31 fùa Hè lăm Đinh Sửu lummer, 1997





XOV XWM TSHAM OT WIE WIE DE A TINH HINH KLEI MRAW MRANG

**OFFICERS** 

Commander -open-

Adjutant -open-

XO -open-Membership Ben Myers

Locators Joe West J.C. Fischer Mike Do

Liaison/ VN Community Quach Huynh Ha

Liaison/Highland Assistance Pro1. Mike Little

Editor Bill Laurie

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor
Quách Húynh Ha
Roy Russell
Grand McClure
(also DC
Liaison)

Finance Bob Cunningham

<u>Logistics</u> Jack De Boer The SITREP IS THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COUNTERPARTS/THOS: HOW BOWD NAM A, an association of those serving in any counterpart role, as part of their assigned duties, during the Indochina Wars of 1954-1975, and beyond. Full membership available to anyone serving in this capacity, in a military or divilian role, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion in SE Asia. Associate memberships also available. Membership inquiries and correspondence: Ben Myers; P.O. Box 6019; Lake Worth, Florida; 33466-6019.

Photos: Left-Thanh, SFC Hendryx and Thanh, Adv Tm 43, Hau Nghia Prov. Right- Trung úy Nguyễn Văn Hot, Hậu Nghia RF. Courtesy Jack Thomas, who's looking for individuals pictured above.

Summer is upon us, as is aftermath of what all have termed to have been a very successful and enjoyable reunion at Ft. Benning. Complete AAR forthcoming in next SITREP.

Once again, we thank <u>Member Bui Quang Lam</u> for providing halftone photos and absorbing our printing costs, a service for which we are most grateful.

More Locator finds this month, as well as events some may wish to attend, to include a mid-summer picnic at Bob Gunning-ham's basecamp. Details follow.

We trust all Members observed a meaningful Memorial Day, and will see fit to properly honor Flag Day and US Army birthday on 14 June, and Ngay Quan Luc Viet Nam Cong Hoa/RVM Armed Forces Day, on 19 June.

OFFICER VACANCIES We presently lack elected officers for our top three positions, as well as a PIO. Anyone most welcome to nominate self. We can and will continue to function in this manner, but can get more done with proper staffing. A rudimentary public information program is being initiated, giving new PIO something to work with and build on. If you've got the time and motivation, we can use your efforts and contribution. Think it over.

The current 105th Congress is the first, ever, in which less than 50% of US Senators have ever served in the military.

#### Công văn đến/Letter Box:

'Just a note to inform you that the Locator service has once again come through successfully. I was given the address of Col. Robert Ley, sought by Hoang Van Tuyen, as well as the address of Gill Sheibaum, sought by Vu Van Giai. I have contacted both and they are glad to be able to contact their counterparts. Thanks for the good work.

Incidentially, both Ley and Sheibaum expressed interest in joining COUTTECARTS/THOMA; please send information to addresses included herein.

You might be interested to learn that I had sent three requests to DCD Locator service in an attempt to get Bob Ley's address for Tuyen. All were returned, one due to my error, and two because of bureaucratic nonsense. I finally figured out that I was probably dealing with minimum wage levels of intellect, and turned to our Locator service for help.

#### -Col. Bill Blakely, USA, Ret.

Col. Blakely also received a letter from his former Counterpart, Gen. Vu Van Giai, who in turn granted permission to reprint portions of it...

I have received your letter. It surprised me because over 20 years this is the first time I heard a news from my advisors. Thank you very much for a long and nice letter.

I always remember you and all my advisors as well. It is easy for me to recall what you said in the letter. I've heard about the COUNTERPARTS/THOMA association but I do not have an invitation to join it. (Note: THIS has been corrected).

I inform you that your counterparts: Col. Pham Cao Dong and Col. Le Tri Tin are still alive. They were in the same prisoner camp with me in North Viet Nam. They were released in 1987-1988, the same time as me. Col. Dong is now in Australia with his family. Col. Tin is now in the US.

Many people thought I died in Jail. It was a miracle because I had a terrible asthma which attacked me 13 times. The communists waited until I almost died then they brought me to the hospital.

I came to the US in March, 1993 by the H.O. program to join my family after 18 years apart! My wife and five children escaped from Viet Nam by boat in 1976 but they went to France for two years. Finally, they arrived in the US in 1978. We are settled here in Little Saigon. My children have grown, three of them married and we have three grand-children.

Gen. Ngo Quang Trường is in Virginia. He came to visit me a few months after I arrived here. He stayed with me for two days and talked about the tragedy of Việt Nam. I think we could have lone better to protect South Việt Nam.

I appreciate your letter very much. I plan to visit Washington next year and I hope I will see you then then. We shall maintain contact and friendship as well.

-Vu Van Giai

-We're all happy Gen. Giai survived the prison camps, and has been reunited with his family, and old friend Bill Blakely.





Mobile Training Team (M.T.T.) assigned to train

Laotian helicopter pilots at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, circa 1968-1969. Patch at left worm by instructors, at right, by students. From Clem Kelly's Viet Nam Insignia Collector Newsletter. Thx, again, to Clem for his permission to extract material from VNICN. Opera Non Verba': Work, not words.

From Lewis W. Walt's STRANGE WAR, STRANGE STRATEGY(p. 122):

"A young VN girl came to return a watch lost by a US Marine, and...'I asked her why she had returned the watch. She showed it to me-an expensive gold wristwatch with a Marine's name engraved on the back-and explained she could not keep it or sell it because it belonged to a Marine and she liked Marines.

I asked her why she liked Marines. She replied, "My Father was a corporal in the Viet Namese Marine Corps. He was killed by the VC two years ago. I like American Marines because they came to my village and drove the VC away. They made my village safe. They helped us rebuild our school and church and market."

Item: In the first six months of 1969 more than 200,000 VN people were treated under a MEDCAP program and more than 15,000 VN were treated under a DENTCAP program in the 3rd Marine Divisions TAOR.

