



# COUNTERPARTS

## TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á

# SITREP

Volume IX

Issue 3

Fall 2007

## Tampa Reunion Featured CENTCOM, SpecOps Briefs

Our 2007 Reunion, held April 18-21 in Tampa, FL gave Counterparts members an opportunity to gain new insights into how we are fighting the War on Terror.

The Reunion, superbly planned by Bruce and Marianne Matthews, included a day long trip to MacDill AFB, Home of the Central Command (CENTCOM) and the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Col. Hans Busch, US Army, started us off with a tour de horizon of USSOCOM and its operations. Col Busch, a Special Forces officer, is a veteran of operations in Grenada, West Africa, Afghanistan and other international hot spots. His presentation made it clear that SpecOps have come a long way since "our day" with impressive advances in technology, training and inter-service coordination

After lunch at the O Club, we began the CENTCOM portion of our briefings. It was a pleasant surprise to discover that our briefer, Col Greene, had been a CoVan in Vietnam. He was recalled to active duty for Iraq operations and with experience spanning both wars, had some fascinating insights. Especially interesting were his observations on the differences between the Advisory environment in Iraq and that of the Vietnam War.

Having been thoroughly educated in the problems of today's world we returned to our base at the Wyndham Westshore and after a short break began the business meeting. The financial report (See p. 4) was presented and accepted by the attending members.

The Saturday night banquet was well attended. In addition to 39 *Counterparts* members and spouses we were honored to host Mr. Hoang Ly, a former ARVN Officer who escaped from a Reeducation Camp in Vietnam and eventually found his way to the US. Terry Turner, author of the widely read *Once a Warrior King* also joined us, as did Gary Sizemore,

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Seattle to be site of our 2008 COUNTERPARTS Reunion

By

*Ken Jacobsen*

Jim Daniels' 2008 Reunion Committee hit the deck running. Thanks to Jim and his Committee of Seattle area *COUNTERPARTS*, planning for the 2008 Reunion is off to an unusually quick start. Jim has already negotiated a contract with the **Seattle Hilton** for a block of 15 rooms on April 10, 11th and 12th at a rate of \$13 9.00 a night, a great bargain for a top notch hotel in the Emerald City.

The Reunion will begin on Thursday evening with a special Boat Trip to Tillicum Village for Native American ceremonial dancing, followed by a salmon dinner. The charge for this event will be \$69.00 per person, with a minimum requirement for 20 reservations. This promises to be a once in a lifetime experience that should not be missed.

Friday will begin with a bus trip to the Boeing Museum of Flight in Seattle, then on to Ft. Lewis for lunch with the troops at the post's new dining facility. Before returning to the hotel we'll get a "windshield tour" of the post and a visit to the Ft. Lewis Museum.

On Saturday, we'll open with breakfast at the hotel followed by a business meeting. After the Business Meeting there should be time to visit Seattle's famous Pike Street Market. For Spouses and others who might not be interested in attending the Business Meeting there will be a ferry tour to the USS Turner Joy. After lunch we'll continue the business meeting (if necessary) then will have free time until the Reception and Banquet at the hotel.

Sunday Morning the hotel's famous Champagne Brunch will be an option, and if necessary, we'll hold a short wrap-up business meeting.

A more detailed schedule with costs and reservation info can be found on page 5 of this SITREP. We will also be mailing a special Reunion Flyer in Late November.

***Put the 2008 Reunion on your calendar now, and make your reservations as soon as possible.***

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# COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Volume IX

Issue 3

Fall 2007

## Commander's Corner

This issue of SITREP is the biggest one we've put out in some time and there's a good reason for that. There has been a lot happening in *Counterparts*, and we can look forward to continued activity in the future.

Thanks to Bruce and Marianne Matthews, we had a memorable Reunion in Tampa last April. Attendance was good and the program, especially the series of Briefings at CENTOM, was lively. Once again we had a number of wives who attended, adding an extra touch of class to the occasion, and we were honored by the presence of Mr. Hoang Ly, a former ARVN CAPT, who survived the notorious "Reeducation" Camps.

Jim Simmons' efforts over the last 2 years improved dues collection and put us in a position where we can materially assist people in Southeast Asia, as well as continuing to support our "Counterparts Scholar". Jim's replacement, Jim Ellis, is continuing the work, while Frank Norwood, our new Quartermaster and Village Store operator is open for business.

This issue of SITREP also introduces several new initiatives discussed at the Business Meeting, and I urge all members to give these matters your most serious consideration and attention. Make your opinion known.

Not long after the Reunion, Jim McDaniel volunteered to host the 2008 Reunion in Seattle next April 10-13. Jim wasted no time recruiting a Committee of Seattle area *Counterparts* and as you'll see in the following pages, has already moved planning along at a brisk pace and arranged for some unique activities for us next Spring.

The 2008 Reunion will also mark the end of my three year term as *Counterparts*' Commander. I began with some trepidation, but thanks to the help of many of you, have seen the organization not only survive, but grow stronger. More than once in the last few years we have had someone step up to volunteer just at the right moment.

This SITREP also includes several fine articles by PAO Rich Webster and by several other *Counterparts*. Most members probably don't know that Rich's work in SITREP has a widening audience. If you "Google" SITREP, you'll find it used as a source in lectures, scholarly papers, and other writing on Vietnam related subjects. I encourage all members to submit accounts of their experience, opinion and thought to SITREP. If we don't tell the real story, who will?

Finally, I'd like to urge all members to help recognize the outstanding work that our young men and women are doing in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places that rarely make the headlines. It's glaringly apparent to most of us that the mass media have, as they did in Vietnam, an agenda that has nothing to do with the need for success in war. We can speak out, and we should. We have seen what happens when the "Silent Majority" remains silent

.....Ken Jacobsen

whose father, SFC William D. Sizemore, was a CoVan killed in Vietnam.

A Letter of Appreciation for Outstanding service to *Counterparts* was presented to Jim Simmons for his work as Membership Chairman 2005-2007. Jim revitalized our membership operations, expedited membership applications and reorganized our dues collection system. The increased dues Receipts has enabled us to continue supporting such efforts as our "Counterparts Scholar".

