



COUNTERPARTS

TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á

SITREP

Volume XX

Issue 1

Winter, 2020

2020 Reunion Will Mark Third Time San Diego has Hosted the Event

At the April Reunion in Houston, *COUNTERPARTS* members voted to meet April 15-19th 2020, in Sunny San Diego, an overwhelming favorite over the years. Our home base this time around will be the Handlery Hotel. The Handlery, in a casual Southern California setting adjacent to the greens of the Riverwalk Golf Club, features grounds with abundant palms, gardens and lush landscaping. The American Postcards Bistro is available for dining, and the Reef Lounge Poolside Bar for relaxation.

Located on San Diego's Hotel Circle, The Handlery is convenient to the Airport and local attractions.

Reunion Coordinator Lewis Grissaffi has been busy lining up events and activities for this Reunion, which promises to be a memorable one.

Check-in will begin on Wednesday, the 15, at our hotel hospitality suite. For those wishing to Thursday will be free time for those of us who want to do some individual sightseeing, or perhaps just kick back after a day of travel.

Friday, April 17 will be a full day, beginning with a bus trip to Ft. Rosecrans and historic Cabrillo National Monument at the southern tip of Point Loma. The site offers spectacular vistas of San Diego and the Pacific Ocean.

To cap the day, we'll enjoy a Dinner Cruise of San Diego harbor. The Dinner Cruise has been a highlight of past Reunions and should provide a lovely way to put the icing on a busy day.

The Annual *COUNTERPARTS* Business meeting will be on Saturday Morning, 0900-1200. Reunion Coordinator Lewis Grissaffi is working on an alternate activity during that time for Spouses and guests.

The traditional Reunion Banquet will begin at 5:00 PM with an open bar. We are honored to have, as our guest after dinner speaker, Dr. Hai V. Tran, PhD, the son of ARVN Sergeant Major Gan Tran, who served with the 110th Signal Battalion of the ARVN 2nd Division in Quang Ngai. His US advisor was William Lonsdale. Hai studied English with then Captain Lonsdale in 1968-1969. Hai just finished his training to become a high school English teacher at the University of Hue when the communist North attacked and occupied South Vietnam in 1975.

In 1975 Tran's family was ordered by the new Communist government to leave Quang Ngai for a "new economic zone" in a mountainous area near Cam Ranh Bay. Hai Tran escaped from Communist Vietnam in October 1978 and arrived in the US as a legal refugee on March 29, 1979. His father, unable to emigrate, died of pneumonia in Vietnam in 1992.

Once in the US, Hai returned to college and worked his way through his BS, MS, and PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He now lives in Virginia and works in Washington, DC. He has over 35 years of experience in computing and telecommunications.

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COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

Very worthy of note, members Terry Turner and Rex Latham attended an October reunion organized by former MACV advisors who served in IV Corps. The event was sponsored by Teams 60 and 65, who served in Sa Dec, with an open invitation that was warmly extended to all

Delta MACV advisors. A great experience was reported back accompanied by a shared sense of eagerness to somehow extend this type of fraternal gathering in the form of potential future conjoint coordination, collaboration, and sharing of the reunion experience with a wider group of fellow CoVans that Counterparts members have enjoyed each year since our first Reunion in 1989. A strong corollary has flourished since the inception of Counterparts among our members from Team 31 who preserve the uniqueness of their Central Highlands service experience. I was very encouraged by this development and have asked Rex and Terry to move this concept further along with a presentation at our upcoming April reunion to stimulate membership interest in coordinating such an event in Ft. Benning, Georgia in 2021.

I'm sure looking forward to seeing everyone in a couple of months ...in catching the ocean breeze and the temperate climate and fantastic scenery of San Diego. One of our favorite reunion locations with fantastic coordination by our highly seasoned Reunion wrangler, Lewis Grissaffi. See you soon!

Dr. Grant Mc Clure
Counterparts Commander

From the Membership Chairman

All members are reminded that annual dues for 2020 are payable as of 1 January 2020. Dues remain \$35.00. You can also upgrade to lifetime membership for \$350.00. Please make your checks out to "Counterparts" and mail to Membership Officer John Haseman, 1555 West Saddle Drive, Grand Junction CO 81507. Lifetime members do not pay dues, but if you care to make a contribution to the Counterparts assistance programs it would be very gladly received. If in doubt on your dues status, check with Membership Chairman John Haseman by email at jhaseman@earthlink.net.

