



COUNTERPARTS

TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM A

SITREP

Volume XII

Issue 1

Summer 2010

COUNTERPARTS REUNION 2010

By
Ken Jacobsen

Counterparts Reunion 2010, hosted by Bob Boyke, was based at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Herndon, VA, near Dulles Airport. The hotel turned out to be an excellent choice that included free happy hour each night, a complimentary full breakfast featuring made-to-order omelets, and pleasant, two room suites.

The hotel's atrium also boasted a pair of full-grown swans in residence. Both birds survived the Reunion, although many of us thought back to a time when either CoVan or his Counterpart would have had the critters for the community pot. We must be getting soft.

Attendees and their wives began arriving early Thursday Afternoon and by the time Happy Hour got underway we had a sizable group in the bar, and more in our Hospitality Suite which Bob Boyke had thoughtfully stocked with drinks and snacks. By the end of the evening we had renewed old friendships, established new ones, and produced a crop of War Stories that were even better than last year's.

Friday started with a bus trip to the National Mall in DC. We began with a memorial visit to the Vietnam War Memorial to pay tribute to our comrades who did not make it home. It was gratifying and more than a little touching to receive long delayed "Thanks for your Service" from the many others visiting the Memorial. The thanks and respect shown by groups of High School Students was especially memorable, and a moving experience for us all.

After a short "windshield tour" of the WW II Memorial we stopped at Arlington Cemetery to honor our fallen comrades. It was sobering to notice that, thanks to the Iraq and Afghan wars, the rows of crosses and stars of David continue to grow more numerous.

Lunch was at the Viet Royale Restaurant in an All Vietnamese shopping center in Falls Church Virginia. The food came in waves, all of it far more delicious than what most of us remember as *An Com* in the bush.

It was tasty, well prepared, and well presented. Those who opted for a bottle of cold *Ba Muoi Ba* swore that they couldn't detect even a trace of the old formaldehyde taste. Ah, Progress!

The rest of Friday was given over to socializing in the Courtesy Suite and in the evening a group sortie to the "Red Hot and Blue" Barbecue Restaurant a short walk from the hotel.

Our Business Meeting was held on Saturday morning. It was agreed that the 2010 Reunion will be in San Diego, CA.

Some *Counterparts* spent Saturday afternoon at a local Gun and Military Memorabilia Show, others visited the nearby Air and Space Museum, and a few simply rested up for the Evening's Banquet, always the high point of our Reunions.

The event was held at the Embassy Suites hotel. *Counterparts* was honored by the presence of several guests at dinner, including LTC Tran Ngoc "Harry" Hue, a true Hero of the ARVN, and his former CoVan, Bob Jones. Today's active duty service people were represented by LTC Stephen Moczary, USAF, Steve Moczary's son, and CDR Kristin Jacobsen, USN, Ken Jacobsen's daughter.

After dinner, Rich Webster provided a slide show and presentation on the Montagnard situation in Cambodia, and an update on our "Counterparts Scholar" Program. Tommy Daniels also provided some words on the work of Cambodia Corps, Inc. John Haseman then offered a presentation on his several visits to Vietnam since the end of the war. John's slides showed the dramatic and often surprising changes that had taken place in one small town in IV Corps over the years.

Sunday breakfast was a time for goodbyes and a few last memories.

Thanks again to host Bob Boyke. We'll see you all next year in San Diego!

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
REUNION 2010
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COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

In the past, the Business Meeting discussion at our annual Reunion has often been dominated by concern about the future direction, lack of member participation, and on occasion, questions about the very survival of the Organization. This year though, seemed to be different. There were solid accomplishments to note and a sense that we continue to move forward. For example...

Rich Webster could proudly report on our first "Counterparts Scholar" Broy Makara, who has now finished his studies and has begun his career as a Veterinarian. Our second Scholar, Romas Phanna, is in school as this is written.

We also got back into the Advisory business last September when six *Counterparts*, including Tran Ngoc "Harry" Hue, a true ARVN hero, participated in an Advisory Symposium at Ft. Benning, with a group of U.S. Army Officers en route to Advisory jobs in Iraq. We hope to get more *Counterparts* members involved in similar events in the future.