Tommy Daniels, our featured speaker showed us, through photos and a description of his own experience, the plight of the "forgotten" Montagnard refugees in Cambodia and what his organization, *Cambodia Corps Inc.* is doing to help these people. Tommy noted that, among the various organization contributing to *Cambodia Corps*, *Counterparts* was right at the top.

#### **The following agenda items were discussed at our Business meetings in Tampa**

**Donations:** Last year we donated a total of \$3000.00 to various organizations helping our former comrades in SEA. How much to we want to budget this year, and how will we allocate it? PAO Rich Webster pointed out that our COUNTERPARTS Scholar, Broy Makara, will begin his second year of Veterinary college, at a cost of about \$2,000. After discussion, the following allocations were voted:

\$1500.00 to our Counterparts Scholar

\$500.00 to Mike and Marion Little's Operation Rice Lift (Vihn Son Orphanage)

\$500.00 to Vietnam Vets with a Mission (VWAM)

\$100.00 to Save The Montagnard People (STMP)

TOTAL \$2600.00

Individual Members also pledged support to the Counterparts Scholar as follows: Jim O'Malley, Charles Reinhart, Joe Frankoski, Tom Bender, \$100.00 each. Jim Ellis, \$200.00, Joe Pickerell, \$250.00

TOTAL \$3450.00

**Membership:** Due to Medical problems, Jim had to resign the Membership position earlier this year. A volunteer was called for to replace him and Jim Ellis stepped up to take the job.

**Quartermaster/Village Market:** This office has been vacant since the resignation of Steve Moczary earlier this year. Volunteers were called for and Frank Norwood generously offered to take on the job.

**Elections:** The Commander's three year term expires next April, and elections will be required for that position. XO Tom Stevens volunteered to stay on as XO. Our bylaws require that a nomination and election committee be appointed at least ninety days before the annual meeting (Reunion). All members are urged to consider their choices for the Commander's office. At present, plans are to include a nomination form in the next SITREP, then form a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates to be voted on at the annual meeting (Reunion). XO Tom Stevens suggested that we remind all members that they can vote by proxy or by mail.

**Web Site:** While there has been encouraging improvement in the Counterparts website ([www.counterparts.net](http://www.counterparts.net)) we still have a long way

to go. Jim Alkek continues to maintain the site without help. Computer knowledgeable volunteers are needed to assist in this job if we expect the site to improve.

#### **New Business:**

Scholarship for descendant of an Advisor: It was suggested that we look in to establishing a modest scholarship for a selected descendant of a former Advisor. XO Tom Stevens volunteered to form a committee of one to begin looking into this possibility.

Dues Increase: Several members suggested that we increase dues to help fund future charitable and scholarship initiatives. (*Continued on p.4*)



Ken Jacobsen presents *COUNTERPARTS* Cap to Col Greene



Increases proposed were Annual Dues of \$25.00 from the present \$20.00 and increase in Life Membership from \$200.00 to \$250.00. Such an increase would probably become effective January 1, 2008. At present we have about 300 dues paying members, of which about 100 are Life Members.



Carol Jacobsen Diane Webster Elke Henke Carol Lund Chibara Frankoski  
Alice Reinhart Lydia Goss Tik Ellis

We need the views of the membership on this proposal, by mail, email or on the Web site bulletin board.

Recruiting/Publicity: Thanks to the efforts of Jim Simmons in Membership and Rich Webster in PAO, *Counterparts* has become better known and membership has increased. But we still need to do a better job of getting out the word. Most of us heard about *Counterparts* from another former Advisor, or by other indirect means. There has been little opportunity to sell our organization to other ex-Covans. We can increase membership by increasing awareness of who we are and what we stand for. I urge all members to be aggressive in contacting their local community and city newspapers and radio and TV outlets to try to get our story out. You might be surprised at how eager the media is for a good feature or human interest story.

Most of us recall the role media coverage, good and bad, played in forming public opinion in the Vietnam era. In case you haven't noticed, the same thing is happening now with Iraq. It was apparent, after listening to the Briefers at the Reunion, that the REAL story of Iraq isn't getting out. As always, the story of our small day to day victories is pushed aside by the media's need for sensation and drama. We can help to support today's soldiers by taking every opportunity we can to get informed and help tell the story as it is, not like TV would like us to see it. Stand up for what you believe.

Membership Eligibility: XO Tom Stevens and several other members suggested we consider the possibility of allowing spouses, widows, and other family members of former Advisors to be eligible for membership. Tom is looking into the implications of this and will have more info on the subject in the coming months.

## COUNTERPARTS FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2005-2007 AS OF 15 APRIL 2007

### EXPENDITURES

|                                       |                    |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Supplies                              | \$155.22           |
| 2006 Reunion                          | \$4274.68          |
| Mail/Stamps                           | \$1356.63          |
| Bank Charges (Checks)                 | \$18.35            |
| Refund to member, 2006 Reunion        | \$282.00           |
| Purchases of Village Market inventory | \$3324.00          |
| Donations to Scholarship fund, others | \$3000.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>\$12,410.88</b> |

### RECEIPTS

|                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dues and Contributions            | \$15,834.55        |
| Village Market                    | \$1137.00          |
| Members Payments for Reunion 2006 | \$3371.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>\$20,342.55</b> |

**BALANCE AS OF APRIL 15, 2007** **\$7931.67**

## MATTERS FOR MEMBER CONSIDERATION

The following proposals made at the 2007 Reunion are placed before the membership for consideration. Some of these proposals, if approved, would require a change to the Constitution and Bylaws. All Plenary members are requested to vote on each of these proposals. This notice will be posted on the *COUNTERPARTS* web site ([www.counterparts.net](http://www.counterparts.net)) and will also be repeated in January, 2008, either as part of the Winter 2007/2008 SITREP or as a separate notice for distribution to the membership. Prior to the April 2008 Reunion a Committee will be appointed to tally the votes and report the results to the membership.

### **Proposal 1.**

Increase annual dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00 and Life Membership from \$200.00 to \$250.00. This proposal would change Article I Section C 2) and C 3) of the Bylaws to reflect the new numbers. (note: older copies of the current Constitution and Bylaws should be corrected to reflect the existing dues of \$20.00 and life membership of \$200).