*COUNTERPARTS/THDNA is an IRS 501(c)
 (3) Veterans organization Chartered in the
 State of Illinois. Registered Agent is Richard
 Webster, 1019 W Lafayette Ave, Jacksonville,
 IL 62650-1860*

COUNTERPARTS /THDNA 2020 REUNION
SAN DIEGO, CA
APRIL 15-19, 2020
Handlery Hotel San Diego

950 Hotel Circle North San Diego, Ca. 92108 (short Uber or cab to hotel. No pickup available)

Reservations:

(619)298-0511 CITE: "COUNTERPARTS" reunion

Room rate: \$129.00 +12.7% tax & fees = \$145.38

Registration Fee:\$170.00 PER PERSON, includes hospitality room banquet, dinner cruise & bus trips). \$60 Guest (banquet dinner only) **Registration cutoff date March 20,2020**

Wed. April 15

Registration, Refreshments & camaraderie.

Hospitality room: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Thursday April 16

Free day to explore San Diego on your own with many interesting places & venues to enjoy. (Contact Lewis for ideas or help with reservations)

Hospitality room: 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Fri. April 17

Bus trip to Ft. Rosecrans & Cabrillo National Monument

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Dinner Cruise

5:00pm-10:00pm

Hospitality room: 8:00am-10:00pm

Sat. April 18

Business meeting 9:00 am - 12:00pm (working on finding something for guest to do during meeting)

Banquet dinner (Cash bar) 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm **Guest speaker:** Hai V. Tran, PhD

Hospitality room 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Sunday April 19 Check out & Good Byes/See you in 2021!

REGISTRATION

Member Name_____

Spouse_____

Guest_____

Registration Fees: \$170.00 PER PERSON, or \$60. 00 per Banquet Guest. Amount Enclosed \$_____ **Make checks payable to COUNTERPARTS and mail to:**

Lewis Grissaffi

1221 Vega Street

San Diego, Ca. 92110

Luisaffi@yahoo.com

MACV/Team 65 Reunion Held in October, 2019

*By
Gordan Bare*

Below is a write-up of the recent Reunion that included, MACV Advisors and others from Sadec Province Team 65, ARVN 9th Division Team 60 and friends. The event was held on Charleston SC, 21-24 October 2019. Some 40 veterans and spouses met for the first ever reunion of MACV Team 65, Sadec province, Team 60, 9th ARVN division, and several other colleagues from adjacent provinces and units operating in the area including US Navy and ARVN 43rd Rangers advisors

On 22 October we had a full day of speakers from among the group. Bob Traister, who traveled from Phuket, Thailand, was the keynote speaker. He traced his 12 years in Vietnam, first Army and later USAID including a stint as province senior advisor in Sadec 1969-71. Gordon Bare spoke on the history of Sadec province from the French era to date and the New Life Development programs of refugee resettlement and economic assistance. Joe Lowenthal, who was province Revolutionary Development Cadre and Peoples Self Defense Forces advisor, addressed these programs and also the history of John Paul Vann and the Military Public Health Assistance Program. Len Ganz and Dr. Jim Resau, both Mobile Advisory Training Team leaders, including in the Y base area of Duc Ton district, spoke on the MATT experience. Len devoted a portion of his presentation to the culinary delights of Delta catfish. C-Span recorded these sessions. We will send out a note if/when we learn of a date for broadcast.

In the afternoon, Rex Latham, Terry Turner and Charlie Shaw briefed on the COUNTERPARTS organization and the great work they do in connecting advisors and also supporting education in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Dr. Terry Turner, a district senior advisor and MATT leader on Advisory Team 32, Dong Tien district (Plain of Reeds), Kien Phong province, told us about a much less secure part of Vietnam than Sadec. Richard Smiley talked about his MATT leader days in 1968 when Sadec was a more dangerous place than in 1969 and 1970 when most of the attendees served there. Chris Ness told tales of his activities in psyops in Sadec (and also provided the best photos of the place and was the semi-official reunion photographer.) Dick Colt (later Major General) recalled his days in Duc Thanh district as the Phoenix advisor. Thanks go to Jay Haney for tech support.

The next day the group visited Patriots Point which houses an excellent Vietnam Experience exhibit with equipment and weapons displays. Patriots Point is also the home of the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, the destroyer USS Laffey and the submarine USS Clagamore, all of late World War II vintage. The group had lunch in the Chief Petty Officers Mess of the Yorktown and traded war stories, amusing vignettes and tall tales for an hour or so.

On the final day the group conducted a memorial service reading the names of 51 service members killed in action in Sadec and adjacent areas including those of Army aviation aircrew and brown water Navy forces.

