

#12

# Counterparts

TUÔNG HỮU VIỆT-MỸ/ĐÔNG NAM Á

Post Office Box 40, Clrcleville, WV 26804



Greetings. Hope all is well with everyone out there. Lotsa news/info this month, and things are going well. Houston reunion went well, though attendance was lower than expected. Nominations for vacant offices, most significantly CO, were not forthcoming, though XO position has since been assumed by Grant McClure. Some revisions, none of major consequence, in by-laws were approved, clarifying membership categories, and calling for express, direct and explicit language enabling any uninformed reader to clearly comprehend nature of full membership as applies to all 'counterparts', i.e., this is simply not a US Advisor club only, and that many SE Asian counterparts were equal if not superior to their 'advisor'. Also discussed: prospects of a joint CUVA(CAP Assn.)-CVM-V/DNA sponsorship of Amerasian child through Pearl Buck Assn., 1992 reunion, and present condition of former counterparts still in Việt Nam. Latter subject was discussed in sobering detail by Mr. Nguyen Tai Lam, former graduate of Ft. Bragg Special Warfare School, and, after a long dedicated career of national service, Director of the RD Cadre training school in Vũng Tàu. Mr. Lam recounted his 13 years in concentration camps (he being sent to North Việt Nam where real 'enemies of the people' were imprisoned). It was not a pleasant tale. All were grateful for Mr. Lam's taking time from a very hectic schedule, and are pleased and honored to welcome him as a new member. Later in the evening, following a splendid multi-course Việt Nameese meal, the video 'draft' of Kay Reibold's Dega production was viewed, with welcome knowledgeable commentary from Pappy Hicks, who was directly involved with Dega in VN; and in their exodus to US. Factual details understate good time had by all, so rather than continue on with editor's comments, you deserve to hear from your fellow members.....(excerpted only, no changes in words printed)....

1.Expected: A bunch of fat old farts crying in their beer about how good they were and how bad they have been treated(heard it all before at other Veterans Assns.).

2.Find: A damn good group of older and fatter(not me) men who this country can be proud of. With some of the highest goals any veterans assn. could work for.

3.Promise: To let others know of number 2.

See you in '92.'

Ben Myers

and...

'...the meeting held on March 9 went very well. Items brought up were discussed and voted on with a minimum of hassle. Mr. Lam's talk of his thirteen years in re-education camp was most informative, as was J.C. Fischer's explanation of locator system he has developed. ...Not to be forgotten was our dinner Saturday evening at the Viet Nameese restaurant under guidance of Martin Ha. No one left hungry.

After dinner we all returned to the hotel for our last get together until next year. Everyone seemed to have had an enjoyable time reminiscing and telling old war stories. I would wholeheartedly recommend all members make a special effort to attend the next reunion in Louisville, in 1992. .... I said it before and I'll say it again: Uncle Sam had the cream of the crop in the Advisor Program, and as you all know cream rises to the top. Thanks for letting me put in my two cents worth.'

Lee Jones

'It was great to meet a group of guys who had the same experiences as I had, and who think like I do. At times, I wonder if I am the only person who isn't a Dan Quayle or Oliver Stone fan. Also, great to see that none of the members present fit the mold of the VVA 'Professional VN Vet'; the ragged assed, sniveling media s--t magnet. The people I met in Houston would provide a legitimate author with a historic and interesting account of a rarely documented aspect of the Việt Nam War. The Ek Bowie I won is a real beauty--wish everyone could have won one.'

Tom Regnier

and..

'...I am willing to do everything in my ability to contribute to the attainment of our objectives. You, American Counterparts, are helping my fellow countrymen, why shouldn't I do the same? You're trying to prove to America that the spirit of the Việt Nam War was the same as the one of the Gulf war, only the endings are different. That's not your fault, that's not my fault either, and especially that's not the fault of those who are still in concentration camps right now. So why not join my efforts with yours? Thank you again for giving me that opportunity(to speak at the reunion) and I hope that my contribution will be more realistic once my family is settled. My warmest regards to you and other members.'

Nguyễn Tai Lam

and..

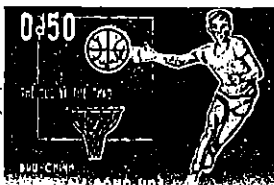
'...If the rest of the members of Counterparts are anything like the ones I met in Houston we have one hell of a great group. ..wrote to Tom(Harvey) and told him what a great reunion he missed. ..sponsorship of an Amerasian child is a very good idea...you have my vote. I enjoyed meeting everybody and loved every minute of it. Didn't get much sleep but that's all right; enjoyed it all, including the Marine Corps jokes. Have to start digging up some Army jokes for J.C. between now and next reunion.

Semper Fi' Cesar Coronado

and..

'It was an honor to have met so many fine people at the reunion. I am most impressed with the good fellowship of this budding young organization. It is very exciting to be a part of it and to share the same sense of purpose--feelings very reminiscent of our erstwhile endeavors two decades ago.'

Grant McClure



'There wasn't many of us at the convention in Houston, but what there wasn't in numbers there damn sure was in quality. We had two outstanding ex-ARVN with us in Houston. One was (Col.) Martin Ha, who had a harrowing trip with his family trying to escape, winding up in a refugee camp, living under adverse conditions until finally admitted to the US. Another was our main speaker, Col. Nguyen Tai Lam, CO of the RD training center at Vũng Tàu when VN fell. He was incarcerated in North Vietnam, while his wife and family remained in Saigon. She was allowed to visit him three times in those 13 years, and each visit lasted less than 15 minutes.... You should have heard his story. If you want more of the same, we'll see you next year in Louisville.'

#### Pappy Hicks

'During the weekend of 9 March, while several parts of the US were welcoming the returning warriors of Desert Storm a few old warriors were meeting in Houston. ...Some had fought in three wars, some two, all in one. .. each had been an advisor in Vietnam. Some had spent several years of their lives there. ...All decried the image of the Vietnam vet in the media. .. The media had no friends there (at Houston). All noted the current war gave the media another opportunity for Vietnam Vet bashing. ...If Vietnam Vets were such poor soldiers why did more of them per capita win the Medal of Honor than in any war in the 20th century. ... A couple of the men they advised were there. Most are dead, from the war, from 're-education' camps. One of the men had spent much time and his own money getting 219 Montagnards to the U.S. No one asked him why. No one had to. ...each wished he could have fought with the support of the American people. But it was not to be. They didn't dwell on a past they could not change but discussed the things they could do now for the Montagnards, for Amerasians, for each other. "Here's to us and them like us and the hell with everyone else" toasted one. It was appropriate.'

