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XOV XWM TSHAM SITREP BẢO CÁO TỈNH HÌNH

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Adjutant  
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XO  
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PIO  
-open-

The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/THONG HUU DONG NAM A, an association of those serving in any counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975, and 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.

Anyone know the man pictured above? He's Jim Collins, who was with JUSPAO HQ, Gò Công Prov., 1967-1968. Photo, from this time, shows Jim with the daughter of his Counterpart, Trương Văn Ngô. Ngô has been trying many years to find Jim Collins, who briefly returned to VN in April 1975, and is thought to have returned to the DC area. He was from Illinois, born 1942. Our Locators at work on this one, and any member help gratefully accepted. As for Ngô, he spent seven years in a communist prison, arriving in US in 1995.

More Locator requests, and finds, on following pages.

SITREP is late as Editor has been through enough chaos, family medical and otherwise, in last three months to supply Oprah w/three weeks of shows. This isn't a woe-is-me talk show however, and suffice it to say things should be on even keel.

Apologies extended to all, including Bob Gilbert and Mike George, who have been working diligently on the Reunion, and who have not had SITREP support. By now, all of you should have received Bob's mailer w/Reunion info. The word is out, even if the SITREP didn't deliver it. Once again, 'Member X' has commissioned a commemorative knife, this time with a Montagnard color pattern on the handle, w/logo engraved on blade, and a fabric lined, laquered case. Sincere and profuse thanks to 'Member X' for his dedication, imagination, and initiative. Raffle tickets at end of SITREP. Price: \$10.00. Because of tardy SITREP, a post-reunion drawing will be administered by our Logistics man, Jack De Boer, whose address is listed under our LOGISTICS section herein.

RAFFLE(cont.)... Please mail raffle tickets to Jack NLT 15 May, so he can conduct a 20 May drawing. Attendees at last year's reunion can attest to the fine quality of the first commemorative COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐONG NAM A knife.

LOGISTICS Jack handles all Village Market sales of COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐONG NAM A items. Existing selection of goods: Coffee cups, \$10.00 postpaid(PP.); Challenge Coins, \$10.00, pp.; Lapel pins, \$10.00, pp.; Insignia Patch, \$6.00, pp.; t-shirts, \$12.00 pp.; Baseball hats, \$12.00, pp.; and the etched mirror clocks, framed, with following insignia: RVN Ranger/QLVNCH BÐQ, and COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU ĐONG NAM A insignia. \$50.00 each. Also, etched mirrors w/no clocks, one each: MACV, and RVN Rangers; \$40.00 each. Clocks and mirrors are framed and, as 1996 reunion attendees can verify, are beautiful pieces of work.

Thanks to Jack for his diligent shopkeeping and logistical work.

We will have an updated list of new items in next SITREP.

And...Member Nevin Williams has MACV t-shirts for sale, w/ portion of proceeds going to our finance officer(\$41.00 to date-thx Nevin). Also, if the present tenant in the White House is not on your list of heroes, ask Nevin about his available bumper stickers, which express a, shall we say, distinct antipathy for said individual. T-shirt testimonial: MACV imprint on editor's t-shirt has not faded a bit after numerous washings. Good quality stuff. And... Member Paul Brubaker has an assortment of well-made patches, some replicas and some well-conceived SE-Asia 'theme' patches, along w/a new item: a 'Cố Vấn Mỹ' shoulder scroll, approx. 1 1/4" wide x 5" long. White letters contained in red border on a black patch. Anyone who was a Cố Vấn will spot it immediately. Your idiot-editor has misplaced Paul's price list, so write to Paul and check: Paul Brubaker; Box 30 Rt 28/5; Circleville, West Virginia; 26804.



T-Shirt: 100% cotton (pre-shrunk) white w/pocket by Hanes (Hanes Beefy T). Large & XL: regular price \$16. COUNTERPARTS member price \$14. XXL: add \$2 per shirt. CA: add tax. Shipping: \$4.95 1-3 shirts. \$1 for each additional shirt. For each shirt purchased, I will contribute \$1 to COUNTERPARTS.