-from undated Stars and Stripes article, circa 1969-1970, as reprinted in THE SHORT TIMER newsletter of the Chicago South Eastside Viet Nam Vets, edited by Member Brian Zawacki

If you're ever in Chicago, give Brian or Member Max Lund a holler, and buy them a beer. This VN Vet group is constantly doing positive things in the community. First class, all the way. Thx to Brian and Max, and all other Chicago SE Side VN Vets for setting a fine example, and dispelling media images of a 'typical' VN Vet.









### NEW MEMBERS/MÓI NHẬP NGỮ:

Lawrence F. Hadzima S-5, 1st Bde, 25th Div 420 W. 18th St. Neillsville, WI 54456

Jack L. Thomas Tm 43, MAT-56 4022 Falkirk Lane Houston, Texas 77025

Richard P. Lynch, 9th Div Adv Tm/Vinh Long P.O. Box 429 Delta Junction, AK 99737 Theodore T. Jagosz Tm 91 MAT III-3 5052 Meadow Wood Ave. Lakewood, CA 90712

Joseph B. Kuhlman Tm 3, USMC, 1966-1967 P.O. Box 761 Baldwin, MI 49304

Willard 'Alan' Goates 23 Div Adv Tm 2808 Maple Ave. Point Pleasant, WV 25550

William K. Preston Tm 52, 3rd Troop/2nd Cav 1192 Gasman Rd. Port Angeles, WA 98362

Welcome on board gentlemen. Thanks for your service then, and thanks for your membership now.

New members Larry Hadzima and Dick Lynch are both working on some writing projects. Larry is looking for any and all books written by VN authors on the war, whether translated into English or not. At present, he is building a bibliography, so if you know of any such books, such as Ly Tong Ba's memoirs, please let Larry know.

And...Dick Lynch is putting together a book on his advisory tour with SD 9/RVN 9th Div in and around Vinh Long. He is trying to find a copy of a book titled VINH LONG, written by Harvey Meyerson, and is willing to pay for a photocopy if that's all that can be had. Please try and help out our new members.

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#### COUNTERPARTS LITERATURE



Member Ha Mai Viet joins with Hoang Lac to perform a warts-and-all survey and examination of the fall of VNCH/RVN, and are not in the slightest hesitant to step on a few toes in the process. There are many toes which should be stepped on, which enhances the credibility of the book. BLIND DESIGN, an apt title if there ever was one, cites the familiar criticism of McNamara's mistaking sorcery for policy, and also identifies and discusses flaws with the Saigon leadership, such as it was. Arranged in topical rather than chronological order, DESIGN is vastly superior, in depth and logic, than the usual drivel penned by others who have somehow been deemed 'experts'. Well worth the read, and a very welcome contribution, written in English so US types can read it. Available from Ha Mai Viet; 10210 Kent Towne Lane; Sugarland, Texas; 77478. 388 pp. \$20.00 p**o**stpaid.

#### COUNTERPARTS LIT(Cont.)

Member John Cook's THE ADVISOR has been reprinted by Schiffer Publishing, to include color and b/w photos not II in original edition, and an Afterword derived from later years of reflection. This is an EXCELLENT book, recounting John's 25 months in Di An District, and how it became 'his war', not simply a tour of duty. Simply put, this is 352 pages of a book you'll find extremely hard to put down, and one any counterpart can identify with, whether they were Navy, AF, civilian, or anything else. Schiffer is to be commended for reprinting this book, and John is to be equally commended for writing a book which, with the intense clarity of personal conviction, expresses the views and experiences of many who served in VN, Laos or Cambodia.

Available from: Schiffer Fublishing, Ltd.; 77 Lower Valley Road; Atglen, Pennsylvania; 19310-9988. \$35.00, plus \$2.95 postage.

Schiffer is also reprinting YEAR OF THE HORSE: VIÊT NAM, 1st Air Cavin the Highlands, 1965-1967, by Col. Kenneth D. Mertel. Also \$35.00. If ordering both books, add another \$2.95 postage, and 50¢ for any book thereafter. Ask for their catalog, which has dozens of other fascinating books on military subjects.

Member Ed Metzner's MORE THAN A SOLDIER'S WAR, a unique and fascinating account of his seven years in VN, most as a Co Van, is also a book that should be read by any high school or college student who wants to learn about VN, as well as anyone who served. Ed's time was spent primarily in the Mekong Delta, apart from the bulk of US forces, and thus will enlighten those who served farther north. This too is a 'warts-and-all' book, citing the good and the bad, just as Ed encountered it, from a useless prov chief, to one who would prove his courage and dedication time and time again, Le Minh Dao. Available from Texas A & M Press. \$29.95, plus \$4.00 postage. Call 1-800-826-8911.

OTHER AREAS ACHILLES IN VIET NAM, Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character, by Jonathan Shay, M.D., Ph. D., published by Simon and Schuster, 1994. As reviewed by J.C. Fischer:

'This is an outstanding study of the VN PTSD and the comparison of battle's terrors in Homer's ILLIAD, written 27 centuries ago. Dr. Shay has studied PTSD and worked w/VN Vets for years, yet he has never said he had all the answers, only stating he is exploring another course that better defines combat trauma and why it affected combat veterans of VN as it did. I have read many books on PTSD, finding most were not anywhere near the truth; most 'shrinks' were never there, so they cannot truly understand. Until I read this book, I've never understood as well as I do now.

I would recommend this book to anyone, whether they have PTSD or not; it may not answer all the questions, and is not a cure-all, but is a significant step in understanding.

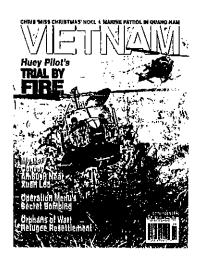
Ed. comment: This is yet another example of how the US 'leadership' and public, because of their collective ignorance of history, came to view VN/Laos and Cambodia as something 'new', something that was beyond our capabilities to understand, much less emerge victorious from. While Achilles, Agememnon, Hector, et al did not have 130mm guns, 'people sniffers', claymores, and such, war is still war, and humans are still humans. VN, or more aptly termed, Hanoi's war against the rest of SE Asia, had many component antecedents, and many factors and conditions which could be gleaned from the pages of THE PELOPENNESIAN WAR(5th century, B.C.), John Cremony's LIFE WITH THE APACHES, Caesar's

COMQUEST OF GAUL, books on the China-Burma-India theater of WW II, William Allen's THE NAZI SEIZURE OF POWER, Sun Tzu's THE ART OF WAR, ASSEMBNONTON'S A HERO IN HIS OWN TIME, ad infinitum. In sum, all of this would have clear to see, had our leaders had any sense of history in general, or SE Asia in particular. Hoang Van Chi's FROM COLONIALISM TO COMMUNISM is and was certainly not read by that McNamara guy. So, once again, we peer into history and find it has already explained what we modern computer people view as mystic phenomena delivered by gods on high, underscoring the validity of Churchill's observation:

'Too often when men stumble over the truth, they tend to pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.'