#### Curt Rich

(This went out in Curt's Newsletter to his automotive customers, which contains some of the finest candid automotive writing and commentary you'll ever see. If you're a Mercedes, BMW or SAAB fan, and enjoy straight poop on moronic government policies(sic), and deceptive auto advertising(Lexus and Infiniti both take hard, and well documented, knocks in recent edition), all mixed in with a fine blend of sardonic humor, you'll enjoy it. \$25.00/year for 12 issues: Curt Rich; Star Motor Cars; 7000 Katy Road; Houston, Texas; 77024)

So, there's thoughts of attendees. It was a good one, and Louisville in '92 promises to be even better. More on this later. Before closing out reunion commentary, several cubic miles of thanks are due: George Davidson-telephonic message center; Martin Ha and Phil King for setting the whole thing up; Grant McClure for his work as recording secretary and for tenaciously tracking down a VCR for the Dega tape; Mike Little for getting the tape to begin with; Cesar Coronado for representing CUVA; Owen Kelly for providing excellent examples of guerrilla agitation techniques against pompous bureaucrats(and for relaying cryptic notes from Pat Wilson); J.C. Fischer for presentation on his locator work; Pappy Hicks for Dega commentary and bringing along copies of his new novel, EAGLE ATTACK TEAM(watch for it-has three Apache helicopters on orange cover); Nguyen Tai Lam for bringing forward the ordeal of his 13 years in concentration camps; Curt Rich and Lee Jones for cerveza and edible treats. And to everyone for the

\*AND MAIL DROP

comradery and fellowship. Special awards for longest distance traveled: Grant McClure (Maryland), Owen Kelly (way up north in Michigan) and Lee Jones and Ben Myers (Florida). Best car: J. C. Fischer's '66 Plymouth Barracuda (w/AL-E Skyraider muffler package). Special thanks also to Steve Sherman for his presentation of VN lit, including superb reprint series of SF magazine, the VIET NAM TRIVIA book, along with plans to work with member Gordon Rottman in assembling a QLVNCH (Republic of Viet Nam) OB. Also, Tom Regnier had a nice 'MACV' t-shirt, advising that such are available from: Proud Productions/550-A Pistol Creek Court/San Dimas, California/91773, as well as Kaufman's West/1660 Eubank NE/Albuquerque, New Mexico/87112. Write for catalogs.

Last word to those attending San Jose reunion in 1990: Houston was just as good. You would have enjoyed it as much as the first one. Time for everyone to pencil in dates for 1992, and here's poop on what promises to be our biggest and best reunion ever.

Steve Herberth, our man on the scene, has got the ball rolling. 1992 reunion will be four days, from 5 March through 8 March, at Breckinridge Inn Hotel, 2300 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, 40220. Meeting room and hospitality suite (especially useful for late-night 'bunker bulls--t'), audio-visual equipment, pool, exercise room are all available. We'll have registration info in future SITREPs. In the meantime, direct from Steve:

'The Mother of All Reunions'

Time: March 1992

Place: Beautiful, exotic Louisville, Kentucky

Your Mission, should you decide to accept: Go to said Reunion, meet and greet, see slides, tell tales (tall or short, your choice), eat, drink, and generally have a good time. We need you to be there to make it all happen. We're looking at a Thursday-Sunday time frame (Yep, a day longer), with plenty to keep you occupied/interested during that time. Stay tuned to the SITREP for further information and remember that YOUR participation is integral to the success of REUNION '92! Your friendly Reunion Chairman, Steve Herberth.

There we go, off and running for '92 already. 5 March-8 March. Plan ahead. This will be the best ever.

Counterpart quote: 'So, I feel very bad and believe that my country may fall, but I will die fighting for it. The problem I will have is to understand why it fell when so many Americans and Viet Nameese have died for a good cause. ... Only the Americans, the ones who have stayed and fought with us, understand the Viet Nameese. Unfortunately, the rest of the free world does not understand, nor car.'

Thiếu Tá (Major) Le Tan Dai, Phước Long Prov. S-3 and last QLVNCH soldier to escape 3 Jan '75 NVA atk on Sông Bè City, Phước Long Prov. capital. QLVNCH defenders were outnumbered 5 to 1, and had been receiving arty fire for one month, increasing to several thousand rounds a day, before the NVA launched combined arms assault, w/armor.

Thiếu Tá Dai's fate and/or present whereabouts are unknown. Quote taken from report by USAID Prov. Rep., Walter R. Martindale.

DEGA Mike Little reviewed video tape cited in last SITREP(p. 5), indicating it's 'not bad, especially interesting is background (Dega) music.' Mike received a call from Ed Sprague, former SFer whose photos are a primary component of the video. Ed's son was kind enough to also send preview videos to our Circleville FOB, as well as to clerk typist(one copy returned, one paid for--the stuff costs \$, ain't right to accept freebies from ~~worth~~while effort), and opinion is seconded. Music and video compilation of photos are fine job of salvaging lost history. Ed and son both sent complimentary copies of SITREP, with invitation to consider joining. ....Mike has been trying to obtain approval for trip to VN to observe progress of Highlands Assistance Project. Hanoi has been silent and near term visit seems doubtful.

HONG KONG/MALAYSIA/THAILAND refugee situation: Not good, not good at all. Prospects of forced repatriation, along with squalid camp conditions, has produced disturbances and unrest. Hunger strikes in Malaysia. Thai guards fired on refugee camp inmates. Hong Kong gives no indication of ignoring legitimate and verifiable requests for political refugee status. Mainline news media ignores all, and situation is wretched. See February 1991 National Geographic for depiction of this dilemma, with 53,000 boat people in limbo. No one will take them, and Hà Nội has recently refused to accept returnees(5/1/91 Wall Street Journal). International Rescue Committee/ 386 Park Ave./ NY, NY/10016(212 679-0010) has more literature. A good number of these people, including Nungs, have family background of affiliation with the former VNCH(South Viet Nam) and have ample reasons for fleeing persecution. World opinion brought temporary cessation of forced repatriation, so keep the fires burning. Write for info, write your Senators and Congressman. This ain't right.