A business meeting addressed how to continue and build on the momentum of the reunion. It was noted that some 6-8 of the attendees were a member of COUNTERPARTS, a long standing organization of over 200 former advisors and including Vietnamese and other COUNTERPARTS. Rex Latham, seconded by others, suggested that attendees might like to join and that our group, perhaps with a wider circle of Delta veterans, might wish to meet in conjunction with COUNTERPARTS annual April meeting which rotates from east coast to central states to west coast. The next meeting will be held in San Diego 15-19 April 2020 and would likely return to the east coast in 2021. This suggestion attracted much support but also expressions of concern about the expense of long distance travel. All are invited to visit COUNTERPARTS web site, <http://www.COUNTERPARTS.net/> for full information and how to join. Dues are a modest \$35 per year.

The group also noted the value and usefulness of the Sa Dec Province Advisors Facebook in uniting the group and increasing its camaraderie by providing a venue for photos and stories.

Finally a huge and heartfelt thank you to Mike and Renee Burke who spent countless hours and undertook several trips to Charleston organizing our reunion. Mike was the inspiration and driving force for the event in the first instance and his lovely wife was the sergeant major who kept us all pointing in the right direction.

Status Report on our Website (www.COUNTERPARTS.net)

From Webmaster Jim Alkek...

John's Haseman's Membership updates and other new features have been completed. Mike McMunn's Members-in-Memorial ("MIM") updates are in process which will give him the capability to edit and add new MIM honoree's by computer. The revised MIM website page will automatically reflect his additions and changes. Mike will also have a page that will reflect all COUNTERPARTS Members whose membership status has been changed to "0" (D-Deceased) to assist him in adding those members to the MIM list if necessary. Also pending for Mike is access to the Village Market webpage so he can update Item descriptions, add new Items, and change or add prices for the Items and Shipping Costs.

Charlie Shaw's requested access for verification of current Member dues payment to validate "Requests to Join" the Facebook THDNA Group is in process. This will give him the ability to retrieve a Member summary record that reflects the Member's full name, nickname, last dues paid, and the current membership status (A-Active; I-Inactive).

Finally, there is pending a project to give the CO the ability to have a "Commanders Corner" that he can write on-line as often as needed for the members. He will have the ability to draft and edit his comments or to upload a document as an attachment to his comments.

The Bulletin Board section of the website which had not been functioning due to the date issue caused by the software manufacturer has been completed and is fully functional at this time.

The Book Review section is not functioning and debugging, for an error which prevents data from being posted, is in process. The date issue caused by the software manufacturer has been resolved .

I have completed a new section which was added to the COUNTERPARTS Library under Videos. I would like to thank the programmers at YouTube for their assistance and cooperation in developing these files for us. I was provided with key words to use to access various subsets of videos related to the Vietnam War. The problem was that they had a lot of files under the " Vietnam" category that were not part of the war efforts of any of the countries active in the war. For example, there are cartoons both about Vietnam or about the war; there are many videos by travel agencies promoting travel to Vietnam ; and there are many Videos by the current Vietnamese government. The subsets are YouTubes attempt to filter these videos out of requests from veterans. I have left the general category "Vietnam" in our links because there are some Vietnam War related videos in the category that do not appear in any of the subsets. Please review a few of the items in the Vietnam link and let me know if you have objections to having the link on our website. There are literally thousands of Vietnam videos now available from YouTube.

I have completed the compilation of the MAAG Roster for Phuc Sinh Thanh Special Zone Team as of July 1963 which was located and sent to me by COUNTERPARTS Member Joe Frankoski. The information was republished in our database format and file structure and will be added to the "All Advisors" files after the review of the data from the old handwritten military rosters to my data entry has been verified.

Due to all the changes being made, I also recently completed the compaction of the Advisors database which includes the Membership files and the "All Advisors" files. Currently there are approximately 800 member records and 10,000 other non-member advisor records. This reduced the database from 25 Megabytes of data to just over 6 MB which should make it respond a lot faster to data requests.

An ongoing project is to update all the broken links in the website on the Vet Links page and others. This is a continuing project since web designers often delete old webpages and change the path to the replacement pages.

Finally, a new project that has not been started is to update COUNTERPARTS Financial Reports pages. Currently we only have reports shown for 2005 through 2007. The 10-year missing reports were usually published after reunions in the SITREP. I plan on going through all the SITREPs beginning in 2008 and pulling out those I find. Hopefully that will only leave a few to ask for help to find.

One of our members has requested that we change our " Locator" forms so that members who fill out the forms will have their contact information (Name, Address , Phone, Email, etc.) auto-populate each time they search for someone. I don't know how many members use the forms after their first year in COUNTERPARTS so I have not started this project.

Anyone else that has any website changes or questions, please let me know.

Thanks and best regards.

