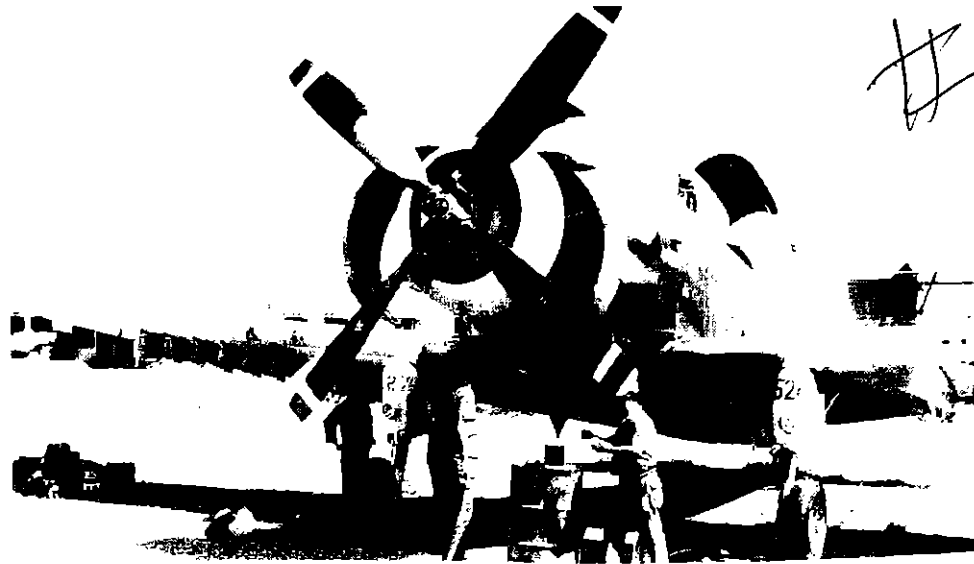


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KLEI MRÂW MRANG XOV XWM TSHAM វត្តមាន រដ្ឋបាល
W E K D W SITREP BẢO CÁO TINH HÌNH

OFFICERS

Commander
John Cook
(Nominee)

Adjutant
Bob Cunningham

Historian
J.C. Fischer

XO
Ray Battreall
(Nominee)

Membership
-Open-

Locator
Joe West

Liaison/VN
Community
Quách Huỳnh Hà

Liaison/Highland
Assistance Project
Mike Little

Editor
Bill Laurie

Advisory Council
Kok Ksor,
Quách Huỳnh Hà,
Roy Russell,
Grant McClure
(Also D.C.
Liaison)

PIO
-open-

The SITREP is the quarterly publication of COUNTERPARTS/TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á, 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 civilian role, in what was perceived as an effort to halt militarist expansion in SE Asia. Associate memberships also available. Membership info and inquiries: Bob Cunningham, P.O. Box 725, Madison, Virginia, 22727-0725.

Above photo: VNAF/HQ QLVNCHA maintenance crew repairing Al-E Skyraider at Dong Ha. Member and Co Van Larry Howe not in photo but was there. Story in this issue.

New officers-to-be: Adjoining officer roster includes three nominees for open positions: John Cook, Commander; Ray Battreall, XO; Bob Cunningham, Adjutant. A mail in ballot is on last page this SITREP. To avoid having less than majority vote, those not sending in a ballot are hereby designated as voting for these candidates. Our bylaws call for the Adjutant to handle finances and membership matters, yet workload for both positions dictates someone else handle membership mailings and inquiries. For time being, Bob will handle membership chores (assuming he is elected) but we do need a Membership Chairman. Contact Bob Cunningham (P.O. Box 725; Madison, Virginia; 22727-0725) to express your interest.

While on the subject, our sincere, profuse and prodigious gratitude for the superlative job he did as Membership Chairman, stepping in, on his own, to help out during a period of administrative logjams. Ben's contribution was and is vital to this association and its members. Cam on van boi Ben. Chung toi rat biet on.

Getting right to the heart of the matter, here is John Cook's nomination acceptance comments.....

'This is a very special group of people who share very strong values of honor, commitment, freedom, and courage. We shared common dangers, risking and sometimes losing our lives to support a cause we still believe in. Here is my

agenda and the course I will pursue if elected to lead COUNTERPARTS/ TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á. First, we have a moral obligation to tell the truth about the war in Việt Nam and SE Asia-why we were there and what we tried to achieve. We cannot do this without our SE Asian comrades and counterparts and we must attract more members from the SE Asian community. It is high time we had SE Asian officers in our association. Further, too many lies and falsehoods have been told and retold over the true nature of the war, and we owe it to our fallen, and to future generations, to bring out the true story. We need to be aggressive in this, and stay active in areas we are already involved in.

To achieve this, we need to initiate a sustained membership drive, while putting out a timely newsletter with a bite to it, on issues members feel strongly about. We need to remain in the forefront in the battle for Human Rights in Việt Nam and SE Asia, the discussion over our relations with Hà Nội, and in helping former friends and counterparts who may be languishing in camps or debilitated by war injuries and otherwise unlikely to receive help. Does this mean we will become a 'political organization'? It depends on how you look at it, and if one assumes that common human decency, historical integrity and accountability for MIA/POWs is 'political' than so be it. We are the only organization composed of members of all service branches, from all nations, along with civilian and female counterparts, and are uniquely qualified to be concerned with these issues. Tens of thousands of people were counterparts in Việt Nam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand, and with a concerted, sustained effort, we should be able to greatly increase membership.

I live in the DC area and am ideally located in this regard. I consider it a great honor to be considered for this position. If elected, I will do the very best job I'm capable of doing.

John Cook

-John's advisory tours and experiences are related in his excellent book, THE ADVISOR, a well-written and heart moving account. First published in 1973, it has now been reprinted by Schiffer Publishing, 77 Lower Valley Road; Atglen, Pennsylvania; 19310-9988(\$35.00 plus \$2.95 postage/handling).

Remember to vote.

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WRONG. SEE P.16

LOCATOR No new Locator requests for this issue. We were able to put two long-lost friends back in contact however, with Nguyễn Văn Lanh and John Peyton linking up. Trung tá/LTC Lanh was with the 81st Airborne Commandos/TD 81 BK, and left Viet Nam in 1992 after 13 years in prison camps. Send Locator requests to:

Joe West 637 Grambling Ct. Merced, California 95348-2106.

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1997 REUNION AFTER ACTION REPORT Submitted by Bob Gilbert, Reunion ramrod.....

Though under the cloud of late information, and the possibility of an ill-attended reunion, all went well. Mike George helped a great deal by placing ads in various publications and we were contacted by a number of people who had been unaware of our existence. Thanks again Mike; Airborne all the way.

We had a fast-paced Ranger Cadre demonstration and a tour of the Infantry Museum, after which we went to our hospitality room for sales and woff sessions and there were beaucoup of the latter.

