



COUNTERPARTS

Tương Hữu Đông Nam Á SITREP

33

Volume II

Issue 2

Summer, 1999

I

Informal '99 Counterparts Reunion Held In Reno

By Jim Alkek

The informal 1999 Reunion at the Silver Legacy in Reno, NV was attended by 8 members and 3 significant others.

Jim Alkek presented Ben Myers with a custom made knife from Counterparts in appreciation of his long, continuing services to the veterans and active service community.

The proposal to sponsor the next Vietnam Center Symposium at Texas Tech University in Lubbock was discussed. The overall topic proposed is "The Advisory Experience".

A proposal by Richard Beznac to create advisory related artwork from old photos was also discussed. Richard's work was displayed by the Vietnam Center and he is working on a selection for SF Gen. J. Dean. Richard would like to review our photos and select a series that represent the advisory effort. Copies will be available for purchase by members and the public.

Jack Frost discussed his preliminary planning for the 2000 Reunion in Irvine. Ideas ranged from a tour of Little Saigon to making a presentation to the Commander of the RVN Armored Veterans group. Gary Frye volunteered to make a carved glass etching of the Counterparts logo to be presented.

Problems with prior reunions were also discussed in order to avoid them. Jack DeBoers sold \$185 of hats, shirts and coins at the reunion.

Everyone had a great time and Vietnamese food and Ba M' Ba was excellent.

Counterparts' D.L. "Pappy" Hicks Honored by Hmong Leaders in Washington "Secret Army" Recognition Ceremonies

Counterparts member Captain D. L. "Pappy" Hicks was recently honored in a special awards ceremony held in Washington to recognize those who served with the "Secret Army" in Laos.

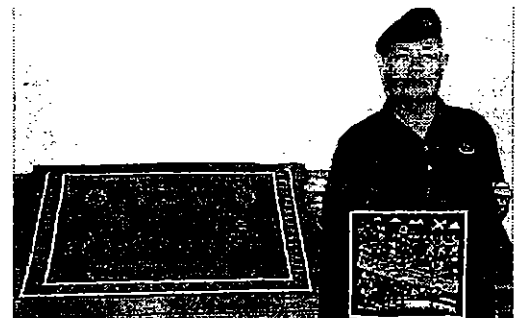
A combat veteran of the Korean War, Indochina War and many operations throughout the world, Pappy was also a speaker at the May 13-15 formation of Hmong, other Laotian fighters, and their US Advisors. As part of the formation, the US Congress recognized General Vang Pao and his men as being the "Secret Army" in the "Secret War" in Laos.

The Secret Army was made up of Hmong and other Laotian Mountain people and the Royal Lao Army, with American advisors. The advisory force included CIA, US Army Special Forces, US Army covert operators, and US Air Force personnel. From 1961 to 1975, this force of about 20,000 men and boys held off an estimated 30,000 NVA troops, preventing these North Vietnamese regulars from engaging US and GVN troops in Vietnam.

Beginning in 1960, Pappy ran covert ops in Laos and South Vietnam. His mission was to provide information to Strategic Army Command (STRAC) and Special

Forces Headquarters on North Vietnamese infiltration and to evaluate Chinese and Soviet involvement in the NVA's Laotian operations. During his several tours in Southeast Asia, Hicks also worked with the various mountain peoples near the Cambodian border and in the Central Highlands of Vietnam.

During the May 13th -15th formation in Washington Pappy spoke at the US House of Representatives and at a special ceremony held near the Vietnam War Memorial. An estimated 2,000 veterans of the Secret War heard Pappy's speech honoring his comrades, whose service was only recently recognized by the US Government. To cap the event, General Vang Pao, assisted by Pappy Hicks, laid a floral wreath at the apex of the Vietnam Memorial.



Pappy displays Hmong pa'ndau presented to him by Gen. Vang Pao

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COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

Here in the Hawaiian Islands where I live we've just won a small victory for all Vietnam veterans, and it's a lesson for everyone, everywhere, in perseverance.

Elements of the local media traditionally covered Memorial Day in the Islands by showing groups of bikers in flak jackets and tattoos with medals pinned to their chests, and there was a lot of talk of how stressed they were from "Nam" and how all their problems stemmed from having served in-country, etc. Perhaps they did serve, but by their dress and decorum, they perpetuated the myth of the Vietnam veteran as a social misfit.