.....Jim Alkek



COUNTERPARTS FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

By

Charlie Shaw, COUNTERPARTS Facebook Group Admin

We stood up our COUNTERPARTS private Facebook Group Page in August 2019, and presently have 58 members and 105 posts. The page is a great way to share stories, pictures and videos of our collective Vietnam experiences, as well current Counterpart and Vietnam related happenings - including pictures of our annual reunions. As a Private Group Page, it is only accessible by registered members, and such membership is limited to current COUNTERPARTS members. As a private Group Page, non-members cannot see member posts or member names except those of the Group Admins. When the Group was started last year, email invitations were sent out via the Facebook Group to all Counterpart members at their email addresses on file.

If any members missed the initial invitation and wish to join the Group, they may do so by:

1. Navigating to our Group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/COUNTERPARTS.THDNA/> *
2. Clicking on the blue +Join Group button which takes you to the "Answer Questions" page
3. If your membership dues are current, select 'Yes' under the 'Are you a dues-paying member of COUNTERPARTS?' question.
4. Check 'I agree to the group rules' under 'Group Rules From the Admins'.
5. Click the blue 'Submit' button at the bottom of the page.

* Of course, you do need to have a personal Facebook account to access the page and register.

Requests will be approved by the Group Admin after verification of current COUNTERPARTS membership by the Membership Chair.

Lessons in Strength

By John B. Haseman, Colonel, US Army-Retired

I didn't notice the burnished steel behind the smiling face, the first time I met 1LT Nguyen Thanh Liem. He was one of many officers I met on my first day as deputy district senior advisor in Ham Long District, Kien Hoa Province. Tall for a Vietnamese and with a gaunt, almost ascetic face, Liem impressed me with his air of confidence, competence, and pride.

At first it was difficult to imagine how I, a newly arrived American captain, could provide meaningful advice to troops that had been engaged in the struggle with the Viet Cong for an entire adult lifetime. I need not have worried, for over time I was able to provide valuable assistance to my Vietnamese COUNTERPARTS. More importantly I learned more than I taught -- lessons in courage, character, and strength. Liem played a major role in my education.

Liem was the Ham Long District S-3. His duties included planning and leading tactical operations, overseeing the training of local RF/PF soldiers, and the construction and maintenance of outposts and watchtowers. His competence in the performance of his duties earned him a reputation throughout the province as a good soldier.

He had seen a lot of American advisors come and go, and not all of them had been what he referred to as "friends of my country." Liem was friendly to the American advisors in Ham Long, but I could sense the reserve behind his eyes. The gaze said, "prove yourself worthy." As the weeks passed and I became accepted by the Vietnamese, he became more open. Liem and I became closely involved in tactical operations in search of an elusive enemy.

As the months passed our mutual respect and friendship grew. He was a fine example of courage and character in an army that was too often criticized for its failures. Liem had a soldier's eye for the important. In his outpost visits he demanded strong defenses, effective weaponry, and alert soldiers. Though thoroughly a soldier Liem was no martinet. When interrupted at his work late at night he had time to chat with a lonesome American friend. I remember the compassion in his eyes while he gave first aid to wounded soldiers, cradling their heads in his lap.

Liem's personal courage was exhibited in countless combat situations. On one occasion Liem commanded a small clearing operation in the dense coconut jungles of northern Ham Long. An enemy force ambushed the RF/PF force and for a few moments there was sharp fighting. Liem was everywhere, encouraging his men, directing fire and exposing himself to the enemy to provide the leadership necessary for survival. Though there were friendly casualties, his leadership rallied the defenders and drove the enemy from the battlefield.

Though my Vietnamese was limited and his English not much better, we held long talks at night and somehow broke the communications barrier. Perhaps mutual understanding helped when we failed to find the right word in either language. Liem talked about his experiences, of his strong patriotism. He often talked about how things would be when the fighting ended. He knew peace would be achieved only at great cost, but he always felt there would be peace.

We closed the district advisory team in May 1972 because of a more secure situation, and I was reassigned as deputy district senior advisor in Mo Cay District. But in July 1972 an NVA regiment invaded Ham Long and I was moved back there as district senior advisor. In a three-month period of intense enemy pressure Liem was a rock of strength. He planned and led operations as the right-hand man to the District Chief. He assumed command of a battle-fatigued company in addition to his other duties and in short order rebuilt its shattered morale and strength. By November the remnants of that enemy regiment were ejected from Ham Long and I returned back to my duties in Mo Cay District. Our parting after months of shared friendship and danger was a painful one. My last view of Liem was blurred by the emotion of the moment, but I still remember it: a smile on his face and a shouted farewell on his lips. Just a few months later the Paris peace agreement was signed and my tour of duty ended in early February 1973.