The next day people went off exploring here and there, and several of us saw one of the most difficult events of the Best Ranger competition, the 60' Prussik Knot climb. Retired war dog Lee Jones went to that event with me and came away flabbergasted at the stamina of the Ranger Teams. They had been at it for a day and a half without sleep and on short rations.

We had some no-shows and cancellations, but did have 34 members at the banquet, which, despite steak Au Jus without Au Jus, went well. Dr./Col. Ed Upchurch had to cancel at the last moment, however he left his banquet money in the pot for someone who may not have been able to come to dinner otherwise. A very generous gesture. Jerry Hughes brought the only Áo Dài-clad lady, his wife HƯƠNG, who was surprised to speak with our members who are conversant in Viet Namese- both northern and southern dialects, and even knew some off the wall slang she didn't know.

Oddly enough, we had people come in from California, Texas, Maryland and other distant areas, yet only two of our members from the Georgia/Alabama. The same strange phenomenon occurs with other associations as well. Thanks to all who responded even if only to let us know they would not be coming.

As Counterparts serving side by side with our SE Asian friends, we have experiences those serving solely in American units will never know and we will always remember our gallant friends, our Counterparts, some of the best people Việt Nam, Laos and Cambodia have produced. We need to get more of these experiences on video, and need to have more people attend reunions to make sure these memories are recorded.. and so James Elliot can complete his film documentary.'

And from Mike George: 'How can I say it. Fantastic! Great! Bob did a great job for an excellent reunion, except for the fact that I did not win the knife lottery.

And from Jim Kidder I met some very fine people, some of whom I'd previously corresponded with, and others who were new friends. I was impressed with all who attended and very much enjoyed the camaraderie of the group. In addition, I welcomed the sincerity and conviction shown by all. The Saturday meeting was very enlightening and we all benefited from the exchange of information and clarification of our objectives and projects. Jack De Boer was there with his cache of COUNTERPARTS/THDNA goodies. We're lucky to have him on board, and his efforts are appreciated.

In closing, I'm very happy I attended and had a chance to meet the great people who were there. I urge all FNGs and FOGs to make next year's reunion a priority, and I'll meet them there. I am very proud to be a part of this group, proud to be a COUNTERPART.'

So, a good time was had by all, despite short fuse on this one. Our gratitude goes to Bob Gilbert, Mike George, Jack De Boer for their sterling efforts and continued dedication, and for putting together a much appreciated reunion.

'Fate leads the willing, and ⁻⁰⁻ drags along the reluctant.'



At left: Joe West presenting award etched mirror clock w/COUNTERPARTS/THDNA to Honorary Member Col. Noboru Masuoka in gratitude for Col. Masuoka's efforts to secure the successful release of Maj. Nguyễn Quy An, LTC Bui Quyen and, most recently and remarkably, the revered writer and poet, Nguyễn Chí Thiện. Col. Masuoka's dogged persistence never wavered in his pursuit of justice for these three men. Maj. An, it will be remembered, saved 4 US personnel whose chopper had been shot down during a Laotian insertion.

With An now in the US, and a citizen, Col. Masuoka has taken on another task: getting Maj. An's DFC upgraded to a Silver Star for his valorous rescue. The Silver Star had initially been recommended but was later downgraded. Additional evidence has surfaced regarding Maj. An's courage,

in the form of a letter from one David Rhodes who, in describing yet another engagement, states in a letter: 'There can be no doubt that without Major An's courage that day, I and my comrades would be additional names on the Việt Nam Memorial Wall in Washington. This type of action was daily fare for Major An and his crew. Countless Americans are alive today through the brave actions of Major An.'

Heartfelt gratitude to Col. Masuoka (USAF, Ret.) for his continuing efforts, and let's hope Major Nguyễn Quy An finally receives the recognition he has deserved for so long.

Another of our esteemed Honorary Members, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt, is being nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for her decades-long battle for Human Rights in SE Asia, particularly in the case of the media-neglected Hmong people. Her book, TRAGIC MOUNTAINS is the definitive study of the Hmong and their battles with NVA and Pathet Lao, and irrefutably documents barbaric war of virtual extermination launched against the Hmong after 1975. Letters of endorsement should be sent to: Nobel Peace Prize Committee; Nobel Institute; Drammensveien 19; N. 0255 OSLO; Norway.

Her winning the Peace Prize is probably a long shot, being as politically incorrect as it is....

Shortly after this was typed the announcement came that another American had been awarded the prize, based on her efforts to ban land mines. A noble, if quixotic effort, yet hardly on a scale, as measured in years of dedicated effort, equal to the efforts of Dr. Hamilton-Merritt. It comes as no surprise. We are nonetheless inspired by Dr. Jane's principled tenacity.

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'To treat your facts with imagination is one thing, but to imagine your facts is another.'

-John Burroughs



PRESIDENT CLINTON: PREVENT A HUMAN TRAGEDY!

BOAT PEOPLE UPDATE Part 1/Good guys win: **Almost** 200 Nung and their families were granted political refugee status after having been rejected and confronted with prospects of forced repatriation to VN, where they would not be welcomed with warm arms. The Special Forces Association, many of whose members worked with Nung personnel launched a letter writing campaign, and Senator John McCain, among others, requested SecState Maeleine Albright (herself the child of political refugees) to consider these people, their history of anti-communism, and use State Dept. leverage on their behalf. Shortly thereafter, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees did change its

mind, and the Nung began moving to US. Part 2/Good guys lose and are lied to. On 6 May 97, Ms. Barbara Larkin, Asst. SecState for Legislative Affairs, wrote Representative Chris Smith, a long time friend of SE Asia refugees, advising him on State Dept. policies regarding Boat People, stating:

'We are pleased to reaffirm that US policy to interview for possible refugee admission any (emphasis added) such cases referred to us by the UNHCR, and we are in direct contact with the UNHCR on these specific cases.'

Indeed. Ms. Larkin's statement is in direct contradiction with a US GAO report which specifically states:

'UNHCR officials in Indonesia and the Philippines effectively stopped submitting cases for consideration to the US embassies due to the lack of response from the United States to review cases informally prior to a declaration of mandate status (note: 'mandate status' means deciding if they are a political refugee or not).'

Apparently Ms. Larkin's dictionary has a different meaning for 'any'. A 7 July 97 letter to Ms. Larkin asking about disparity between what is done, and what is said, remains unanswered.