COUNTERPARTS LIT: Việt Nam Magazine- April '90 issue has interview w/member Tom Harvey on his experience in Combined Action Program. Intelligent observations, great photos. Issue also has review of TANKS IN THE WIRE, describing NVA armor assault on Lang Vei SF camp. ....(Thx to Cesar Coronado for sending copy).... December 1990 issue of same publication has article on Maj. Gen. Le Van Hung's refusal to retreat or surrender in '75, as well as article describing real rescue of LTC Iceal Hambleton(not as portrayed in film/book BAT 21) involving USN SEAL Lt. Thomas R. Norris, with QLVNCH SEAL whose name is mistakenly transcribed as 'Keip'(more probably 'Kiet'). Kiet was later awarded the Navy Cross for his efforts. June '91 issue contains article by member Mike Little describing life, and death, along QL 19; also article on QLVNCH brown water navy, and very accurate and mind-numbing on '73-'75 debilitating(obscene maybe?) cutback in US aid to QLVNCH. Author, Col. William E. LeGro, was there to see it happen. Ed. note: Việt Nam magazine, a bimonthly, is well worth \$16.95 subscription price. Write to Viet Nam Magazine, P.O. Box 377/Mt. Morris, Illinois/61054-7959. ...Archival periodical material: National Geographic Oct., '61, 'South Việt Nam Fights the Red Tide(Peter White)-good article w/abundance of memorable photos, from Đèo Hải Vân to Phụng Hiệp; ..Nat. Geo., Nov. '62, 'Helicopters Over South Việt Nam(Dickey Chapelle)-excellent coverage of early US advisory and airlift ops w/superior photos, including one of VC 'wasting' a village; ..Nat. Geo., Jan '65, 'Americans in Action in Việt Nam(Howard Sochurek)-focuses on SF Cố Vấn role in defusing FULRO rebellion; ..Nat. Geo. Feb. '65, 'Water War in Việt Nam'(Dickey Chapelle) -riverine and junk fleet war. Cites member Jim Vincent,

and Member in Memoriam, USN Lt. Harold Dale Meyerkord: 'Dale Meyerkord, husband, father, leader and teacher of men, dead of a bullet in the brain on a muddy canal 9,000 miles from Missouri.' Issue also contains brief article on death of Dickey Chapelle, one of the few correspondents paying due attention to US/VN counterparts. Check local used book stores for back issues of Nat. Geo.; you'll find 'em sooner or later. Well worth effort. Counterparts Lit(Books): UNHEARD VOICES(Don Luce & John Sommer), Cornell Press, 1969. Authors served with International Voluntary Services, a quasi-Peace Corp. Both spoke VN, work closely w/the people, and became increasingly disenchanted w/American approach to the war, setting it all down in this work. Has valid observations and criticism, but authors' subsequent adulation of VC/NLF, and blindness to Hà Nội's ideological fetish is embarrassingly naive. Shortcomings notwithstanding, authors present valid questions on matters which also infuriated many Counterparts. Worth reading though not to be taken as 100% bona fide gospel. AN LỘC ANH DŨNG (An Loc Heroes), VNCH Information Ministry(In Việt Name), Sài Gòn, circa 1973. In Việt Name. Detailed account of An Lộc siege, during which VNCH defenders, and US airpower, withstood and repelled sustained NVA shelling and ground atks. Effectiveness of air power enhanced by target info gathered by 81st BKD(Airborne Commandos) during hairy reconn missions. Good b/w photos, and probably best published blow-by-blow account of An Lộc siege, during which NVA were to have taken the town. Everything plus kitchen sink was thrown at VNCH defenders, who in turn threw it back. Book deserves English translation for US readers. DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING OF THE SOUTH VIET NAMESE ARMY( BG James Lawton Collins, USA), Dept. of Army, US GPO, 1975. Covers 1950-1972, and obstacles encountered building and training VNCH forces. Focuses primarily on leadership problems, then peripherally mentions US policies, in many respects, were counter-productive, impeding maturation of QLVNCH(having US as ally is not all peaches and cream). Periodically delves into advisory role, CAPs, MATs, etc. Problems discussed were very real, yet balanced account should mention QLVNCH units which evolved into outstanding units, capable of going one-on-one with VC/NVA any day of the week. Uninformed reader would gain little knowledge of this from this study. BACK FROM HELL(Nguyễn Vũ), Đại Ngã Books, Sài Gòn, 1969(english translation By Võ Quang Châu). Novel in which young LLDB(VN SF) Lt. fights one war w/VN-NVA, and another with himself as he becomes increasingly disenchanted with anyone and anything beyond the realm of his unit, becoming contemptful of anyone who has not faced war as he has. Author served in QLVNCH, and wrote a number of books. .... IN A LITTLE KINGDOM(Perry Stieglitz), Sharpe Books, 1991. Author spent most of 1959-1975 in Laos, first as a teacher, then as Foreign Service Officer. In fairy tale style, he falls in love w/Lao girl, who just happens to be daughter of neutralist Premier Souvanna Phouma, marries her, complementing his close affair with Laos and Laotian people. Author, according to reviews, raps US for hobnobbing with corrupt politicians, but lays more blame on Pathet Lao and Hà Nội masters for Laos' troubles. Sounds like a good read. Can probably order from local book store.

Last issue of SITREP mentioned LAST SECRET OF VIET NAM WAR(Reske), a \$50.00 plus 'MACSOG Command History'. Word has it that it's not worth the price, and this from member Paul Brubaker who is well acquainted with the subject.

"Are you the replacement for those guys that got greased last night?"

"Yeah...I guess so."

# Reflections of a Warrior

by Franklin Miller  
and Elwood J.C. Kureth

PFC Miller was new to Vietnam: fresh meat. No idea of what was waiting for him in the deceptively quiet, oddly beautiful jungle. When he finally found out, he came to love it.

During six combat tours, Miller went from cherry grunt to NCO in an elite Special Forces unit known as MACV-SOG (Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group). Before it was all over, he had earned the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, an Air Medal, six Purple Hearts...and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Miller was first and foremost a warrior. Of 500,000 soldiers in Vietnam, 4,000 were Special Forces. Of these, only 400 were in MACV-SOG. He very much wanted to be counted among them. Their missions included everything from setting ambushes to POW snatches to wiretaps.

He became immersed in situations where "killing becomes a special talent when coupled with the ability to quietly invade an enemy's stronghold and deal with him in his own backyard. His ballpark. His rules."