The so-called peace agreement did not end the fighting. Treacherous breaches of the ceasefire continued. On March 14, 1973, Nguyen Thanh Liem's long search for peace finally ended. Viet Cong mortars fired on an RF outpost where Liem was stationed on rotation. He rallied the defenders, sprinting between bunkers to lead the defense against an attacking enemy company. But one shell landed too close and Liem, a survivor of a lifetime of war, died in the first month of "peace," his last act one of courage and sacrifice. He would have been proud to know that his outnumbered force repulsed the enemy and retained possession of that small clearing called Tan Long.

Nguyen Thanh Liem was neither famous nor high in rank. He was merely brave, loyal, a true leader of men, and an honest patriot. He was my friend and teacher, and I will never forget the honor of knowing him and what he stood for.



Liem in his S-3 office

Winter 2020

2019 CAMBODIA CORPS MONTAGNARD SCHOLAR UPDATE.

COUNTERPARTS will soon conclude 15 years of support for Cambodia Corps, the program that provides college scholarships to the children of the oppressed/underprivileged Indigenous Hill tribes of Eastern Cambodia. COUNTERPARTS contributed \$3500 this year, enough to cover the cost of sponsoring two of the female students to one year of college in Phnom Penh.

Starting this school year, there were 10 college students living in the Indigenous Student Center in Phnom Penh, 2 girls studying nursing and teacher education in Stung Treng, and 18 high school students living in our rented house in Ban Lung, the province capitol of Ratanakiri. World Hope International recently approached CCI to recruit two of our graduates for an internship with their program that focuses on early childhood and elementary education for the Montagnard children living in the villages of Monduliri province.

COUNTERPARTS member John Hackett recently purchased five lap top computers to be used by the college girls in Phnom Penh. Panha, one of our recent graduates, with a BS in community development, attended a conference in Viet Nam titled, "International Tribes Youth Peace Building."

Cambodia continues to be run by Prime Minister Hun Sen installed in power by the North Vietnamese communists when they invaded Cambodia in 1979 to overthrow the Khmer Rouge. Political oppression worsens in Cambodia and the land grabbing of the Montagnard traditional homelands is accelerating. Our long-time faithful manager in Cambodia, and the only paid employee, Siramaren, escaped the Khmer Rouge as a young man to live in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand for many years.

CAMBODIA CORPS continues with the mission of providing an educated leadership in a rapidly changing world for the Montagnard population of Cambodia. Graduates are required to go back to their home provinces for employment with NGOs and government agencies to help their people.

The COUNTERPARTS program to help the Montagnards in Cambodia received brief mention in a recent Dec 8 C-Span program that featured the SADEC Province reunion with presentations from MACV/CORDS personnel. It was mentioned that COUNTERPARTS is an organization for former advisors and that they help the Montagnards in Cambodia. COUNTERPARTS received praise on national television for our good work and charitable giving to Cambodia Corps. Cambodia Corps is run by three COUNTERPART members; Max Lund, the president, assisted by Rich Webster and new board member, Lewis Grissaffi. Last year Rich Webster traveled out to the provinces with CCI manager, Siramaren, to interview prospective students in their home villages for the high school program.



Students hold Laptops donated by COUNTERPARTS' John Hackett

Why do we continue to help the Montagnards? They were America's faithful allies and after we abandoned them after the fall of South Vietnam, they lost their freedom and their traditional homelands in the Central Highlands. In the words of one of our members, Mike Benge, former POW and human rights activist, "One quarter of the adult Montagnard male population sacrificed their lives for America. Without that valiant effort, there would be many more names of American soldiers on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC."

Our new website can be found at www.cambodiakorps.org.

... Rich Webster 11 Dec 2019



BULLETIN BOARD

Vietnam Healing Foundation Update

For the last three years, COUNTERPARTS has donated 2500 dollars a year to the Vietnam Healing Foundation which distributes small grants of money to former South Vietnamese soldiers who have fallen on hard times in Vietnam. The communist government continues to hassle these old wounded ARVN veterans. They receive nothing from the present government which goes out of their way to prevent them from even receiving a small grant of money from the VHF.

R J Del Vecchio sends this updated report describing the great difficulty the VHF faces in Vietnam today:

“The bad news is that the cops have gotten even more repressive, and work at trying to catch the guys we use to distribute the money directly. They got one of them a few months ago, sweated him for a couple of days demanding he explain where the money comes from so they can get to the source of the “illegal” charity. This is actually so they can try to hold up whoever the banker is for big bribes. We get hit now once a year by the Saigon cops for a “contribution” to their TET party so they’ll leave our guys alone. But the cops in other towns want to get in on the action. When they release one of our guys, then we can’t use him anymore, have to recruit another trustworthy person, usually the relative of a vet, to take over that group of recipients.”