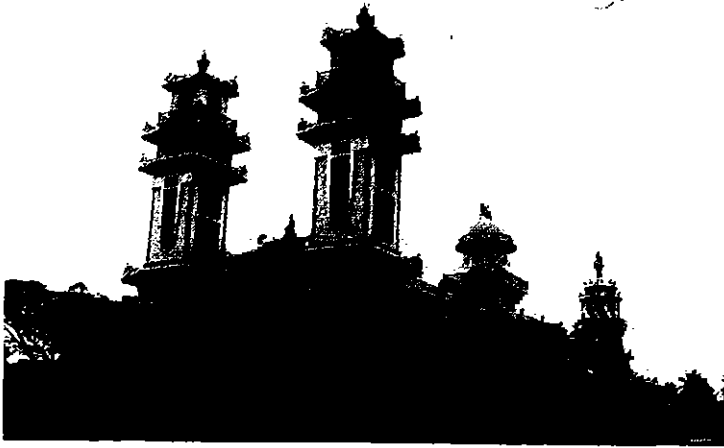
This is not the first time the State Dept. has spoken dishonestly. Several years ago, prior to normalization, a State spokesman informed an elected representative that no US liaison office would be opened until US officials had been granted 'access' (does this mean peeking through a cell door?) to Nguyen Tan Tri, a naturalized US citizen imprisoned for undeclared charges. You guessed it. The Liaison Office was opened and Mr. Tri, and another naturalized US citizen, remained without 'access'. The pattern seems to be one of assuring people that something has been or will be done, and then simply disregarding the statement. This would not have come to light had not member Nick Rock obtained a copy of the Larkin-Smith letter, and promptly sent into the 'Samizdat' network of unreconstituted VN Vets, whereupon its text was compared with the aforementioned GAO report. Someone once said your character reveals itself when you think no one is looking. The State Dept. seems to think no one is looking; insofar as CBS, NBC AND ABC are concerned, they're right.

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In 1971, RF/PF, or Địa Phương Quân/Nghĩa Quân, constituted 50% of total QLVNCH force structure. They sustained about 60% of QLVNCH KIAs, inflicted about 30% of total VC/NVA KIAs, received less than 30% of QLVNCH arty support, and were funded by less than 20% of QLVNCH budget.

Source: THE LESSONS OF VIET NAM; W. Scott Thompson and Donaldson D. Frizzell; Crane, Rusnak & Company, NY, 1977.

At left: Cao Đài Temple, in Cao Đài Holy See of Tây Ninh City.



News item: In June of this year, The Cao Đài religion received full sanction to practice its chosen faith, granted by powers that be in Hanoi. After April, 1975, Caodaisim was banned and church lands were confiscated. Assuming, and hoping, this recent sanction is not merely the creation of a typical Leninist 'patriotic' front group, this reinstatement is a welcome step in the right direction.

Left: Shoulder patch, 54th Regt/Trung Đoàn 54, ? Div (Anyone remember?)
Right: CỐ VẤN patch, TD 5, ND/5th Bn, Airborne.



Fakes of both now being sold as rare collector items. Be careful.

Thx to Clem Kelly for permission to reprint material from his VN Insignia Newsletter.



At right: VNAF/KQ QLVNCH aircraft maint. team, in process of repairing two A-1G Sky raiders, Đông Hà, 1966. Taken by CỐ VẤN and Member Larry Howes, who sent in his recollection of experience..



'Arriving in-country in April, 1966, I ended up w/AF Advisory Tm 5, HQ'd in Đà Nẵng. When I first met my Counterparts and was impressed on the command of English. Things looked good, but I learned that there

was friction arising from some of our Tm members with poor attitudes, and a resultant unwillingness of VNAF personnel to let anyone mess with their aircraft. I plugged along, suggesting VNAF personnel ground their aircraft (electrically) during refueling to eliminate fire hazard, clean aircraft windshields, and was aircraft to prevent corrosion. My entreaties were met with nods and smiles, but little happened.

It became apparent an impasse had been reached, with VNAF and Tm members failing in the 'rapport' area. I realized how I would feel if someone from another country tried to tell me how to maintain a B-52, and did what I could to treat my Counterparts as equals.

A month later we had to go to Đông Hà to repair two A-1Gs which had crashed on the runway and were no longer airworthy. My field maintenance Counterpart asked me if I'd like to come along. Yup, I went, as our crew had had no previous experience in recovering aircraft and rendering them flight worthy in the field, distant from our main facilities. They were going to let me get close to 'their' A-1Gs. Đông Hà was bleak, and the small maintenance detachment had only a small hoist truck and a forklift. The aero-port folks were very helpful but we ran into immediate problems with hoist truck hydraulic leaks, and had to rely solely on the small forklift to raise the new engines for mounting, a touchy task. For the next nine days we worked hard together, trying to repair those broken birds. The VNAF people shared their tea with me, and I reciprocated with thermos jugs filled with USAF ice water. They asked me about technical terms and I did my best to help solve the unique problems that always arise in the field.

Ten days later the planes were flown back to Đà Nẵng, completely lacking the ten pounds of maintenance documents that are normally filled out in such situations. It took at least two days for me to replenish liquids I'd lost sweating in the Đông Hà heat; I was running a little ragged a maybe feeling a bit sorry for myself.

I noticed changes when we returned to Đà Nẵng however; things were different between me and my Counterparts. Aircraft were being grounded during refueling, windshields were polished, and aircraft were washed. Every mechanic in sight stopped what he was doing, smiled, waved, and hollered out 'Chào Đại úy'. MSgt Ty, the senior engine mechanic took me over to one of his A-1Gs, invited me to climb in, start the thing-- anytime I wanted. Then, to top things off, he said I could taxi the aircraft if I wanted. I was surprised because in the USAF only rated officers could taxi an aircraft. It then hit me once and for all. I'd worked and sweated with my Counterparts for ten long days. In the process we'd repaired two aircraft and got them flying. More importantly perhaps, we'd become a team, and they had accepted me into this team on the basis of mutual respect. It had happened. I was one of them.'

Larry P. Howes
Captain, USAF(Ret)

Thanks to Larry for sharing this story, which no doubt will rekindle similar memories of events experienced by many others. Send 'em in; we'll print them. Larry also sent in a ppem he'd written, which we'll print in the next issue.

Member Jim Mueller has logged his experiences during the Tet Offensive In Hue on Internet. Dial up www.thehistorynet.com and look for Tet in Hue by Jim. It was published in conjunction with Jim's article in Viet Nam magazine, Jan/Feb 97 issue. Thanks to Jim for putting his story where others will learn and benefit. We need to get our stories out there as a needed counterpoint to some of the babble and gossip passed off as 'history'.

'A thought which does not result in an action is nothing much, and an action which does not proceed from a thought is nothing at all.'

-George Bernanos



HMONG Most people cannot name the man who probably flew more combat missions than any other pilot in SE Asia. The honor may well go to Lt. Ly Lue, a Hmong T-28 pilot who logged over 5,000 missions before being shot down by NVA AA gunners in 1969. Ly Lue, pictured at left, had been a school teacher before joining the ranks of the Royal Laotian Army, flying direct combat support for Hmong units battling NVA and Pathet Lao forces on the Plain of Jars in NE Laos. Last May, a ceremony honoring the Hmong and their contributions to the war effort was held in Washington D.C., with Grant McClure, our D.C. Liaison Officer shouldering much of the organizational burden, and Pappy Hicks delivering his thoughts as one of the main speakers before a crowd of just under 5,000, comprised of Hmong veterans, US counterparts, and Hmong women in traditional dress. Pappy laid it on the line for all to hear: 'Every so often, years after the fact and we have become old men, we who worked in the

dark are let out in the light for a moment of glory. For me, this that day.' Attendees were reminded that Hmong forces not only rescued US pilots shot down over the Hồ Chí Minh Trail, but also saved lives of servicemen-and civilians-in Việt Nam, as NVA forces were forced to commit personnel and materiel to battle the RLA and Hmong. (It is often overlooked, but it also remains true that Hanoi did not prevail in the Republic of Việt Nam until it could empty all its forces out of Laos and Cambodia, and all but one reserve division in NVN, and at a time when US military aid, cut to the bone, limited many RVNAF/QLVNCH infantrymen to 60 rounds of M-16 ammo per week). So, for a few brief days in D.C., these little-known yet valiant comrades received their belated public recognition, culminating with the installation of a commemorative monument in Arlington National Cemetery.