Sgt. Miller is also an extraordinary storyteller. *Reflections of a Warrior* reverberates with the unflinching realities of combat. His straight-from-the-shoulder re-



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telling of his Medal of Honor engagement (a classic tale of outnumbered men refusing to quit or lose) reads like high adventure. Here is a soldier's Vietnam.  
Pub. Ed. \$19.95

Members' Edition \$14.95

Another new title, as described in recent Military Book Club catalog.

And...THE ARVN: A STOIC ARMY(Pham Kim Vinh, 1983. In his foreward, Mr. Vinh expresses astonishment at US popular misconceptions about Việt Nam in general and QLVNCH(SVN armed forces) in particular. Not one to mince words, Vinh thence charges headlong at conventional wisdom, thrashing it soundly, while beating US news media about the head and shoulders. Includes ample commentary on US aid cutback to Saigon, while Hà Nội's war machine benefited from Soviet largesse. No ambiguity in this book; it comes straight at you, and relentlessly.

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LOCATOR: J.C. has drawn up a form for members to fill out, detailing their SE Asia duty assignments, and permitting him to cross check for locator leads. We don't have enough space to print it in this issue(pinching postal pennies as we do), so write J.C., get your copy, fill it out, and return. J.C. Fischer,

100 Red Oak Circle/Temple, Texas/76502-3503. We have an urgent locator request which J.C. is working on, and for which you can serve as eyes/ears. Mr. Hoàng Văn Tuyên, formerly an interpreter with Adv. Tm. 15/Quảng Nam is trying to locate any of the following individuals:

William Blakely, DSA/Quảng Nam, '64 (All Hòa Vang Dist., just outside Đà Nẵng)  
Maj. James Jackson, DSA/Quảng Nam, '65  
Maj. Sherman Foster, DSA/Quảng Nam, '66  
Maj. James Swenson, DSA/Quảng Nam, '67  
Alvin Adams(FSO-6), MACCORDS, Quảng Nam, '69  
Maj. \_\_\_\_\_ Webb, DSA, '70  
Harvey Ames(FSO-6), MACCORDS, Quảng Nam, '71  
Maj. \_\_\_\_\_ Crump, MACCORDS, Quảng Nam, '72  
Col. Robert E. Leys, Sr. Adv., MACCORDS, Quảng Nam '72-'73  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Holton, DAO Rep., '74-'75.

This is urgent request. Time is of essence. Check local phone books, VFWs, whatever. If contact is made with any of above, please advise J.C. ASAP. Anyone seeking VN counterpart should send any/all relevant info to Martin Ha, who has access to VN publications and military associations. Martin's address: 11603 Boxhill Dr./Houston, Texas/77066. The locator job can be time consuming and frustrating, help out by keeping eyes/ears open, and spreading the word.

Thoughts shared by many, as expressed in verse by Arliss Willhite, USMC/CAP, and reprinted with his permission, and gratitude for same.

No comments necessary, this speaks for itself. Those who understand need no elaboration; those who do not may never 'get it'. Sad that some don't.

#### MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Submitted this quarter:

SSGT Claude Dorris,  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL Rickey Appleby  
USMC/CAP  
HA SI \_\_\_\_\_ Nam  
NQ, QLVNCH  
SGT James Bateman  
USMC/CAP  
HM2 Patrick R. McNelis  
USMC/CAP  
PFC Louie E. Hawkey  
USMC/CAP  
SPEC. 4 Amos C. Watson  
USA/SF  
CAPT. Henry A. Deutsch  
USA/SF  
SSGT Horace M. Young  
USA/SF  
SSGT William D. Benning  
USA/SF  
SPEC 4 Johnie K. Culbreath  
USA/SF  
LCPL John J. Arteaga  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL Daniel F. Gallagher  
USMC/CAP  
TRUNG SI \_\_\_\_\_ Luom  
TQLC/QLVNCH  
MSGT Chester N. Ovnard  
USA  
CPL Michael J. Dingus  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL Richard Rockenstyre  
USMC/CAP  
SFC George W. Ovsak  
USA/SF  
LCPL Paul W. Fielder  
USMC/CAP

#### A Love Song

I remember the first time  
I looked at you  
Lying there so beautiful and serene  
Long sleek shoulders  
Dressed in China green.

I gazed down  
At your damp, fertile delta  
As you flirted with me  
And seduced me.  
You took me for a walk  
on the wild side.

I remember the smells  
Of charcoal, mud and thatch  
And I knew that against you  
I was no match.  
I searched every inch of you  
Yet you revealed so little  
I was so young then  
The attraction such a riddle.

You taught me about hate  
and despair and love.  
I always felt caught in the middle  
Then you would crawl on top  
And I'd rise above.

You separated me from  
family and friends  
You became my eternal companion  
It never ends.  
You wounded me  
I bled  
I nearly died.

And every time I thought  
I had had enough  
You'd cry  
And it would start all over  
Just one more try.

Then one day  
No more could I take  
I caught the Freedom Bird  
I made my break  
And I tried to forget you  
But what a mistake.

Through all the years and fears  
Drowning myself in drugs and tears  
You're still the one  
The eternal rising sun  
I still read of you  
And your endless woe  
Your victims still come and go.

All of us so sure  
We know  
A side of you  
No one else will know  
And I went to visit you  
Not long ago  
And the fires were rekindled  
And I, still blinded by your glow.

And now I can't wait  
To see you again  
Though I know  
You'll never really let me in  
I still feel that bond  
That kin

You smiled  
And called me your friend.  
Now you're with someone new  
And I know  
That Bear abuses you.

You still wear your skirt  
Split to the waist  
You still move with such  
Dignity and grace.  
And I know to this day  
That the best part of me  
Was spent with you.

You were born to suffer  
Undressed and raped in the wilderness.  
I went through so much  
You so much more  
Out on the edge  
Blood and gore.

Tonight I sat again  
All tangled in blue  
Thinking of Vietnam  
How I love you.

A. Willhite 11/90

TRUNG TÁ Nguyễn Cung Vinh  
TG/QLVNCH  
PFC Eddie W. Snipes  
USMC/CAP  
PFC Glen A. Fiester  
USMC/CAP  
MAJOR Dale R. Buis  
USA  
SGT. Thomas J. Cullen  
USMC/CAP  
CPL John C. Romanshek  
USMC/CAP  
MSGT William G. Ferguson  
USA/SF  
SGT \_\_\_\_\_ Thach  
QLVNCH  
LCPL John M. Glasser  
USMC/CAP



MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM(cont.)

