



COUNTERPARTS

TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM A

SITREP

Volume XXV

Issue 1

Spring 2026

2026 COUNTERPARTS REUNION SET FOR APRIL AT TEXAS TECH.

COUNTERPARTS Reunion Coordinator Len Ganz has been working through the Fall and Winter to finalize plans for our 2026 Reunion, which will be held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas on 21-24 April. Len and Texas Tech Co-Host Ron Milam have put together four days of activities for Reunion attendees that promises to be enjoyable and worthwhile.

The Reunion will continue include the opportunity for members to offer presentations on their Advisory experience and to share accounts of their notable, and often unique experiences related to their Vietnam and Southeast Asia service. There will be opportunities for Tours, bus trips, and events with Texas Tech Vietnam Center, and as always, ample time to renew old friendships and hear new Stories in the Hospitality Suite. Members who are interested in making a presentation should contact Len Ganz.

We will be headquartered at the lovely MCM ELEGANTE Hotel and Suites, located at 801 Avenue Q, Lubbock 79401, only a short bus ride from Texas Tech. The hotel offers shuttle service within a radius of three miles, as well as an airport shuttle. MCM Elegante is a fully appointed hotel, offering Dining, a Pool and a complete list of amenities. Complimentary Breakfast for guests is also provided

COUNTERPARTS has been offered a special Block Rate, but this rate will not be available after 1 April. Reunion coordinator Len Ganz urges all attendees to make reservations early The MCM Elegante can be contacted for Reservations at 806 763 1200, through the link to the hotel on the COUNTERPARTS website, or via email to: fdlubbock@mcmelegante.com.

The Banquet will be on Thursday evening and will feature as Speaker COUNTERPARTS member Rick Cassidy. (Bio on page 6). Our annual Business Meeting will be held at the Hotel 0900-1200 Friday morning.

For more detail see the Reunion Agenda on page 3 of this SITREP or contact Reunion Coordinator Len Ganz at len.ganz@gmail.com or 718 441 7808. Please be sure to complete the Reservation form (page 4)early. Deadline for Reservations is April 1.

SEE YOU IN APRIL!



COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

This year's winter weather has been unique, to say the least! The parts of the country that are usually fairly warm during the winter have been subjected to the cruel "polar vortex". And the parts of the country that are usually snow-covered and cold have, by and large, been spared. In many ways the weather this year seems "upside down"!

It should be no surprise to anyone that our members continue to be stricken with cancer ... no doubt Agent Orange-related. Please continue to keep our fellow COUNTERPARTS members in your thoughts and prayers.

Planning is completed for the 2026 Reunion, to be held in Lubbock, TX, in conjunction with Texas Tech University. The Reunion is being hosted by Len Ganz, with Ron Milam and the staff of the Vietnam Archives supporting. The schedule and the registration form are available on our website and on pages 3 and 4 of this SITREP. There is also a live link on the CP website for discounted hotel reservations. I encourage you to plan ahead and **make your hotel reservations ASAP!** It is relatively easy to fly into Lubbock or for those who live in Texas or neighboring states, it's an easy drive. We look forward to see you in April, 2026!

Like many of you, what drew me to COUNTERPARTS was the unique opportunity to share time (and stories) with others who also served as Advisors in Vietnam. Although our experiences were heavily shaped and influenced by our location in-country and the type of unit we were advising, we share a *camaraderie* based on the larger goal of assisting the South Vietnamese armed forces in their fight against the Communists. COUNTERPARTS continues to provide a platform for engagement, support for the historical preservation of our unique legacy, and the cultivation of lifelong connections among our members.

I invite each one of you to join me, as we continue our life's journey, at the 2026 Counterparts Reunion. If you have a personal need or a suggestion, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at cheoreo1@hotmail.com or 307.689.6064.

... Steve King

Commander, COUNTERPARTS/THDNA

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

DUES NOTICE: Annual Counterparts dues are payable now. Annual dues are \$35.00, or you can upgrade to lifetime membership for \$350.00. Our dues fund the several projects that Counterparts supports for our former Counterparts in Southeast Asia. Please make your check out to "Counterparts" and mail to Membership Officer John Haseman, 555 West Saddle Drive, Grand Junction CO 81507. Lifetime members do NOT pay dues, but those who may like to make a contribution are warmly received! If you are not sure of your status or payment record, feel free to email John at jhaseman@earthlink.net

2026 Counterparts Reunion Agenda

MCM Elegante Hotel and Suites, Lubbock, TX

Tuesday, 21 April

Arrival day, hotel check-in

12:00-22:00 Hospitality Room Open

Wednesday 22 April 2026

08:00-22:00 Hospitality Room Open

09:00-11:30 Member Presentations

12:00 Lunch on your own

13:30 Load buses to Buddy Holly Center

14:00-16:00 Tour Buddy Holly Center

16:30 Bus to hotel

18:00 Bus to Vietnamese Restaurant (optional)

18:30-20:00 Vietnamese Restaurant

20:00 Return to hotel

Thursday 23 April 2026

08:00-22:00 Hospitality Room Open

08:30 Load buses for The Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archives 09:00-11:00
Presentation at Sam Johnson Archives and tour of the Archives.