Reminder: Copies of TRAGIC MOUNTAINS, Dr. Jane Hamilton-Merritt's thorough and comprehensive history Laotian 'secret wars', from 1942 to 1992, are available from Grant McClure(2961 James Court; Waldorf, Maryland; 20602-1713) for \$30.00, postpaid. Your local school library may also need a copy of this 529 page opus.

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The Rhodesian Ridgeback, a breed of dog renowned for its loyalty and unique ridge of fur along its back, is believed to have originated on Phú Quốc Island, with breed stock being carried west to Africa by early sea-going traders where the Ridgebacks's courage, intelligence and loyalty won them a following that continues today. Phú Quốc Island lies just offshore of VN's Kiên Giang Prov, and is renowned for its preium nước mắm.

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COUNTERPARTS LITERATURE ANH HUNG BAT MANG, by Trần Thy Van, was described in the last issue, and has since gone into a second printing. Efforts underway to produce a translation into English so Non-Việt Ngữ readers can benefit from this excellent account of QLVNCH in the 'land-grab' battles breaking out just before the Jan 1973 (cease fire'(sic). Members will be kept posted. ANH HUNG BAT MANG(Audacious Heroes) is one of many VN-language books which needs an English translation.

COUNTERPARTS LIT(Cont.) PACIFICATION: THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE FOR VIET NAM'S HEARTS AND MINDS, by Richard A. Hunt(Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado; \$36.00), was reviewed in the April '97 issue of VIET NAM MAGAZINE. Members having read the book are invited to submit a review, and for now we'll go with a summary of the cited review. Hunt breaks the book into three sections, one dealing with 1961-1967, a second dealing with the formation of CORDS, and a final appraisal of pacification overall. He concludes that absence of societal cohesion and efficient, inspirational leadership would have doomed any program, no matter how encompassing and thorough. In deciding this, Hunt may have overlooked what many others have neglected: the comparative fortunes of indigenous VC during the same period, and bypassing the fact that had it not been for NVA regulars, and an ultimate obscene disparity in firepower, favoring the NVA, the Republic of Việt Nam, the South Viet Nam by its common name, could have survived. Also, he neglects the positive changes which were occurring, however slowly and awkwardly, in GVN administration, arising in part due to a thoroughly competent and professional young officer corps(as has been admitted by NVA defector Bui Tin. Finally, phrased another way, the NVA did not win hearts and minds either, or else they would not have needed a 22 division invasion force, and the first-time-ever unimpeded flow of men and materiel down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. These comments notwithstanding, this should be an interesting book, about a program many of us were involved with.

Reviews welcome. Send to editor(Bill Laurie; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201.



Left; Front of unit flag for 12th Bn/TĐ 12, 1st Div/SĐ 1.

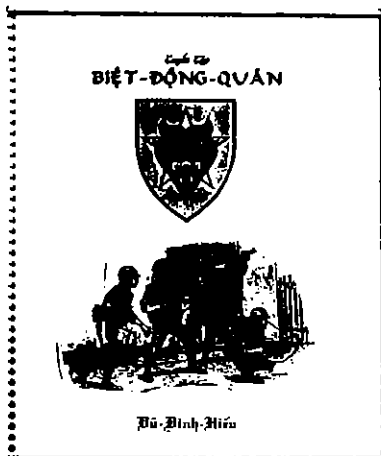
Script at bottom right reads 'Kính Tang'(respectfully presented). Flag was given as a gift to Cố Vấn BG Caruthers.

Thx to Clem Kelly for permission to reprint.



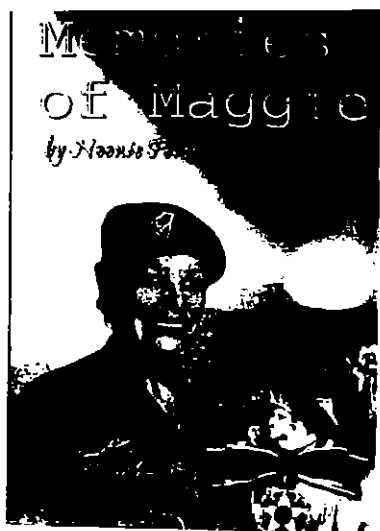
MONKEY BRIDGE, by Lan Cao(Viking, \$23.95) is the novel of a young VN girl who leaves VN in 1975, and grows up feeling the often contradictory pressures of her native culture, and the new land which becomes her home. Mai, the novel's protagonist feels caught and torn: 'My dilemma was that seeing both sides of everything, I belonged to neither.' Received very favorable reviews. Member review welcome/solicited.

THE FATE OF THE PEASANT: PREMATURE 'TRANSITION TO SOCIALISM' IN THE DEMOCRATIC(sic) REPUBLIC(sic) of VIET NAM, Andrew Vickerman, Yale University Press, 1994(believed to still be in print). Though book does not deal with counterparts or the VNCH/Republic of Việt Nam, this history provides validation of our efforts, describing a failed and often brutal policy of agricultural collectivization in NVN(contrasting sharply with the VNCH's eventual land-reform program by which 2,500,000 acres of previously rented farm land was given, with title, to 800,000 families from 1970 on). Available from Southeast Asia Studies; Yale University; P.O. Box 208206; New Haven, Connecticut; 06520-8206. 373 pp. Ask for Publication #28. \$15.00, plus \$1.75 postage.



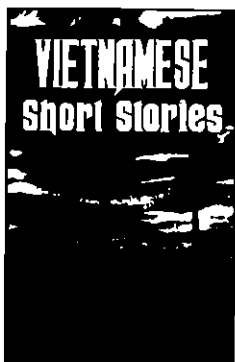
TẬP TUYẾN BIỆT ĐỘNG QUÂN, by Vu Dinh Hieu. This English comilation of Ranger stories, battles, personalities, all translated previous publications in KBC, Mu Nau(Maroon Beret), and VN language books, is a welcome breakthrough into the English language ranks. Author Hieu, himself a Ranger/BDQ, has assembled 23 entries, each describing a specific battle/campaign, BDQ history, personalities, with the latter including profiles of two of our Members in Meomriam, Gen. Tran van Hai, and Theu ta/Maj. Tran dinh Tu, who refused to surrender in 1975, fighting on until captured and executed him with a bayonet. **TẬP TUYẾN BDQ** is an excellent compilation and very evidently a labor of love and intense pride. Cost and availability details not known, being requested. Thanks to Anh Hieu for assembling this work, and thanks to Member Mike Martin for suggesting Hieu provide us with a review copy. Will advise members

of availability of **TẬP TUYẾN BDQ**.