Thx to J.C. for this review of what looks to be a fascinating book.

#### **PERIODICALS**



December 1996 issue of 'Viet Mam' magazine has article about US USMC CUPP(Combined Unit Pacification Program and successful 1970 operation against enemy forces. Feb 97 issue USMC CAPs(Combined Action Platoons) and the 'other war', citing an instance in which a 140 man VC/NVA force tried, unsuccessfully, to overrun a hamlet fortification manned by six US Marines, and 12 PF. Following this engagement, the Marine command considered pulling the US CAPs out, seeing them as too exposed, inadequately armed to deal with large VC/NVA elements, and generally 'overmatched'. The surviving Marines declined relocation/reassignment: 'We couldn't leave. What would we have said to the PFs after the way we pushed them to fight the VC? We had to stay. There wasn't one of us who wanted to leave.'

Feb 97 issue also has article about civilian public health education advisor, Brenda Rosen.

Members are invited to submit articles to Viet Nam magazine, first requesting copy of author guidelines(send self-addressed, stamped envelop, or SASE) from: Viet Nam; 741 Miller Dr. SE; Suite D-2; Leesburg, Virginia; 20175. It's a good chance to get our history before the eyes of American readers(all 17 of them?).

Below, from Viet Nam magazine: Members of Golf CURP 8, 20 Sept. 70.



The original members of Golf CUPP 8 as they appeared on September 20, 1970. Although 18 men are shown in the photograph, Team 8 of the U.S. Martine Corps' Combined Unit Pacification Program was seldom comprised of more than 12 members.



ANH HUNG BAT MANG, by Trân Thy Vân is an excellent account of the battle for Sa Huynh during the 'land grab' hostilities which broke out at the signing of the Paris Peace(sic) Accords in January 1973. Van. a lifelong BDQ/Ranger, was there, and his ten years of combat experience provides him with the insight to intelligently observe and relate the unfolding battle. Book is unique in showing RVN's younger officers at work, eroding the myth that 'nothing was accomplished in VM'. As the communists now admit, QLVNCH company grade officers were a tough and dedicated bunch, and formidable adversaries. Vân writes not only of his 300 comrates, but also mentions the exploits and leadership of one Ha Mai Khue, a young armor commander renowned for his agressive and capable leadership. This is yet another book that deserves an English translation, and which would thence inform some 'historians' and the US public of some truly admirable and

remarkable people. Appropriately, ANH HUNG BAT MANG means Audacious Heroes, and that indeed they were. In tieng Viet/Viet Namese only from: Trân Thy Vân; 248 Roosevelt St.; Irvine, California; 92720. Cover price: \$12.00. Throw in \$2.00 for postage. Vân remains very active, being involved with the Association of Disabled Weterans, BDQ Assn., and Association of former Political Prisoners. He has SENT 47 wheel chairs to former comrades, now disabled in VN.

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BOAT PEOPLE Political expediency having had its way, the refuggees have been forceably sent back to VN, with assurances by all concerned that no harm will befall them, no discrimination will be applied against them, that all is forgotten. Well...not quite. Dr. Nguyên Dinh Thang's Boat People Rescue committee has documented evidence to the contrary. Before some were even repatriated, Hanoi's Gestapo had identified those whose 'activities aim at undermining Viet Nam'. In one city only, security police arrested three returnees upon their arrival, and placed 76 under surveillance. Later, in Da Nang, three Buildhist monk returnees were jailed for 'proselyting' and having 'hundreds' of anti-government documents. It is true that if one returns, and reaches a tactical accomodation to sit down and shut up, one may avoid anything beyond surveillance. It is also true that this very condition applied in pre-WW II Germany. There is little question and no doubt that some legitimate refugees were sent back, in violation of international law, and that some of these people will suffer There is no known agency or mechanism to monitor the because of it. condition of forced returnees.

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During the 'cease fire' after 1973, the International Commission for Control and Supervision(of the 'cease fire') was identified by its initials, ICCS. It was so ineffectual that the Canadian contingent resigned rather than engage in fraudulent imagery. The VN people jokingly said ICCS stood for 'Im chi coi sao' or 'sit sllently and watch what happens'. The rule of unanimity, by which all parties had to agree that a cease fire violation had occured, paralyzed the process as 'Polgarian' (Polish and Hungarian) delegates, when they were sober and/or not fighting amongst themselves over the favors of 'escorts and hostesses', had difficulties discerning rocket and

#### ICCS(cont.)

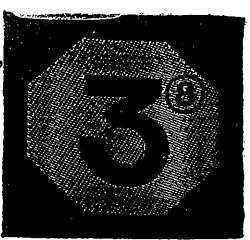
rocket/mortar craters/damage, until they were called upon to inspect a hamlet near Ho Nai, which the Polgarians presumably suspected had been the site of an unusually high number of explosive meteorite showers. The residents of Ho Nai were northern emigres however, who were well versed in communist duplicity and double talk. Upon being informed that no cease fire violation had occured, the friendly folks of Ho Nai told the ICCS delegation there was indeed a violation, and that no one was leaving until this was properly documented and reported. They were not smiling. Upon reflection the ICCS concluded that, by golly, a cease fire violation had occured.

G a R B

Left: QLVNCH Phao Binh/
RVN Arty assigned to Binh
Tuy Prov, from Clem Kelly's
Việt Nam Insignia Newsletter,
and sent to Clem by Member
Ron Kirschman. Right:
Binh Tuy Prov. HQ.