11:30 Bus returns to hotel

12:00 Lunch on your own

13:30 Bus to Silent Wings Museum

14:00-16:00 Tour Silent Wings Museum

16:30 Return to hotel.

17:00-1900 Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

19:00- 2200 Banquet at hotel

Friday 24 April 2026

09:00-12:00 Annual Business Meeting at Hotel.

12:00- Depart

Farewells, check-out of hotel & Depart

**2026 Counterparts Reunion
MCM Elegante Hotel Lubbock Texas
21-24 April 2026**

Registration fee: \$210.00: Includes access to hospitality room & refreshments, banquet dinner, The Silent Wings Museum, Texas Tech University Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive. Optional supper at the Saigon Cafe (individuals pay)

Link to Counterparts Hotel Reservations Page:

<https://www.reseze.net/servlet/SendPage?hotelid=1419&skipfirstpage=true&page=3756050>

Registration + fees must be received by 1 April 2026

\$70: Spouse/Guest for banquet only

\$40 Optional trip to Buddy Holly Center

\$210 x ___ = _____ Registration

\$70 x ___ = _____ Banquet Guest(s)

\$40 x ___ = _____ Buddy Holly Center

Total:

Spouse/Guest Optional Trip Friday morning Trolley Tour, shopping, lunch at the Tea Room (individuals pay). Check if participating _____

Member name:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

MACV Team:

Other affiliations:

Spouse/Guest Name:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

Make Checks payable to COUNTERPARTS and mail them to:

Len Ganz

3315 Knoxville Avenue Long Beach, CA 90808

781.444.7808

We encourage all members and guests to make arrangements prior to 15 March 2026 to secure accommodation, participate in the meetings, presentations, outings and the banquet.

XO Report

As we prepare for our upcoming Reunion we can confidently look forward to a well planned event by your leadership team. A lot of preplanning went into this event and I hope it will be as successful as all the previous ones.

The command section recently held a Zoom meeting and many topics were discussed and will be presented at our Annual Business meeting.

We are in the process of updating our Village Market Website with some updated prices on some items. Also, we will no longer provide *Village Market* items at the Reunion and our Annual meeting due to cost.

As many of you know our SITREP is now only emailed. Because of this we are able to provide more space for our members to submit articles of some of their many experiences when in Country. We do appreciate your submissions; they can be as short as just a few paragraphs. So get to your computer, type up an experience or observation and submit it to Ken Jacobsen, SITREP Editor. Even if It may be late for our current edition but will make the next one. SITREP is published twice yearly.

In closing I wish you all a Happy New Year. Make your regular Dr. appointments and stay safe.

...Hank Choy

XO

Proposal for a new COUNTERPARTS Banner

Gentlemen;

For several years we have discussed ending the shipping of all of the flags from Reunion to Reunion.

Attached please find a *very rough draft* of an idea for a new banner. Most likely 6-8 ft long by 3 ft wide.

Flags are : U.S., SVN, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Philippines, Laos and Cambodia. (with POW & Counterparts as well)

Please share your thoughts with me. Once I have your input, I have a graphic artist that has offered her services at no cost to do the actual design work.

....Steve King



**RICHARD (RICK) CASSIDY, COLONEL (RET) US ARMY
REUNION GUEST SPEAKER**

Colonel Cassidy grew up in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin and attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he participated in the Army ROTC program. On graduation he was commissioned an officer of Infantry in the Regular Army. He began his 26 plus year career in the Army by attending the Infantry Officer Basic, Airborne and Ranger Courses at Fort Benning, Georgia.

From 1970 -1975, Cassidy served two tours in Germany with two different Mechanized Infantry Battalions, one tour in an Infantry Rifle Battalion in the 101st Airborne Division, Republic of Vietnam and one tour as District Senior Advisor to the ARVN in Dak To and Kontum Districts,. After this and several subsequent assignments he was accepted into the US Army's Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program.