MEMORIES OF MAGGIE, by Noonie Fortin. Noonie was one of the driving forces behind the campaign to have a Medal of Freedom bestowed on Maggie, and carried on, writing this biograph of Col. Maggie. A main thrust in the book is detailed recounting of Martha's Raye's unselfish and unswerving support to American servicemen in three wars, including visits to advisory teams and SF detachments, some of which seldom saw a USO show. Book has 360 pp, 57 photos. \$15.95, plus \$1.50 postage from: LangMarc Publishing; P.O. Box 33817; San Antonio, Texas; 78265-3817.

If you would like to have Noonie as a speaker at any local functions, contact her publisher's speaker bureau at 1-800-864-1648. If you win the lottery, or feel otherwise obligated or compelled, buy a copy for your local school library.



VIET NAMESE SHORT STORIES, and **LOSERS ARE PIRATES**, the former translated, and the latter written/researched by, James Banerian, and published by our own Member, Bui Quang Lam (who graciously and generously has absorbed our SITREP printing costs for 10 these many years) are two publications worthy of any bookshelf. SHORT STORIES is a collection of 11 short stories by 10 VN authors, a look at life, and we humans, through VN eyes and a VN cultural perspective. Book's 160 pages offer worthwhile reading at a very resonable \$6.00 cost (postage included!!) LOSERS ARE PIRATES is a 416 page counter

argument to the supposedly thorough and objective FBS TV series on VN, a verifiable example of stilted and misconstrued history. Still and all, we've all encountered people who have seen the series, and presume they are now 'educated', and 'understand VN'. **LOSERS**, with logic and fact, and insightful interpretations demonstrates the contrary is true: **VN: A TELEVISION HISTORY**, is a deplorable example of history by gossip and rumor. Price is a very reasonable \$10.00, postpaid, Your local school library is in need of one of these, and you will enjoy it as well. Send order to: Complete Printing & Mailing; 4234 E. University

SHORT STORIES/LOSERS(Cont.)

Phoenix, Arizona; 85034. When ordering, Courtesy and gratitude dictate extending gratitude to Bui Quang Lam, BDQ, for his dedicated tenacity in getting our story out. Comparison of price and page content reveals no significant profit is being made. Lam is doing this because it should be done. We owe him our deepest thanks. Cam on van boi Lam oi.

INCURSION, by J.D. Coleman, St. Martin's(paperback reprint), 1992. Coleman, author of PLEIKU, examines a 'lost year', 1969, focusing on developments in III Corps and the allied push against NVA units always positioning themselves, futilely, for atks which were to have replicated the Tet Mau Than counter-offensive of '68. 1969, a year when VC/NVA Hoi Chanh rates almost tripled, with the equivalent of almost six NVA divisions throwing in the towel, also witnessed first-ever inroads into the vital NVA logistical web in MR II, not only choking VC/NVA units at the end of the supply line, but also dealing effective blows to VC/NVA force structure(euphemism for KIAs). 1969 set the stage for the 1970 incursion, an inexcusably belated move against NVA supply complexes in Cambodia. Coleman, to his credit, cites instances of QLVNCH participation, particularly the Airborne: The NVA commanders probably remembered the bumbling of other ARVN outfits, and contemptuously underestimated the abilities of the Airborne units.' (p. 167). Coleman quotes LTC Stephen Woods Jr., whose 2nd/5th Cav was receiving Nhảy Dù/ Airborne arty spt: 'I've got to give the ARVN credit. They were giving us plenty of arty support while taking incoming at the same time.' Coleman adds that some credit for ARVN excellence '..obviously had to go to the US advisory team, but the advisors didn't load and fire the tubes.' 1992 publication date notwithstanding, this book was found on an airport bookstand in September of this year. Very well researched book, and a long-overdue examination of a critical turning point which most 'journalists' never saw.

Publications Member Mike Martin authored a fascinating article in the March/April 97 issue of 'Behind the Lines'(a bi-monthly publication, 'the journal of US military special operations) titled 'The Tiger Lady' describing the stranger-than-life exploits, and demise, of Madame Ho Thi Que, a legendary figure from the 44th Rgr Bn. A 20th century embodiment of warrior attributes exhibited by the Trung sisters, Trung Nhi and Trung Nhat(who led an army to repulse Chinese invaders in the first century) Mrs. Que was an ardent nationalist who had been with the Việt Minh long enough to see that communism was using nationalism rather than being driven by it. With her husband, Thiệu tá Nguyen Van Dan in command of the 44th Rgr Bn., Ba Que enlisted herself and fought side-by-side with TD 44 troops, while serving as a comforter and mother/sister figure. Her battlefield tenacity earned her a VC nickname: 'Madame Death'. In a tragic and bizarre twist of fate equal to the most convoluted of Greek tragedies, Ba Que was killed by her husband when she caught him with a young Cô, attacking him in rage. Mike closed his article out by saying: 'The mystique and legend of the Tiger Lady continued to grow long after her untimely death. She was a warrior bigger than life and a heroine



Ho Thi Que(Cont.)

of unparalleled magnitude. Among the BDQ and BDQ Co Vans who served her, her memory will never die.'

Article photocopy available from editor. Please send Self-addressed, stamped envelop(SASE) to B. Laurie; 1462 W. University; Mesa, Az 85201.

April 97 issue of VDW magazine has brief article, 'Trusted Advisors', containing brief summaries of US CỐ VẤN and their roles in the 1972 battles at ĐÔNG HÀ, AN LỘC, and Kontum. Of note are comments of US Co Van, a Capt. Moffat, who described a new 'game' enjoyed by the defenders of AN LỘC, under siege by three NVA divisions: One of the troops went out and shot a tank(with a LAW) and it blew up. Once the word spread it was just like wildfire! Everyone wanted to see how many tanks they could kill.' (Note: The first NVA tank was knocked out by a 17 year old member of the NDTV, or PSDF, also using a LAW.). Article concludes with a tragic footnote: the last official combat fatality-US type- was LTC William B. Nolde, CỐ VẤN to the prov chief. on 27 Jan, '73, eleven hours before the cease fire(sic) was supposed to take place, LTC Nolde was KIA by an NVA rocket, in AN LỘC. When LTC Nolde was laid to rest in Arlington, Chaplain LTC Mark Thompson eulogized Nolde with these words: 'All those men were there for peace. Prosper the work of their hands O Lord.'