Counterparts was also proud to include *Covan* and former POW Mike Bengé as a new member. Mike and *Counterparts* founding member Grant McClure continue to be leaders in Hmong/Montagnard issues. Grant will be our point man on a drive to create a "Living Memorial" to Hmong/Montagnard fighters and their Advisors, in Arlington Cemetery.

Counterparts is also becoming involved in the work of the DOD sponsored "50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission" (see p.5), an effort that will last for several years. We are hoping that events sponsored by the Commission will help to increase public awareness and understanding of the Advisory effort in the Vietnam War, and of the sacrifices of our RVNAF and Montagnard comrades.

Our finances are in good shape, thanks to an active and well thought out membership overhaul and dues collection effort by Membership Chairman John Haseman.

For the first time in a while, the future leadership cadre of our organization has been affirmed. The Succession, as they say in England, is Assured. As a result of a policy change suggested by Steve Leighton at the 2009 Minneapolis Reunion, and subsequently approved by the Membership, Longtime XO/Adjutant J.C. Fischer will relieve the watch as *Counterparts* Commander at the 2011 Reunion and Grant McClure will become XO/Adjutant and the next Commander.

And speaking of Reunions, we're looking forward to the 2011 event in San Diego (to be coordinated by Lewis Grissaffi) and if that's not enough, JC has begun planning for the 2012 event in Killeen, Texas.

All in all, not a bad year.

Thanks to all
Ken

From the XO

Membership

Our membership continues to grow because of the efforts of Membership Chairman John Haseman, but we all need to get out there and recruit former Advisors. Whenever you see a Nam Vet, ask him where he served and if he was an Advisor, refer him to our *Counterparts* web site found at <http://www.counterparts.net/>.

As an indicator of how John's efforts have paid off, in 2008 we collected \$3,039.00 in dues, in 2009 \$2,337.00 in dues but for 2010, with less than half a year gone, we have already collected \$3,025. Great work, John!

2011 Reunion at San Diego, CA

Reunion Coordinator Lewis Grissaffi is busy planning for our West Coast Reunion next April. And speaking of future Reunions....

2012 Reunion at Ft. Hood/Killeen, Texas

I am working on the 2012 reunion at Ft Hood/Killeen, with a side trip to Temple to visit the Texas State Veterans Home where we will meet with WWII, Korean and current active duty soldiers (4 generations of service men in one spot at the same time). I am thinking along the lines of TV, radio and news paper coverage. A Ft Hood unit Commander is going to have his unit sponsor us on our post tour. He and his unit will just be returning from the Middle East and I am thinking he would make a great Key Note Speaker for us. We are discussing a trip to the Iraq Training Facility, a demonstration from the 1st Cav. Horse Platoon, a trip to the lifelike training facility, lunch at one of the dining facilities, tank training facility and a few other possible sights. One of the local hotels will also offer us a hospitality suite and a meeting room.

2012 Reunion Questions for the membership:

- I would like to poll the members to see if they would be willing to attend a 2012 Reunion at Ft. Hood/Killeen. I hope to an idea of numbers attending alone, and those who will bring their spouses, and the number of spouses who would like a side trip to Historic Salado. This will help me to determine transportation requirements.
- Should we try to plan something for the wives while at Ft Hood? Some wives may not be interested in what we will be up to.
- The last time we had a Killeen reunion I was able to get golf shirts made up. Do you think this might be a nice touch again?
- I am thinking of a Texas Style BBQ dinner rather than a Vietnamese meal (I am told the VN restaurant in Killeen is not that great). I'll keep looking but it might be nice to have something different for a change if a decent VN restaurant is not available. Comments?
- Would the wives be interested in a side trip to Historic Salado for some fun things and a special Luncheon at a quaint restaurant, or would they prefer to join the men at Ft. Hood for the day?

Comments on these items would be appreciated. You can post them on the Counterparts Bulletin Board, or email me, J.C. Fischer traindepot@hot.rr.com.

Thanks

J.C. Fischer/XO Adjutant



Sev Pak and Counterparts Scholar Romas Phanna



These visiting HS students wanted their picture taken with Vietnam Veterans. Times Change!



"An Com" at the Viet Royale



Rich and Diane Webster at The Wall



*Active Duty Guests;
CDR Kristin Jacobsen, USN
LTC Stephen Moczary, USAF*



The Banquet. Counterparts, Spouses and Guests

United States 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration Commission

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and “while conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.”