'The instruction given the youth of a country allows of a knowledge of what that country will some-day be.'

-Gustave Le Bon



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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE VIET NAM CONFLICT, under the direction of Dr. James Reckner (former Co Van in VN) has become THE locus of Việt Nam archives and research, and now will htave additional archival material as well as the presence of Douglas Pike, recently of the Indochina Chronology and archive at Berkeley. Budget cutbacks forced the Chronology to cease publication at Berkeley. The Center held an 18-19 April conference on 'Teaching Việt Nam'. Speakers included Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, Col. Norman McDaniel (former POW), Dr. Dave Berman, Dr. Joe Dunn, and Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt. In keeping with theme of this conference, the Center is collecting course syllabi, and making them available to interested parties, to be posted on Centér home page: http:www.ttu.edu/~ vietnam. The Center deserves our support. being the only institution of sufficient archival depth and informed direction to increase the odds that VN will, someday, be comprehended. The Center has put out a call for VN experts to assist students and researchers, and could probably benefit from having a few Counterparts in this stable of informed people willing to share their experiences and improve VN scholarship. The Center's address: Center for the Study of the Viet Nam War; Texas Tech University; Lubbock, Texas; 79409-1041. Landline: 806 742-9010. FAX: 806 742-0946. Email: likwf@ttacs.ttu.edu. Our sincere gratitude for Dr. Reckner's efforts in making this all come about.

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<sup>&#</sup>x27;Men can live without air for a few minutes, without water for about two weeks, without food for about two months-and without a new thought for years on end.'

NEW MEMORIAL MUSEUM The Victims of Communism Foundation is planning a memorial museum for the more than 100 million people who have died at the hands of a warped ideology. The Foundation is a bipartisan group, supported by members of both legislative bodies, and awarded official status under a Dec 1993 bill signed by President Clinton. It has received international endorsement Andrei Sakharov's widow, AND Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky. Foundation president is Dr. Lee Edwards.

A reconstructed and rebuilt Old Tariff Building, across from the National Air and Space Museum will house the Victims Museum, which will feature a Roll Call of Victims, displaying names and faces of victims on video screens, a Hall of Infamy containing artifacts of Communism's inhumanity, and a Hall of Heroes enshrining those who steadfastly opposed one of the world's most regretable 'isms': Lech Walesa, Vaclev Havel, Pope John Paul II, Andrei Sakharov, Ronald Reagan, and Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The Hall of Heroes should also include VN poet Nguyên Chi Thiên, whose powerful Hoa Dia Nguc/Flowers from Hell is testimony not only to Thiên's courage but also the barbarity of Communism. Info: Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation; P.O. Box 1997; Washington, D.C.; 20013-1997.

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#### MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Ly Vo Xang, AKA 'Moonface'

Submitted by Mike Perkins who had this to say:

'In 1967 I commanded the I Corps Mike Force. One of the younger members of the force was Ly Vo Xang. He was a Nung and I nicknamed him 'Moonface'. At the time he was about 17 years old. I was fond of him and took care of him as best I could in combat. On a combat operation west of Da Nang in April 1967 I left the night perimeter and searched for him and several other lost Nungs. I brought them in but very nearly brought in several NVA in the process. Moonface cried every time he spoke of that episode. When I left Mike Force later in the year and transferred to the lolst, I lost contact with all those loyal Nungs. I miss them. After 4 tours of duty in RVN, some of my fondest memories are those of the Nungs and the Aussies of I Corps Mike Force. The 'Moonface' I refer to here may not be the same person you are familiar with, as he was identified as a Hmong.

#### -Mike Perkins

Ed.: Identical nicknames for two different people, both of whom are remembered here.

Lt. William C. Fitzgerald (Naval Cross Recipient)

Lt(JG) Douglas Dean Vaughn Coastal Grp 16/USNA Class of '66

Nguyễn Văn Đong (See VN magazine, April '77) SP5 John James Kedenburg

John Kedenburg's actions are described in a recent book, SOG, THE SECRET WARS OF AMERICA'S COMMANDOS IN VIET NAM, by John Plaster(Simon and Schuster). As reviewed in the Air Commando Newsletter, by Charlie Reese:

'It's a funny culture when we all know the names of actors who play heroes but rarely the names of the real heroes-men like John Kedenburg of New York, who led his team to a rescue helicopter. They were all in the four rigs when a missing member of the team, a Montagnard, ran up. Kedenburg could have given

#### KEDENBURG(cont.)

the signal and flown away to safety. He didn't.

He was commander, and his responsibility was for his men, including the Montagnard. Kedenburg gave up his place to the man, waved the helicopter off and turned to face the onrushing enemy soldiers. He killed six at point-blank rage before he died.

If any members have read Plaster's book, and find more info on John Kedenburg, or other Counterparts, please submit same to Member in Memoriam Archivist, Mike McMunn: 2310 Newberry St.; Williamsport, Pennsylvania; 17701-4243. A review of the book would also be welcome.

#### Post-War Members in Memoriam

Maj. Thomas W. Tobin '63-'64, Sa Đéc/Vĩnh Long

Member John J. Marray
Adv Tms 2 and 33

Member James T. Simmons

#### REMEMBER

If you are able, save for them a place inside you.

And save one backward glance when you are leaving, for the places they can no longer go.

Be not ashamed to say you loved them, though you may or may not have always.

Take what they have left and what they have taught you with their dying and keep it with your own.

And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the war insane, take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind.

-Major Michael Davis O'Donnell KIA 24 March 70 LTG Samuel L. Myers Dep. Chief, MAAG, '56-'58.

#### James T. Simmons

James T. Simmons, 67, of Sierra Vista, Arizona, died Sundoy, January 19, 1997 at the Sierra Vista Community Hospital. He had been a winter visitor in Sierra Vista for the past four years.

James Theodore Simmons was born on January 16, 1930 in Fort Myers, Florida to Theodore and Venice (Patrick) Simmons. He grew up in the local area, graduating from Fort Myers High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1947, retiring as a Sergeant First Class in 1967 with twenty years of service. He participated in the Berlin Blockade, the Korean War, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Victuam War.

the Vietnam War.