Works in Progress: Members Bill Lange, Van Simmons, and Dick Lynch all at work on manuscripts/research. Col. Lange doing open end research on all aspects of RF/PF..or Địa Phương Quân/Nghĩa Quân. Bill's at:* Van's looking for examples of media ignorance and malpractice in VN, as well as information on Howard Hughes, submitting this eye-opener: past issues of Who's Who in America indicate Howard Hughes was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and now no one knows why. If you can help, Van is at: 418 West Virginia Ave.; Temple, Texas; 76501. Dick meanwhile is at work on a manuscript contrasting his experiences as a CỐ VẤN with SĐ 9/9th Div with that of media depictions of VN. If you can add anything: Dick Lynch; P.O. Box 429; Delta Junction; Alaska; 99737. Finally, Larry Hadzima(420 W. 18th St.; Neillsville; Wisconsin; 54456) still compiling bibliography of VN books and authors. English/VN languages all OK, all sought.

Any help greatly appreciated. *9000 Belvoir Woods Parkway, #302
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060

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MEMBERS IN MEMORIAM

Trung tá Nguyễn văn Hiệp
BDQ

Thiếu tướng Trần văn Hai
BDQ, SĐ 7/7th Div

Thiếu tá Trần dinh Tu
BDQ

LTC William B. Nolde
Bình Long Adv Tm

ICI James W. Sampers
USN/HQ

Note: The children of ICI Sampers would like to contact or hear from anyone who served with their father, US or VN. They can be contacted via Member Bobby Jackson, c/o National Mining Association; 1130 17th St. NW; Washington, D.C. 20036-4677

Remember that our Member in Memoriam Archivist is assembling all available information, to include copies of photos, personal recollections, etc. which describe and portray members in Memoriam

as they were known. We do not want to have a simple list of people, and intend to create and preserve this archive volume showing these people as they were. Please send any and all information, to include copies of photos, articles, book citations, personal recollections to Mike at 2310 Newberry St.; Williamsport, Pennsylvania; 17701-4243. Two separate volumes are maintained. One is a roster having basic factual content (unit, cause of death, etc.); the second volume is much more detailed, and fills a large three ring binder, containing all the information which we've gathered on each Member in Memoriam. Please help Mike with this project.

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HISTORIAN REPORT Historian J.C. Fischer has been and will be compiling a list of known advisors, as well as an OB of advisory teams and detachments. His report:

'To date I have compiled a roster of known advisors with approximately 7,000 names of men and women from all service branches serving in VN, Laos or Cambodia between 1955 and 1975. From this roster I have consolidated these names into team rosters, indicating rank, name, dates of service, team number, province, district, along w/name of person providing information.

Information sources: team rosters from former advisors. Copies of orders for decorations, transfer, school, assignment, etc. Viet Namease documents have also been used, citing awards to advisors for medals, jump wings, etc. Books by and about advisors and their counterparts are also useful.

Many new members have sent in the Locator form upon joining, but others have not, so if you can provide me with any info on your Adv Tm, your Counterpart(s) and so on. Our history has not been recorded and it is of great importance that we assemble all the info we can, eventually printing a detailed book which can be used by those looking into the war.'

-J.C. Fischer

Please help J.C. on this project as well. The man absolutely thrives on copies of old orders and the like. There are, some estimate, as many as 60,000 people who served in some advisory capacity, not to mention thousands of others in S-5 shops, who ran many MEDCAPs, and who otherwise qualify for membership. If we do not preserve our collective history, it is unlikely it will be done.

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It is the Veteran, not the press
Who gives us the Freedom of the Press

It is the Veteran, not the poet
Who gives us the Freedom of Speech

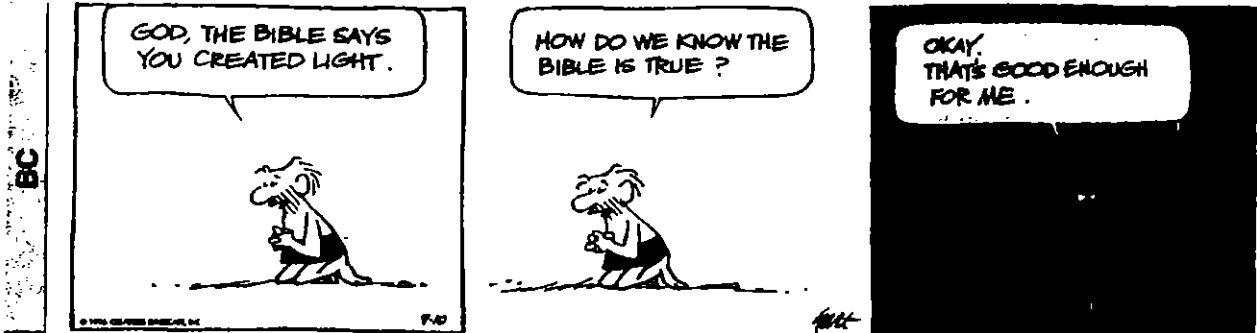
It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer
Who gives us Freedom to demonstrate

It is the Veteran, who salutes the Flag,
Who serves under the Flag, and whose coffin
is draped by the Flag

Who gives the protestor the freedom to burn
the Flag.

Thanks to Brian Zawacki for printing the above in Chicago SE Side VN Vet publication 'The Short Timer'. Item originally appeared in 'Dog Tag News', publication of VVA Chapter 153, and was thence carried in VVA Chapter 10 newsletter, and should make the rounds in more publications.

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Item: In a 1991 survey taken by George Mason University's Indochina Institute, 47% of college professors teaching a VN course were active in the anti-war(sic) movement. 25% were veterans of the war

Above tidbit printed in 'The Short Timer', Chiago SE Side VN Vets, to whom thanks are extended for reprint permission.

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Thanks to: Members of the 89th Maintenance Squadron at Andrews AFB, who rise at 0600 the first Sunday each month, volunteering their time to swab down the Viet Nam Memorial, cleaning off dust and grime. They have been doing this for several years now, compelled by a sense of duty and moral obligation. A personal note of thanks is appropriate:

89th MXS/CC: 1734 1st St.; Andrews AFB; MD, 20762-6312.

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VIET NAM ASSISTANCE FOR THE HANDICAPPED Project, run by former USAID interpretor Tran van Ca, provides prosthetic devices for former QLVNCH personnel. We have given a \$100.00 donation to VNAH as part of an a series of continued donations to this noble and needed program. As expected, former QLVNCH personnel receive little from Hanoi's existing and feeble veterans' administration, and those missing limbs are in dire straits. It is the very least we can do to help our friends. No one else will.

VNAH clinic in Can Tho



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Left: Kho Mobile Guerrilla Force Patch, reprinted with permission of Clem Kelly and Viet Nam Insignia Collectors Newsletter. Thx Clem.

DEGA The GCMA picnic was a rousing success, entirely due to the enthusiastic volunteer efforts of all concerned. Raffles raised needed funds for future projects, not the least of which is planned construction of a Dega longhouse and museum complex for preservation of Dega culture and history.