NEVINCO

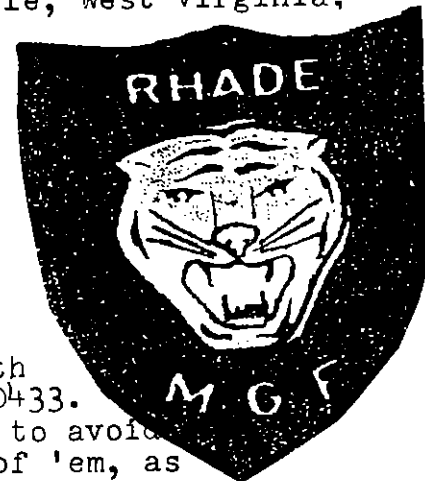
4678 Pedersen Way, Suite CP, Carmichael, CA 95608  
NEVINCO is owned and operated by Nevin Williams, COUNTERPARTS life member #19.

Same shirt available with US ARMY RETIRED logo. Same price as above. Specify ART-009.

JACK DE BOER  
6865 PINE BLUFF CT. SW  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN  
49509-9716

Found  
St!  
Scroll  
Patch  
's  
\$2.00,  
PP.

-0-



Left: Koho Mobile Guerrilla Force Patch. Right: Rhade Mobile Guerrilla Force.

Both as illustrated in Clem Kelly's Việt Nam Insignia Collector's Newsletter, a \$15.00/year bi-monthly well worth the price. Checks, made out to Clem(not VNIC): 501 W. 5th Avenue; Covington, Louisiana; 70433.

VNICN contains history, info on how to avoid fake patch scams, and there's a lot of 'em, as well as ads for reputable vendors and collectors. Thanks again to Clem for his permission to reproduce parts of his newsletter. He's good people.

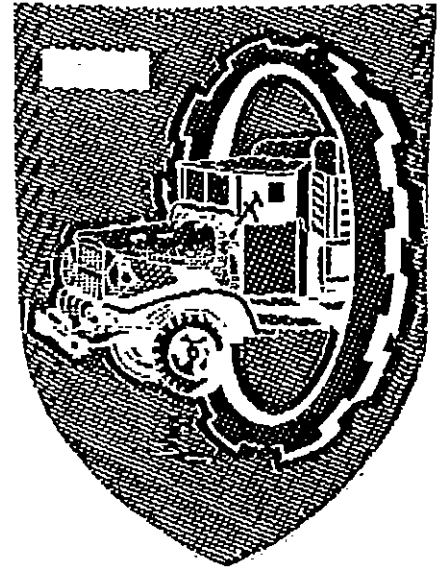
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'Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.'

-George Bernard Shaw



UNK insignia. Patch at left has dull yellow shield, green snake, red tongue and eyes. At right a black/white cog and truck on green shield w/white rectangle in corner. If you can ID, contact Clem Kelly at above address. A collector has suggested patch at right may be 1st Transportation Grp. Help if you can.



From left to right: Gen. Le Minh Đạo, Member Ed Metzner and his wife Alina, and Col. Vu Van Chinh; taken 14 Aug 96. Story follows:



'A great chain of events has resulted since I first joined COUNTERPARTS/TUÔNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á and found an old friend, Col. Lê Nguyen Binh, was already a member. I wrote Binh right away, and he called

me as soon as he received my letter, happy that we had found each other again, having served together at different times between 1964 and 1974. Col. Binh also informed me that another old friend, Col. Trần Văn Phúc, was also in the Seattle area. I called him immediately and had a very welcome phone reunion, despite hearing that Phúc had spent 12 years in a communist prison. The ball kept rolling. Phúc told me that yet another friend, Col. Huynh Văn Chinh was in the Atlanta area, and I subsequently called him too, and had a happy and uplifting talk. Chinh was also delighted to speak with my wife, Alina, to whom he introduced me back in '73. Binh, Phúc, Chinh and I have since exchanged many letters and family pictures, and plan to get together in person. Chinh also spent 12 years in prison.