James married Theda L.

McMorris in Seattle,
Washington on January 8,
1955. After Jim's retirement
from the Army, they lived in
Walla Walla, Washington
from 1968 to 1977, where Jim
worked as an Instructor with
the Army Junior ROTC at
Walla Walla High School.
They moved to northern
Idaho in 1977 and in 1985
returned to Walla Walla,
where Jim was employed with
the Department of Corrections. He retired in February
1992 as the Warehouse
Supervisor for Correctional
Industries at the penitentiary
at Walla Walla,

After Jim's retirement, he and Theda traveled, spending their winters in Arizona. They had been active locally



in the Sierra Vista Baptist

He is survived by his wife, Theda; two daughters, Nola Bell, of Federal Way, Washington, and Kathleen Duncan, of Marysville, Washington; two sons, James A., of Rathdrum, Idaho, and Matthew S., of Emunclaw, Washington; a sister, Joan Caputo, of Tallahassee, Florida; and four grandchildren.

Graveside funeral services with full military honors will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, January 30, 1997 at the Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Memerial contributions may be made in Jim's name to the New Tribes Mission, 100 E. First St., Sanford, Florida, 22721

Local arrangements are with Hatfield Funeral Home, Inc. Sierra Vista COMPARATIVE HISTORY... 'In Dinh Twong Province, the first mention of systematic destruction of the Government presence appeared in early 1959, when the Party embarked on the assassination of schoolteachers.
... This campaign... contribute 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.'

From: THE VILLAGE WAR, by William Andrews, University of Missouri Press, p. 55, citing Bernard Fall's TWO VIET NAM'S, p. 360.

And....
citing 'Dinh Twong Briefing Folder' 25 May 1970: 'Throughout 1967, 1968, and 1969 Dinh Twong saw a steady increase in the number of hamlet schools and hamlet school teachers. District and provincial schools have been enlarged and improved through the efforts of the local PTAs 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 V3D program.'

Mone of this is comes as a surprise to anyone, as it was reported so frequently in the newspaper and on the nightly TV news.

(Note: above item taken from an earlier SITREP, circa 1991. We will soon have all back issues available to members through Archivist Dick Williamson.)





<u>POW/MIA</u> Five remains were identified and returned to family members in February, otherwise little in the way of new developments. Primary US Govt. emphasis still focused on identifying remains, standing ready to respond to live sightings; though there is no visible effort to examine cases in which POWs were killed by their captors. Since 1974, 429 US servicemen, of the 2,583 MIA listed in 1973,

have been accounted for:

1974-1975	28	1985-1988	146
1976-1978	47	1989-1992	99
1979-1980	1	1993-1996	99 85 <b>,</b>
1981-1984	23		

from:

$\Lambda N$	319	Cambodia	5
Laos	103	China	2.

The League of Families has a 24 hour info update site: 202 659-0133, running 24 hours/day. Also, the VFW/MIA Initiative can be reached at VFW Building; 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.; Washington, D.C.; 20002 (FAX: 202 543-6719.

COUNTERPARTS/THDNÁ HQ recently received word from a recent arrival from VN on the location of a grave containing bodies of four US servicemen. Source stated n earlier effort to get this info to US in-country search teams only succeeded in engendering wrath of local cadre. Source also indicated he was not asked about any POW/MIA info during interviews to come to US. Info has been forwarded to a reputable non-government individual whose association has long history of sincere POW/MIA involvement.

8755, the 'Missing Persons Authorities Improvement Act' has been introduced by Senator Ben Nighthourse Campbell, in effort to bolster previous legislation many felt to be ineffectual and conducive to excess government secrecy regarding POWs and MIAs. S755 is companion

#### POW/MIA(cont.)

bill to H.R. 409 in US House, introduced by Congressman Bill Gilman, (R., NY). Members are encouraged to write their Senators expressing their thoughts on this proposed legislation.

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'It's amazing how much fun hiking can be when you're not carrying a rifle and 50 lbs. of gear, people aren't taking pot shots at you, and there are very few booby traps to worry about.'

-Member Curt Rich, after recent trek in Big Bend National Park.



CAMBODIA Turmoil continues as Khmer Rouge gradually lose troop strength from defections. In late 1996, Cambodia merged 400 former Khmer Rouge into its army, following their break with Pol Pot. More recently, the infamous Ta Mok, fled to Thailand and set up a new base, following dispute with Mr. Pot. Mok was in charge of Khmer Rouge executions in the 1970s. Elsewhere, Cambodia's try for democracy is marred by violence, as positical opponents lob grenades at each other, in one instance killing 11 and wounding 112 at political protest gathering in support of San Rainsy, head of the Khmer National Party. Rainsy blamed Phnom Penh Second Premier, and former Khmer Rouge, Hun Sen for the atrocity. Last month, Hun Sen's auto was shot up by unknown assailants.

Tuol Sleng Prison witnessed the execution of as many as 20,000 people, often through extremely cruel measures taken to extract 'confessions' from Khmer Rouge assumed to be CIA agents or

some such thing. Only 7 people are known to have survivied Tuol Sleng residence. Nhem Ein recently surfaced as the man who took photos of those about to be killed. Ein defected from the Khmer Rouge in late 1996, and has since told how he, as a 16 year old KR recruit, having received training in China, took upwards of 200 photos a day, with the subject of each being scheduled for death. One of these was a close relative, whom Ein ignored. Currently, efforts are underway to restore and catalog over 6,000 negatives of Khmer Rouge victims.

As if Cambodia didn't already have enough mines(courtesy of Hanôi's occupying legions and subsequent mine placement by their former Khmer Rouge proteges), villagers digging for clay uncovered a WW II US bomb four miles north of Phnom Penh, where it has laid undisturbed since being dropped on Japanese ships in 1943.

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'You cannot create experience. You must undergo it.'

-Camus

'A man has no ears for that to which experience has given him no access.'

-Nietzsche

\*Every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the "limits of the world."