“We have expanded the number of people we’re supporting now to 160 regulars and usually add in 30 or so new applicants in particularly bad shape for a one-time gift. Every couple of months one of the regulars passes away now, and then we immediately fill the slot with one of the guys on the waiting list. We’ve been managing to raise a bit more funds the last couple of years, so that lets us add more guys. This past year our annual major fundraiser had to be scaled back, the cost of places to hold it went way up and we had some of our best workers move away or get sick. So we didn’t make as much as in the past, but we’re keeping up the funding over there, eating away at our reserves. We have built up enough reserves for almost two years of support at present levels, but we consider using more of the reserves to keep expanding our coverage. These guys are getting older, like us, but most are in poor health and medical care over there is not that great and very expensive for them. So the death rate will only keep climbing. We also help with funeral expenses when needed.”

The Vietnam Healing Foundation is a nonprofit corporation registered in the US. More information can be found at www.thevhf.org.

COUNTERPARTS is the second largest donor of funds to their organization. Just as important as the monetary gift is for these old vets is the impact of not being forgotten by their former comrades in the US.

...Rich Webster

From Vinh Son Orphanage

(From Patrick R. Leary, VSO) It seems that 2019 went by in a flash. When I look back at FVSO activities, the one word that seems to bring focus to the year is ... WOW ! As the year progressed, we were receiving enough funds that we were confident to support additional projects. We had budgeted \$40,000 for special projects, but we actually were able to support \$70,000. The projects we supported this year were critical in improving the quality of life and the future for these kids. Hopefully, you have been following our projects in the monthly newsletters. They included:

- Infrastructure improvements like repairing roofs, electrical systems, vehicle repair and sanitary restrooms. Other projects included farmland purchases and farm improvements to help them eventually become self-sustaining.
- You may have read that our partner in the Netherlands, SWVK, has ceased operations. Diny, their driving force, turned 82 and could no longer keep up. We were able to replace the \$10,000 that she sent annually for primary education.
- Additionally, we now have 29 students in trade school, junior college or college. We are now in our 4th year of really supporting the higher education program and we are beginning to see the hoped for results. Several of the kids have returned to Kontum to volunteer.

Reviews of Books, new and old, relating to the Southeast Asia experience. Members are encouraged to submit reviews. All reviews will be published as space permits.

Winter 2020

MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Members-in-Memorial

This edition will take a slightly different view of the advisory effort in that we will look at the efforts of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). The AATTV consisted mostly of officers and warrant officers, experts in jungle warfare. From an original 30 in July 1962, the Team expanded to 100 in 1965 and reached over 200 before withdrawing in December 1972. Working individually and in small groups, members operated with the South Vietnamese Army, the Territorial Forces, the US Army Special Forces, and in programs sponsored by the US CIA. Many worked close to the people in the provinces and districts. Four Australian advisors received Great Britain's highest military honor for valor, the Victoria Cross and many others received valorous awards. It is said that the Team was probably the most highly decorated unit for its size in the history of the Australian Army.

These are AATTV members who made the ultimate sacrifice and are listed on the Counterparts Members-in-Memorial Roster:

SGT	W.F.	HACKING	1 JUNE 1963
WO2	K.G.	CONWAY	6 JULY 1964
WO2	R.A.	SCOTT	10 SEPTEMBER 1965
WO2	K.A.	WHEATLEY, VC (POST.)	13 NOVEMBER 1965
WO2	R.J.	SWANTON	13 NOVEMBER 1965
WO2	R.V.	LEES	13 JANUARY 1966
WO2	J.A.	MacDONALD	7 FEBRUARY 1966
CAPT	G.R.	BELLEVILLE	12 FEBRUARY 1966
WO2	J.H.	ANDREWS	21 FEBRUARY 1966
WO2	T.D.	PHILLIPS, MID (POST.)	20 MARCH 1966
WO2	W.A.	BLANCK	30 SEPTEMBER 1966
WO2	M.P.	HANLEY, MM	20 FEBRUARY 1967
MAJ	P.J.	BADCOE, VC (POST.)	7 APRIL 1967
WO2	J.M.	STONE, MID (POST.)	19 APRIL 1967
CAPT	K.W.	BAUDISTEL	13 AUGUST 1967
WO2	A.P.	SIGGERS	21 AUGUST 1967
WO2	A.J.	ROBERTSON	5 DECEMBER 1967
WO2	M.A.	HENDERSON	16 DECEMBER 1967
WO2	R.	SEILER	16 DECEMBER 1967
WO2	A.	PARRELLO, MID (POST.)	1 FEBRUARY 1968
CAPT	A.	DANILENKO, MID (POST.)	25 APRIL 1968
WO2	F.G.	HAMERSLEY, MID (POST.)	30 MAY 1968
WO2	J.T.	DURRINGTON	30 MAY 1968