### **Proposal 2.**

Change the Qualification for Membership to include persons who are or were related to Advisors. This proposal would change Article I Section A of the Bylaws. For clarity, this proposal is presented as two options as follows:

#### **OPTION A**

Change qualifications for *Plenary* membership to include the following persons: Spouses and former Spouses of Advisors, Adult (21 years of age or older) Children and Step-Children of Advisors, Siblings of Advisors.

#### **OPTION B**

Establish a new category of membership to include the persons listed under **OPTION A** except that these persons will not have voting rights or be eligible for elective office. The number of members in this category should not exceed one quarter of the total membership. Members in this category will pay initiation fees and annual dues at the same rate as *Plenary* Members.

## VOTING

Members may vote via the paper ballot shown below or by an email facsimile of the paper ballot. For security purposes members must identify themselves by name and member number. Mail Ballots to Adjutant J.C. Fischer, 100 Red Oak Cir Temple, TX 76502-3503, email [fischer@hot.rr.com](mailto:fischer@hot.rr.com) Telephone votes will not be accepted.

### **COUNTERPARTS BALLOT**

Proposal 1. YES NO (Circle one)

Proposal 2. OPTION A OPTION B NO (Circle one)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## CONCENTRATION CAMP SURVIVOR ATTENDS TAMPA REUNION

### Refutes Neil Sheehan's comments on C-SPAN about communist retribution

Attending our Tampa reunion was Captain Hy Hoang, a former ARVN officer and graduate of the military academy at Dalat, South Vietnam. Until he was 19 years old, Captain Hoang worked at the US Post Exchange in Saigon. Graduating from the Dalat military academy in 1972, he joined the ARVN 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division and was stationed in the Central Highlands. He was wounded in one of the last battles of the Vietnam War in 1975 and survived 5 years in a concentration camp and a dangerous open sea voyage to Japan.

Captain Hoang's experiences refute what Neil Sheehan, the guru on the left of Vietnam War reporting, asserted in a recent C-SPAN interview. Sheehan insisted that there was really no retribution by the communists after they took power in the South. It was just one of those myths he said, concocted by South Vietnamese Generals and war hawks in the United States.

But Captain Hoang's experience tells another story. "The cruelty of the North Vietnamese guards continued after the war. ' he told me." We started at 4am, and all day long, they made us plow like buffalos. Our dinner was dry corn. They moved us to different camps at night. They packed 100 of us in a vehicle that normally held twenty-five. They tied a canvas over the top so we couldn't see and breathe and we never knew where we were at."

"One Christmas Eve several of us held a secret mass ceremony. My cell mate was a 65-year old priest. Even though he was very old, they treated him like the rest of us. The guards caught us that night and took the priest away. I never saw him again."

"They tried to persuade us to follow communist doctrines and obey them. They put me in a gasoline barrel for several days in the sun with only a little water through a hole. When they thought I was near death, they let me go to my uncles and aunts in Saigon who treated me. I fool the communists and do not die. The communists wanted their prisoners to die at home,"

It has been estimated by South Vietnamese General Le Minh Dao that 250,000 South Vietnamese died in the concentration camps in the South. General Do should know. He spent 17 years in the camps; 10 years locked in a cage with his fellow officers. One of the devious practices of the communists was to release their captives before they died from the slave labor, disease, starvation, and torture, a practice that never seems to interest those American peace groups who supported the communists in the war.

That's why the term, "Concentration camp, is used in this article, rather than the euphemistic term, 'reeducation camp, foisted upon a gullible media and public by Northern conquerors after the war.

Captain Hoang provides insight into why the North Vietnamese soldiers were so fanatical and cruel. "They cannot live with their families so they must fight to the death. If they marry, they are separated and go back to the battlefield. If a man tries to go back to his family, the family is kept hostage, and he knows they are to be killed for what he does."

Commenting on the situation after Congress cut off aid to South Vietnam in 1974, he says, "We used American guns and supplies in 1972 and still had enough but these were gone at the end in 1974 and we were not resupplied. Where there were once 100 shells for artillery, there were only two shells. Where two soldiers could get 60 grenades, each person having 30 around his belt, there was only enough to supply two grenades.



Tom Bender, Former ARVN Captain Hoang Ly, Col. Greene, Mai Nguyen, J.C. Fischer

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1975, says Hoang, “I was shot through the hip as we were retreating. All of my division was routed by the Communists.”

“The Americans were defeated for many reasons,” Hoang now reflects. He partially blames the media and the ignorance of many reporters. He remembers a French article claiming Ho Chi Minh was a nationalist, not a communist. “They thought North Vietnam were models and praised them.”

And then there were those Americans who sided with Hanoi. “We South Vietnamese lost faith in America after your congress cut off all war funding. When your protesters tried to help the enemy, the communists in the North, and not your friend, how can you win?” he says.

“And the poor peasants listened to the Communist propaganda and were fooled into thinking they had their best interests in heart,” continues Hoang.

Captain Hoang is now a retired civil engineer and lives in the Tampa area.

Major General Le Minh Dao, famous commander of the last battle in Xuan Loc where the South Vietnamese defeated three North Vietnamese Divisions, said it best in an interview two years ago at the Phoenix Advisor reunion, For being a South Vietnamese patriot and soldier; the communists labeled General Minh a war criminal for prolonging the war. “The communist cadres poisoned the minds of the peasants and brainwashed their own soldiers, telling them lies about the conditions in the South. ‘

Sadly, the peasants didn’t get their land that the communists promised them after the war. They were told it was better that the communist party owned all the land. And that’s the way it is in Vietnam today. The communist party owns everything, the land, and all the large industrial companies. The magazine Asia Inc., Nov-Dec 2006, states that the government of Vietnam (that’s the communist party) owns 1500 state enterprises worth 30 billion dollars. Yes, that’s right. The communist party is worth 30 billion dollars.