It doesn't end here. Phúc also gave me a phone number where I could reach Le Van Hoi, who was visiting the US from Australia. Hoi came nearby to visit one of his sons, and we had a grand reunion in person. The final happy occasion came in the form of a phone call from another old Counterpart, Gen. Le Minh Đạo, with whom I served in Chường Thiện

ED METZNER(cont.)

in 1968. I had not seen him since 1974, though we had made contact after he arrived in the US following his 17 years in prison, in North Việt Nam. Đao said he would be visiting in Santa Ana, so my wife and I flew down to see him, for a wonderful and emotional three-day reunion. Đao had a surprise for me, bringing along Vu Văn Chuong, who had issued me my 'official' VN ID card back in '68 (note: a copy of Ed's 'official' national ID card was reproduced in a previous SITREP, with his name clearly spelled Nguyen Van Metzner). Chuong later served with Đao in the 18th Div. All are close and valued friends who have only grown closer through the years.

All had tried to locate me through the years, as I had them, but had had no luck and about given up hope. We're all happy and fortunate to have gotten together again.

We also met Đao and Chuong's children and grandchildren, all of whom addressed Alina and me as Aunt Alina and Uncle Ed, a very emotional honor to cap off the great fortune of valued friends again, after so many years of wondering, and hoping they were still alive.

-Ed Metzner

Sometimes we get lucky, and one of our members finds another, and things fall into place quickly. Thanks to Ed for sharing this story, and thanks to Lê Nguyen Binh for setting off a wonderful chain reaction of successful searches. We're all happy for all of you.

OTHER FINDS: We were able to find E. Scheinbaum, deputy PSA in Quang Nam under Warren Parker in 1965, for Gen. Vu Van Giai. The two served together in 1965.

And..with the able assistance of Member Mike Do and his Lửa Việt newspaper out of Austin, Bill Preston was able to find his Counterpart within a few hours of his home.

These successes inspire us to work all the more diligently on these incoming requests (and the existing backlog):

Jim Kidder                      looking for                      Nguyễn Xuân Quý

Jim and Quý flew together as FACs in 1966-1967 around Xuân Lộc and other areas of MR III. Quý was a Đà Lạt Military Academy graduate.

Jack Thomas                      looking for

All served w/Adv Tm 43, MAT 56, in Hậu Nghĩa, 1969-1970.

SFC Lloyd Jensen (Utah)  
SFC \_\_\_\_\_ Hendryx (Arkansas)  
SSG George Brevaldo  
Lt. David Ward (Arkansas?)  
Trung uy/1st Lt.  
Nguyễn Ngọc Hot  
Sgt. \_\_\_\_\_ Thanh

Col. Bui Duc Diêm              looking for

Col. Hutchins (Long Khánh, 1969, later Bình Dương, 1972).

Mr. Charles Whitehouse, Sr. Advisor, Pacification, MR III, 1969

Col. Williams, Sr. Advisor  
5th ARVN Div, Bình Long, 1972, later CoS, II Field Force, Long Binh, 1973.

Both Col. Hutchins and Col. Williams recommended Col. Diêm

LOCATOR/DIEM(cont.)

for Silver Stars.

And..

Lê Thị Thu Hà looking for

Her Father, a Sgt. 'Lee Bo'(as spelled), who served at Children's Hospital #18, at Đông Hà and later Ai Tu, Quảng Trị, 1971. Others at Hospital #18 who might know of

Sgt. Bo's location: Mr. Zezo, Head of Personnel; Mr. Reo, Operations Chief; Dr. Burke, and Dr. German, both of whom were hospital chiefs at one time.