WO2	J.	GARRIGAN	27 DECEMBER 1968
WO2	J.A.	BOND	25 APRIL 1969
WO2	M.W.	GILL,MID (POST.)	6 MAY 1969
WO2	B.	WALSH,MM	27 JUNE1969
WO2	K.J.	TROY	23 NOVEMBER1969
WO2	J.G.	PETTIT,MID (POST.)	4 APRIL 1970
WO2	J.	FITZGERALD	17 APRIL1970
WO2	F.L.	RAFFEN	7 AUGUST 1970
WO2	T.	LYDDIETH	18 FEBRUARY1971
CPL	T.D.	BLACKHURST	17 APRIL1971

Arnold W Dunham, Maj. US Army (Ret) Advisory Team 1, .II Cav.

Major Dunham was a veteran of Korea and Vietnam, who served in the US Army for 28 years. He died on June 23, 2019. He was buried in the Family Plot in Bethel, Vermont, with Military Honors. He was a graduate of Norwich University, Class of 1957 and has been remembered in the Norwich Record Roll of Honor. In September, his family informed SITREP of his passing. He was a Charter Life Member of Counterparts.

Le Thanh Long LTC ARVN

LTC Long passed on March 29, 2019. He was a VN Ranger and District Chief in Cai Lay. He spent 13 years in re-education before immigrating to the USA in 1993. He was a close friend and counterpart to member Steve Leighton. A special memorial was set up in his honor at the Houston Reunion.

.. .And A Special Note.

On Veterans' Day, November 11, the following message was received from Catherine Woolard Skobe, the daughter of one of our deceased members, Mitchell R Woolard, who served with Advisory Team 96 in Can Tho.

"As Veteran 's Day comes to a close, / 've been thinking a lot about my father. Last night, / was watching the History channel 's program , Vietnam in HD, and decided to google my dad, Mitchel R. Woolard MAAG. / came across your Winter 20/8-/9 newsletter and was surprised to see that a piece he had written was published about his first days in Vietnam. He never told me and my sister that he had written anything about his experience as he rarely, if ever, talked about being in Vietnam.

It was an incredibly wonderful surprise to have stumbled upon the article. He passed away on May / 3, 20/8, one day before his 75th birthday. His exposure to Agent Orange was attributed to his prostate cancer and we suspect to the subsequent cancer that he succumbed to. I want to thank you on behalf of me, my sister, and my mother for publishing his story. It's a story we never heard that we can now share with his grandchildren. Unfortunately, he never got to see it published

One day when my mom is ready I will share it with her. She is still beginning to adjust to her loss. They were married for 53 years. Their story is one to be told as they met briefly in Vietnam (for 3 days!) and fell in love. He returned to the US and wanted her to come with him, but she said no. By 1965, he convinced her and she came to the alone, leaving her family behind, to marry him.

On this Veteran '05 Day and always, thank you for serving your country and providing us with the life freedom, and liberty we often take for granted. We can never thank each and every one of you enough."



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FALLEN ADVISOR HONORED BY HIS HOME TOWN ON MEMORIAL DAY

*By
John Haseman*

A February email last year (2019) from a fellow COUNTERPARTS member, and more importantly a fellow former officer on Advisory Team 88 (Kien Hoa Province, MR IV), started what became an intensely emotional and satisfying event to celebrate and memorialize a fellow Team 88 friend who was KIA in August 1972 -- the late Captain Bill Chandler. The email was from Mike Delaney, who informed me that the American Legion Post commander in Springfield, PA was collecting any information he could get about Bill Chandler. The Springfield Post has a tradition to honor a Springfield native son (or daughter) who had been KIA in the nation's recent wars, in chronological order. Our friend Bill Chandler was the final Springfield native to be KIA in Vietnam. Thus started several months of satisfying, rewarding, and emotional work. To understand how emotionally affected I was, a bit of history first.

From July 1971 to May 1972 I was Deputy District Senior Advisor (DDSA) in Ham Long District. The district team was closed in May 1972 because of an improved security situation and the steady drawdown of advisory team strength. I had extended my tour of duty for six months and was re-assigned as Deputy District Senior Advisor in Mo Cay District. At the end of June, I departed Ben Tre on my 30-day extension leave.