Hoang couldn’t stand living in Vietnam and escaped by boat to Japan. “Three people couldn’t stand together in one place and talk,” Hoang said of his life in Vietnam after release from prison. “If you’re caught, government officials will separate you, and have each person tell you what the conversation was about. If the three accounts aren’t the same, they all go to jail.”

“The communists will give you volunteer work in the fields on Sundays. If you were sick, they would tell you to make your sister work for you.”

In June of 1980, Hoang led 27 men, women and children through the silent darkness of the Ba Lang beach. They escaped in a nine-meter-long fishing boat with a small motor and a handful of supplies, after. Studying and plotting an escape strategy for months. His long journey to freedom in Japan and ended in the US where his new life began. Hoang never gets tired of thanking America for his freedom. He says, “America doesn’t try to make you unhappy, like the communist government.”

Those journalists on the left like Sheehan who ignored the concentration camps after the war and still fail to speak up for human rights in Vietnam have become enablers of the communist regime there. The mainstream media’s silence today contributes to the ongoing genocide of the Hmong in Laos and the Montagnards in Vietnam by their communist masters and to the seemingly endless persecution of Vietnamese Christians and Buddhists.

.....*Rich Webster, PAO*

## **Sixth Triennial Vietnam Symposium at Texas Tech**

The Sixth Symposium sponsored by The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech will be held on March 13-15, 2008 in Lubbock Texas. 2008 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the TET offensive and other key events in the war. The symposia are open for papers on all aspects of the American involvement in Vietnam and papers are encouraged. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should submit a one page proposal prior to Nov 1, 2007. The proposals should be an abstract, including the authors name, title/affiliation, title of paper, thesis/purpose and main points. Maximum length for proposals is 500 words. Submit to Stephen Maxner, PH.D, Deputy Director, the Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX 79409-9010.

**ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION COSTS FORM**

**April 10-13, 2008**

**HILTON SEATTLE  
6<sup>th</sup> and University  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Telephone: 206-695-6035**

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

**Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_**

**REUNION EVENT SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, 10 April:**

**ARGOSY Dinner Cruise \$69/person X \_\_\_\_ people = \$\_\_\_\_  
(Tillicum Village Salmon Bake)**

**Friday, 11 April:**

**Tour of Fort Lewis and Boeing Museum of Flight  
(all day). Includes transportation, Museum entrance fee  
and lunch in Mess Hall \$35/person X \_\_\_\_ people = \$\_\_\_\_**

**Saturday, 12 April:**

**AM – Business Meeting/Room/Coffee/Snacks**

**Or**

**AM – Ferry to Bremerton for Tour of USS Turner Joy\* \_\_\_\_ people = \$\_\_\_\_**

**\*Individuals pay for Ferry and \$6 Ship tour only.**

**PM- Banquet at Hotel Estimated \$50.00/person X \_\_\_\_ people = \$\_\_\_\_**

**Sunday, 13 April:**

**Farewell Brunch**

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

***Make check payable and mail to: Jim McDaniel; 16807 14<sup>th</sup> Ave S; Spanaway, WA  
98387-8900***

***SUSPENSE: NLT 4 Feb '08***



## ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

April 10-13, 2008

**HILTON SEATTLE**  
6<sup>th</sup> and University  
Seattle, WA 98101  
Telephone: 206-695-6035

**Hotel reservations for the COUNTERPARTS 2008 Reunion must be made directly to the Hilton Seattle. Deadline for reservations is three days prior to arrival. Please make reservations prior to April 7, 2007, as the hotel may not extend the room block or discount rate. Room cancellation must be made directly to the Hotel NLT 48 hrs prior to your arrival.**

**You may use this form or call the Hotel directly to make reservations at (206) 695-6035.**

### PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address or PO Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Deposit Information if payment by credit card:

Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Room Type Required: \_\_\_\_\_ Single (one bed) \_\_\_\_\_ Double (two beds)  
Price per night: \$139.00 Plus tax = \$160.68  
Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair, etc)

**Shuttle service is provided from SEATAC to downtown Seattle Hotels every 30 minutes at a cost of \$10.25 per person or \$17 round trip. Parking garages are available at the hotel and nearby. There is an Alamo/National car rental outlet in the hotel Parking Garage. Hotel Parking cost is \$24 per day.**



## BULLETIN BOARD

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNTERPARTS COMMANDER

**Ken Jacobsen's term of office ends at the 2008 Reunion. We need nominees for the position of Commander. As stated in the Bylaws, the term of office is three years. Nominations should be sent to J.C. Fischer, Chair of the Nominations Committee.**

**Nominations may be sent by mail to *John C. Fischer, 100 Red Oak Cir Temple TX 76502-3503. Email to [fischer@hot.rr.com](mailto:fischer@hot.rr.com). Nominations must be submitted prior to the 2008 Reunion.***

- 1. Members who cannot attend the Reunion can cast a Proxy Vote, using the following procedure**
- 2. The member prepares a Proxy Vote Statement which states: The name of the member attending the Reunion who will hold the proxy vote, and how the vote is to be used. The proxy Vote Statement must state that it is a vote for the position of Commander and can be used for voting on that position only.**
- 3. The Proxy Vote Statement must be signed and dated by the Member preparing it. Before the election begins, the Proxy holder must register and present his proxy vote or votes for authentication by the Nominations Committee.**
- 4. If a Member does not want to appoint another member to hold his Proxy he may name the Nominations Committee in his Proxy Vote Statement, to vote his Proxy.**
- 5. A Member may also use his Proxy Vote to make a nomination.**

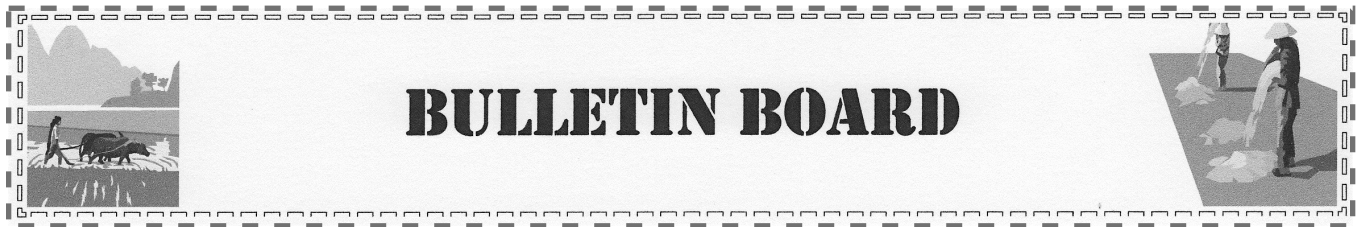
### ***Member in Memoriam***

*COUNTERPARTS* member Ngo Minh Hong, a true Viet Nam patriot and noble man died in March at his home in Midway City CA. He was at our Orange County reunion. He nearly lost his leg at An Loc in '72 and only the skills of a U.S. Army surgeon prevented amputation. Col. Hong was a leader in the VN Ranger community. We have lost a good man and a friend and must rededicate ourselves to our efforts to pay him honor.