-Schoepenauer

#### LOCATOR

New Locator Joe West scores some bullseyes:

Nguyễn Văn Phien has found two former Cố Vấns: Maj. John Baum and Maj. James Schmidbauer

Dương Cong Liem has found Maj. Hilton Bates, Cổ Vấn to 20th Eng Combat Grp, Pleiku.

New Locator Requests:

Bill Klino, C/75th Rgr, looking for his 'very good friend and slack man in RVN', Ho Diep. Bill reports most of his team is alive and kicking, show up at reunions, and are all very eager to see Ho Diep again.

COUNTERPARTS/THDNA has received calls from one Chris Logan, a British journalist, who is trying to find Nguyen Phong, Counterpart of Earl Woods. As reported in last issue, Earl is the Father of Tiger Woods, current golf phenom, and named his son 'Tiger' in hopes that Nguyen Phong, whom he nicknamed Tiger, would be able to contact Earl again. Logan asked if we'd set up a Locator office in VN, and was informed that we would like to, but cannot under current conditions, given suspicion with which Handi views such efforts. Caz Page, of the Saigon Mission Association(serving those who served in last joint effort in VN, from 1973-1975) reports that US visitors to VN sometimes locate old friends in VN, who are subsequently placed under surveillance, following an 'interview' as to just what had taken place and why it was a former US friend and counterpart would wish to find someone. So, our efforts to find people in VN are reluctantly in abeyance at this time. As a reminder, Nguyen Phong was a Dep. Prov. Chief in Binh Thuân Prov., circa 1969-1970(mistakenly IDed as Drp. Prov. Chief in Ninh Thuân, in last SITREP). Logan said that Phong may have been either SF/LLDB or Airborne/Nhây Du(latter is more probable), and saved the life of Earl Woods on several occasions. We'll keep trying.

NGUOI VIET, one of the most widely circulated and read VN-language newspapers in the country, will be assisting us in finding old friends, running a monthly list of US people seeking VN Counterparts. The first entry includes 14 US looking for over 21 VN people(or anyone from Tm XX, and/or a specific district/prov). Thanks to NGUOI VIET for all their help in this effort.

Efforts underway to contact other VN language publications as well.

MEDCAP INFORMATION REQUEST Dr. Robert J. Wilensky served as Bn Surgeon (588 Engr) and Bde Surgeon(20th Engr Bde) in '67 and '68, and also was involved with MEDCAPs in outlying areas. He is now conducting research on the overall impact and scope of MEDCAPs, asking for US MDs w/VN service to complete a brief survey. Dr. Wilensky explains his project as follows:

Many of us who served in Viet Nam as physicians participated in MEDCAP/MILPHAP programs, and treated VN civilians in clinics, hospitals and orphanages. There has never been an evaluation of these programs as to whether or not they did any real good, whether they aided the American(sic) war effort, and whether they had any lasting impact.

I am writing a history of these programs and trying to evaluate them. I would greatly appreciate your help. By your filling out this brief questionarire I hope to gain information and insight

#### MEDCAP RESEARCH (cont.)

as to how others felt about these programs. Any general or specific comments beyond the questions I have posed will be most welcome. If anyone knows about any collections of records or materials about the programs, I would absolutely love to receive that info as well.

I thank you for your help.

Dr. Robert J. Wilensky, M.D. 2807 Battery Place, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Write Dr. Wilensky for a copy of his questionaire. If not an MD. feel free to contribute just the same, as many, many MEDCAPs were run by non-MDs. Further, MEDCAPs were often joint efforts w/the VN Public Health Service, or VHS projects unattended by US people. There is no central study of the overall scope and extent of MEDCAP, and this looks like a good place to start. If you participated in MEDCAPs or any other civic action health projects, make sure your history is recorded.

-0-

You may be a Việt Nam veteran if....

-Your first portable boom-box radio was the AN/PRC-25

-Your first government-approved diet plan was cold C-rations

-You know a blooper has nothing to do with silly mistakes

-You know an Arc Light isn't a special bulb or lamp -You know an artillery fan has nothing to do with cooling air -Your first ATV was either an APC or a helicopter

-Your job never got a warning label from the Surgeon General -You reverse your cap only for a target reticle sight-picture

Thx to Member Paul Brubaker for sending the above.

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Actual radio transcript released by Chief of Naval Operations Carrier Group 65 Night Ops, 10-10-95:

Please divert your course 15 degrees to north to avoid Station #1: collision

Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to south to Station #2 avoid collision.

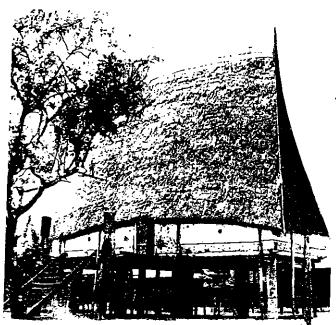
This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, Station #1 divert YOUR course.

I say again, you divert YOUR course. Station #2

THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE. WE ARE A LARGE Station #1 WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW.

This is the Puget Sound lighthouse. It's your call. Station #2

-Thx to Chicago SE Side VN Vets, who carried this item in their SHORT TIMER newsletter.



The General Coactive Montagnard Association(GCMA--those initials should ring a bell to some) holds its 12th annual picnic in Greensboro, N.C. Grant McClure and other COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HOU -DOYG NAM A members will attend the three day event, running from 5 Jul(Saturday) through the following day and a Monday cleanup. GCMA has been very active as a positive force helping members of the Montagnard, and Nung, communities. In particular, they have come to the aid of Dega families beset by serious medical problems and/or deaths in the family, helped fund a Dega musical group, began process to secure admission of Dega youth to Virginia Military Institute, and pushed on with the Longhouse Project, a Montagnard Museum and Cultural Center. As suggested by the name, a longhouse will be built, and funding is needed. To this end, GCMA

is raffling off a \$18,500 Subaru Outback. Last page of SITRED has raffle ticket info and forms. Please try to support them, and take a crack at winning a nice new shining vehicle, the suspension and interior of which are vastly superior to deuce-and-a-halfs we've ridden in. 2nd prize drawing: \$2,500; 3rd: \$1,000 gift certificate from Sears; 4th: \$500.00 gift certificate from Circuit City.