In July and August 1972, the "Easter Offensive" finally arrived in Kien Hoa Province. Several NVA battalions invaded Mo Cay District, and an NVA Regiment crossed the Mekong River and invaded Ham Long District. When I returned to Mo Cay the end of July, I found that the District Chief had been KIA, and the District Senior Advisor (DSA) WIA in a large enemy ambush. The DSA was still in the hospital in Saigon when I returned, and a temporary district chief was working in Mo Cay. A week or so later the DSA (Major George B. "Byron" Reed) returned from Saigon but he was sorely wounded. I remember watching him extracting tiny pieces of shrapnel from his legs with tweezers, without a complaint or sighs of pain.

When the NVA Regiment invaded Ham Long District, the PSA ordered CPT Chandler, the province team S-2 and intelligence advisor, to go out to Ham Long to help the district forces with tactical air strikes and U.S. helicopter support. Bill had prior experience as a platoon leader in the US 9th Infantry Division and had branch transferred to the MI Branch, hence his assignment as province intelligence advisor. Since my DSA was still in the hospital when this occurred, the PSA did not send me "back" to Ham Long because I was the only advisor in another sorely tested district.

Sadly, Bill was KIA only a day or two after he arrived in Ham Long, killed when the NVA ambushed a friendly force led by the district chief, moving west from the district compound. CPT Chandler was the first - and only - Advisory Team member to be KIA during my assignment. As you will see below, it is important to establish this background.

In late August, about 10 days after CPT Chandler's death, and with the wounded DSA now back in Mo Cay, the PSA called on the radio and ordered me to Ben Tre on the soon-to-arrive province swing ship. While I was en route, he talked with Major Reed on the radio to explain what was about to happen. When I reported to the PSA, he ordered me to go "back" to Ham Long as a temporary District Senior Advisor. A day later I was back in Ham Long, following in the sad footsteps left by CPT Bill Chandler. I spent three months in Ham Long helping my COUNTERPARTS fight back against the remnants of the invading NVA regiment, then I returned to Mo Cay for the rest of my assignment.

So you can imagine my feelings, thoughts, and emotions as I helped others re-construct Bill's outstanding military career as an advisor in Kien Hoa who gave his life while helping his new COUNTERPARTS. In writing of Bill as a person and outstanding professional, and reviewing the details of his fatal final operation, I felt almost overwhelmed by the return of memories more than 40 years old ("Why Bill and not me?" reoccurred frequently).

Mike Delaney and another teammate, former Captain Brian Valiton, were able to provide extensive details about Bill's time in Kien Hoa Province to the Springfield American Legion Post commander, COL Rich Debany - an active duty officer who is also a native son of Springfield, PA. Mike and Brian knew Bill as a close colleague and friend on the province team. I knew Bill through periodic visits to Ben Tre but not as

closely as Mike and Brian. My main contribution was recalling what I knew about Bill's final hours in Ham Long and details about the tactical operation that resulted in his death.

Each of us decided we wanted to travel to Springfield, PA to attend Bill's memorial service. When we arrived in Springfield early on Memorial Day morning, we found another Team 88 member, former Captain Ed Blankenhagen. We had not seen Ed since the closing of our team in January 1973. The "four captains" immediately melded back to the days in Kien Hoa and our memories of Bill Chandler.

During our day in Springfield the four of us met Bill's widow, daughters, and other members of his family. We participated in the parade through the streets of Springfield, and in the ceremonies at the Legion Post in Bill's honor. The four of us had a private lunch with Bill's widow. Though extremely emotional, we were so happy to reunite with each other, delighted that Bill's home town was honoring his service and his memory. Details and photographs of the parade and Bill's memorial service filled the front page (and more) of the Springfield newspaper. The "Four Captains" were overwhelmed with kindness and kind words from the people of Springfield. The turnout to honor our friend was incredibly satisfying.

As I write this short tribute to my friend, those emotions still swirl. But most of all I remember how my friend's home town honored him and his service to our country.



*The "Four Captains"
Former Advisory Team 88 captains Ed Blankenhagen, Brian Valiton, Mike Delaney, and John Haseman reunited at the ceremony honoring our friend and colleague*

COUNTERPARTS PARTICIPATES IN WREATH LAYING IN CALIFORNIA



Lewis Grissaffi represented COUNTERPARTS with this wreath at the internment of 81 South Vietnamese Airborne soldiers at Westminster, California, on October 26, 2019.

These soldiers will finally be laid to rest under a commemorative marker in the largest Vietnamese-American cemetery in our country. Former Senator and Vietnam Veteran James Webb spoke at the ceremony.

In late 1965, an American C-123 was shot down, killing all four American crew members and 81 South Vietnamese Airborne soldiers. The crash site was in a contested area and was not visited until 1974. There was no flight manifest for the South Vietnamese soldiers, so their names will never be known.

...Rich Webster, PIO

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