...Bill Laurie

### ***Seeking info on Lang Vei***

SGM (Ret) Dennis Thompson is trying to do in depth research on the battle of Lang Vei and the various rescue plans and attempts that were carried out during the battle. Dennis was one of the participants and was captured by the NVA while trying to evade, ending up a POW for over five years. He is trying to locate everyone that may have been involved in putting together any aspect of the rescue or planning for one; a copy of the various recordings that are reliably reported to have been made by various sources, and to contact the personnel that flew the extraction missions the day following the camp being overrun.



While many of you may not have any first hand knowledge, I am asking for you to contact others that may be able to provide more information or contacts w with the knowledge needed. Please contact me or Dennis direct. His email address is [amazingdt@aol.com](mailto:amazingdt@aol.com)  
Thanks. Moe Elmore [MoeElmore@aol.com](mailto:MoeElmore@aol.com)

### ***Locator Request***

Looking for info on SFC Frank Slaughter, died of wounds while serving on Advisory Team 56 in 1959. Contact, [csmjwallen@bellsouth.net](mailto:csmjwallen@bellsouth.net)

### ***Vietnamese/US Memorial***

When Tom Huynh looks at a patch of land on the south side of the Utah Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City, he sees a place that will soon be a memorial for soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

The Freedom Alliance Monument will be cast in bronze and is scheduled to be unveiled at a community party in September. Huynh has headed up efforts by the local Vietnamese community to raise money to cover the monument's \$45,000 cost. Fund-raisers are still looking for about \$7,000. The statue is of two soldiers, one American and one South Vietnamese, standing side by side in full combat gear. They are looking straight ahead, shoulder to shoulder.

The sculptor, artist Jerime Hooley, says it was designed to portray a sense of unity and hope. Huynh asked Hooley to create the statue. The two men had met several years ago while they were attending the same church.

"The figures are somewhat facing each other, and they are looking in the same direction," Hooley said. "Hopefully, this represents all those who have sacrificed and also looks to the unity of the future between the Vietnamese community and the United States."

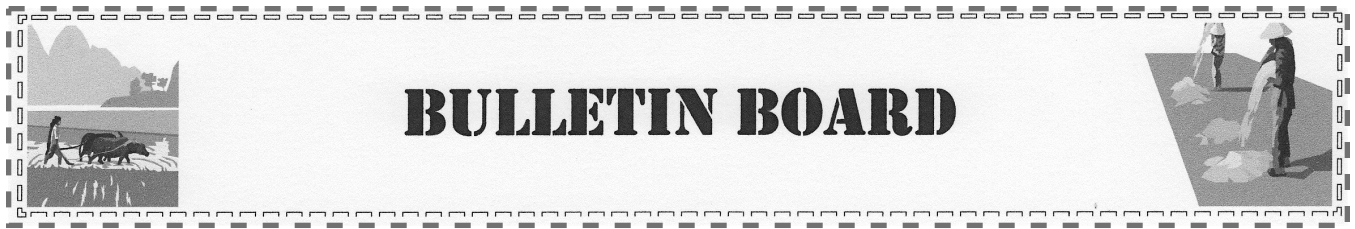
For Huynh, whose father was killed while fighting for South Vietnam when Huynh was only 5 years old, the monument represents a way to honor those who sacrificed so that he could have the life he now lives. Huynh said the monument will also give the younger generation of Vietnamese immigrants a sense of their history, "why they are here."  
He remembers his grandfather once told him, "Tom, when you eat fruit, you have to remember the farmer who nurtured the fruit tree."

*.....From the Deseret Morning News, Deseret Utah*

### ***General Robert Kingston***

GEN Kingston died on Feb 28, from complications after a fall.

He entered the Army as an enlisted soldier in November 1948, attended OCS and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry in 1949. GEN Kingston commanded troops at every level from platoon to brigade. In 1972 he served in Vietnam as Deputy Senior Advisor, II Corps and Military Region 2.



## BULLETIN BOARD

In January 1973, General Kingston assumed command of the Joint Casualty Resolution Center in Nakhon Phanom Thailand. Upon his return to the United States in 1974, he was Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Infantry Div. and was promoted to Major General in September 1975. He took command of the US Army John F. Kennedy Center for Military Assistance and the US Army Institute for Military Assistance at Fort Bragg 1975, followed by command of the 2nd Infantry Div. in Tongduchon, Korea June 1979 - June 1981. Following his promotion to Lieutenant General in 1981 he assumed command of the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force (RDJTF) and in 1984 was promoted to General and Commander of the US Central Command (CENTCOM). He retired from active duty in 1985.

### ***A War Story***

In 1970-1971, I was on Attached duty to CCN Monkey Mountain FOB working for a Major Calvin Gore. My job was working the communications bunker/site, delivering messages to CCN Headquarters near Marble Mountain below China beach. I was warned that on the roadside near China beach was a Hospital/Home where Disabled Vietnamese Vets resided. They had a tendency to block the road when an American Vehicle passed by. Some were bent on committing suicide. (This was told to me by Paul our Interpreter). I decided that I would stop one day when I was off duty. Did so, spoke through Paul and made a deal with these guys and Gate Guards not to jump in front of our vehicles. Seems they liked Salem and Kool cigarettes, since I didn't smoke it was no big deal to stop and give them a little bartering material when I had no mission to deliver classified documents. Worked so well that Gore and a few other guys commented on it. Never know if Paul told them what happened after I left in April of 1971.