The Commemoration Commission objectives are:

- (1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- (2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
- (3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- (4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- (5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

Counterparts Involvement

We been in contact with the Commission’s Director of Community Affairs, Richard Williams, and *Counterparts* is a member of the Commission’s Working Group. The Commission has held several organizational meetings and is expecting to have a website up soon. They have also established a draft time line of the Vietnam war that reflects key dates, anniversaries, and milestones of the war. We will also be sending representatives to a planned meeting in October. Until then, we’ll try to keep the membership posted via email.

We’re hoping that the Commission will provide an opportunity for *Counterparts* to tell the Advisor’s Story on a National level.

For more information, or to contact the Commission, Mr. Williams address is listed below.

Richard D. Williams

Director of Community Affairs & Outreach

United States of America

Vietnam War Commemoration

2521 S. Clark St, Suite 650

Office: 703-601-6082

Cell: 571-969-0666

Email: vnwar50th@wso.whs.mil

MINUTES OF THE 2010 BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 2010

- Ken Jacobsen requested that the membership formally approve previously agreed changes to the Bylaws [Art 1C (2)] reflecting dues and fees as follows: Initiation Fee: \$10.00, Annual Dues: \$25.00, Life Membership: \$250.00. The Fiscal and Dues year begins on January 1, Vice Tet (which is a movable date) The changes were approved. The changes will be posted in the next SITREP and absent disagreement, will become part of the Bylaws.
- Ken also briefly discussed the Advisory Symposium that COUNTERPARTS, members had participated in at Ft. Benning last September. He noted that he was still in contact with 3rd Inf. Div. and was hoping for the opportunity for COUNTERPARTS to do another similar event in the future.
- JC Fisher gave the Treasurers report. Total membership dues collected last year was \$3,952, total balance was \$9,147. Membership Chairman John Haseman has initiated a vigorous dues tracking and collection program that has achieved a significant improvement in the amount of dues collected.
- The following projects were authorized by members; our own COUNTERPARTS Montagnard Scholarship: \$1500, Vin Son Orphanage, (Mike and Marion Little): \$500, and a tentative \$200 for Vets With a Mission. Several members had a question about VWAM's relationships with other organizations. This matter will be further investigated. Authority was given to Ken Jacobsen to fund their program if no problems are found.
- John Haseman, membership Chairman, reported that we do not dun people for past dues, but suggested we go down membership roles and after two years drop those non dues paying members from our SITREP mailing. He also suggested resuming the policy of stopping of mailings that come back with wrong address. It was noted that for historical record purposes, all members, including those who are deceased, remain on the roster, unless they specifically ask to be removed. We presently have about 500 members on the roster. John also discussed new initiatives that he was planning to improve membership administration and dues collection. Bill Laurie mails the SITREPS. Commander Ken Jacobsen commented that he uses the bulletin board on our web site for communication on important items that all can use to keep up to date. John will continue to work on this.
- Special guest and new member, Mike Benge, former POW, reported that there will be a new Vietnam Memorial Center aligned with The Wall with photos of the war. He asked COUNTERPARTS to back a fair representation so that the Hmong, Montagnards, and South Vietnamese forces be included. Grant McClure (Hmong/Lao liaison officer) volunteered to coordinate this project with Jan Scruggs.
- Grant McClure also volunteered to push for a "living memorial" at Arlington Cemetery on May 16 next year for the Montagnards who served with us and that we abandoned after the war. This living memorial is the planting of a tree and the installing of a plaque to honor the Montagnards for their sacrifice. Grant, along with our own Pappy Hicks, was one of the leaders who coordinated a similar memorial in 1995 for the Hmong. This will cost 2500 dollars for the purchase of a stone and a tree. COUNTERPARTS will help sponsor this. He hopes this will help eliminate some of the divisiveness in the Montagnard community.
- Joe Frankoski reported that US Army Center of Military History at Fort McNair is continuing work on its History of the Vietnam War. Two volumes of the history are now available: *Advice and Support 1941-64* (Pub 91-1) and *Advice and Support 1965-73* (Pub 91-3.) The third Volume, *Advice and Support 1961-64* has an expected publication date of 2011.
- Mike McMunn, Members in Memoriam Chairman, related how he preserves the history of those advisors who were KIA or have since died. He keeps an account of people who died in combat. He coordinates this with a veterans web page and Jim Alkek. He spoke about how this should be shared and preserved. Members should contact him with any information on how advisors died.