SGT James A. Bateman  
USMC/CAP  
SGT Joseph Cerrone Jr.  
USMC/CAP  
CAPT. James K. Hall  
USMC/CAP  
PFC Larry Page  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL James Joseph  
USMC/CAP  
CPL Steve Merrell  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL Hartwig R. Poole  
USMC/CAP  
LCPL Danny R. Vance  
USMC/CAP  
HN Dan T. Wards  
USN/CAP

LCPL Phillip A. Brammon  
USMC/CAP  
PFC Paul Dufault  
USMC/CAP  
CPL Robert Nielsen  
USMC/CAP  
CPL Robert C. Rusher  
USMC/CAP  
CPL Franklin J. Jummus  
USMC/CAP  
HÀ SĨ NHƯT Phan Nam  
NQ/QLVNCH  
PFC Bernard Russell  
USMC/CAP  
SSGT Joseph H. Sullivan  
USMC/CAP

Remember them.

AMERASIAN PROJECT Proposal currently being formulated to jointly sponsor an Amerasian child in Việt Nam via program administered by Pearl Buck Foundation. Counterparts and CUVA(Cap Assn.). Details will be provided in upcoming Sitrep, describing \$25.00/month program, which provides Amerasian with clothes, school materials, etc. Thoughts/suggestions of members encouraged.

POW/MIAs Col. Millard A. Peck, chief of Special Office for POW/MIAs at DIA, resigned in mid-April out of dissatisfaction with US Govt. efforts, which he called a 'charade' and 'travesty'. Col. Peck, a VN Veteran, did not offer evidence any MIAs were alive. A DoD spokesman indicated Sec. Cheney has authorized an investigation of Peck's charges, and Republican members of Senate Foreign Relations Committee are reportedly issuing a report, as follow up to Oct '90 examination of same subject. Write for a copy. .... Hà Nội has agreed to set up/permit permanent US office in Hà Nội to facilitate resolution of POW/MIA matter, and expedite recovery missions. We shall see.

US/Hà Nội diplomatic developments Consensus is that preparatory ballet, encouraged by heavy lobbying from US business community, is underway to set stage for normalizing relations with Hà Nội, pending -maybe-resolution of POW/MIA matters, the Cambodian issue, and-one hopes-a clear indication that Hà Nội will loosen iron grip on VN, permitting some degree of democratic freedoms. There is no sign at all of Hà Nội's willingness to accept multi-party political pluralism. James Webb, author of FIELDS OF FIRE, A COUNTRY SUCH AS THIS, wrote a thought provoking opinion column in 29 April 91 edition of New York Times, arguing on moral and pragmatic grounds for a hard line US position regarding human rights in VN. Very eloquent piece in which VN is termed 'the great unfinished morality play of our time.' Send SASE to your clerk-typist for copy. .. In other areas, US Govt. granted \$1.0 million to VN for sole purpose of funding prosthetic device fabrication. There have been some well articulated arguments in support of immediate normalization, after which greater US presence/influence will dissolve dogmatic ideology/police state from within, accelerating evolution of democratic process in VN.

There's some logic to this, as there is to the opposing position of applying leverage for immediate 'de-Stalinization' as non-negotiable precondition for normalized relations. Once again, we're not issuing opinions, and merely ask you get yourself informed, and make your thoughts known to our noble leaders in DC, and perhaps drop a line to Hà Nội delegate at United Nations. It would be nice if, for example, Nguyễn Chí Thiện could be released and given the medical care he needs. It would also be nice if the US news media weren't so oblivious of Thien's plight. One doofus correspondent recently wrote 'Việt Nam has yet to spawn its own Sakharov or a pro-democracy superstar spokesman....'. Huh? Seems like 32 years in prison for writing poetry might qualify Thien for something. So much for reporters, no change in that sector.

HISTORICAL OBJECTIVITY DEPT. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin got wind of COUNTERPARTS/CVM-V/DNA, requesting they be placed on our mailing list. Done. Thanks to the Society for their interest, with hopes that future scholars will benefit from hearing some different voices. .... Recent Gallup poll asked sample of Americans whether past wars were 'just' or 'unjust', the responses:

	Just	Unjust	No Opinion
Revolutionary War	76%	9%	15%
Civil War	70	19	11
WW I	76	8	16
WW II	89	5	6
Korea	49	32	19
Việt Nam	25	65	10

OK, now the big question comes. How many of these respondents, or most any Americans, could score higher than a 10% on the most simple multiple choice Việt Nam quiz? Name more than 2 of SVN's 44 former provinces (name one!). Why did Chieu Hoi's almost triple in 1969? Why were peasants told about 'land reform' by NLF cadre, but not the bait-and-switch shift to Marxist ideology? As once said by someone, 'It's not that some people are dumb, it's just that they know a lot of things that ain't true.' Indeed. ... Continuing on..... Paul Duke, host of PBS's 'Washington Week in Review' recently complained of '...a myth that the press is partially responsible for losing the war in Việt Nam.' Mr. Duke went on to state that freedom of the press is the cornerstone of all other freedoms. He did not indicate if this included the freedom to be ignorant, arrogant and succumb to herd mentality. Ask Vo Nguyen Giap if news media played a role. Item: Stanley Karnow's (if he wants to write 'Việt Nam' and 'Biên Hòa' we'll follow suit) purported tell-all VN opus makes no mention of VNCH land reform program, of 200,000 Hôi Chánh Viên, and little of RF/PF. 'Complete history'? Be glad he's not your plumber. As always, be informed and speak out. There are layers upon layers of encrusted gossip, rumor, old wife's tales and outright myth obscuring the substantial truths of Việt Nam. Neither side was perfect. One is measured by its propaganda claims, the other by nothing but its flaws.

FYI: RF/PF forces: accounted for as much as 37% of VC/NVA KIAs, suffered approx. 28% of QLVNCH KIAs, constituted approx 50% of all QLVNCH. They received 2-4% allotment from Saigon war budget.

