



COUNTERPARTS ^{#37}

Tương Hữu Đông Nam Á

SITREP

Volume V

Issue 1

Spring, 2002

Reunion 2002: Small but lively

Greeted by Sunny Skies and Mild Temperatures, *Counterparts* and Guests tour Charleston, hear LTG Vaught.

Historic Charleston, South Carolina was the setting for this year's *Counterparts* reunion. Although problems in distributing the last SITREP caused notification of the Reunion to be delayed until late December, attendance was good and number of members and their spouses made plans to arrive early in order to take advantage of the "Holy City's" many attractions.

Early arrivals were also able to take part in a VIP tour of The Citadel, arranged by *Counterparts* member Jim Lander, the Comptroller General of South Carolina. Participants in this event were also honored guests at the Cadets' Dress Parade on Friday afternoon.

The Reunion officially opened in the evening of Friday, Feb 9, with an informal meeting at the Holiday Inn Riverview, our headquarters for the weekend's activities.

Saturday began with a guided tour of Ft. Moultrie. This historic landmark was the scene of one of the first battles of the American Revolution won by the United States, and played a role in the Civil War. The fort later became an important part of US coastal defenses, garrisoned continuously until 1947.

Following the Ft. Moultrie tour the group boarded the USS *Yorktown* for a guided tour of that famous ship's aviation museum, followed by a lunch in *Yorktown's* Chief Petty Officers' Mess. After lunch, *Counterparts* members had the opportunity to further explore the ship's exhibits or to visit a reconstructed PBR base ashore.

After a full day of climbing parapets and negotiating *Yorktown's* ladders and passageways, the bus ride back to the hotel provided a welcome chance for a short rest.

Later in the afternoon, the group gathered again in the Hospitality room to hear a briefing by Steve Maxner of Texas Tech on the Vietnam Center's new on-line virtual archives. Steve reported that the

Center has recently received a significant increase in government funding, another sign that the Center is quickly becoming a major resource for scholars and historians throughout the world. Steve invited *Counterparts* members to check out the new web site and urged the audience to participate in the Vietnam Center's oral history program.

Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt also addressed the Reunion group. "Dr. Jane" is a journalist and author who is recognized as a leading authority on Laos and the Indochina War. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1969 for her coverage of the war and in 1992, her continuing efforts to help the Hmong people brought a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the author of *Tragic Mountains*, the story of the "Secret War" in Laos, from 1942-1992.

Dr. Hamilton updated *Counterparts* on the continuing struggle to protect the Hmong people from persecution by their Lao and Vietnamese Communist rulers. Her report was not encouraging. She noted that the current US policy of improving relations with Vietnam has caused the State Department to actively suppress reports about the plight of the Hmong in order to avoid "embarrassing" the Vietnamese.



LTG James B. Vaught addresses Reunion

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COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

We had a great convention in Charleston, SC. Ken Jacobsen did a fine job, as is expected of him. He didn't make Captain, US Navy on a Destroyer by sitting in the mess hall drinking coffee. The same old "hard core" showed up and enjoyed themselves and each other's company.

Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, author and a personal friend, her husband, Buz, came to the Convention and she gave a talk on the problems of the Hmong in Laos. She also brought along copies of her definitive book about the War in Laos called "Tragic Mountains." Get it and read it.

Our main speaker at our supper was LTG Jim Vaught. You missed a professional of three wars and "soldier's-soldier" by not seeing that old trooper. We had a good time talking about some of the same people we served with.

We toured The Citadel, escorted by young Cadet Captain Peterson. Of course, most everyone is young when around this bunch. We also toured some big Navy boats, an airplane carrier, destroyer, submarine and a Coast Guard cutter. Of course, Jacobsen wasn't about to take us out to the air base when their were Navy ships around.

There are a number of problems we talked about and hopefully we can find some answers to. Ken thinks he has found a way to make the "SITREP" more responsive to our needs. The "SITREP" is one of the most important functions for the members of Counterparts. We also discussed getting new officers, such as a finance officer, to help relieve Adjutant Jim Alkek from some of his overload. We are also trying to set up a system where we can plan at least two years ahead on our conventions. This will give people plenty of time to respond to make the trip to one, especially if it were in their area. We need help in planning our functions. We would wish for any suggestions. But, it all you want to do is bitch, go find some place else to play. We're professional here, whether you served as a citizen soldier or as a professional.