MINUTES OF THE 2010 BUSINESS MEETING (CONTINUED)

- Lewis Grissaffi, part of the CHEO REO group of advisors will be next year's Reunion host at San Diego in late April. His email- luisaffi@yahoo.com.
- In accordance with the Policy that was agreed last year at the 2009 Reunion in Minneapolis, each XO of Counterparts will normally "fleet up" to Commander. Next year, JC Fisher will be installed as new Commander, putting this policy in place.
- Grant McClure volunteered to begin serving as XO next year, after JC Fischer becomes Commander.
- Jim O'Malley gave a short personal report about his prostate cancer VA Policy on Disability and Prostate Cancer and also described a new treatment he wanted to share with members. He suggests reading the book, "You Can Beat Prostate Cancer," by Bob Marconi.
- Rich Webster gave a report on our recently graduated Montagnard scholar, Broy Makara, who is now a practicing Veterinarian in Mondulkiri Province. Our new scholar is Romas Phanna, a member of the Jarai tribe, from Ratanakiri Province. He comes from a small Montagnard community near the Vietnam Border. A more detailed account can be found in the last SITREP. Max Lund and his wife Carol have sponsored another Jarai Montagnard scholar with Cambodia Corps. John Haseman gave a presentation on what it was like to return to his former districts in Kien Hoa Province, and what he learned about his former Counterparts and interpreters.
- Several advisor authors were in attendance at this year's reunion. John Loving, author of *Combat Advisor*, has a new book published, *A Soldier's Faith*. John Haseman has written several books about the Indonesian Military. POW Mike Bengel dropped by to chat and was persuaded by Grant McClure to join COUNTERPARTS. He was a PSA in the Central Highlands before his capture. He spent 5 years as a POW.

Welcome New Counterparts Members and New Life Members!

New Members

James D Brewer

William D Sparks

Timothy Davenport (Associate Member)

Michael S. Magill

Loren E. Tuck

Thomas L Briggs

New Life Members

Lawrence "Dutch" Bowen

Theodore Sands

Harold Katzman

Doug Reese

Bob Jones

Richard Miley

Morgan Sincock

MEMORIES OF WORKING WITH THE LEGENDARY JOHN PAUL VANN

Major Dick Roller recalls fond memories of working with John Paul Vann, the most famous advisor of the Vietnam War. "I relish the memory of my time in the Delta working with JPV as the single most rewarding period of my lifetime." he says.

Roller was apprehensive about his first meeting with Vann in mid 1969. "I entered his large office and he was sitting in an executive type chair behind a big fancy wooden executive-type desk. There were two huge overstuffed easy chairs in which Vann would take several long naps during the day. I would learn that JPV didn't sleep in a bed like most people do"(Vann was legendary for operating on several hours of sleep a day.) "He would sit sideways in the chair with his back against one arm and his legs hanging over the other, while he slept. After he became familiar with me, he would remain sideways in the chair while he gave me instructions."

"I gave JPV a quick briefing on the status of the RD Cadre program in the delta. Vann then briefed me on the plans for the new Field Operation Division (FOD) in CORDS for IV CORPS. The RD Cadre and Census Grievance programs were being transferred to CORDS from the CIA in 1969. The Peoples Self Defense Force and the developing Hamlet Evaluation Survey would be added later -the speed of the programs depending on developing and acquiring qualified advisory personnel. The FOD chief was a 0-5 position, and although I was still a 0-4, Vann gave me the job. He knew I was qualified from my field experience with the Cadre Teams and that I could work well with civilians."