*...Submitted by Jim Simmons*

### ***Tours to Vietnam***

Tom Morgan passes on this info about tours to Vietnam. The Tours are run by *Global Spectrum*, a Travel agency operating out of Northern Virginia. The tours are led by Richard Schonberger, who served in Vietnam with the 101st ABN and as District Advisor in II Corps. Mr. Schonberger describes the tours as follows:

*"Vietnam is one of the "best kept travel secrets" and has become a destination of choice (and security) in SE Asia...Clients are free to make their own air arrangements or Global will help book, if that is what the clients desire. We estimate R/T air from the west coast at about \$1300, but rates in effect at the time of booking will prevail.*

*Note that we are offering extensions to Dien Bien Phu, Laos, and Cambodia, and if you want to use SQ (sic.) air you can plan a layover in Singapore on the way out...Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information"*

Richard Schonberger's number is 703 425 9412.

### ***Vietnam Refugee develops new body armor for Iraq Troops***

Good story of giving a gift to his adopted country

<http://www.opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110010418>

*The following is a summary of a series of phone and email conversations between the author and Thomas Vann, the son of John Paul Vann. For clarity and brevity, the dialogue has been edited in places.*

JOHN PAUL VANN'S SON SPEAKS OUT ABOUT  
"A BRIGHT AND SHINING LIE."

By Rich Webster

Thomas Vann, the son of John Paul Vann, is certain that Neil Sheehan's book, *A Bright and Shining Lie*, deliberately distorted his father's valiant efforts to defeat the communist forces in the Vietnam War. I have been a big fan of the Vann approach to counterinsurgency and have written two articles in the COUNTERPART'S SITREP urging that his mobile advisory team approach, the successful CORDS/Vietnamization program that defeated the Viet Cong be used as the model to defeat the enemy in Iraq.

Unfortunately, Army and military planners long ignored one of the most successful counterinsurgency programs in the history of warfare. Only after wasting three valuable years and rewriting counterinsurgency doctrine did they begin employing Vann's principles. It's now four years into the war, and finally General Petraeus is using advisers intertwined with local soldiers to track down and kill Al Qaeda operatives. They didn't have to rewrite the counterinsurgency handbook. No one has ever put into operation a better counterinsurgency program than the CORDS program in Vietnam. It totally defeated the Viet Cong, who also made it their deliberate policy to target women and children and assassinate local government officials. When I pointed this out to Thomas Vann, he agreed.

"Yes, you are right," he wrote. "Your analysis of the linkage between the counterinsurgency efforts in Vietnam and Iraq is quite astute. My father's efforts at counterinsurgency have been completely forgotten, thanks in part to the book about his life that Sheehan wrote."

"My mother is very bitter about Sheehan's book. She feels that Neil totally glossed over what my father had done in Vietnam. The book reflects Neil Sheehan's anti-American and anti-Vietnam War attitude. The man she knew would not have given his life for a worthless cause. To the end, my father believed in victory and continually warned what defeat would mean. When my father would make his twice yearly visits home, he would spend about a half day giving me a briefing on the situation in Vietnam. So I received the same briefings that he delivered to the President and the Joint Chiefs from the time I was 8 years old until my 18th birthday. Your two articles that I read in your advisor newsletter detail how my father would have fought the war in Iraq against the terrorists."

However, if one relied on Sheehan's book, no one would ever know that the US military won the conventional war in Vietnam, or that the advisor program finished up the local guerillas forces in the villages-providing security and eventually eliminating the VC as a fighting force after their failed 68 Tet offensive.

Thomas Vann also witnessed his father's frustration with the Washington Bureaucracy:

"I remember my father complaining how Washington was thwarting his efforts to drive a wedge between elements of the VC. One case in particular that sticks in my mind was he had arranged for Doug Ramsey (his assistant who had been captured) and a number of other prisoners to be released in exchange for medical supplies and a typewriter. Further, he was working on a deal playing upon the dislike Northern and Southern Vietnamese had for each other, an operation where the local VC commander would maintain his links with Hanoi but begin working with the Americans and Saigon creating a safe zone. However, the brilliant strategists in Washington would not approve the deal. This was in 1965 or 1966."



Sheehan was quick to point out failure in Vietnam but ignored success. In describing the Battle of Ap Bac early in the war he accurately reports how poorly the 7<sup>th</sup> ARVN (where Vann was an advisor) fought at Ap Bac against a smaller VC force. But he never mentions that the 7<sup>th</sup> later evolved into the dominant military unit in the Northern Delta. He never gave the ARVN and the South Vietnamese forces an even break. Of the 861 pages in *A Bright and Shining Lie*, Sheehan devotes only 30 pages to the period from 1968 to 1972 when Vann's program and the South Vietnamese soldiers broke the back of the Viet Cong.

Sheehan's reporting was selective, leaving readers with the impression that John Paul Vann's methods of counterinsurgency were unsuccessful, when the truth is just the exact opposite. The myth continues that we lost the guerilla war and failed to win "the hearts and minds" of the Vietnamese people—a myth that seeps through Sheehan's writings. Even the title of his book is deceiving and disingenuous. In a new book, *Triumph Forsaken*, Mark Moyer says that Sheehan and Halberstam did more damage to America in a war than any two other journalists in the history of America. They became stuck in time in the very early stages of the Vietnam War and couldn't move beyond it. Sheehan skips over four years of the war in his book because it doesn't fit his viewpoint.

Thomas Vann learned early about biased reporting of the war. "On another of his visits home" he told me "my father had a slide show prepared that showed how the VC had desecrated and booby trapped a number of Buddhist shrines with devastating consequences to the local villagers. The pictures were quite graphic with body parts strewn around. He showed how the Americans helped clean up, rebuild, and then set up protection for the people that earned the respect and loyalty of the villagers. None of this ever made it onto the nightly news or into *A Bright and Shining Lie*. That's only one example of many on how Sheehan disregarded my father's message about the war with his selective use of material to support his version of the facts."