I for one am proud of you all. Being advisors makes each one of you unique in the military. And people, we need to be proud. We need to do as much as we can to remember our efforts and the duty we performed, both as an advisor and those who were advised. I for one wish we had more attendance and support from our counterparts from South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. You are part of us, and always will be. And remember, we are the last of our kind. The last counterparts of the War in Southeast Asia. When the last man drinks a bottle of Champagne to toast the honor of his comrades, do you want to be the one who never participated in the efforts to keep Counterparts strong up to the last?

Hang tuff.

.....Pappy

(continued from page one)

Dr. Hamilton went on to describe the indifference, and even occasional hostility, shown by some in Congress toward her and other Human Rights activists involved in efforts to help the Hmong.

The situation in Laos, Dr. Hamilton-Merritt reported, is becoming steadily worse for the mountain peoples. There is overwhelming evidence that the Vietnamese and Laotian governments are engaged in a continued program of oppression and perhaps even genocide against the Hmong. These policies are not likely to change, she observed, unless there is continued political and economic pressure by the international community, pressure that to date has not been evident.

Dr. Hamilton-Merritt closed her remarks with a plea for *Counterparts* members to continue their support and advocacy on behalf of the Hmong. She urged members to contact their representatives in Washington, and to not give up the fight to save this beleaguered people.

The final day of the reunion began with a bus tour of Charleston's famous Magnolia Gardens and ended with the closing meeting and Banquet on Sunday evening. The Guest Speaker was LTG James Vaught, a distinguished soldier whose 38 year career included assignments as Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps, Commanding General Combined ROK/US Field Army, and Commanding General 24th Infantry Divi-

sion. LTG Vaught also held major Army, DOD, JCS and NATO positions and was the JTF Commander for "Operation Rice Bowl", the Iran rescue mission. He is presently involved in several advisory groups relating to Special Operations and the current War on Terrorism.

General Vaught offered some compelling insights into present national security challenges, pointing out the perennial importance of traditional military values like courage, dedication and integrity. He noted that many aspects of the War on Terrorism would call for the same sort of special abilities and dedication that were required of advisors in Vietnam. While pointing out that technological advances in weapons and communications have revolutionized the modern battlefield, he also reminded the audience that good military leadership was still more vital than glamorous hardware.

General Vaught's incisive and straightforward comments provided a fitting capstone to Reunion 2002, which despite short notice and modest attendance, was a memorable and rewarding event.

....Ken Jacobsen

Vietnam Center 4th Triennial Symposium 2002 11-13 April, 2002

The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech will host the Symposium at Texas Tech, Lubbock Texas. Topics and panels include:

- Vietnam Veteran Activism
- Humanitarian Efforts in Southeast Asia
- Teaching Vietnam
- Womens' experience in combat and combat support
- Special Operations/ SOG
- America in Vietnam and Afghanistan: Post 9/11 perspectives

Additional information is available on the Vietnam Center Web site: <http://www.ttu.edu/vietnam>, or by calling the reservations center at (806) 742 3742