"Vann liked this story I once told him in our 45-minute meeting, and had me repeat it a number of times when civilian VIPs came to the Delta for briefings. In one of the more remote villages way out on the Ca Mau peninsula, I was sitting at an outdoor café table with my Vietnamese Cadre counterparts eating bowls of Chinese noodle soup. With our weapons on our laps enjoying the delicious noodle soup, the children of the village kept inching in closer. My interpreter explained that I was the first American that the kids had ever seen and they were bursting with curiosity. I asked that they not be chased away-the idea being to leave the impression that Americans were friendly and wouldn't hurt them. As they inched closer, they would reach out to feel the texture of the rip-stop material of my fatigue jacket. Some would stare at my blue eyes, and others would softly tug at the hair on my forearms. They came to the conclusion that my mother was a blue-eyed angel and my father was a long-haired monkey. I had all the love in the world for those bright, eager, wonderful kids. Vann would chuckle deeply as I would retell this story many times making the point that with the children on our side, freedom for Vietnam was within our grasp."

Roller continues. "My initial impression of John Paul Vann contradicted what some have said, that he had a small man's complex and was trying to compensate for it by being overly aggressive and demanding. He stood right at 5'8. I'm 5'10" and remember us being eyeball to eye-ball level. He had a solid build, with wide shoulders, big upper arms and well muscled forearms. As for his personality, he was an 'evangelist' who sincerely believed and ardently preached the gospel of pacification. The passion of his beliefs emerged in the form of his 'correctness of confidence'. He reached out to those under him demanding that they share his sense of 'correction of purpose.' He was energetic, strident, demanding, driven -I was grateful that he trusted me enough to permit me to serve on his team."

As to Vann's detractors who claimed he was conniving and abrasively manipulating, Roller provides these opposing insights. "Those making such judgments had less savvy than JP possessed. They were incapable of appreciating that these traits were an asset when dealing with the duplicitous VN upper echelons. I saw his detractors as being of bland personality, cup half-empty types. To justify their positions, they found fault with his. What seemed to escape them was that Vann was right more often than they were wrong."

Describing Vann's style, Roller says "After an afternoon nap in the overstuffed chair, Vann used to take off from headquarters on his big Yamaha road bike in the late afternoon. He was off to places unknown staying gone all night. The front office of CORDS worked themselves into a frenzy worrying about him. Around mid -morning the next day, he would reappear behaving as though nothing out of the ordinary had taken place. He never provided an explanation for his actions and no one would risk asking. We would later learn from the Census Grievance intel network where he had been and who he had been with. I don't know if JP ever realized it or not, but as long as he was within the 16 provinces comprising the Delta, our people knew of his movements. We had the ability to target him the same way we did the VC/ VCI."

"We also kept tabs on JP via the Air America pilots, and knew about his arrivals and departures. We were also aware of his frequent weekend trips to Saigon to visit his Vietnamese wife and children."

Roller adds this. "Il the AA pilots I knew carried as much gold with them as they could manage-this included watches, rings, necklaces so if they went down in contested territory, they could buy their way to safety. On their trips to Cambodia, they would buy troy ounce wafers of gold for 20 dollars that were embossed with intricate oriental designs."

John Paul Vann (Cont,d)

Roller went on to describe the joint US/VN Monday morning staff briefing in the ARVN CORPS commander's briefing room. "We sat at work tables arranged in a U-shaped formation, with the Vietnamese on one side and the MACV/CORPS types on the other side. When JP was in town, he headed the CORDS staff. "Coal Bin Willie" Wilson, a retired Colonel from the brown shoe army headed our group when Vann was gone. To keep the meeting moving, the protocol was to have the VN staff present first and then follow this with a Q & A session. Vann addressed his questions in a demanding but respectful manner to the CORPS Commander. This gave the VN CG the opportunity to demonstrate his knowledge and/or direct the question to his appropriate staff officer. JP always had a number of questions or comments to make at these briefings and one could almost smell the sweat (noug mahm odor) in the room when he started asking pointed questions. In contrast, Wilson acted as though he was bored and never asked any questions. Afterwards, we had another meeting at CORDS Headquarters where we discussed the merits of what the Vietnamese had offered. Wilson would often state that the 'Vietnamese were both morally corrupt and intellectually dishonest.' His attitude towards the Vietnamese was counterproductive to our collective effort. Having Willie take over Vann's slot when JP left to become DEPCORDS II commander was a humongous blunder."