George Hadelor, Secretary of GCMA, reports that the picnic was a 'hell of a time', despite chiggers which infested some people. Vast quantities of pig and chicken were devoured, and the 'fellowship was wonderful'. Grant McClure was in attendance as well, and seconds George's report. Five of the Nung families rescued from Hong Kong were in attendance, and George notes '...the Montagnards have really taken to them and made an all-out effort to assist in their resettlement. Hats off to GCMA for pulling off this event, and hats off, again, to the SF Assn. in fighting to insure Nung refugees were not forced back to VN.

Mike Little, Highland Assistance Liaison Officer, was to have returned to VN this summer, his third trip back. It didn't happen. For reasons unknown, his visa was denied, and the immediate suspicion arises that Mike has simply become too visible as a friend of the Dega, and his denial is an example of the lingering FULRO-CIA paranoia of Hanoi ideologues. Mike also reports that 5 Dega are finalists for the JC Penney Golden Rule Award, for their outstanding volunteerism and community services in North Carolina. Nay Rong, Y Guk Cil, Kia Siu, Vien Siu and Krong Panting were so honored for their work in tutoring, transportation assistance and translation services. No surprise here, except for fact that similar efforts on part of other SE Asian, VN, Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian, etc., go unseen and unrecognized. Leaders from all these communities work tirelessly to help new arrivals, maintain cultural awareness, and otherwise foster cohesion in a new land. Good job gentlemen..and ladies.

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'American journalists, pah!

-Jim Morris, SF, in his book, WAR STORY

Items:

Scripps-Howard reporter Jeremy Grant writes on the Ho Chi Minh Trail: 'The route allowed movement of men and machines south and was a critical factor in the ouster of U.S. forces in 1975.'

Fact: There were no U.S. forces in VN in 1975

USA reporter Barbara Slavin, in a 1,000 article on North Korea's famine, never mentions the word 'communist', nor the fact that the famine is a direct result of communist policies. The famine, apparently, just 'happened'.

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'If a man speaks in a forest, and no woman is present, is he still wrong?'

-anon.

Journalists(Cont.)

Alan Sokal, a physicist, submitted an article of @liberate gibberish and nonsense to a 'leftist' journal, 'Social Text'. He argued, and jokingly so, that examination of the laws of physics and philosophy proves that the world does not exist. He wrote the article so that any competent physicist-or undergraduate physics or math major 'would know it was a spoof'.

Social Text printed the article, presumably unworried that if it true, its readers would have nothing to stand on.

The editors of PASSAGE TO VIET NAM, a large coffee table book of truly evocative photos of present day VN, included a picture of the La Vang Cathedral ruins in Quang Tri, saying the church was destroyed in '1972, during the American summer offensive...'

Perhaps we all imagined the NVA Offensive, and the fact that NVA arty pounded, mercilessly, Quang Tri in 1972. There was no 'American summer offensive' in 1972; there was NVA arty.

Summing up:

'You just got to realize you can't trust the media. They're evil. I've been around it a long time, and the media is definitely evil.'

-Basketball player Charles Barkley

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LOCATOR UPDATE

The daughter of Chester D. Townsend, KIA 28 Dec, 1963, would like to contact anyone who may have known her father, who is believed to have been an advisor(considering the date of his death). Anyone having any info invited to send same to: Leonard F. Russell, Jr.; NCOC LOCATOR; 99 Morgan Lane; Millinocket, Maine; 04462-1713.

Info forwarded to J.C. Fischer for cross-referencing against list of known advisors

Charles Prinz, well-known to Counterparts members as a Human Rights advocate and friend to the 3 Asian communities in US, is looking for three VN brothers, Nguyen van Sinh, Nguyen van Duc, and Nguyen van Phuc, who left VN on a World Airways charter flight on 2 April, 1973. Their younger brother, Nguyen van Hau, and Mother, Nguyen Hong, arrived in the US in 1990, and would like to reunite the family. All three boys were adopted, and it is 'believed' that two of them ended up in Colorado. If anyone has any info, please forward to Chuck on his e-mail address: <cfphrai@bellatlantic.net>. As the three may have been adopted into US-born families, they may not have many contacts in the VN community. Please put the word out in your AO. If you are not in the e-mail net, forward info to Bill Laurie, 1462 W. University; Mesa, Arizona; 85201 for routing to Chuck.

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Illinois recipients of the Bronze Star may apply for a license plate recognizing this honor. The plates are red, white and blue, with 'BZ' on the left and a depiction of the Bronze Star. Application info: Office of the Secretary of State; Non-Standard Plates Section; Room 539, Howlett Building; Springfield, Illinois; 62756; or call 217 785-4175. Info extracted from ever-informative 'The Short Timer'.

SHORT TIMER info(Cont.). STer also reports a VN Veterans Art Museum has opened in Chicago, at 1801 S. Indiana Avenue, under the auspices of the Viet Nam Veterans Arts Group; 1727-S. Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; 60616. For more info: Sarina Renaldi, Assistant Director at 312-913-9117. Members visiting the museum invited to send in a writeup.

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Former Cõ Vãs in the news. Gen. Hugh Shelton, who served two SF tours in VN, later to head up US Special Operations Command, was appointed Chairman, JCS. Shelton is considered a non-traditional choice, coming as he does from an light infantry and special operations background. Memorable quote:

'In our business, winning is everything..Second place is unthinkable.'

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Once armed only with battered weapons of World War II vintage, RF/PF trainees are now equipped with the most modern small arms and automatic weapons. Here a team works with the M-60 machinegun.

ARVN NCO Academy turns out professionals

NHA TRANG -- Since the Vietnam War involves essentially small-unit operations, the importance of training confident, aggressive and capable Vietnamese NCOs can't be overemphasized.

Since 1958 the training of effective South Vietnamese NCO's has been handled by the RVNAF National NCO Academy located here along the white-sand beaches of the South China Sea. The school conducts two courses: an eight-week course for experienced NCO's who have never attended school and a 12-week course for high school graduates who have completed advanced training. Currently the school, with the help of a handful of American advisers, is training approximately 2,500 to 4,000 NCOs per month.

In addition to classroom leadership training, students receive practical leadership experience on a daily basis. Through a system of rotating the students with the chain of command, each student serves as a squad and platoon leader.

According to Colonel Joe W. Finley, American senior adviser to the school, the NCO's are trained to appreciate the problems faced by lower-ranking enlisted men. For example, after a rigorous training day, NCO candidates pull guard duty and seldom do NCO's sleep in barracks, living instead under field conditions. The training is designed to make the NCO's more sensitive to the problems and needs of lower-ranking enlisted men.

Currently, American advisers play a role in the operation of the school, but the ultimate goal is to transfer the entire responsibility for the operation of the academy to the Vietnamese.

Above article from 'MACV Observer', circa Oct, 1972. Have old articles and/or photos? Send in copies and we'll print 'em.