Photo Album, Counterparts Reunion 2002



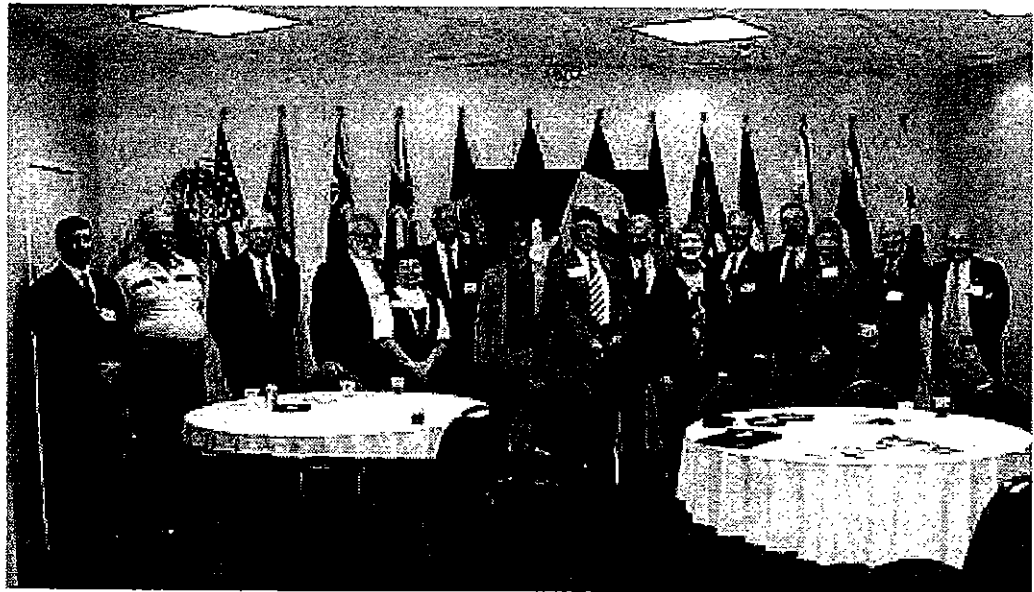
*Otis Amick, Ken Jacobsen, Jack De Boer, Hap Fisher,
AZ PBR Base*



Pappy and Ben Meyers prepare to board SEAWOLF



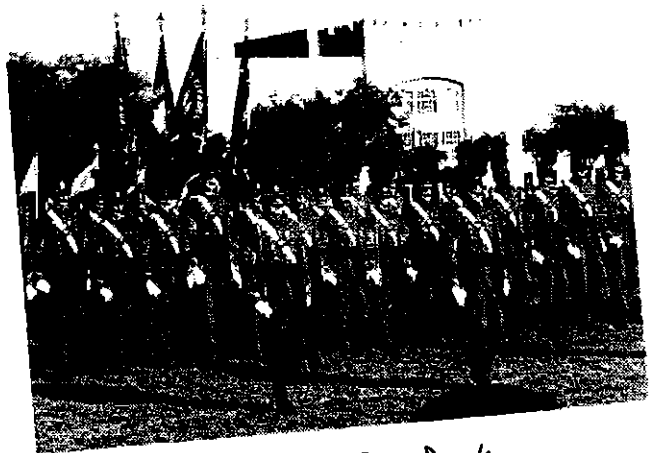
*Cadet Captain Peterson,
Our Citadel Tour Guide*



Counterparts, Spouses and Guests



*Citadel Tour; Cadet Captain Peterson, Counterpart
Jim Landers (in suit) on right*



Citadel Cadets Dress Parade

XO NOTES

From: XO

To: All Counterparts members

Greetings Fellow Co Vans;

HELP WANTED!

Counterparts is looking for a member or two or three to set up the 2003 Reunion. Yeah, I know we just finished 2002. But a year really slides by when you are having fun.

After much discussion, it was decided that 2003 Reunion should be held somewhere in the Central US. St Louis MO was mentioned. The problem was we had no one at the Reunion from that area. Anyone with suggestions or ideas, or willing to take on this task, please contact the Commander, the Executive Officer or the Adjutant.

Speaking of Reunions, the 2002, was great; I think that everyone who attended will agree that Ken Jacobsen did an outstanding job. Everything was well planned and went very smoothly. Again, Thanks Ken for a job well done.

There is a suggestion that we amend Counterparts Bylaws and add the position of Finance Officer. This would shift some of the numerous responsibilities away from the Adjutant, who many of us feel is over tasked. Many members may not be aware that under existing rules, our Adjutant, James Alkek, is responsible for all the financial matters, administration and maintenance of membership & awards documentation, in addition to performance of the Adjutants duties. Jim Alkek is also our Website Administrator. Good management and fairness suggest that it is time to even the balance the load by reassigning some of those tasks to others.

Ladies and gentlemen, Counterparts is a growing organization, and as with everything that grows there is inevitably a certain amount of growth problems. Being an Organization that is World Wide presents some unique challenges but, as we all know there is nothing that can't be resolved with a little cooperation, and if required, the willingness to ask one another for assistance.