Now, I have nothing against motorcycles; I used to ride one. I still wear a beard and have been known to knock around looking rather scruffy at times. But these bikers evoked all the stereotypical images, and they seemed to blossom on Memorial Day along with the flowers on the graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punch-bowl, in the heart of Honolulu.

A Vietnam veteran, former Army Major and two-time Bronze Star winner named Doug Carlson watched the coverage from year to year and couldn't take it anymore. He wrote a letter that he faxed to all the media in Hawaii, including every newspaper and television station.

The result was remarkable. Memorial Day coverage everywhere you looked was sensitive and sensible. No bikers, no interviews with guys claiming that their Vietnam service ruined their lives. Just some poignant television moments of wreath laying and salutes to all veterans. There was superb coverage from the National Memorial Cemetery and from Pearl Harbor.

There's no doubt that Carlson's passionate and pointed letter made an impact. And it's a lesson for all who served in Vietnam, especially as advisors, that you simply can't let up on efforts to correct this stereotyped view of veterans. I have frequently tried to correct the stereotyping, and have responded to the revisionist history that portrays Vietnam vets as racist, dopers, officer-fragging child-killing rapists and murderers. But I'm guilty of letting some of it go by, out of sheer weariness in fighting the problem.

No more. Carlson's effort shows that you can still make an impact, and that none of us should give in to that element in our society that finds it in its own best interest to blacken the names of better men than themselves, i.e., the average guy who soldiered in Vietnam.

It's a matter of record now: 75 per cent of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers, the best educated, most egalitarian military force in America's history. During most of the war years, drug usage among American men in Vietnam was lower than for American troops stationed outside the war zone. The drug use of those who went to war and those who stayed home was about the same. Of the 5,000 men who deserted the U.S. Military for various reasons during the decade of the war, only about 250 did so while attached to units in Vietnam, and only 24 of them stated it was to avoid hazardous duty. Ninety-seven per cent of Vietnam veterans received honorable discharges, the same rate as the 10 peacetime years before the war.

There is the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as unemployable underachievers, prone to suicide. None of it is true. A 1994 study by the Labor Department showed Vietnam veterans' unemployment rate as 3.9% compared to 4.9% for male veterans of all eras, and 6 per cent for males overall.

Printing and reproduction of SITREP was made possible by the generosity of Associate Member Mr. Bui Quang Lam

Vietnam veterans as a group also have higher achievement levels than their peers who didn't serve in the military. As for suicide, a 1988 study by the Center for Disease Control showed that Vietnam veterans commit suicide at the same rate as the general population.

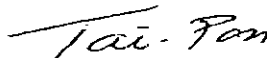
Somebody said that war makes bad men worse and good men better. Judging from my own experiences there were a lot of good men in Vietnam, and a lot of good men who didn't return. We owe it to them to help get rid of the stereotyping and end the myth of the Vietnam veteran as a misfit. We owe it to our heirs of this country to set the record straight about the Vietnam war and the men who took part in it.

As advisors, many of us had arguments with the way the war was being conducted. Many of us felt strategy and tactics, even our relations with the indigenous peoples of Southeast Asia, were not pursued with the intelligence and understanding the average advisor brought to his mission. But few of us, if any, ever challenged the need to be there, nor did we ever feel our efforts were being wasted, nor did we look upon Vietnam as a backward country full of little brown men running around the jungle, the way it is sometimes depicted by ignorant people. Of all the veterans, the advisors in Vietnam were closest to the people and their lives, lives just as important as our own.

We must continue to live for those who cannot speak for themselves, and we must not let the image of Vietnam veterans of all races and nationalities be presented as something strange and inadequate. Many in the media today were born during or after the Vietnam War. Sadly, their view of the war is mostly based on certain unspeakable films, the teachings of a generally biased academic community, and from books which portray the war and its veterans in a negative way. These young people in the media aren't malicious or devious-- just badly informed. Carlson's letter shows that a thoughtful and factual presentation can successfully challenge the prevailing stereotypes and perhaps influence the mind-set of young reporters, and hopefully, their audience.

Let's persevere. Getting rid of the stereotypes and correcting bad history is an awesome challenge but what the hell; we're used to awesome challenges.