"There were times when JP wanted to get away from the head shed and came to the FOD compound to catch up on current field activities. There over coffee he would meet with my program chiefs who were top notch. Bob Boetcher, a State Department FSO, was in charge of the PSDF program. He spoke several languages and was in the process of learning Vietnamese and was one sharp dude. He was more qualified than me to be FOD chief, but my saving grace was having greater program knowledge, longer experience in country and the fact that JP graced me by being my mentor. Major Yurachek was in charge of the HES program and he spoke Vietnamese fluently. The other member was Captain Huddleston who had had a close relationship with Vann from earlier III CORPS duty when he ran the Static Census Grievance Program."

"Boetcher was highly critical of the then senior military and civilian leadership in Vietnam and the bad press that failed to recognize or credit the progress being achieved by CORDS and the Vietnamization program. He cited excessive drinking, a greedy obsession with sex and people doing only enough to get their tickets punched for promotions as hurting the overall effort."

"When writing reports, I was caught between Van and Coal Bin Willie. There were times when I would have to provide an updated fact sheet, along with a draft cover letter to respond to some congressional inquiry. JP's speech was based on action verbs and adverbs, and contained colorful adjectives. He would forcefully tell someone what he wanted them to believe, not leaving them any room for misunderstanding. So I prepared the draft cover letter in his style of speaking and writing."

When Vann was gone, I had to deal with Coal Bin Willie, who went strictly by the Army's correspondence manual. His writing was in the third person, using neutral verbs and colorless adjectives. Unlike JP, his purpose was to present the facts and let the reader arrive at their own conclusions. He would have me sit in a straight-backed chair at the side of his desk, while he revised the entire draft. He would pause while writing to take a bottle of Corn Huskers hand lotion and rub onto his hands, while chewing me a 'new one' telling me that I was too inexperienced for the job, couldn't be trusted, had no appreciation for the English language and couldn't understand why JP continued to put up with me. I sucked up whatever he had to say, thanked him for his time and interest, clicked my boot heels together and moved out smartly. On one occasion, I saw the old colonel trying to stifle a smile as I turned to leave his office. He enjoyed playing with me."

"Vann asked me to extend for 6 months while he went stateside for a series of congressional briefings and wanted experienced people to run the show for him. His word to get me a slot at the USAIS at Fort Benning was as good as gold and I ended up there with my family."

"With regard to Vann's Vietnamese family in Vietnam, his wife and children made it out safely and are living in Virginia. Information from a website sadly relates that the Vann family wanted nothing to do with her."

Major Roller ends with a quote from a letter the Marquis De Lafayette wrote to General George Washington in 1778. 'To act in concert with a great man of courage is the first of blessings'. "Such was my association with John Paul Vann" he says, and adds this message: "Pray for me. Pray that I will always be here for you, for when I disappear from this land, so will you."

*Rich Webster,
Counterparts PAO
June 2010*



NEW WINDBREAKER NOW AVAILABLE!

<i>COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Windbreaker</i> Black high quality with logo	\$34.00
Send me an email first to make sure I have your size. f.norwood@sbcglobal.net .	
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<i>COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Challenge Coin (1.5" dia. solid bronze, Counterparts Logo one side Map of Southeast Asia other side)</i>	\$10.00
<i>COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Baseball style Cap (direct embroidery logogram)</i>	\$15.00
NEW! <i>COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Coffee Mug (Counterparts color logo)</i>	\$11.00
NEW! <i>COUNTERPARTS/THDNA T-Shirt (6 color Logogram on White 50/50</i>	\$15.00
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Black knit polo shirt with collar with Counterparts Logo	\$20.00
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Frank Norwood
Counterparts Quartermaster
12529 Wharton,
Dallas TX 75243

For more information please call 214-575-5980

NOTE CHANGE TO SHIPPING CHARGE!

A Letter from the Membership Chairman. This letter was sent to a number of members. Did you Get one? Are your dues current?

I am the Membership Chairman for Counterparts. When I began going through our files I discovered that we have a LOT of members who have been inactive for several years; whether from lack of communications from us (wrong email, wrong snail mail address) or lack of interest by the member. We would like to reinvigorate your interest in Counterparts by insuring that you are still receiving our SitRep and still interested in supporting the organization. You can stay up to date by following the website: www.counterparts.net

Our records indicate that you have not paid dues since 2006. Our dues payments support the scholarships and other activities to assist our former counterparts in Southeast Asia. We hope you are still interested in those activities, and in keeping in touch with other former comrades with advisory experiences in common.