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Cõ Vãn film project Associate Member James Elliot continues with quest to write, produce and have broadcast a film showing the VN experience as told by counterparts, instead of as imagined by Stanley Karnow, Oliver Stone(hallucinated?), etc. He needs more input from anyone serving in any counterpart role(i.e., our membership). His proposal to PBS was rejected, though acknowledged as well presented, because they already have enough military projects, and that the general idea was 'too partisan'(we're in bad, bad shape when the truth is 'partisan'). Not to be deterred, Jim presses on, gathering more info, more contacts, and helping COUNTERPARTS/THDNA in the process, getting out word of our existence. Right now, James is in need of more interviews, as well as endorsement letters and photos showing counterparts working/fighting/laughing together. Also, Jim is trying to locate three Cõ Vãs who were featured in news stories years ago. They are: Army Capt. Robert Bacon, pictured on a cover of 'Life' magazine, 12 June, 1964; Sgt. Robert 'Ponce' Navarro, appearing

Co Van Film(Cont.)

in 28 Jan, 1964 'Look' magazine on photo essay of SF Det A-23 at Tan Phu; and Capt. Philip Arsenault, also featured in 'Look' article.

This info passed on to Locator Joe West and Historian J.C. Fischer but no luck as yet. Help anyone?

James is also looking for magazine/newspaper articles w/material and photos of US/SE Asian counterparts. Help him out.

James sends out a n update newsletter to those signing on and having an interest is seeing this project completed. Contact him at:

Night Train Films; 285 E. California Blvd., #108; Pasadena, California; 91106. Phone/SDT: 626-578-0622. Email: l.ELLIOT@WORLDNET.att.net

If/when this film documentary is completed, the American public might, among other things, finally realize that the La Vang Cathedral was not destroyed '..in 1972, during the American summer offensive.' Keep up the good work Jim.

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The Viet Nam Center, Texas Tech University, will hold a June, 1998 Conference on teaching Viet Nam for high school teachers. This should be very interesting, as the VNC, unlike others, is not enamored with conventional wisdom and does seek objective truths. Another Conference, 'Viet Nam in Asia', to be held in April, 1998, will focus on VN culture, language and history. VNC director, James Reckner, is for Co Van Hai Quan/Naval advisor. Address: Lubbock, Texas; 79409-1013. Phone: 806-742-3742 or 742-3744. FAX: 806 742-1060. Email: jjrec@ttacs.ttu.edu Jim Reckner asks for our help in sending him copies of any past and present VN Veterans assn. newsletters, or addresses where these newsletters can be contacted for inclusion of their newsletters in the VNC archives. Please pass the word/send in info.

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VILLAGE MARKET S-4 Jack De Boer lists following items: COUNTERPARTS coffee cups-\$10.00 postpaid; shoulder patch-\$6.00, pp., lapel pins-\$12.00, pp.; t-shirts-\$12.00, pp.; baseball hats- \$12.00, pp. Write Jack for orders/info: 6865 Pine Bluff Ct., SW; Grand Rapids, Michigan; 49509-9716. Jack also asks to publish his personal thanks to Member Owen Kelly, who gladly offered to haul supplies back from the Ft. Benning reunion. Thank you Owen, once again, for your contributions to this association.

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Counterparts speak Cố Vấn David Donovan(nom de plume for one of our members), in ONCE A WARRIOR KING, upon his leaving Tram Chim for DEROS:

'I looked back back out of the helicopter door, getting a final glimpse of the old mud fort at Tram Chim. I looked out at the familiar pattern of canals, paddies, and tree lines for the last time, and felt a strange melancholy when I realized I would never see that land again. Like my teammates, I had become one with the surroundings. I had the pulse of the place, its sights and smells, its winds and rains, its droughts and floods, its bugs and beasts, its people and its beauty. I had been forced to absorb it all in order to survive. It was part of me, and now it was ripped away like a dried bandage off a raw wound.'

Closing Comments Thanks to all members who sent in material, photos, and other information. It is asked, as Larry Howes has hoped, that these recollections will stimulate others to submit similar stories, recollections and thoughts, as your fellow members greatly enjoy reading same. Please do so. Best send copies of photos to preclude loss in mail; any/all material sent to editor is returned unless sender indicates all are copies and may be retained. If not so indicated, materials will be returned anyhow.

1998 Reunion: Tentative plans are for San Antonio, summer months. This issue should have been resolved before. More info next SITREP. Apologies for delay.

And..we have, with slim staff, been inadvertantly disorganized, and too often committed admin miscues, been late w/SITREP, etc. Some of this arises from having too few people on board. We need a Membership Chairman, a full-time PIO, and a fundraising chairman, and now have too few people trying to do all these things. Some received two invoices for their dues; this was a mistake, which your HQ regrets. Anyone sending in dues twice will receive full credit for 1998 dues. Remember too, that many of your officers, now and in the past, are not yet retired, and are even still raising families. Some have encountered other problems with health and/or businesses. Still, we keep moving, and have accomplished many good things along the way.

There are now several dozen former counterparts who have been reunited after decades of separation. We-you and all the rest of us-brought this about. COUNTERPARTS/THDNA was instrumental in securing prompt relocation to US of remnant Montagnard group surfacing in Cambodia in 1882. We have sponsored an orphan via the Pearl Buck Foundation, and are now sending contributions to secure prosthetic devices for our friends and counterparts who are disabled (and thank VNAH for this ready avenue of assistance). Hence, as frustratingly spasmodic as we may have been, we've done a lot which would otherwise not have done. Ask a Counterpart who has been reunited with a friend long thought to be KIA. We have more to do, and will have fun doing it. Please send in your ballot, no later than ~~30 November 1997~~, and enable us to firm up our leadership and get moving as we should. Remember, the ballot is for the entire ticket of people, and non-receipt of a ballot is hereby deemed an affirmative vote, i.e., if you do not send in a vote, your vote is a 'yes'. Thank you for your patience and support.

HQ/COUNTERPARTS

BTL/THDNA

30 DEC 97

BALLOT

I, _____ accept/vote for _____ reject/vote
against (circle response) The ticket of John Cook/Commander; Ray Battreall/XO, and Bob Cunningham/Adjutant(modified to exclude Membershi Duties) for concurrent two year terms to end upon election in 1999.

Name

Address

Mail to Special Election Officer, Jim Vincent; 456 Carnegie Road;
Virginia Beach, Virginia; 23452-6614

COLLECTIBLES

SF/SOG - ARVN
replica patches
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MACV Recondo-Thám Kịch
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MACV-SOG color-variant shield
@\$9.00ea/ppd

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

FOB #4 color shield
@\$11.00ea/ppd

MACV-SOG 75 Air Gp
color shield
@\$9.00ea/ppd

MACV-SOG / USMC-NAD
color shield
@\$11.00ea/ppd

US/ARVN color advisor scroll
"Co Van My"
@\$12.00ea/ppd

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color shield
@\$8.50ea/ppd

ARVN Abu Bde
color square
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ARVN Strategic Tech Dir
color shield
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[SFA #M4032L, SOA #596L]
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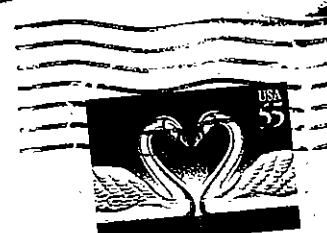
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