Scott Stone



From the Past



US Army and Navy Advisors and their counterparts pause for An Com during a joint operation in Vinh Long Province, 1968

Third Triennial Vietnam Symposium
Texas Tech University
By
James F. Alkek, Adjutant

The Vietnam Center opened its symposium with "Differing Perceptions of the War" presented by US Admirals Tidd, Zumwalt, and Rosson, and LG Nguyen Dinh Uoc, PAVN.

It immediately became apparent that General Uoc was not at liberty to present anything but Communist Party revisionist history. Admiral Rosson and Zumwalt strongly objected to General Uoc's assertions that:

- There were no NVA troops in the South prior to the US invasion in 1965.
- North Vietnam fully respected and honored Laotian neutrality.
- All Villages and Hamlets fully supported the VC and NVA, with only limited public support for the RVN in the cities and strategic hamlets.
- The 1968 Tet Offensive was a great military victory for the North.
- Immediately after the country was partitioned in 1954, the RVN slaughtered thousands of suspected communist sympathizers without cause.
- The government of South Vietnam did not exist because the US government was the real governing body.
- The RVN forced thousands to live in strategic hamlets/prison camps until they were liberated by the North.

The Viet Kieu experience was presented by BG Tran Van Nhut, The Hon. Bui Diem, and US Maj Quang X. Pham. The discussions began with the fall of Saigon and covered the immigration process and current attitudes and problems within the US Vietnamese community.

Col Roger Donlon chaired a session on the early Vietnam War which included not only the Jul 64 battle at Nam Dong, but a very good presentation by John Coleman titled "Advisors to Fighters: America's First Combat Soldiers of the Vietnam War."

Another session was "The Secret War in Laos" which included a great presentation by our own Jane Hamilton-Merritt titled "Advantages of a Guerrilla Force: The Hmong Contribution in the Secret War in Laos".

Mark Moyer, author of "Phoenix: Birds of Prey" presented a well balanced paper that countered many of the points made by PAVN LG Uoc. The paper was titled "Deception and Conspiracy During the Tet Offensive."

The "Vietnamese Revolution: Retrospect & Prospect" was a very interesting historical and cultural session presented by Nguyen Manh Hung, George Mason Univ, Do Quy Toan, Ky 21 Magazine, Nguyen Manh Hung, GMU, and Le Van Tien, former Viet Minh soldier and communist party member who fled the North after 1954. Mr. Tien presented the history of communist party congresses from the 2nd through the 8th and a comparison of the generations of communist party leadership.

The last session I attended was "Vietnam and the National Archives" which was presented by the National Archive staff from College Park, MD. It was noted that the archive recently received a number of newly declassified MACV/CORDS documents. The archive is open to everyone. The staff welcomes calls and will

POLICY REMINDERS

By

Paul Brubaker, Aide-de-Camp

In the evolving climate of progressive American values, simple traditions and conventional rules don't seem to matter very much anymore ... unless they're ingrained in your spirit and essential to your character. For most of us in *Counterparts*, this reminder of propriety and civility, of compliance and mutual respect, will be unnecessary. A few recent incidents though, suggest that a reminder may be useful.

This organization exists for a few very simple reasons, with fraternity, charity, and history being foremost; and every member accepted the disciplined tenets of this organization upon enlistment. As with national citizenship, accommodation and participation is voluntary. The few rules we promulgate merely help to define us and guide us in our collective pursuit of greater issues, such as our recent cooperation in humanitarian relief.

The few rules we have are not onerous, and the organization doesn't exist to perpetuate those rules ... quite the contrary. The allegorical dog wags its metaphoric tail; and the horse is in position to pull the cart, because we've got something worth hauling! There is no secret agenda, no cabal of conspirators, and no subterfuge. As the techies say, "What you see is what you get!" Policies are openly published for the benefit and participation of all members.

There are two policy issues currently of general interest; **privacy** and **broadcast**. Although they are related, they are separate concerns. Inadvertent violations can be destructive to our group cohesion and our shared efforts.