GCMA folks will need help for the event, which means your labor and sweat will be appreciated. Also, if anyone has venison or turkey meat for the picnic, call Randy Everhart at 910-625-3609. Picnic will be at McLeansville Wildlife Club. Take either McLeansville or Mount Hope Church Road to Freiden Church Road, then 1.5 miles to a right turn at Rock Quarry Road, follow to end. No RV hookups available, though on site tent will accommodate some on cots. And: Holiday Inn/800-284-1493; Ramada Inn/910-227-5541; Comfort Inn/800-334-6838.

Also needed at picnic: Laptop computer and someone to log in names of attendees on data base. If you can help, contact Tommy Daniels, GCNA President, at 704 884-8844/FAX 704 884-8845.

These are good people doing good things. Help 'em out if nossible.

Also from Tommy: some <u>Nung and their families</u> still remain in Hong Kong camps, and the new landlords, the People's Republic of China, has made it clear the Nungs will MOT remain, one way or another. Hanoi authorities have stated they'll be eager to accept former Nung soldiers, with or without their families, raising the prospect of family separation. GCMA has been on this one, and has mailed/FAXed/Emailed everything they can to arrange for emigration of former Nung soldiers, with families, a total of about 170 people, to US. COUNTERPARTS members encouraged to write elected officials on this subject, helping to preclude forced involuntary repatriation of those who will be subjected to restrictive, if not vengeful, policies upon their return to VN. Hats off to Tommy and GCMA for their efforts.

<sup>-0-</sup>

<sup>&#</sup>x27;Death hangs over theq. While thou still live, while thou still may, do good.'

OTHER MONTAGNARD MATTERS Most of the Montagnards coming here, or receiving help in-country, come from II Corps, while I Corps people are subjected to the very same difficult conditions. Bob Donoghue, former SF and Khe Sanh veteran, has undertaken a project to help the Bru people with whom he worked; as you read this he will have completed his sixth trip to VN. Bob's work involves digging more wells, providing educational support, expanding a hybrid seed program, starting a village health program, and funding purchases for breedstock, tools, and construction materials. All of this is self-help, enalpling these people to sustain themselves. Financial donors are needed. Contact Bob at: 100 Westbanks Court; Springfield, Massachusetts; Oll18-1867. Landline/SDT: 413 782-8265. E-Mail Bob Don9ll@aol.com. Do what you can.

Member Mike Little befriended a number of Bahnar during his '67-'68 tour, and was never able, or willing, to forget them. Mike returned to VN in 1994, hoping to find the Bahnar kids who often alerted US soldiers, and Mike, of possible ambushes, mines, etc. He found them, and has since decided to try and bring three of them here, with their wives, and total of 16 children. This was not an easy decision to make, yet all imaginable problems baled before the conditions under which these people are forced to live, discriminated as they are for former involvement w/US forces as well as being forced off their land. At this writing, Mike and Marion are back in VN, trying to initiate steps to bring this about, giving meaning to the words friendship and loyalty. They will brobably need help in this. We'll keep you posted.

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SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH SDIT, an organization of surviving children and families of US fatalities in VN/SE Asia is sponsoring its 3rd annual Father's Day at the Wall, gathering from 13 to 15 June. We regret late publishing of this information, but will continue to support Sons and Daughters and try to put their members in contact with those who may have known and/or served with their Fathers. Several of our Locator requests are from SDIT members, and we have helped some people find individuals who knew loved ones who paid the ultimate price. Address: Sons and Daughters In Touch; 2030 Clarendon Blvd., #412; Arlington, Virginia; 22201.



CAP Unit Veterans Association Our 'cousins' over at CUVA will hold their '97 reunion 6-11 Nov in San Diego, at Best Western-Hacienda; 4041 Harney St.; San Diego, CA; 92110. Reservations: 1-800-888-1991. Ask for CAP group rate(\$75.00/night). Tim Duffie has opened a CAP Web Site: http://w3.one.net/timd/cap/capindex.htm. He is scanning and entering historical info and articles, which should be of great assistance in telling the little-known history of the unique combined unit program and the

known history of the unique combined unit program and the people who were a part of it. A VOICE OF HOPE, Journey with the Combined Actions Forces, 1967-1968, by Tom Flynn is available from: Voice Book Productions; P.O. Box 1575; New Port Richey, Florida; 34656-1575. \$6.99, pp. \$3.00 from each sale donated to CAPVA.

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GAMEWARDENS OF VIET NAM Ralph Fries is requesting info on all 2556 USN personnel KIA in VN, and the unit to which they were assigned. Patches for each respective unit are requested, and Ralph was put in contact with Clem Kelly, who provided assistance in this area. In addition

GAMEWARDESNS (cont.)

several of our Members in Memoriam were Naval Advisors, and we will pass on any information on these individuals. GWVN West Coast chapter to have reunion 19-22 June, at La Quinta Inn, Redding California(1-916-221-8200). An East Coast reunion, date not set, is being handled by Chuck Manos(352 Three Degree Road; Refrew, Pennsylvania; 16053). And GWVN National President Ken Kalish has been contacted by a student doing research on 'how motion pictures about warfare influenced VN Vets decision to volunteer for duty in VN'. If you have anything to contribute, call Ken at 1-800-450-8699.



Scroll patch, approx. 80% actual size, offered by Member Paul Brubaker, w/15 other replica patches (see back cover). Black field w/red border, white letters. \$12.00, pp. Good quality and unique momentos.

And, Member Nevin Williams has MACV as well as US ARMY RETIRED t-shirts, each w/emblem on upper right, w/pocket on left. Good quality Hanes t-shirts. Regular price: \$16.00. COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA

special price: \$14.00, large and XL. XXL, add \$2.00. Add California tax if appropriate. Shipping: \$4.95, 1-3 shirts, \$1.00/each additional shirt. Nevin donates \$1.00 to COUNTERPARTS/THĐNA for each member sale, for which we are grateful.

PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC PICNIC COUNTERPARTS/TUONG HUU DONG NAM A picnic, Sunday, 27 July, at Bob Cunningham's farm, approx 75 miles NW of Richmond VA, 85 miles SW of DC, in Pratts, Virginia. Starts at <u>noon</u>. Bring <u>own chow/rations</u>, drinks, and a lawn chair or two. BBQ available to cook. Pratts is on US 29, approx 30 mi. NNE of Charlottesville (shoot 150 azimuth, follow highway 29). Detail map at right. Awards for best C-ration recipie, most eutrageous-lie thrilling war story. Drop Bob a card if you plan to attend: P.O. Box 56; Pratts, Virginia; 22731. If lost en route: 703 948-6542. Family/friends welcome.

MADISON

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CUVA members also welcome. This event thoroughly enjoyed by past attendees. Where else will people listen to your war stories? Thx to Bob and the Mrs. for hosting this occasion.

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LOGISTICS Hard-working S-4 Jack De Boer (6865 Pine Bluff Ct., SW; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 49509-9716) has following items in Village Market: COUNTERPARTS coffee cups-\$10.00, pp.; Shoulder patch, \$6.00, pp.; Lapel pins, \$12.00, pp.; t-shirts, \$12.00, pp.; baseball hats, \$12.00, pp.; and heavy stock color photo of statue at former RVN National Cemetery, 12" x 16", \$14.00(proceeds from latter go to Việt Nam Assistance to the Handicapped, providing prosthetic devices and wheel chairs to

LOGISTICS/VILLAGE MARKET (cont.)

disabled veterans in VN). We will also have prints of VN patriot
Pham Ngu Lao, and the La Vang Cathedral, battered by NVA arty in
the 1972 Easter Offensive/Mua Hè Đờ Lia: We're out of etched mirrored
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA clocks, but will be reordering. Order from Jack,
but make checks payable to COUNTERPARTS/THDNA.

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All for now. If possible, attend picnic, and GCMA weekend. Article below from MACV Observor, Sept 72.

BTL/TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

# Ranger advisors distribute Fairmont gifts to patients

It's a long way from Fairmont, W. Va., to Saigon, but through the efforts of a U.S. Army major stationed here as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army Ranger Command, a number of wounded Rangers know there are Americans who care about them.

Last March, Major Edward F. McGushin, staff advisor to the Ranger Command, accompanied the commander of the Rangers and his staff on a visit to Cong Hoa Hospital on the outskirts of Saigon. This is where the most seriously wounded Rangers from throughout the Republic of Vietnam are treated.

"What I found most impressive was the spirit of these gallant men," reported Maj. McGushin. "Although their bodies are broken, their spirit is not. Young men of 18 and 19 with limbless lives before them. Older soldiers thankful to have survived as long as they had, and for being spared for a few more months or years. Men so badly mangled that age can not be determined from their appearance."

Maj. McGushin was moved by the experience, and enlisted the support of the folks in Fairmont to collect gifts for the soldiers. His father-in-law, Baxter C. Wilt, was the local point of contact for contributions.

With support from the local newspaper and the Fairmont Businessmen's Association, Wilt and the major's wife solicited gifts from more than 100 businesses. Several service organizations joined the campaign to collect useful items, as did the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority of Fairmont State College.

Collection of the material was completed in late June, and Mrs. McGushin packed for shipment to Vietnam 192 individual gift boxes with such items as soap, stationery, playing cards, candy, etc. A variety of group games were also packed for shipment. Members of the Ranger Advisory Detachment donated sufficient funds to cover the shipment to Vietnam.

Distribution of the items was made last month.



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS DON SCHOMMER, an enlisted advisor to the Ranger Command, helps distribute gifts from

## GCMA 1997 Subaru Outback Impreza Raffle - \$100.00 per Chance TICKET ORDER FORM

[Mail to GCMA]

Ticket Buyer_							
		<del></del>		Address			
City		State	Zip	Phones: V	VK	HN	I <u></u>
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FORMS for 40 will refund all Subaru Outba stub must be the 1997 Suba Buyer will pur GCMA will paincluding freig and standard equipment or	tands and accepts the Subaru Impreza Or ticket purchases by ck raffle ticket(s) to completed and return Outback Vehicle, sue any and all such the Subaru dealer I ght) for a Subaru Outequipment, and that upgrades to a more IC law, the prize veh	utback raffle July 15, 199 Buyer on or med by July Buyer will n i Issues with Buyer desig tback Impres Buyer will t expensive n	e tickets by Jure 1; (2) provided 1 about June 1; 1, 1997 - late e not hold GCMA hile Subaru de nates, the sum za 5-door modibe responsible model Outback	ne 1, 1997, the 6 all 400 tickets 1997; (3) Buyentries will not lessonsible for ealer; (5) if Buyent \$15,566.00 (e) with 2.2 litre/for paying tags that Buyer ord	GCMA may ele are purchased r understands be eligible for r any warranty er wins the 19 Subaru of Am 135 h.p. engin s, taxes of any ers through hi	ect to cancel d, GCMA will that the OFF the drawing; claims for a 97 Subaru O erica, Inc. co e, 5-speed n nature, and	this raffle, and it mail OFFICIAL (ICIAL raffle tick (4) if Buyer wins aid vehicle, inst utback vehicle, est to GCMA nanual transmis any optional
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\* I JUNE DEADLINE HAS BEEN CHANGED. YOU MAY STILL BUY
A TICKET.

#### **COLLECTIBLES**

SF/SOG - ARVN replica patches For Sale:

MACV Recondo-Thám Kích

subducd arrowhead badge @\$6.50ca/ppd

MACV-SOG color-variant shield @\$9.00ea/ppd

MACV-SOG subdued shield @\$9.00ca/ppd

FOB #4 color shield

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MACV-SOG 75 Air Gp color shield

@\$9.00ca/ppd

MACV-SOG / USMC-NAD

color shield /AT @\$11.00ea/ppd

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color shield @\$8.50ca/ppd ARVN Abn Bde

color square

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ARVN Strategic Tech Dir

color shield

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5th SFGA/RVN subdued flash

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USSF SSI subdued on BLACK

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SWCS/IMA camo beret flash @\$6.50ea/ppd

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