CUVA (Combined Action Platoon Unit Veterans Association) Liason Officer Tom Harvey gave Counterparts a nice write up April 91 edition of 'CAP News', along with mention of member David Keen's 'Quiet Return' project to bring medical aid to Việt Nam. Newsletter contains info on current CUVA doings, as well as slices of history not commonly found, e.g. excerpts from CAP TOC logs. CUVA accepts associate members (\$10.00 a year). We'll probably be working with CUVA on areas of common interest, so feel free to sign on as an associate. Good people. Arliss Willhite's poem is evidence of that. Thx for the write up Tom, and for good job as L.O. Write Tom at Rt. 1, Box 53-B, Millboro, Virginia, 24460.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Bob Sampson is featured, along with Russian Afghan vet Nikolai Chuvanov, in video 'Heart of the Warrior', produced and filmed by Steve Peck, USMC VN Vet. Filmed in US, VN, USSR and Afghanistan, 'Heart' is described by Peck as a 'film about soldiers rather than about the politics of war.' For cost/more info: The Video Project; 5332 College Ave., Suite 101; Oakland, California; 94618.

You may have read about Eldrick 'Tiger' Woods in Sports Illustrated, or other publications reporting his prowess as a 15 year old golfer with 200 tournament victories under his belt, all the while carrying a 3.7 grade average in high school. Why the nickname 'Tiger'? His father served as an advisor in VN, and, quoting newspaper article: 'The original Tiger was my counterpart in Việt Nam. His name was Nguyen Phong, but I nicknamed him 'Tiger' because, pardon the expression, he was a (expletive) in combat. But, when VN fell, I lost track of him. So I decided I'd name my son Tiger, just in case he ever became famous and was on TV. I thought if Phong ever happened to see him, he'd make the connection and say 'That's got to be Woody's kid', and we'd be able to make contact again.' Telephone contact eventually made with Earl Woods, advising him Counterparts would begin search for Phong, and inviting Earl to join. Newsletter and info packet sent. Noble story about fine people. Watch for Tiger to make a name for himself in the future.

LAOTIAN/CAMBODIAN Little 'news' in conventional white bread media, however reports from two human rights organizations describe continuation of repressive policies, some of which are directly aimed at former counterparts. Amnesty International (322 Eighth Ave./ NY, NY/ 10001) released a report (ASA 26/01/91) indicating some Laotians are still imprisoned due to having served under former Lao govt. Another AI report (ASA 23/01/91) documents detention of political prisoners, under no formal charges, with no scheduled trial. Write AI for publication catalog and prices. Also, check with Asia Watch; 485 Fifth Ave.; NY, NY; 10017-6104 and Lawyer's Committee for Human Rights; 36 W. 44th St.; NY, NY; 10036 for their publication lists. Just-arrived copy of Indochina Journal (P.O. Box 1163; Burlingame, California; 94011-1163) contains all above and more, including mention increased repression against Montagnard Christians, members of the Jeh tribe who have been jailed for 'illegal religious propaganda' (ed.-there's 'legal' religious propaganda?). Hmmm....why hasn't Peter Jennings/Dan Rather mentioned this? Everyone is strongly encouraged to subscribe to Indochina Journal, 3 issues/year for \$6.00. One of best periodicals dealing specifically with human

issues in SE Asia. Don't put it off, be informed of conditions under which our Counterparts must live. Ain't pretty.

IN-PLACE DEFECTOR OF THE MONTH, Nguyễn Khắc Viện, long a leading Hà Nội ideologue and ranking interpreter of Marxist nuances, has issued a call asking ruling Politburo to resign, making way for a new generation and 'popularly elected organs'. Vien further suggested that province party secretaries are 'warlords', and then condemned the Communist Party for denying freedoms of press, thought and association. This comes on the heels of similar statement from Col. Bui Tin, veteran of Điện Biên Phủ and Saigon's fall, who committed ideological blasphemy in asking that 'old' socialism be cast aside. He who lives by Hegel.....

Great Moments in Western Civilization(sic), #59:

Lord's Prayer	56 words
23rd Psalm	118 words
Gettysburg	
Address	226 words
10 Commandments	297 words
US Ag. Dept. directive	
on cabbage pricing	15,629 words

COUNTERPART QUOTE: 'We fought for almost every day for 13 months...I really thought we had done something good, just like George Washington. I had gone and fought for Freedom.'

Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, in 11 March 91 'New Republic' article by C.B.D. Bryan, recalling his tour as Co Van with VNCH ND(Airborne)...

and...'Television was depicting the career military officer as a Neanderthal who with blind unquestioning obedience burned villages and killed babies....I hadn't done any of that.' -ibid.

COFFEE CUPS:responding to popular demand, Iron Man Paul Brubaker has assumed mantle of 'coffee cup project officer'. Details following in next SitRep, by which time specific ordering info will be provided. Members owe Paul several metric tons of thanks for all the work he's done.

Member Al Hahn's personalized license plate



I was a U.S. Infantry officer and spent my tour in Vietnam as an advisor to the South Vietnamese. Perhaps I am over-sensitive to the word "defeat." The current Vietnamese Premier, Pham Van Dong, was quoted in the article saying "Yes, we defeated the United States."

I observed a different story. We worked with proud troops and people who were willing to take the often-fatal risk to get a chance at a democracy. These were not crooked politicians in Saigon, but men and women in the fight, in the country, encouraged by the concept of freedom as they had never known it.

We fought hard. We were not defeated by the North Vietnamese. We were beaten by the inside out. We were betrayed by politicians, both U.S. and South Vietnamese, by U.S. civilian government officials using Vietnam for the big career move, and by some U.S. military brass who were using the war for their career advancement. Of course the media, then and now, made hype and sold papers by missing the point.

Yes, I am still personally frustrated after all these years. My family does not understand my part in the war, nor do my business partners or anyone else who did not fight and live with the South Vietnamese. I am not looking for self-gratification. I am one of the lucky Vietnam veterans who has become a successful businessman. I am not sure what I am looking for, but I do know I cannot accept journalists throwing around the word defeat with callous disregard for the facts.

DONALD A. DRIFTNER

Ontario, Calif.