We are not "dunning" you for back dues. But we would appreciate it if you would become current in your membership by paying for 2010. Of course if you want to send in a bit extra for back years, we'll happily accept that too! Dues are \$25 per year or \$250 for lifetime membership.

In fairness to members who have stayed current with the dues, we may be taking steps to limit access to the website rosters and SitRep only to those who are "paid up. So to insure you can still stay in touch with former colleagues and Counterparts activities, please rejoin us by sending in your 2010 dues.

We hope you will reactivate your membership by acknowledging this email and then by sending in your 2010 dues. You can mail the check to me at this address:

John B. Haseman
555 West Saddle Drive
Grand Junction, CO 81507

We look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,
John Haseman



BULLETIN BOARD

Virtual Vietnam Wall

This is an online record of those who fell in the Vietnam war. The link will take you to the list, by state, then to information about individuals, including unit, awards, location of their name on the monument. Very impressive. The site is at <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Magazine Articles Wanted

MILITARY magazines published in Sacramento CA. It is a monthly that is printed on newsprint and most of the articles are written by veterans. MILITARY does not pay for articles published. Some of you may recall that many years ago they published a review of Col. Metzner's book regarding his Vietnam experiences as an advisor.

In a recent issue, the publisher commented that he gets very few submissions from those that served as advisors in the Vietnam War. He would welcome submissions. Many of the Oral History, comment and analysis and personal experience articles published in the SITREP in the past would likely would rate publishing by MILITARY.

We strongly encourage members to submit any articles that they have written to MILITARY for consideration. Articles members have already published in SITREP would be ideal. For a sample copy and more information, you can call Mr Armond Noble at 916-457-8990. Web address is milmag.com.

Hmong Memorial Observation: Laos, Hmong Community Concludes National Memorial Ceremonies, Policy Events

WASHINGTON June 8.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--National veterans' memorial ceremonies and public policy events were concluded in Washington, D.C., by the Laotian and Hmong-American community. On Memorial Day, flowers were laid at the Marine Corps, Air Force and John F. Kennedy Memorials in Arlington on behalf of the Lao and Hmong community and its veterans.

Colonel Wangyee Vang, President, of the Lao Veterans of America Institute (LVAI) commented: "... We came to America as political refugees and now, just as the US Congress has passed the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000, previously, all of our Lao Hmong veterans who came in the 1980s and 1990s are American citizens. Today, we would like to appeal to our policymakers to award veterans benefits for the Hmong and Lao veterans who have fought on behalf of the American people in Laos during the Vietnam War."

Events were launched on Capitol Hill on May 12-13 by the LVAI, Lao Veterans of America, Inc. (LVA) and the Center for Public Policy Analysis (CPPA) in cooperation with Members of Congress. A U.S. Congressional policy briefing and conference on issues of concern to Laotian and Hmong veterans, and their refugee families in America, Thailand, and Laos, was held in the House of Representatives.

On May 14, in Arlington National Cemetery, the organizations hosted memorial events and a wreath-laying ceremony to honor Laotian and Hmong veterans and their American advisers on the 35th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War in Laos. A U.S. Department of Defense Color Guard, Army wreath-bearer and bugler participated in the events held at the LVA and Lao-Hmong veterans' monument.

"...Hmong veterans could not be included on the Wall naming the Americans who died in Vietnam," said John Barnum, Esq., who played a key role in the establishment of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington,



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“But they are celebrated here in Arlington Cemetery, where America buries its war dead. They earned their place in this American cemetery,”

“We honor the Lao and Hmong veterans, and their American advisers, who sacrificed and served in defending the Royal Kingdom of Laos and Thailand as well as U.S. national security interests during the Vietnam War,” said Philip Smith, Director, of the Washington, D.C.-based CPPA.

“This ceremony is an important remembering, a celebration and a tribute to a time when U.S. and Lao and Hmong soldiers fought a common adversary as brothers,” stated Edmund McWilliams, a Foreign Service officer (U.S.FSO-Ret.) who served in the U.S. Embassies in Bangkok and Vientiane. “As we remember and mark the sacrifice of all veterans of the struggle in Indochina and their families we also make a solemn pledge: We will not forget that a struggle for justice continues here in the U.S. where we seek provision of appropriate benefits for all veterans of that conflict...”