One of the problems I hear about is communication. We are trying to solve that. Counterparts has what we would like to call an "Electronic Meeting" on Yahoo once a month at Counterparts Tuong Huu Dong Nam A. To participate in Electronic Meetings, Go to Yahoo Clubs and type in the name. To date, we have tried "meeting" on the first Wednesday of the month ; however, that didn't seem to be a good day. There also have been some problems with people having difficulty signing into the chat room. These problems are being addressed and worked on; my question to the membership is: what night would be best? I figure that we should try and start the meetings about 7:00 PM (MST) that would make it early on the West Coast but not too late for those on Eastern Time. Suggestions are welcome. Please feel free to share ideas photographs and other items of interest and please keep all items with in good taste.

I can be reached through the Counterpart Website, or at gf04@yahoo.com or dezi@ctaz.com. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have an idea or suggestion about Counterparts and the betterment of the organization.

Darryl Nelson

New movie Depicts Battle of the Ia Drang Valley

(The following was sent to Ben Meyers by a former Battalion Commander of 1/12 Cav, 1st Cavalry Division, (Airmobile), Vietnam It has been edited for length)

The new film *We Were Soldiers* is based upon the 1992 best seller, *We Were Soldiers Once, and Young*, by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, USA (Ret) and Joseph L. Galloway. It stars Mel Gibson as Lt. Col. Hal Moore, Sam Elliott as SGM. Basil L. Plumely, Barry Pepper as Joe Galloway and Madeline Stowe as Mrs. Julie Moore.

LTC Moore made it his mission to be a student of history. This saved his life and the rest of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in a dark corner of the world called LZ X-Ray on 14, 15, and 16 November in 1965. Critics of he and Joe Galloway's 1992 best-seller, have often said that this one engagement could serve as an allegory for our whole involvement in that conflict and that's not too far from the truth.

This film is unlike any Vietnam War film you have seen to date. The viewer is not treated to a brooding racial strife, drug culture or the sanctimonious piety of an anti-war movement. Randall Wallace, the producer and director of this film, stayed within the bounds of what the authors laid out: an epic struggle of young, scared men fighting to live to see another day. A struggle that had their fullest attention from the moment their boots hit the tall grass and heat of the Ia Drang Valley.

The actors privileged to play out this struggle are damn near brilliant. Mel Gibson gives a very steady and reserved portrayal of Lt. Col. Moore. Mr. Gibson brought the genuine "character" of Hal Moore to the fore. Any actor can put on a show, but Mr. Gibson captured the intangibles of character very, very well.

His chief rock of support in the film as in real-life falls to the Battalion Sergeant Major, Basil L. Plumely, played to pure steel by Sam Elliott. Mr. Elliott's hard; laconic portrait of Sgt. Maj. Plumely is masterful. Our Army needs more of these Senior NCO's who can give staff weenies and the "consideration of others" types the runs just by looking at them. When asked by Hal Moore whether or not he's going to draw an M-16 he says, "Too much plastic for me sir. I want something with a little more substance." I won't spoil it for you, but Sam Elliott has the best pieces of dialogue in the film.

The film works on several other levels as well. Mr. Wallace has touched on many of the things that were wrong with that conflict and how the war was ultimately "managed". That's a key distinction between saying "fought" or "led". As General Moore would be only too willing to agree, "You cannot manage men in combat; they must be led."

The first policy tremor comes when Mel Gibson's Moore says to his CO, "Why haven't they extended enlistments? You know what this is going to do don't you? I've effectively lost a third of my men before we've seen any combat. How could they do this? They've just invested time and money into training one of their newest divisions, but when we ship out for combat it's okay to lose a third of your best, highly skilled and most experienced officers and troops because their enlistments are up. I don't understand it."

On the home front, the thinking wasn't much better. As these young officers and men became casualties, the Army wasn't prepared for that fact of life. When a Western Union Telegram notifying a young wife that her husband was killed in action arrived, a taxi driver was sent to deliver it. No chaplain or accompanying officer was dispatched to ease the trauma.

At the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) the thinking was equally poor. Several times during this fierce battle Moore was ordered out to give a debriefing to Colonels and Generals back in air-conditioned Saigon; Moore respectively declined all requests. The intellectual disconnect with Hal Moore's combat situation shows the growing "non compos mentis" of the rear area staff.

Literally welled up in my throat. How could several West Pointers who have been trained since Day 1 to be leaders of troops, order one of their peers out of a fight where his leadership was sorely needed? Where was their perspective? Where was their purpose? LTC Moore clearly knew his purpose was to be with his troops and, if need be, die on the field with them.