The privacy policy is clearly displayed on the front of the membership roster, and basically asks every member to respect the confidential nature of the roster's contents. The information in the roster is not "secret". Telephone directory searches and Freedom Of Information Act disclosure requests can disclose as much to anyone willing to make the effort. However, the *Counterparts* roster is not intended to be used as a convenient mailing list for anyone to publicize or advertise anything they deem worthy; no member agreed to this use of their personal data when they enrolled. The roster exists to assist members in personally and individually communicating on the tenets of our Association; that is, to buddy search, to team search, to arrange travel plans, and to contact staffers or officers. In short, **it is an extension of trust to our fellows that we are willing to trade anonymity for convenience in common cause**. Without this shared policy compliance, the only recourse is to adopt the policy of other veteran's groups, and not publish a roster at all.

Because our membership comprises an impressive talent pool of remarkable thinkers and committed activists, many individuals encounter interesting and important matters which may be of interest to the rest of the membership. These discoveries range from news reports and medical treatments to refugee crises and new books. Some of our members are entrepreneurs and others have governmental ties.

Until recently, we had no consistent and convenient method for disseminating the plethora of information unearthed by our members but now we do. **Any member can submit a notice on any issue or topic related to our general tenets** by posting it to our new website bulletin board, and/or to our newly redesigned newsletter. The only caveat on any submission, which will be enforced by the webmaster and the editor, is that the material not be offensive.

Writer's guidelines for both the website and this newsletter are already disclosed. If there is a story or issue, a product or service, which other C/THDNA members should know about, then take the initiative and broadcast it in our media. The nice thing about posting notices to our website bulletin board is that the general public, from students to non-advisor veterans, will also have an opportunity to view it. Whatever gets published could expand exponentially as it is circulated on the World Wide Web.

Now that we can offer our membership a convenient broadcast option for those "must be shared" details, there is no longer any excuse for misusing the membership roster. If you receive, subsequent to this announcement, any unwanted mailings, please notify the Association officers. Your consideration for your fellow veterans will be appreciated.

"EXPEDIENTS ARE FOR THE
HOUR; PRINCIPLES ARE FOR
THE AGES"

“Battlefield Vietnam” : TV Finally Gets it Right

**By
Ken Jacobsen**

Television’s coverage of Vietnam has had a dismal history. Since the mid ‘60s, when TV first discovered the commercial value of War as Theater, TV’s portrayal of the experience has been molded by a combination of irresponsibility, calculated inaccuracy and shameless commercialism.

TV reporting told the American people that the ‘68 Tet Offensive was a major setback for the US, portrayed the air campaign as a daily napalm attack on civilians, and created the stereotype of the American soldier in Vietnam as an object to be either pitied or loathed.

Post-Vietnam Television documentaries and movies have been little better; for the most part they seem devoted to turning the myths TV created about the war into articles of faith for much of the Media, the Academic community and sadly, a large segment of the American people.

Given this dubious record, it was a pleasant surprise to view the recent PBS series *Battlefield Vietnam*. Presented in six parts, the series attempted the difficult task of examining the military realities of the war without falling back on the social, political, and emotional bias that has been so pervasive in other examinations of the Vietnam experience.

The series was created by the same British production team that produced *Battlefield*, the highly praised analysis of World War II’s battles. Using footage from Chinese, French, Russian, North Vietnamese and US sources, the producers succeeded in showing a perspective on Vietnam with depth and authority. Each of the series’ six episodes showed well researched graphics of key battles and operations including detailed force disposition of both sides, and devoted considerable attention to the weapons, soldiers and leadership of both Allied and North Vietnamese/VC armies. There was no noticeable attempt to take sides, and throughout the production, a refreshing absence of “talking heads” and self serving experts.

The effect produced by this approach was stunning. By using dispassionate analysis instead of Political Correctness, *Battlefield Vietnam* coolly demolished the most egregious myths of the war. The series revealed, for example, that:

- The Strategy that led North Vietnam to launch the ‘68 Tet offensive was strongly opposed by many NVA leaders, who were imprisoned or executed for their views.
- GVN forces bore the brunt of the fighting during Tet, were generally outnumbered by NVA/VC units, but in most cases defeated or stopped the enemy’s attacks.
- US forces were not “caught by surprise” by the Tet offensive. In many areas, commanders had quietly redeployed units to positions that caught the enemy by surprise.
- The air campaign was not a futile exercise in bombing civilians. *Battlefield Vietnam* showed repeatedly how the use of air power defeated enemy attacks, often with horrendous (and usually unreported) losses to the NVA and VC.
- At the time President Nixon initiated the policy of eventual withdrawal from Vietnam, the NVA was dangerously close to defeat, and the VC, after the huge losses during Tet, was almost finished as an effective fighting force.