Speakers at Arlington National Cemetery included Colonel Wangyee Vang, LVAI; Philip Smith, CPPA; **Grant McClure, Counterparts**; John Barnum, Esquire; **Michael Benge**, former POW/MIA; and others. Cosponsors and participants on May 14 included the LVAI, CPPA, LVA, **Counterparts**, Hmong Advance, Inc., Hmong Advancement, Inc., Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Defense and Members of Congress. The ceremonies marked May 14-15, National Lao Hmong Recognition Day and Armed Services Day.

The Registry of the American Soldier

The National Museum of the U.S. Army recognizes the service and sacrifice of the American Soldier at home and around the world, at war and during peace.

The Registry of the American Soldier provides an opportunity for anyone who served in the U.S. Army to have his or her name and service history placed on record at the Museum. If you served, you need to be in the Registry!

You may also register the name of a family member or friend, if they currently serve, or have served in the U.S. Army, or submit someone from the past. The Registry will be on permanent display at the Museum, and it will be accessible via the internet for those who cannot visit in person.

The Registry of the American Soldier is a publicly submitted listing of those who served in the U.S. Army. The Registry is not an official document of the U.S. Government. Counterparts members are encouraged to check out the website for more information.

<https://www.usarmyregistry.org/home.aspx>

Vinh Son Orphanage Cap available.

Check out the Vinh Son Orphanage website at <http://www.friendsofvso.org>



Now Available

The Friends of Vinh Son Collectable Cap

This great looking, one-size-fits-all, cap is still available for sale at \$20 each. Simply ask for it when making your donation to FVSO. All proceeds will go to the kids.



Message from a former Comrade

This message was forwarded by Jim Simmons, who has been trying to help out a former Vietnamese Comrade still in Vietnam. It's good to remember that, in addition to what *Counterparts* does as an organization, a lot of individual members, like Jim Simmons, contribute individually to help out our less fortunate allies.

"I'm very happy to hear from you again and please don't worry much about my case, I think it's a lot and God will take care for me, I'll trust in God !

What I wish that you and your family are always in good shape and pls. give me a call if I can do any thing for you, OK!"

Thanks for every help you have done for me, my friend !

Thao,"

...and thanks to you, Jim.

Some Wise Words from the Past

Thanks to *Counterparts* member Grady Jones.





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Vietnam Vets With A Mission

For more information on this and other VWAM activities, go to their web page <http://www.vwam.com>

Vets With Haseman Mission is pleased to announce its next two Vietnam trips! The first team experience for 2011 will be February 16 – March 3. The location will be in or near Hue City, Vietnam. Price of this trip from San Francisco will be \$2,999 based on double occupancy plus a \$100 nonrefundable deposit (you are responsible for getting to and from San Francisco).

While Vietnam veterans receive priority placement on the team, non-veterans are encouraged to join the team. Both Medical/Health professionals and non-medical/health professionals are needed and invited to volunteer/serve on this humanitarian mission trip. The team will spend two (2) nights in Saigon/Ho Chi Minh City upon arrival, then ten (10) nights in Hue working five days with a two day weekend break before completing two more work days. The team then goes to Da Nang for two (2) nights/days of R&R, and will celebrate a China Beach BarBeQue or International Buffet Dinner in honor of the Vietnam vets on the team. Please go to VWAM's web site to download an application.

The Counterparts Locator Team at Work

This request was recently received by email. Within a day, Bill Laurie and Locator Joe West had come up with phone numbers for the former Counterparts. Outstanding work by Bill and Joe!

"I am trying to locate my interpreter, Mr. Nguyen Hoang Lam, born 19 January 1943 in Tan Vinh Hoa, Sadec Province. After the fall of Saigon he was arrested and sent to a reeducation camp for several years. Because he worked for us he was unable to find employment and he was forced to live off the sale of medical supplies I sent to him via France. He lived in Ho Chi Minh City after his release. In the late 1980's he escaped from Vietnam and settled in Pennsauken, New Jersey. I have not seen him since 1970 but I would like to contact him for both personal and professional reasons. Do you know how I might go about finding him?" Regards,
Andy

Andrew R. Finlayson
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
256-721-6998



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