The film is also unrelenting in its portrayal of combat. The fight in the Ia Drang was up close and personal. Several times units had to go hand-to-hand with their enemies in a dance of fists, bayonets and bludgeoning rifle blows. It's not a film for the faint of heart.

(continued on Page seven)

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For those unfamiliar with General Moore and Joe Galloway's book, the film is only half the story.

Mr. Wallace went out of his way while writing the screenplay and producing the story to capture the horror of war and the honor of the men fighting it, but he couldn't include, in a two and one half hour treatment, the story of LZ Albany. For what the North Vietnamese could not sufficiently do to LTC Moore and his 1st Battalion, they were to do to the sister 2nd Battalion. They were over-run and decimated while strung out in a line over 500 yards long. Survivors of platoons and companies could be counted on one hand.

In closing I would like to leave you with some of LTC Moore's words he imparted to his officers and battalion staff when he took over the unit back in '65. These simple principles kept many of his men alive:

"Only first place trophies will be displayed, accepted, or presented in this battalion. Second place in our line of work is defeat of the unit on the battlefield, and death for the individual in combat. No fat troops or officers. Decision-making will be decentralized: Push the power down. It pays off in wartime. Loyalty flows down as well. I check up on everything. I am available day or night to talk with any officers of this battalion. Finally, the sergeant major works only for me and takes orders only from me. He is my right-hand man."

A resounding "Garry Owen" to Randall Wallace for mothering this story through and for holding true to General Moore and Joe Galloway's spirit in telling a story of ordinary men who wound up fighting and dying for each other.



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. If you don't have a typewriter legible handwritten copy is OK
- 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 600-1000 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, in 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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COUNTERPARTS ORAL HISTORY

COUNTERPARTS members are invited to share their own in-country experience. Your work doesn't need to be a literary masterpiece; we will edit for grammar, spelling and clarity. Your submissions can be handwritten, typed, or sent via email. Each issue, we will publish as many items as space permits.

Counterpart C.K. Nulsen was Senior Advisor to the Commander Phouc Binh Thanh Special Zone (PBTSZ), 1962-1963.

The first deep penetration into War Zone D was a two column probe seeking to make contact with two VC battalions (D-14 and D-15), the suspected locations of which had been pointed out on a map by a former North Vietnamese first sergeant who had defected from D-15 several weeks earlier. The operation dubbed "Holiday" began on December 21, 1962 when two columns of Rangers moved south into the jungles of Zone D after having been trucked from Song Be to the crossroads town of Dong Xai, which in May of 1965 was the scene of one of the fiercest battles of the war.

Both columns, consisting of three Ranger companies and one Vietnamese Special Forces detachment, set out together before dawn on the morning of December 22. The early start was an attempt to avoid the VC security forces operating in the area. About midday the columns split. Column I commanded by Colonel Dien, and the one which I accompanied, continued due south to the suspected location of D-15; while column 2 commanded by Major Chinh (Colonel Dien's deputy) veered to the southwest to seek and attack D-14.

The column stayed in the jungle but guided on an improved laterite road which ran north and south through the middle of Zone D. The road had been constructed by Vietnamese engineers in 1959 and had been abandoned in 1960 because of the growing VC presence in the area. At approximately 1500, the lead elements of the column opened fire on several VC observed in a clearing, but in the confusion of the moment they escaped unharmed. The most important consideration at this point was not the fact that the enemy had made a clean break, but that the fire fight had signaled our presence. If we were to maintain any semblance of surprise, the column would have to keep moving to reach the objective before D-15 could be alerted.

Colonel Dien moved the column to the laterite road where we ate dinner and planned our next move. Our concern over the necessity for speed caused us to adopt a course of action, which in more normal circumstances, no tactician in his right mind would have suggested. We decided to march all night down the road. The column moved in the jungle until dark and then moved onto the road. We traveled on the laterite surface from 2100 to 0300 the next morning. Every step of the way my heart was thumping wildly and every sound in the jungle triggered a vision of the enemy setting up machine guns to ambush us. When we reached the MaDa River at 0300 we were all relieved to be unburdened from the pressures of the last six hours. We had covered ten kilometers and it had worked. If the VC had turned two machine guns on us, it would have been a massacre and the unprofessional aspects of this risky decision would have dominated an unfortunate legacy.