As refreshing as it was to finally see the war examined through a clear glass, it was at the same time saddening. It is not pleasant to see a great nation like the United States defeated by its own political weakness, lack of resolve, and selfishness. It is even more troubling to see those same flaws continue to pervade America’s foreign and military policy.

“Battlefield Vietnam” Additional Info

Episode 1: “Undeclared War

Episode 2: “Search and
Destroy

Episode 3: “Tet”

Episode 4: “Khe Sanh”

Episode 5: “Rolling Thunder”

Episode 6: “Saigon”

For more information try the
“Battlefield Vietnam” Website
at:

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/>

Battlefield Vietnam

Pappy... Continued from page 1

On May 15th, the final day of the formation, a memorial was held in the Arlington Memorial Cemetery at the 1997 monument honoring Lao fighting men and women and the American advisors who died in the mountains of Laos.

In his speech, Pappy recalled a distinguished career that began in Korea where, at 18, he saw his first combat. He reflected that now, in the twilight of his life, he feels a deep closeness, tempered by sadness, for those men he knew in combat, and continues to hold them in the highest honor.

In another ceremony, General Vang Pao honored Pappy for the 38 years of service and devotion he has given to the Lao people, in both war and peace. In keeping with Hmong tradition, Pappy was presented with two *pa'ndaus*, the stitched cloth used by the Hmong to convey their history. The first *pa'ndau* tells of how the Hmong were forced by the North Vietnamese invasion to change from traditional tribesmen to soldiers in the Secret war. The second cloth describes the arrival of the NVA and Pathet Lao, who drove many of the Hmongs from their homes and into the refugee camps of Thailand.

Other Lao leaders present at the ceremonies were Gen. Thonglith Chokenboune, and two Princes of the Royal Lao family, Chao Opat NaChampassak, and Chao Vanhasak NaChampassak.



SITREP Editorial Policy and Procedures

Copy:

- *Articles, letters and other news items are welcomed from all members and other subscribers. Copy should be typed double spaced using standard manuscript fonts like Courier, Cobb, or other "plain vanilla" fonts that can be easily OCR scanned.*
- *Electronic submissions via email or on disc are also welcome. Microsoft Word or Word Perfect is preferred.*
- *Submissions should not exceed "Column length" pieces, i.e. no longer than 600-800 words. Members shouldn't hesitate to send short (50-100) word contributions. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.*
- *Photos or pictures can be submitted by mail or on the Internet. For Internet material use one of the standard graphic formats like JPEG, TIFF, MIX or GIF.*

Editorial Policy:

- *We will edit for grammar, spelling and clarity. If we feel the need to edit for length or content we'll contact the author whenever possible. We will NOT edit for political or philosophical content unless it's obscene, illegal, or libelous.*
- *SITREP will be published quarterly, on the first of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for manuscripts and photos are the first of the month before each publication date, but we can be flexible if there's late breaking news.*

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Water-skiing on the Vam Co Dong River

By
Jack L. Thomas

Enclosed are some pictures of a crude "surfboard" manufactured by Duc Hue District Advisors (Advisory Team 43) SFC Clifford A. Simmons and Buck Sergeant Richard O'Hare. Duc Hue District was in Hau Nghia Province, which has since been incorporated into Long An Province. The Vam Co Dong River marked the western boundary of "civilization;" on the east side of the river lay no man's land and the Cambodian border was but a few miles away.



The structures in the pictures are on the east side of the river, near an old French Sugar Mill and district headquarters, which was a two story villa, alleged to have been owned by a former Sugar Mill director.

The Boston Whaler had been scrounged, probably by one of the two sergeants, but it was not armed. One advisor rode shotgun with his M16. The board had no footholds so we just stood on it. I was never aware that anyone had been shot at, but rumor had it that our DEA had been.

A year ago, seven former advisors from Duc Hue District, including myself and Jim Smith-former team leader of MAT 111-56-

got together in Florida for a reunion. Rich and Clifford were there, as well as Dorsey Holsinger, David Ward, and Ray Wing. It was wonderful. Jim and I went back to Vietnam in October, 1996, and Rich O'Hare preceded us by about four years. All of us got back to our operat-



As a 1st LT, Jack Thomas was an RF/PF advisor with MAT III-56 in Hau Nghia Province 1969- 1970. A businessman by profession, he is also an author and poet. Whirling Fire, his first book of poetry, is reviewed at right..