Note: All names spelled above are verbatim as provided. This obviously includes some phonetic spellings which are not true/actual spelling. It's all we have. Anyone know anything/of anybody from Hospital #18 in this time period?

Also, from page one....

Trương Văn Ngộ looking for

James/Jim Collins, JUSPAO, Gò Công, '67-'68.

Joe West will be assuming some of the Locator function(which we still need to refine and organize better), while J.C. Fischer and Mike Do will work historical records and publicize through Lua Viet. Joe West has also gotten us some search requests printed in the major VN daily, 'Người Việt', in southern California. Locator requests also need to be forwarded to Editor for the SITREP, as is currently being done by all above. If you write any of these people w/a request, the info will be forwarded to all parties:

Joe West  
637 Grambling Ct.  
Merced, California 95348

J.C. Fischer  
100 Red Oak Circle  
Temple, Texas 76502

Mike Do  
11205 Bending Bough Trail  
Austin, Texas 78758

Bill Laurie/Editor  
1462 W. University  
Mesa, Arizona 85201  
602 962-4347.

And while Ben Myers is phasing more into Membership duties, he's still the recipient of Locator requests, which are forwarded on if not resolved by Ben on the spot. His address is on SITREP first page.

We're working to expand and improve Locator operations, with objective of increasing our welcome success rate to-date. Photos below accompany some current requests:

Left, Trung Uy/1st Lt Nguyễn Xuân Quý; right, Maj. Jim Kidder. Xuân Lộc, 1966.



LOCATOR PRINTS(cont.)



LEFT: SFC  
HENDRYX AND  
THANH



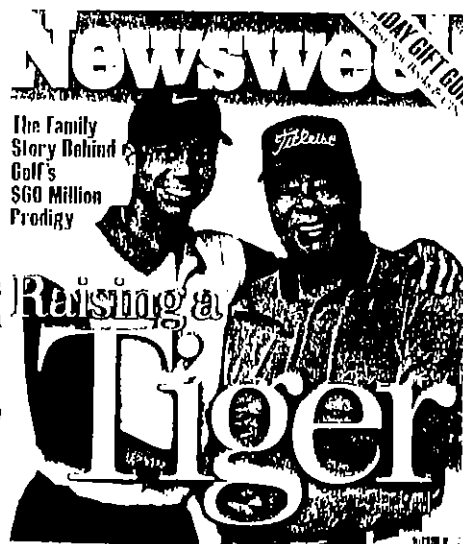
RIGHT:  
TRUNG UY  
NGUYEN NGOC HOT

Above prints from Jack Thomas, Adv Tm 43/MAT 56. More from Jack's album next issue.

UPDATE on unresolved Locator search: By now everyone's heard of Tiger Woods, the youngest man to ever win the Master's Tournament and one of the more deservedly renowned, and polite, athletes in the country. Why the name Tiger?

Tiger's Father, Col.(ret.) Earl Woods, served in Ninh Thuận Province in 1969-1970. His Counterpart was Nguyễn Phong, Dep. Prov. Chief, whom Earl nicknamed 'Tiger' as a reflection of Phong's dedication and courage. Earl Woods has long been searching for Nguyễn Phong, and when his son was born, in 1976, Col. Woods decided to give his son golf training in the years to come, and if he ever became famous, Nguyễn Phong might hear, associate his own nickname with the last name of his former Counterpart, and thereby reestablish contact. No luck yet, but still trying. Congratulations to young Tiger for his success,

congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Woods for raising such an admirable and dignified son, in this day/age of snot-athletes, and let's all hope Nguyen Phong can be found, as fitting conclusion to this story.



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BOAT PEOPLE The human tragedy was not prevented, and at this writing the refugee camps are being closed as forced repatriation is underway. This was a blatant and mutant melding of expediency, amorality, and political convenience, at the expense of common decency. The UN refugee screening program was irrefutably documented to be rife with corruption and incompetence, with legitimate candidates for political asylum being routinely 'screened out'. A dedicated letter



PRESIDENT CLINTON: PREVENT A HUMAN TRAGEDY!

