPARTS/TƯỚNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á insignia,  
in color. Beautiful piece of work, 13" x 13". \$3.00

Etched mirror plaque w/SF flash and crest, in color, 13½" x 13½".  
No clock. Same good quality as above. Eye-catching wall-hanger.  
\$2.00.

KNIFE Custom made stainless steel knife, Fairborne Commando Dagger  
style, w/engraved blade, and micarta handle having RVN Service Ribbon  
colors, bronze pommel and handguard, in presentation box. Please  
note this knife has been commissioned by a member who chooses to remain  
anonymous, and who requests that raffle tickets be sold to members  
only. It is intended to be the first in a series of knives commissioned  
each year, each in a different style, expressly and solely for raffle  
at our reunions. Our sincere thanks to 'Member X'. Raffle ticket  
price: \$5.00.

Send raffle tickets, with checks payable to COUNTERPARTS, to Reunion  
Chairman Joe West; 637 Grambling Court; Merced, California; 95348.  
Better yet, come yourself and buy one at reunion.

Note: We will also have on-site sales of etched mirrored clocks,  
with MACV, POW, RVN RGR/Biệt Động Quân, and COUNTERPARTS/TƯỚNG HỮU ĐÔNG  
NAM Á designs, offered by consignment, and with portions of proceeds  
going to our treasury. These are \$48.00 with a clock, \$40.00 without.

All proceeds from raffles assist our Locator efforts, and Humanitarian  
projects. Your support accomplishes a lot, and is appreciated.

So, there's a summary of what can be expected at the reunion, which  
excludes mention of good times to be had chewing the fat, meeting  
some fine people, and having an altogether memorable experience.  
Make every effort to attend.

Other reunions: Don't forget SOCIETY OF VIET NAMESE AIRBORNE/Red Hats reunion, 18-20 July, Ft. Bragg. Info: Fred Brandler(615 645-3082) or Joel Anthony(910 425-7089).

And... Chicago Welcome Home plus Ten Reunion, commemorating the massive VN Vet gathering of 1986, hosting over 250,000 VN Vets. Events commence on 13 June at Daley Plaza, followed by next day Flag Day Ceremony, and a no-charge reception on 14 June at the Bismarck Hotel(171 W. Randolph). Members Brian Zawacki(312 239-9148) or Max Lund(312 646-2857) can provide more info. Registration for Friday, 14 June reception at Bismarck: send name, address, number of people and phone number to: Welcome Home Plus Ten Reunion; 901 W. Jackson Blvd. Suite 205; Chicago, Illinois; 60607. Donations welcome, at above address, payable to Vaughan Chapter, Welcome Home Parade Reunion.

And...U.S.S. Belle Grove LSD-2 Assn: July 96, Springfield-Branson, Missouri. POC. Member Del Catron; 14732 Van Buren St.; Midway City, California; 92655.

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Công văn đến/Letter Box...

Col. H. W. 'Bill' Lange writes: 'Please have any former RF/PF Cố Vấn or RF/PF themselves contact me. I'm working on a book and would like to hear of other RF/PF experiences other than my own. I'd like to hear from anyone who was, or who advised, RF/PF. Cảm ơn nhiều.'

Col. H. W. 'Bill' Lange, USA/Ret.; 9000 Belvoir Woods Parkway, #302; Ft. Belvoir, Virginia; 22060-2705.

-Ed note: Help Bill out in his research if you served w/RF-PF.

'In the last SITREP the question was asked whether any other Adv Tms had celebrity visits. In May of 1967, in Bình Đại Dist. of Kiên Hòa Prov a chopper set down and Henry Fonda stepped out. He sat down with our five man team, drinking a beer, and engaging in the usual smalltalk, asking where we were from, if we were married, etc. He posed for photos with all of us, and then went off to visit other districts. I've never heard or read of Henry Fonda's visits to Adv Tms or troops, but you certainly see a lot of coverage his daughter's trip to Hà Nội, and her posing on an NVA AA gun. Here's a copy of photo of Henry Fonda and me.'



-Anthony Orlando, Tm 33.

-Thx for letter and photo Tony. Other responses to be in upcoming SITREP, with another Col. Maggie story, and accounts of visits by Gypsy Rose Lee, Raymond Burr, and George C. Scott.

Công văn đến/Letter Box(cont.)...

Enjoyed the latest SITREP, and have used <sup>SOME</sup> of the material in a weekly column I write for the Westminster Herald, serving Little Saigon and nearby areas. I need some help. I want to locate a Lt. Peter Duc, Intel Officer for RVN Seals and PTF Boat operations out of SOG base in Đa Năng, from 1964-1968. Please put his name in the Locator file. I liked the story about the journalist-too true. Keep up the good work.'