For most of the remainder of his Army career COL Cassidy served in FAO and Asia-related assignments and schools. He served three years as a Military Attaché in the US Embassy-Tokyo, two years as Chief, Asia-Pacific in the Political-Military Division, ODCSOPS, Hq DA, Pentagon, and three years as Director, Army Security Assistance Programs, Joint US Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG) – Thailand. In addition to his Military Attaché duties, Cassidy also served as the US Ambassador's Introducer at all Embassy official social activities and receptions. While in ODCSOPS, Cassidy was an Army Liaison Officer to the Joint Staff during the First Gulf War.

Cassidy holds an M.A. in National Security Affairs (NPS) and served a one-year International Fellowship at the Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies in Tokyo, Japan. He is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute (both Japanese and Thai); a graduate of the State Department's Foreign Service Institute (Japanese); the US Army Command and General Staff Course; the Defense Intelligence Agency College; the CIA Military Attaché Course; and the Defense Security Assistance Management Course.

Following retirement from the US Army in 1995, Cassidy co-founded Asia Connections Inc (ACI), a strategic marketing and consultancy firm co-based in St. Augustine, Florida and Bangkok, Thailand. For 25 years, Cassidy and his partners provided consulting support to numerous multinational companies, including Sikorsky Aircraft Corp, Lockheed Martin Corp, Boeing, Flight Safety International, ITT Industries, Northrop Grumman, and L-3. ACI closed its operations in Feb 2020.

Cassidy lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife, Gail, and dog, Angel.

New Counterparts Member

Please welcome **Dennis Lee O'Neil** to Counterparts. Denny served on Advisory Team 31, adding to the largest team in our group. He worked primarily in logistics jobs on the province team in Cheo Reo, as well as Phu Thien and Phu Tuc Districts. Denny lives in Orlando, Florida.



Cambodia Corps seeking New Board Members from COUNTERPARTS

To All Members: Cambodia Corps would like to add one or two volunteer members to our Board of Directors. If anyone would like to serve please contact Max Lund. email: maxlund888@gmail.com Or see Max at the at the Reunion.

MG Nguyen Khoa Nam's final days

As Hanoi's NVA swept in to MR IV (Mekong Delta), Nam was MR IV CG. He was widely regarded as militantly honest and an excellent military commander who came up through airborne ranks. The text in this link is in English, audio and in text, and also in Vietnamese.

Members should find this interesting as history, as well as tragic. This is from Le Ngoc Danh's book. Danh was Gen. Nam's aide-de-camp and was on the scene to the end. One sad element relates to when Gen. Nam visited his IV Corps hospital, stopping to talk with each wounded soldier, tears coming forth.

Here is link to Gen. Nam story:

[The Final Moments of General Nguyễn Khoa Nam - Full Translation - YouTube](#)

...Provided by Bill Laurie

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New Features added to Vietnam Memorial

The Vietnam Memorial Wall has completed a major element of their Wall of Faces Project. All veterans who are listed on the Wall now have at least one facial picture on the Wall of Faces.

This is a significant achievement! For example most of the USMC CAP Marines did not have a facial picture on their Virtual Wall Profile.

In addition the remembrances, left by visitors to the Wall, were attached to the veteran's profile page, along with their medal citation certificates for the MOH, Service Cross, Silver Star and Valor Bronze Stars.

I will be adding the Wall of Faces link to each of the 3,138 US Veterans listed on our Members-in-Memorium web page and adding any additional pertinent information gleaned from the Remembrances.

Looking forward to the Lubbock Reunion.

....Webmaster Jim Alkek

MEDAL OF HONOR
FOR SERVICE AS ADVISOR TO VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES
A Continuing Series

By
Colonel John B. Haseman, U.S. Army – Retired

Lance Corporal Miguel Keith, U.S. Marine Corps

Miguel Keith was born on 2 June 1951, in San Antonio, Texas. He spent his younger years in Texas, where his first grade teacher later recalled that he was a popular child and that “he was always where the action was... he was never one to sit on the side lines and let others do it all.”ⁱ

His parents divorced when he was very young, and his mother Delores married Bobbie Keith, a construction worker and Marine veteran. The Keith family moved frequently, following opportunities for construction work. In the early 1960s, the family moved to Omaha, Nebraska. Miguel attended North High School, where he participated in the Junior ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program.ⁱⁱ

. On 21 January 1969, not yet 18 years old, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve; months later he was discharged from the Reserves and the next day, 1 May 1969, he enlisted in the regular Marine Corps. After basic and advanced training at Camp Pendleton, California, he arrived in Vietnam, where he was assigned to 1st Combined Action Group, 3rd Marine Amphibious Force. He was further assigned to Combined Action Platoon 1-3-2. Being a CAP Marine meant operating in isolation from larger U.S. military units. For the fifteen young Marines, the village became their home. PFC Keith’s squad was quartered in An Diem village in Quảng Ngãi Province,ⁱⁱⁱ Military Region I, and promoted to Lance Corporal.