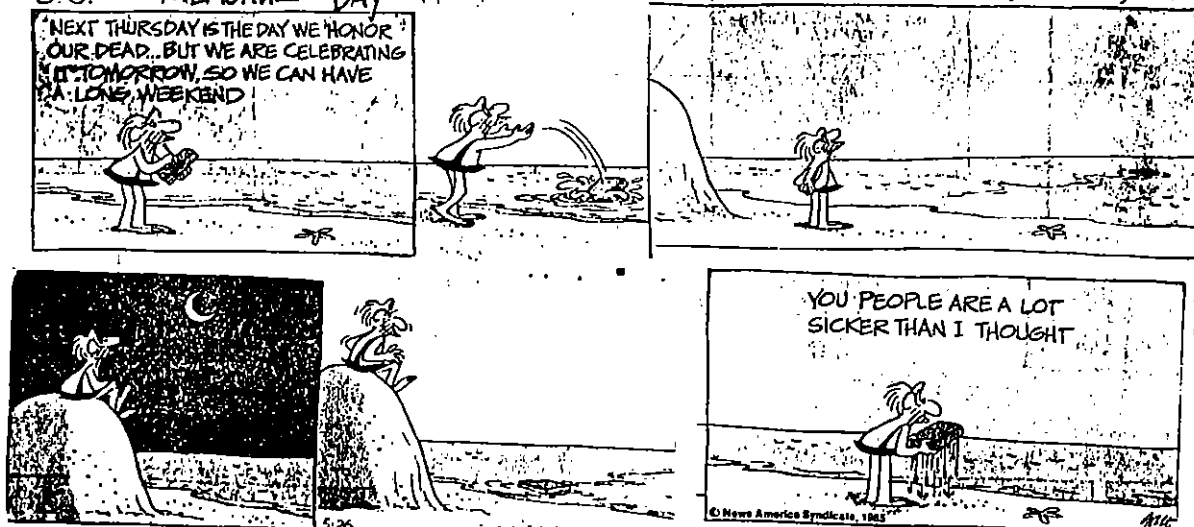
This letter printed in previous edition of SitRep, but deserves another run, if only for benefit of new members. Taken from May '85 issue of Wall St. Journal.



'There are no bad regiments, only bad colonels.'  
-Napoleon

## B.C. MEMORIAL DAY

by Johnny Hart



Comparative history: 'In Định Tường Province, the first mention of systematic destruction of Government presence appeared in early 1959, when the Party embarked on the assassination of schoolteachers. ... This campaign...contributed to the subsequent lack of schooling for nearly 30,000 children-children who, to the advantage of the Party, were no longer in contact with the Government of South Viet Nam.' (William Andrews in his excellent study, THE VILLAGE WAR, p. 55, citing B. Fall's TWO VIET NAMS, p. 360). .....And, citing 'Định Tường Briefing Folder' 25 May 1970: 'Throughout 1967, 1968, and 1969 Định Tường saw a steady increase in the number of hamlet schools and hamlet school teachers. District and provincial schools have been enlarged and improved through efforts of local PTA's and cooperation of a highly competent and ambitious provincial Education Service. ... In 1969, 59 hamlet schools were built with VSD funds, and this number is expected to increase in the 1970 VSD program.' Ah, but this is redundant, because everyone saw Dan Rather's broadcasts on the subject.....

LETTERS...excerpted due to space constraints...

'I'm glad we former advisors and our Việt Nameese counterparts have some sort of association.... I'd be pleased to joint Counterparts. My membership application is enclosed.' New member Bob Parrish, author of COMBAT RECON(cited last month), and a new book on Gen. Schwarzkopf-watch for it.

'The list of remaining political prisoners(SITREP #11) was poignant. I knew MG Do Ke Giai personally, and was also acquainted with BG Tran Ba Di. Was especially close to BG Trần Quang Khôi and Col. Nguyễn Van Cua. On Cua's first combat mission, he was moving a column of APCs down one bank of a lagoon, south of Đà Nẵng, when he drew fire from the opposite bank. His reaction was to execute 'by the left flank', into line, dive into the lagoon and swim across with all guns blazing to route the enemy. I have a snapshot of him immediately thereafter pointing proudly to several bullet holes in plywood trim vane of his own M113. .... Giai, Khôi and Cua share a common trait: they're all tough bastards who are still in re-ed camp simply because they refuse to knuckle under.' Ray Battreall Ed.- Thx for info Ray. Should encourage members to write senators/representatives requesting due diligence in negotiations w/Hà Nội.

'I'm interested in becoming a member for the continuing fraternity, to aid refugees, encourage historical accuracy, and because of our closeness to the Việt Nameese and Montagnard people. I'm really glad to see an organization like 'Counternarts' come to be. It is an organization of Việt Nam Vets who had direct contact with the Việt Nameese and Montagnard peoples, living with them and fighting along side them. ... I've had words with fellow Việt Nam Vets who cut down the Việt Nameese and Montagnards. They had no real contact with the people, and never got to know them and become friends like advisors did. ...I'm real bitter how our politicians left the Việt Nameese and Montagnards ... It's hard to live with the fact that they trusted us and we let them down. ...Here I go again, writing too much.' New member, Lynn Hawkins.

Ed.-Writing too much? Not at all Lynn, not at all. All members will readily identify with your thoughts. You should write a book.

Thx for coming on board, your membership is valued.

Lynn also sent flyer describing 'All Appalachian Airborne Days' 28-29 June, '91, in Bristol, Virginia. We're late in getting this out, but there's probably still time for anyone interested. \$35.00 registration, sent to Jim Williamson/Chairman; 429 Merriewood Dr.; Bristol/TN; 37620. Hotel reservations(make own): Holiday Inn/Bristol, TN: 703 669-7171. Registration checks payable to: 'Appalachian Chapter'.

'Thank you for the annual report and new patch. I especially appreciated the updated membership listing. Check for 1991 membership dues is enclosed. Again, thank you for allowing me membership in such a fine and unique organization. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Chào Ông.' Harold Smith, CW3, AUS, Ret.

Ed.-Thx for being the type of person who makes this outfit the way it is Harold. You'll send some other fine and unique people in Louisville next year.

'As you know, my wife Marjorie died 14 Jan 90, and I am now going to remarry. My fiancée is a Việt Nameese woman I knew when I was in Việt Nam in '74-'75. Thanh and I were close friends and we lost touch until 1985 when she wrote. We have corresponded ever since. We have always thought of each other as best friends, and since now we can be something more, I have asked her to marry me and she has accepted. ... The quickest way to get her over here is to go to Việt Nam and get married there. This is what we plan and the wedding is scheduled for 8 June 91. ....All the best.' Charles Pegis

-Here's wishing you and Thanh all the best and many years of happiness Charles, and 'Đầu năm sinh con trai, cuối năm sinh con gái.' Hope you and Thanh can come to Louisville next year. Vui lắm!