We set up a small base camp and the remainder of the day was spent in waiting for a reconnaissance patrol to find the paths leading into the D-15 area. The defector, who had accompanied us, was the key man in the reconnaissance patrol. It was sometime after dark when Colonel Dien came over to me to say that the patrol had found the trail to D-15. He told me that he had given the order for the column to move out at 2300 for an all-night march to the objective. He wanted to attack the camp before daybreak. I had a premonition before we began to move that this was going to be a night of action never to be forgotten.

It was a moonless night. The jungle in the daytime is tough to cope with, but at night with no moon--it's almost impossible. I kept continuous check on the direction of the column by constantly glancing at my wrist compass. I had found on previous occasions that Colonel Dien relied too much on instinct and not enough on compass readings. Directional instinct in the jungle has no meaning. That night I learned a unique technique of control that I was to use again during my second tour in Vietnam. Following someone through the thick underbrush at night places a heavy and constant strain on all senses. To help lessen the strain, the jungle floor in Zone

D yielded a priceless natural commodity in the form of certain twigs that contained sufficient phosphorescent material to cause them to glow in the dark.

Before we began our long march, every Ranger stuck a phosphorescent twig in the pack of the man to his front. This way each Ranger could keep track of the man ahead of him by keeping the luminescent twig in sight. Without this assistance from nature, the only thing that would have brought us through that long night march would have been flashlights.

One incident, which was terrifying at the moment, highlights the tensions and anxiety associated with night movement through the jungle. I happened to be in the middle of the column, with no English speaking Vietnamese Rangers anywhere near me. When one's eyes are constantly fixed and the mind concentrates so continuously on the phosphorescent twig, there is a tendency to become mesmerized. I was in one of those pseudo-hypnotic trances, when I stood waiting for the Ranger to my front to move out. To reassure myself, I stuck out my hand to check on the Ranger to my front. I discovered with a shock that I was standing in front of--and waiting for--a twig that was stuck in a branch of a tree. My Ranger contact had left me behind. The column was broken and I was leading the second half. In the next few minutes, feelings of apprehension and panic raced through my mind, until the Vietnamese Ranger, with whom I had lost contact, came stumbling back through the underbrush to pick up the rest of the column and relieve my momentary panic.

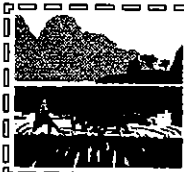
We picked up the pace once again. The rest of the night was spent half stumbling, constantly grabbing at vines, but always concentrating on keeping contact with the man in front and the man in back. We suddenly stopped at 0430. We were in a cleared area, so it was relatively easy for Colonel Dien to find me. He walked up and told me that they had found the path leading to D-15 and that we would stay where we were for another 30 minutes, then we would move out, hoping to hit D-15 at daylight (0630).

At approximately 0730 the lead elements of the Ranger column fired on and killed a VC outguard. The surprise gained by the overnight march through the jungle had evaporated in an unexpected instant. The firing, of course, warned the VC of our presence and served as a signal for all Rangers to double-time up to the front for an assault on what certainly must be the objective. The Rangers, with their forward momentum already started, did find the camp within five minutes of the initial contact.

The camp was abandoned, but evidence showed that it had been occupied only a few minutes before. Evidently our firefight some 40 hours earlier had not alerted this particular VC unit. The next five hours were spent in searching the area and digging up caches of ammo and supplies. The net haul was seven 77mm RR rounds, several hundred grenades, battalion medical supplies, and thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition. From the material collected it was determined that the base camp belonged to Headquarters Company, D-15 Battalion. The other company base camps of the battalion were not uncovered. Because we had no air or artillery support and considering our extremely vulnerable position in the middle of VC-controlled territory, we left the D-15 base camp after destroying everything we could and began the long march out of the jungle. It was then Christmas Eve.

We spent the night in the jungle about five kilometers from the site of our early morning attack. The following day we spent on the long march back to Dong Xai the small crossroads town on the northwest edge of Zone D from whence we had started. That noon the Rangers stopped to eat and killed several water buffalo which were found grazing in one of the few open areas scattered around War Zone D and presumably belonged to the VC. Buffalo steak and a can of Dinty Moore Stew were the US advisor's two course Christmas dinner. About 2000 hours that night the column emerged from the jungle at Dong Xai and was reunited with the other column which had been unsuccessful in finding D-14.