Thomas Vann could just as well be describing current reporting on the present war in Iraq. One can find very little positive reporting for what the American military has done. The main stream media is obsessive about finding fault with our soldiers while ignoring the terrible atrocities committed by our enemy.

"It's a shame" he says, "that the defeatists are attempting to do the same thing now in Iraq that they did in Vietnam. Lying about or not reporting on our successful efforts, demonizing the troops and failing to report the inhuman brutality of the enemy. Whether it is the Nazi, the Communists, or the Islam fascists, it is still the same enemy; those who want to enslave humanity."

"Unfortunately, we again seem to be at a crossroads. We have a press in America trying to make Iraq another Vietnam. Vietnam was not a loss by the U.S. military. Rather it was and is my opinion, sedition by the popular press by lending aid and comfort to the enemy by word and deed. The left and the media are again trying to get America to surrender and snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Thank God for the internet which is about the only place you can find some honest reporting on today's struggle. It is there that I see the counterinsurgency efforts that remind me of what my father was doing in Vietnam."

The irony is that if Sheehan and others like him were reporters in the Vietnam of 2007, the communist authorities who rule the country would not allow them the freedom to travel and do investigative reporting, something they could do in the old South Vietnam. They would be assigned a communist party minder to lead them around, prepare the way for them and steer their thoughts in the proper direction. And that's what happened over 40 years ago. Sheehan and his reporter friends never suspected that their main interpreter and guide, Pham Xuan An, was a spy who emerged as a North Vietnamese Colonel on the last day of the war.

During our discussion I suggested to Tom Vann that it could be argued that his father bested General Giap during the 1972 Easter Offensive by the NVA because the South Vietnamese Armed forces assisted by our air power defeated Giap in that decisive battle. Vann was directing the war in II CORPS at the time, performing the role of a two star general although he was a civilian. Few are aware that that General Giap was demoted for the failed 1972 invasion and sacked from his position. Giap's defeat, orchestrated by John Paul Vann and brave South Vietnamese soldiers and American advisors is forgotten and ignored. Not only did Vann help design a program to win the guerilla war, he also beat their best general in a conventional battle.

Sheehan's view of that battle angers Vann's son. "It galls me that in Sheehan's reporting of that battle, which was similar to a WWII type battle between two uniformed forces, he portrays my father as having succumbed to the view that we could bomb our way to victory. While it is true my father called in a bombing strike, it was literally on top of his own position. This was not a guerilla-war type battle. We went toe to toe with the NVA and destroyed them."

Thomas also described his father's sadness at American abandonment of Vietnam: "On my father's final visit home, before his death, he sensed that the U.S. had lost the will to fight and would abandon South East Asia to the communists. He accurately predicted the bloodbath that would follow and the march of communism around the world. Sheehan indicates my father was wrong about this issue in his book."

Sheehan still refuses to acknowledge the holocaust that occurred in Vietnam after the communist victory. In a recent C-SPAN interview he scoffed at the idea that hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese soldiers suffered and died in Hanoi's "Reeducation camps" and has conveniently ignored the existence of the 'Boat People' who voted with their feet. He should have known better. If he spent any time with the South Vietnamese Regional Force/Popular Force soldiers in the villages like I did, he would have learned very early on that the communists in the North would collect their blood debt. All the South Vietnamese soldiers knew that. He also conveniently never mentions the boat people in his book.

I asked Tom Vann how he saw the War in Iraq from his father's viewpoint. He was not optimistic. "If the antiwar crowd are successful" he wrote, "I fear we will be approaching a point in our country that when the call goes forth for the best to raise arms to defend America, the answer will be no. The left and the media again are trying to get America to surrender and snatch defeat from the jaws of victory."

"I do not regret my father's death. He died doing what he loved. He was at the peak of his profession and will remain forever young. I will never forget or forgive the press and the left for making his sacrifice and the sacrifice of all those Vietnamese and Americans who fought the war worthless."

# From The Team House to The White House

By

Robert Amon

I briefed John Paul Vann in 1969 at my team house at Vinh Thanh Village, Kien Giang Province. Mr. Vann had been gathering information during the summer of 1969 as to the effectiveness of the advisory effort and was about to brief President Nixon on his findings.

I kept a diary during my entire tour and eventually wrote a book, *Chicken Soup for The Veterans Soul*

based upon the diary entries. My diary entry for August 22, 1969 was: “*Undersecretary of the Army Siena visited with Mr. Vann. I gave them a briefing.*” It was not until years later, after researching history and matching my diary with other events that the pieces of the puzzle revealed the complete story. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, a visit from Province, XO Major Stroud preceded a visit by the IV Corps Commander, Major General Wetherill, on the 18th. Then came my briefing to the General on the 18th. That should have been the end of it. In our world, at this God-forsake mud-hole, they didn’t come any bigger than the commanding General of the entire Delta. Topping this was another visit on the 21<sup>st</sup> by Major Stroud and Col. “Billy Stanberry, Senior Advisor for Kien Giang, for another briefing followed by the announcement of the visit today by the Under-Secretary of the Army and 'some high-ranking civilians.

“What is going on here?” I thought. “We just had 7 casualties two days ago, 4 of who are dead. Don’t they know I have more to do than give briefings? And why bring the Undersecretary of the Army here. Are they Nuts?”

It was not until years later that I discovered the reason for such intense interest in Vinh Thanh. Major General Wetherill had come to Vinh Thanh outpost eager to see for himself if my briefing would meet his high standards and be positive enough. MAT 88 had been selected, among others in the Delta, for the ultimate “show and tell. I was going to be briefing people higher up than the General, higher even than Undersecretary of the Army, Mr. Siena or his Deputy, Mr. Beal. Among the other civilian visitors to our team house, there was none more outspokenly influential in higher circles and among his peers than John Paul Vann.

On August 22, 1969, Vann strode off that helicopter like he had lived in Binh Thanh Village all his life. He was wearing civilian slacks and a white short sleeve shirt, covered by a windbreaker. It was odd to have someone get off a chopper dressed that way. I led the way from the helipad: my Pied-Piper routine past our mailbag outhouse, our sentry sitting inside the machine-gun bunker.