Recently Published

Whirling Fire

Jack L. Thomas. lyndonjacks, Houston, 1997. \$14.00

Jack Thomas finished college in 1967, was drafted and ended up in OCS. He requested duty in a Finance assignment in Europe, but soon found himself with a MAT team in Duc Hue District of Hau Nghia Province.

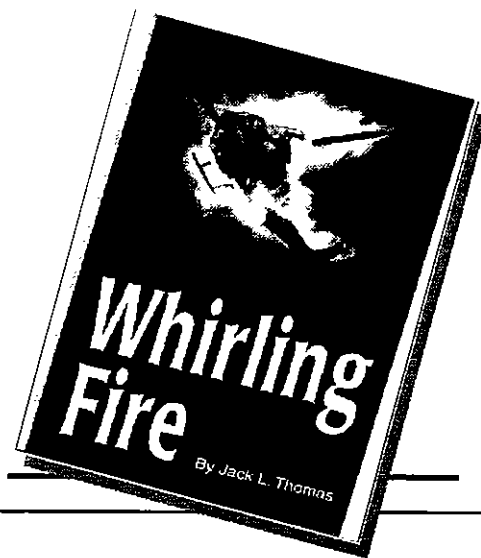
Like many other former advisors, his memory of Vietnam and his feeling for the Vietnamese people, stayed with him long after his in-country tour ended.

Whirling Fire is the distillation of Thomas' experience and emotions, expressed in a collection of poems about the war, the people, and war's aftermath. The author's subjects range from the "whirling fire" of a helicopter to the simple experience of a haircut by a Vietnamese barber. Although the mood of the work is generally reflective and somber, there is an occasional light touch, as in the following, which wryly describes an experience probably familiar to more than one former advisor.

"DIGNITY
Is not—
being stuck
in the mud
in a canal
with a radio on your back
needing
four Vietnamese
to pull you out."

{*Whirling Fire* is available from the author at 4022 Falkirk Ln, Houston, TX 77025-2908 or on the internet through amazon.com}

Reviewed by Ken Jacobsen



BOOK REVIEWS

Reviews of Books, new and old, relating to the Southeast Asia experience. Members are

More than a Soldier's War: Pacification In Vietnam

Colonel Edward P Metzner, USA Ret. TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY PRESS, College Station, Texas, 77843-4354. 1-800-826-8911. \$29.95

A Perspective on Advisors and Pacification

Hundreds of books have been written about the American experience in Vietnam but few of them have focussed on the advisory and pacification effort. Colonel Metzner's book does an excellent job in filling this gap.

Colonel Metzner's service in Vietnam gives him exceptional qualifications to write about advisors and pacification. He served four tours for a total of seven years in assignments that included Psychological warfare staff advisor, a Pacification staff advisor, and Province Senior Advisor to four provinces. His last duty in Vietnam was as a member of the Defense Attaché Office (successor to MACV) in Saigon as liaison officer to the Vietnamese Joint General Staff.

The author first deployed to RVN in 1964, long before the Army established the Military Assistance Training Advisor course. His only preparation was attendance at a couple of courses on psychological warfare that proved to be useless. Arriving in Vietnam with little information about the country or its people and no knowledge of the language Metzner educated himself by immersing in Vietnamese culture and studying the language. By the time of his third tour, he could converse for over an hour in Vietnamese with village elders.

Metzner describes the efforts of the many dedicated Vietnamese and American officials in the countryside who struggled to bring security to the people and improve their economic well being. These efforts involved both combat operations and civic action projects.

He cites instances of Viet Cong atrocities-- atrocities that were commonplace but seldom reported by the American media. Metzner developed a deep respect for the Vietnamese people and had several counterparts that were brave, patriotic, and honest. He does cite one Province Chief who did not display any of these qualities.

Colonel Metzner also questions "who was advising who". Advisors normally served for twelve months; the people they were supposedly advising had been fighting wars for over two decades. He observes that during his time in Vietnam he was more often the pupil than the advisor.