'Thanks for the plug on my Father's Montagnard & Special Forces video. The pictures were taken at camp A226 in '66-'67. My father was a Green Beret then, and later went to work for Statedept/CIA. He proudly served his country for 30 years. One of his greatest disappointments was how our government forgot about the Montagnards after the Việt Nam War. I wish you could get the word out about the treatment of the Montagnards. They were a great ally to the soldiers in Việt Nam. Thanks for your time.' Ed Sprague, producer of A226 video.

-Thx to you and your Dad Ed, for all both of you have done, and are doing. Keep it up.

'I am a retired infantry LTC, and served as Dep. PSA in Quảng Tín from June '71 to May '72, after which I became senior advisor to a regt. just out of Huế. . . I'm not really a joiner however I'm looking forward to joining this group. I just completed my first novel, which won an award in the 1990 Pacific Northwest Writers' conference. Titled COUNTERPARTS, it is now being considered by one of the major publishing houses.' New Member Jim McDaniel.

-Welcome on board Jim, and good luck with your novel. Look forward to reading it and to its making a dent in US perception of what took place in VN/SE Asia.

Also, thx to member Jim Vincent for getting word to Jim McDaniel, and to Terry Carlson for his recruiting efforts.

--There are 72 letters in the Cambodian alphabet--

--Some people never learn to conceal their ignorance dept.: "As an ABC News vice-president explained, 'It's not a Vietnamese war; it's an American war in Asia, and that's the only story the American audience is interested in.' Hence, according to producers, correspondents were instructed to avoid stories about Vietnamese policies, South Vietnamese military units, or casualties inflicted on South Vietnamese, without advance clearance from New York."

Source: NEWS FROM NOWHERE, Edward Jay Epstein, Vintage Books, 1974. p. 250



Item: If US had sustained casualties in proportion to QLVNCH, just over forty 'Walls' would be needed to record names of fatalities.

Last minute info, unconfirmed as yet, from reliable source: Hmong refugees in Thai camps now confronted with instances of forced repatriation to Laos, hardly conducive to well-being and 'self-actualized lifestyle'. All ignored in conventional 'news' media. Anyone else has more info on this?

PRODUCTS/STUFF \$10.00 gets you one year subscription to quarterly VIET NAM INSIGNIA NEWSLETTER, a worthwhile publication weaving considerable history/factual content in articles on insignia from the greater SE Asian theatre. Also provides invaluable tips on avoiding fakes of recent manufacture. Make checks payable to Clement Kelly Jr.; 122 East 21st Ave.; Covington, Louisiana; 70433 (\$15.00US foreign). Clem is VN Vet who knows his stuff, receiving helpful input from Duy Le Dai on translations and background info. Well worth it. Tell Clem Counterparts sent you his way.

ĐÀ NẰNG ENTERPRISES has 32 pp. catalog of military pins, decals, patches, coffee ceps, lighters, flags, bumper stickers, etc., many dealing w/VN-SE Asia service, POW/MIAs. \$1.00 for catalog to: 14 Emery Road; Townsend, Maryland; 01469. Owner is vet; service and quality of merchandise reportedly very good.

---11,000 US USMC and 1,000 USN Corpsmen served with CAPs.

--'The man who does not read books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.' -Mark Twain

'Bush-Powell in '92' buttons, bearing likeness of each. Be the first on your block. \$3.00 pp.; ask for quantity discount. There's a lot of people who would very much enjoy voting for this ticket. From: RADIX Press; 2314 Cheshire Lane; Houston, Texas; 77018. Mr. Radix himself, Steve Sherman, also has several major research projects-compiling bibliography on SF in VN, SF camps/detachments in VN, reprints of Operational Reports/Lessons learned. Also has SF books for sale: Stanton's SF AT WAR, Sutherland's SF OF US ARMY, etc. Buy a button, get on his mailing list. Also, member Gordon Rottman, in conjunction with aforementioned Jeffersonian subversive Steve Sherman and Scott Summers have assembled a classic: OFFICIAL LITE HISTORY OF GULF WAR(AND COOKBOOK), 156 pp. of pungent insight, and fixed-bayonet commentary on Gulf War, media, etc. Also, excerpts from C.D.B. Bryan book, quoting one N. Schwarzkopf: 'After my first tour(as advisor to VNCH Airborne) I came home with probably the greatest feeling of satisfaction I've ever had in anything I've done. I slept in the mud, ate rice and VN food with chopsticks for one solid year. Everywhere the Việt Nameese went, I went. . . What kept me going(when surrounded at Đak Tô) was I had honestly met enough truly dedicated South Việt Nameese officers in the Airborne Division...some fantastic people ..for whom I have the greatest respect in the world.' A unique piece of writing, steeped with that bizarre SF humor. \$5.95 plus \$2.00 p/h from: Electric Strawberry Press; 7911 West Road; Houston, Texas; 77064. 8.125% sales tax for Texans. No credit cards please.



Senate Resolution 82 calls for select committee for resolution of POW/MIA matters. Sponsored by Sen. Bob Smith (R., N.H.); co-sponsor Jess Helms. Needs more co-sponsors. Write your senator w/own honest opinion; ask for copy of text. House reportedly has twin resolution: H.R. 1730. Do something.

REMINDERS: Member rosters

are not(repeat, not) made available to anyone by your collegium of leaders. Rosters for member use only. Please comply. . . .1991 dues: those not having sent in \$12.00 annual dues strongly encouraged to do so. Makes it a great deal easier for all concerned; keeps admin chores to a minimum. If '91 dues have not been sent, please send in now, avoid creating excess work(so we can get damn coffee cups sooner). If you aren't sure, write Paul and ask. Sooner the better.

That should be enough reading matter to tide everyone over, until next edition. Remember to write your letters. Human rights situation in VN and SE Asia still abysmal, and some of our Counterparts are bearing brunt of harsh policies. Do something. Repeat, Do Something. As Mr. Webb says, we still have an unfinished morality play on our hands.

Member letters, input, suggestions eagerly solicited. It's one thing to preach to the choir, quite another when choir doesn't say 'Amen'(or 'You #%\$&\*#%\$\* idiots'). Next edition will have update on Counterparts bibliography, a work in progress, plan for sponsoring Amerasian, and 13 recipes for ham and mothers. 'Till then, stay well, and Van An Cho Bưu Quyền..Almost forgot, and this is a biggie: Bui Quang Lam(former QLVNCH BĐQ) absorbed cost of printing last two SITREPS. Word of thx is in order: Complete Print Shop; 4243 E. University; Phoenix, Arizona; 85034. Do it. . . .Outta here. . . .