There was no time for small talk or introductions. This entourage wasn’t here for that, and I sensed time was even more valuable to them than any other group I had previously briefed. MAT 88 members LT Weatherill and SGT’s Logan, Boyd, and Perdue all stood in a line at the back of the room at “parade rest, wearing the cleanest, freshest jungle fatigues they owned.

I told them like it was. I gave them a brief historical background: how long we had been in Vinh Thanh, and how long it had been in the hands of the communists. On the tactical map board I used a pointer to show the location of the outposts we currently had under construction and the RF and PF units presently controlling those areas. I showed them an overview of our military operations and recent night ambush locations. I also explained the mission and importance of the RD Cadre teams doing the civilian work in the village, and our recruitment efforts for the local PF Platoon. I then told them of our future plans for further pacification: the recruitment of a People’s

Self Defense Force (PSDF) like we had trained in Hoa Quan, and our plans for a future MEDCAP in Vinh Thanh. I didn't know who was in charge.

As I addressed them, I assumed the civilians were the heavyweights, so I made eye contact with them whenever necessary to do so. I had learned from previous briefings to avoid self-inflicting booby traps, such as discussing the RF 770 Company getting their asses waxed or the refusal of the 267 Company to go on an operation, or the ass-kicking our own 379 Company took two days ago. Such negativity would only lead to a barrage of increasingly difficult questions for me to field. The more questions I had to answer, the greater were my chances of ambushing my self. Besides, there were good reasons for optimism. What we had all accomplished in Hoan Quan had been rewarding. And now, at Vinh Thanh, we had been thrust into the most difficult of challenges, and met it head on. The VC had not driven us from Vinh Thanh, or Nha Si, or anyplace else. All the threats of impending attacks, even the heavily armed NVA with the Chinese advisors passing us within 300 meters on the first night had not deterred us. The weather, the operations, the ambushes had not slowed the building of the outpost, which we accomplished in one month. The pacification plans in the other hamlets, including Nha Si, were progressing: with difficulty, yes, but nonetheless progressing.

Ending the briefing, I now found out who was in charge. Vann spoke first. "Are you using your RD Cadre teams to their fullest advantage, Lieutenant?"

"Yes sir, we are," I answered. "RD Cadre teams 18 and 30 were here even before the completion of the outpost, working in the village with the pacification effort. They've also been gathering information from informants on the local VCI (Vietcong Infrastructure) for the Phoenix Program."

"Make sure you personally monitor them to be sure they submit the names through their channels," Vann said.

"Ye sir, I will." I replied.

"Your team is doing an excellent job, lieutenant," he spoke again. "Keep up the good work."

John Paul Vann was 45 years old at the time. He had been in Vietnam throughout the 60's, first as an Army officer, then as a civilian, returning to the place he loved, the war he loved, the killing of communists in Vietnam. Because of his feisty demeanor and positive effect on the war effort (to the exclusion of everything else in his life), Vann was famous in military and political circles, having done remarkable advisory work throughout Vietnam, most recently in III CORPS, as head of Civilian Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS). The CORDS director in Vietnam, former Cold war CIA warrior William Colby, was so impressed with Vann and his abilities, that he convinced him in February of 1969 that his talents were in the Delta, where the Vietcong had traditionally drawn so much of their manpower, tax revenues, and other resources. The Vietcong were managing to retain strongholds south of the Bassac river in the U-Minh Forest of Ca Mau, in Kien Giang and Chuong Thien provinces, and in Chau Doc, along the Cambodian border. Hanoi had infiltrated four NVA regiments in IV CORPS.

During 1969, John Paul Vann gained access to the highest of inner circles. His aggressive, optimistic plans for winning the war in Vietnam eventually reached Henry Kissinger, and from there, the Oval Office. Throughout the latter part of the summer of 1969 and into the fall Vann campaigned for, and eventually was granted an audience with President Richard Nixon in December, 1969.

At 12 noon on December 22, Kissinger introduced Vann “with unstinting praise” to Nixon, the man who had recently told Congress, “I will not be the first president of the United States to lose a war.” Nixon talked to Vann an hour that day. After the briefing on pacification, including his visits with advisors in the field in many provinces of the Delta, Nixon questioned Vann on how he had seen the war change over the years, seeking to learn why Vann had arrived at his current opinions.

“He appeared to accept with some confidence,” Vann’s memo writes, “The judgments I gave him as to the now favorable situation in Vietnam. In some small measure, my optimistic briefing that day in Vihn Thanh had reached, through John Paul Vann, the most powerful policy-makers of our time. By comparing the time frame of my briefing to Vann, and Vann’s audience with Nixon, I could see my little piece of the puzzle meshing with the total picture” the diary entries fitting in with recorded history, from the team house to the White House, from Vihn Thanh to Pennsylvania Avenue.

All the negativity during those years regarding the war and the way we went about it...none of that made our jobs any easier (and in fact hindered our efforts greatly). For years, I have never forgiven those who contributed to that negativity and for the most part I still harbor immense resentment at the way we were impugned and degraded by those back home wanting the war to end. However, I’m realistic enough after all these years to realize there will always be a Neil Sheehan willing to sit behind the safety of the keyboards back home and pronounce judgments on those who are serving in the field and trying to accomplish the goals, most of which are noble and worthwhile.

As a former advisor that hurts a great deal. I know the men on our team, myself included, worked exceptionally hard and endured unspeakable danger and hardship pursuing that dream of ours to make the Vietnamese self-sufficient and able to stand on their own two feet in defense of their own freedom.

Years later (1993), I returned to Hoa Quan Village (the story is published in *Chicken Soup for The Veteran’s Soul*) and I discovered in that village something that brings peace to my own soul over this entire matter. I was approached by many, many Vietnamese who thanked me for what we had tried to do to help them retain their freedoms. They couldn’t thank me enough for having worked in the village with my Advisors and for what we tried to accomplish. Many expressed sadness and remorse for the way things turned out for them.



Freedom of Speech in Today’s Vietnam  
Father Nguyen Van Ly attempts to Speak at his recent trial in Hanoi.  
After a 30 minute proceeding he was sentenced to eight years in Prison



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