On 8 May 1969 he accompanied his combined USMC/Vietnamese Popular Force on a CAP tactical operation. The platoon came under heavy attack from a numerically superior enemy and Lance Corporeal Keith was seriously wounded. Despite his wounds he advanced on the enemy with machine gun fire, killing three of the enemy attacking the CAP command post, and dispersing the others. He was severely wounded again, by a grenade. In spite of his wounds and loss of blood, he charged a group of 25 attackers, causing them to retreat for cover, but he was mortally wounded by enemy fire. He was only 19 years old. His courageous attacks against the enemy contributed significantly to his platoon's success in routing the enemy.^{iv}

Lance Corporal Miguel Keith is honored at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., where his name is inscribed on Panel 11W, Line 132.

Lance Corporal Miguel’s heroic sacrifice has been memorialized in many ways:

Keith Hall, a barracks at Henderson Hall, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, Virginia, was dedicated on 18 March 1983. A bronze plaque in the lobby recounts his courageous actions.

The *USS Miguel Keith*, an Expeditionary Mobile Base, named in his honor, was commissioned on 10 May 2021.

Miguel Keith Park and Memorial in South Omaha, Nebraska was named in his honor in 1994. In 2019 a life-size bronze statue was dedicated to memorialize his courageous service.^v

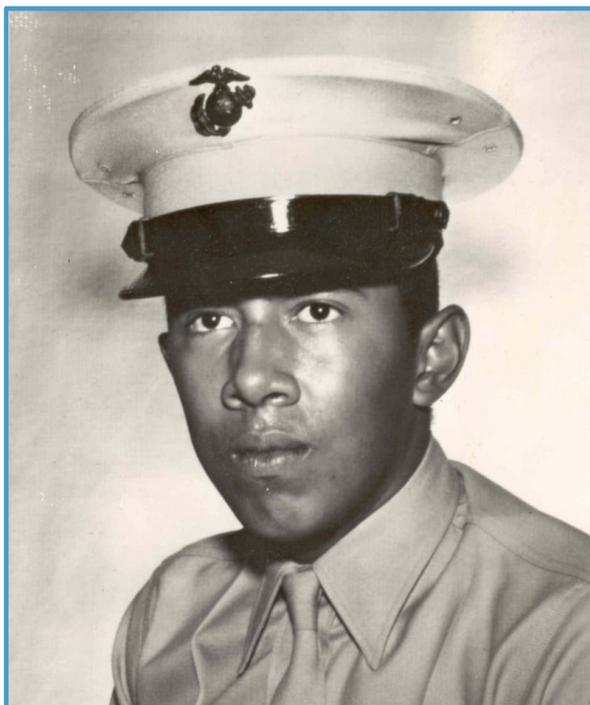


Photo credit: <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/miguel-keith>

Presentation Date & Details:

15 September 1971

The White House, presented by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to his family.

CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Combined Action Platoon 1-3-2. During the early morning L/Cpl. Keith was seriously wounded when his platoon was subjected to a heavy ground attack by a greatly outnumbering enemy force. Despite his painful wounds, he ran across the fire-swept terrain to check the security of vital defensive positions and then, while completely exposed to view, proceeded to deliver a hail of devastating machine-gun fire against the enemy. Determined to stop five of the enemy soldiers approaching the command post, he rushed forward, firing as he advanced. He succeeded in disposing of three of the attackers and in dispersing the remaining two. At this point, a grenade detonated near L/Cpl. Keith, knocking him to the ground and inflicting further severe wounds. Fighting pain and weakness from loss of blood, he again braved the concentrated hostile fire to charge an estimated 25 enemy soldiers who were massing to attack. The vigor of his assault and his well-placed fire eliminated four of the enemy soldiers while the remainder fled for cover. During this valiant effort, he was mortally wounded by an enemy soldier. By his courageous and inspiring performance in the face of almost overwhelming odds, L/Cpl. Keith contributed in large measure to the success of his platoon in routing a numerically superior enemy force, and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the U.S. Naval Service.^{vi}

ⁱ <https://www.cmohs.org/news-events/hispanic-latino-recipients/celebrating-hispanic-heritage-month-with-the-congressional-medal-of-honor-society/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.herocards.us/hero98>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_Keith

^v https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_Keith

^{vi} <https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/miguel-keith>