The operation showed that daring forays into VC-controlled War Zone D could be mounted, if the friendly force practiced constant movement and used night marches to confuse the enemy. It also pointed out that movement at night in the jungle is possible, but slow. Had there been proper air and artillery support, the operation could have been extended and probably would have been far more profitable. The limited success of the operation was attributable to the use of the defector to guide the column and the initiative displayed under the aggressive leadership of Colonel Dien.



BULLETIN BOARD



Hmong woman elected to Minnesota Legislature

Mee Moua has become the first Hmong elected to a State Legislature in the United States. The 32 year old woman spent five years in a refugee camp in Thailand before emigrating to the United States in 1979. She attended the University of Texas and later moved to St. Paul Minn., where she ran for a seat in the state's Senate District 67. Kathy Landry, a St. Paul City Council member, said that Mee Moua is "the story of just about everyone from the East Side. She's an immigrant. She knew the value of a good education and got one. She got married and had a child. She's more in common (sic) with everyone than different and people realize that".

From Knight Ridder Newspapers

Co Vans Redux

"U.S. military advisers are now, or soon will be, posted in Yemen, the Republic of Georgia, the Philippines, Afghanistan and other yet to be disclosed places deemed vital to successful prosecution of the War on Terror. The soldiers, sailors and airmen assigned advisory duty are there to train local forces and to see that equipment provided by the United States is distributed and used properly. To the degree they are successful, fewer U.S. combat forces will be required to find and destroy al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations in the affected countries. This is well and good. Hovering over all, however, is an important lesson from Vietnam, where the U.S. advisory effort signally failed to create a South Vietnamese military willing or able to prevail over Viet Cong Guerillas, much less an invading North Vietnamese Army— and this despite an heroic effort spread over years, the enormous expenditure and great loss of life".

Religious fanaticism and the suicidal behavior it encourages make small unit service in remote areas extremely hazardous duty. How can U.S. advisers be sure that those they train and help arm are indeed on our side? How confident can they be that if they are on our side today they will not cross over tomorrow?"

"Look at what is happening now in Afghanistan., where warlord loyalty is proving to be a sometime thing. We are in a war that must be won, and it may be that there is no way to advise others in the snake pit of Central Asia how to fight it".

"Pity— no, pray for the poor adviser on the ground".

Editorial, Charleston News and Courier, March 10, 2002

...And who did they say "won" the War?

In a recent survey published in the Tet issue of the Vietnamese magazine *Youth*, 200 randomly chosen young people in Saigon (HCM City) were polled on their idols. The results? Bill Gates led the list with 89%. Ho Chi Minh came in a weak second with 39%, and Gen. Giap polled only 35%. The embarrassed Vietnamese government pulled all copies of the magazine from the racks, and replaced the survey with an article on literary criticism.

From Indochina Chronology, April, 2001



COUNTERPARTS

Village Market

Memorabilia Sales Inventory

<i>Counterparts/THDNA patch</i>	\$6.00ppd
7 color embroidered logogram, 3.00"X4.75" oval	
<i>Counterparts lapel pin</i>	\$12.00ppd
bronze over pewter logogram, 0.75"X1.06" oval	
<i>Counterparts challenge coin</i>	\$10.00ppd
bronze logogram/S E Asia map, 1.50" disc	
<i>Counterparts baseball-style hat</i>	\$15.00ppd
direct-embroider logogram on black, winter, adjustable	
<i>Counterparts coffee mug</i>	\$10.00ppd
black logogram/S E Asia map on white, 8oz	
<i>Counterparts t-shirt</i>	\$15.00ppd
6 color print logogram on white 50/50 , specify size: Lg, XL, XXL... These are new.	
<i>Counterparts gold bullion blazer patch</i>	\$25.00ppd
6 color silver/gold bullion direct-embroider logogram on black 4 post military mounting. These are new, while they last	
<i>MACV insignia shoulder sleeve, merrowed edges</i>	\$3.00ppd.
full color patch April 1968	
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all in color, and would look good with your memorabilia.	\$10.00ppd ea.

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