Although he recognizes that advisors made substantial contributions to the lives of the Vietnamese people, Metzner concludes that the advisory effort was generally ineffective, handicapped by both cultural differences between Americans and Vietnamese and an advisory policy that required advisors to persuade, but never command.

This book should be enjoyable reading for any Vietnam veteran who performed advisory duty. Additionally, it is recommended reading to those veterans who served only with US units. They will learn about the "other war" in Vietnam, a war known only to the advisors and their counterparts.

....Reviewed By Colonel Nevin T. Williams,

AUS, Retired. Carmichael, CA

EDITOR'S NOTE: The reviewer served as an advisor to the military forces of Vietnam, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.



REUNIONS AND MEETINGS



Veterans Day Weekend, 11-12 November, 2000

RANGER ADVISORS AND BIET DONG QUAN WARNING ORDER

A reunion and memorial ceremonies are being organized for Vietnamese Ranger Advisors and Vietnamese Rangers (Biet Dong Quan - BDQ).

We will gather to recognize and honor the sacrifices of our fallen brothers and to share Ranger camaraderie and fellowship. We will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the BDQ as well as the 5th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnamese Ranger and American Ranger Advisor Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

All former Vietnamese Ranger Advisors and Vietnamese Rangers are cordially invited to attend. We particularly welcome as our special guests, family members of our comrades who were killed while serving as Ranger Advisors.

Activities will include:

- ♦ *Laying of a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, Veterans' Day Ceremonies.*
- ♦ *A Ranger/Biet Dong Quan Reunion Reception and Dinner - Saturday 11 November.*
- ♦ *Memorial service at the Vietnamese Ranger and Ranger Advisor Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.*
- ♦ *Wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.*
- ♦ *Post-memorial ceremony brunch at Ft. Myer - Sunday, 12 November.*

Additional details concerning hotel arrangements, event schedules and other information will follow in the next few months. Please contact one of the following organizers to be placed on the mailing list for future information:

Jim Waters

Bobby Jackson

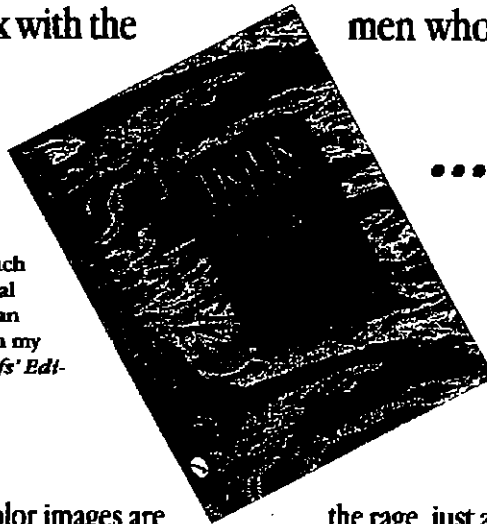
Mike Martin (931/455-3824)

Take a walk through the jungle!

Another fabulous printing engagement by Schiffer Military! This 8.5" x 11 format, hard-bound work is about one thing, and one thing only - quality!

Don't let the high-speed layout grab ya too tight. Instead, just sit back, relax... and allow the world's foremost tiger hunter to illustrate what it was like to walk with the men who wore...

In appreciation of your past support, an autographed copy is now reserved in your name. Featuring "lots" of new photos, discoveries, information and more; each book includes my personal thank you, written upon an original, uncut sheet from my "Publisher's Page - 'Proofs' Edition".

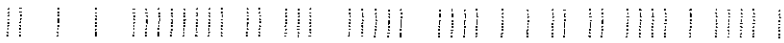


...the stripes of the Tiger!

Half page sized color images are the rage, just as big, crisp and as clear as you could ever want, whether you're interests are as a collector, a modeler, or as a historian! "Tiger Patterns" defines a revolutionary new era with its novel approach to camouflage identification. With the quality and the price of fake Tigerstripes continually on the rise, can you really afford to be without the definitive identification source?

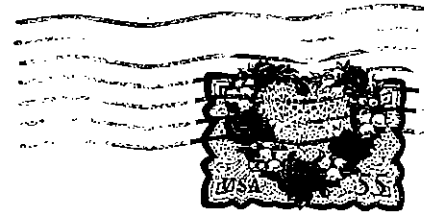
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