BOAT PEOPLE(cont.)

writing campaign, led by Dr. Nguyen Van Thang and his noble staff at the Boat People Rescue Committee, was dismissed in smug, cavaliere fashion, with one Congressmen even circulating a letter that Boat People were 'Economic Refugees from Ha Noi'. A recent GAO report, dated Dec 1996 reeks with the rancid stench of bureaucratic sloth. The report ostensibly determines that no violations of ethical screening procedures could be determined, essentially because there was insufficient information and data provided to GAO staffers to reach a sound conclusion. This is akin to saying the planet Jupiter does not exist because we have scant info and know very little about it.

Worse, in cases where a screening review was justified, the US Embassy 'did not respond to the other cases forwarded for review by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees', which was essential. So, because the US State Dept. did nothing, the case was closed, ending the review procedure, and determining without a doubt that the individuals in question were not bona fide political refugees. Now THAT'S logical.

In another case, an individual spent three years in hiding in two Catholic church compounds, after his presiding priest had been jailed. The case reviewer concluded that 'no church in Viet Nam would harbor possible criminals'(go ahead and read it again-it still will not make any sense at all), therefore the candidate was not a political refugee. A note here: it is a documented fact that Hanoi severely limits the ordination of new priests, putting the slow squeeze on free practice of and belief in a religion.

Further, the track record of 35 interviewers in Philippine camps was examined, and revealed to be a paragon of illogical inconsistency. Interviewer rejection rates ranged from 0.0% to 78%. So, one screener says none of his applicants should be denied, while another said 78% should be...and another said 32%..and another said 45%...and another said 15%. This has all the characteristics of utter slipshod idiocy at work.

Copies of 44 pp. report can be had from U.S. General Accounting Office; P.O. Box 6015; Gaithersburg, Maryland; 20884-6015. Ask for:

Viet Nameese Asylum Seekers / Requested by Robert K. Dornan  
A review of Selected Cases  
GAO/NSIAD-97-51.

1st copy is free, additional copies \$2.00/each. Also on Internet:  
'send an e-mail message with 'info' in the body to: info@www.gao.gov  
r WW Web Home Page: <http://www.gao.gov>.

Former Representative Dornan is to be thanked for asking the GAO to examine this issue. It's too bad the GAO wasn't up to the task, and is under the bureaucratic hypnotic spell of group-think policy.

In addition, the US top immigration official in Hong Kong, Mr. James DeBates, is under investigation for corruption, fraud, and sales of forged passport documents to prospective illegal Chinese immigrants; his predecessor was similarly involved. It figures. Why pay attention to bona fide political refugees when you can make some real \$ arranging for illegal immigration of highest bidders. Thanks Jim, you make us all proud to be Americans.

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'Congress is so strange. A man gets up to speak and says nothing. Nobody listens-and then everybody disagrees.'

-Boris Marshalov

Please note 1997 dues envelop enclosed. Please advise Ben and Bob of any address changes. Please make effort to attend reunion. Raffle tickets for knife printed below. Photocopy if more needed. SITREPs behind schedule. Next one in your letter box by end of May as we catch up. Stay well, stay at it, stay in touch.

BTL/THDNA

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

To: Jack DeBoer 6865 Pine Bluff Ct. SW Grand Rapids, MI 49509

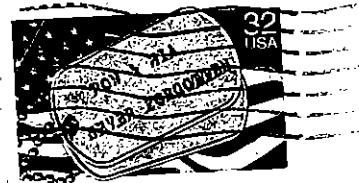
KNIFE RAFFLE TICKET \$10.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

KNIFE RAFFLE TICKET \$10.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU DONG NAM A  
100 Red Oak Circle  
Temple, Texas  
76502-3503



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