-Del Catron, USN Ret.

-The search for Lt. Peter Duc is on Del. With luck, some of the many people coming to the reunion may know something. Keep up the good work in spreading the word. If you, and we, don't do it, Dan Rafter and Peter Jennings certainly won't. It's efforts like yours that overcome news media deficiencies. Keep at it.

Note: Del also sent in other Locator requests, which are being printed in SITREP in-progress, for RVN personnel seeking verification of service with US elements. Another thanks due here.

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Item: Jan-July 1995 attendance at DC Viet Nam Memorial was 740,000, 43% below Jan-July 1990.

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From the past...

## Sailors, Marines aid Vietnamese shipmates

Sailors and Marines in Vietnam are reversing the birthday procedure this year by giving instead of receiving. They have chosen the period encompassing the two sea services' anniversaries to raise funds to buy pajamas, sheets and pillows for patients in the Vietnamese Navy Hospital and the Vietnamese Marine Corps Hospital, both in the Saigon area.

Navy Day, the observance of the service's 197th anniversary, was held Oct. 13, and the Marine Corps birthday will be Nov. 10, also celebrating 197 years service.

Rear Admiral J.B. Wilson, Commander Naval Forces Vietnam and chief of the Naval Advisory Group, is heading the project.

"For those of us spending Navy Day and the Marine Corps Birthday in Vietnam in 1972," the admiral said, "there is little time to reflect on the significance of these days to our own Navy and Marine Corps. Our thoughts are necessarily devoted to the task at hand, and we share their nation's sorrow as we witness continuing casualties being suffered by the Vietnamese Navy and the Vietnamese Marine Corps

as a result of the brutal invasion from the North.

"We can all take pride in the brave action fought by our shipmates in the sister services of the Navy and Marine Corps of the Republic of Vietnam. Their wounded have a claim on our compassion, just as we have traditionally taken care of our own personnel."

During a recent visit to the hospitals, Wilson said he was impressed by the high caliber of their staffs and their dedication.

"Similar to our own traditions," the admiral continued, "our proud shipmates in Vietnam seek no char-

ity. The sea forces personnel have traditionally taken care of their own. Just as we share a common cause, let us share in the care of our wounded Vietnamese shipmates as our way of observing Navy Day and the Marine Corps Birthday in 1972."

To kick off the fund drive for hospital supplies, the admiral made available \$250 from Operation Helping Hand and has assigned project officers at each Navy and Marine Corps activity in Vietnam. No specific quotas have been set for the campaign, which ends Nov. 22.



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Saigon, Vietnam

October 20, 1972

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XO NOMINATION We need an XO/Sĩ Quan phụ tá. Nominate yourself, or anyone you deem deserving and capable. New members need not be bashful. If you believe in this Assn. and its objectives seniority is immaterial. Đừng rút rệ, mắc cỡ, e lệ. Don't be shy. Send your nominations, post-haste to Bill Laurie; Editor; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Az 85201. Postcard will do, self-nomination statements desired. Proxy ballots in upcoming SITREP for those who cannot attend reunion. We've got a lot of neat things to do this coming year, and a new XO will get to share in some of the fun. So, call in reunion reservation, send in raffle tickets, and nominate someone/self, for XO. Do it today.

BTL/TƯỚNG HỮU ĐỒNG NAM Á

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

Fill in raffle tickets and mail to Joe West; 637 Grambling Ct.; Merced, California; 95348. Photocopies or legible hand-written facsimilies acceptable.

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Price \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Price \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Price \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

REUNION SURVEY Detach and mail to: J.C. Fischer, 100 Red Oak Circle; Temple, Texas; 76502-3503. Additional comments welcome. Use another sheet if necessary.

1. What is the best time of the year for you to attend a reunion?  
1st quarter \_\_\_\_\_ (Jan-March) 2nd quarter (April-June) \_\_\_\_\_  
3rd quarter \_\_\_\_\_ (July-Sept.) 4th quarter (Oct-Dec) \_\_\_\_\_  
Feel free to specify a single month.

2. Where would you like 1997 reunion to be held?

3. What distance is too far for convenient reunion attendance?

4. What is maximum mileage you would drive to attend reunion?

5. What type of speakers, programs or scheduled events would you like to have at a reunion? (Use separate sheet)

6. How important is airport proximity in your decision to attend a reunion? \_\_\_\_\_ Not important \_\_\_\_\_ Not important if less than \_\_\_\_\_ miles. \_\_\_\_\_ Very important.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU DONG NAM A  
c/o J.C. Fischer  
100 Red Oak Circle  
Temple, Texas  
76502-3503



Jack C DeBoer  
6865 Pine Bluff Court  
Wyoming, MI 49509-9716