



COUNTERPARTS

TƯƠNG HỮU ĐÔNG NAM Á

SITREP

Volume XXI

Issue 2

Winter 2022 -2023

2023 Reunion, Rapid City, South Dakota, May 3-6, 2023.

As reported in the last SITREP, Steve and Kim King have volunteered to host the 2023 Reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota. Steve and Kim have gotten off to a quick start and continue to refine and update the schedule. As of 12/1/22, we have 16 paid registrations and 76 who are planning to attend. So, it looks like we'll have an excellent group and a lot of fun! Here is a recap of the planning and schedule, updated as of December 1, 2022.

The event will be based at the Rushmore Hotel and Suites, 445 Mt. Rushmore Rd, Rapid City SD. The Reunion will include a Bus trip to the South Dakota Air and Space Museum and Warbird Sanctuary on Thursday, May 4, and as a special highlight, another bus trip on May 5 to Mount Rushmore, one of the most famous and cherished of our nation's National Parks. A guided tour will be included in the Mt. Rushmore trip as well as a Lunch.

The Detailed Reunion Schedule follows:

Wednesday May 3

Registration, check in, Lincoln Room Hospitality Room, Drinks and Snacks

Thursday May 4

0930 - Bus trip, South Dakota Air and Space Museum and Warbird Sanctuary with guided tour. Return about 1430.

1715-1930 - Dinner *Pho Vietnam* Restaurant (Self Pay) Signup sheet in Hospitality Room.

Friday May 5

0930 - Bus travel to Mt. Rushmore for guided tour, followed by Lunch at Chute Roosters Restaurant. Return about 1430.

Saturday May 6

0900 - Business Meeting.

1700-2200 - Banquet at the Hotel, Washington Ballroom. Historically, we have asked the gentlemen to wear a coat & tie to the Banquet. For the Reunion Banquet we encourage you to also wear a "mini-ribbon bar" on your coat lapel. **Every one of us has earned the privilege of being proud of our service.** If you do not have a "mini-ribbon bar" with your decorations & service ribbons, medalsofamerica.com (1-864-862-6425) is an excellent source. Following the speaker, we will have music from the '60s, provided by *Colt45 Entertainment*. Plan on bringing your "Dancing Shoes"!

Sunday May 7

Cash breakfast, farewells, at the hotel. Until next year!



COUNTERPARTS SITREP

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Commander's Corner

First a short story: I do realize my linguistic skills have dissipated over the course of the past five decades, but I can still hold my own when my wife and I partake of our most favorite cuisine as we frequently venture over to *Eden Center* that many members will vividly recall from one of our memorable outings during the 2015 DC reunion where we descended upon *Café Royal*, one of many great eateries of this local hub of the Vietnamese community of northern Virginia. I typically do quite well rattling-off all our selections from the menu in *sử dụng ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt* and enjoy interacting with the staff in my own convivial way. Some of the older servers often take interest as to when and where I was stationed in-country, and it leads to a nice interchange and some fascination when I elaborate on my healthcare related assignments in an advisory capacity and also delve into all of the human rights advocacy initiatives that I've continued to pursue over the course of the past 40-years with various networking relationships Counterparts has sustained within the Vietnamese expatriate communities where there's generally uniform disdain expressed for the SRV ideologues and all the misery they've brought to the people of Southeast Asia. Nothing had quite prepared me though for the classical irony of taking such a recent conversation further to include details of the specific units I served with during two contiguous tours. There was an awkward moment of silence and odd delayed response when I curiously asked where the server had served, e.g., "*Đơn vị của bạn là gì?*" (What was your unit?). To which I was astonished to discover that we were being served by a former VC!! Well...I surely found myself immediately stunned but took it in stride without regurgitating any *nước mắm*. And fortunately, I wasn't instantaneously overcome by a flashback that would compel me to lunge across the table at him or make a big scene. Nah...not me. The fellow had actually been conscripted, and, had nothing but utter contempt for the SRV. We ended up laughing at the irony of it all, and I left him a good tip...lightheartedly asking if he accepted *Piastres*.

At the April 2022 reunion in San Diego, there was a great exchange during the Saturday business meeting about the content of the association website. It was fantastic to have our webmaster, Jim Alkek, on hand to walk us through the successes and challenges he has experienced in managing, updating, and continuously refining this precious resource for Counterparts. We all owe a debt of enormous gratitude to Jim for his stellar efforts to provide such a coherent and easily navigable web presence over the course of several decades. He has recently incorporated important informational resources in a well-organized comprehensible format for the Members-in-Memorial section from compilations of names amalgamated by member/officer Mike McMunn. I invite all members to please review and provide direct feedback to Jim, Mike and me for any other upgrades or refinements that you would like to suggest.

My best wishes to you and yours for a blessed Christmas and a great New Year.

.....Grant McClure, CO

SUMMARY

COUNTERPARTS/THDNA REUNION May 3-6, 2023

The Rushmore Hotel & Suites 445 Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City, SD 57701
605.348.8300

Hotel provides free airport shuttle & free parking

Standard rooms (2 dbl, Queen or King) \$69.00/night, Deluxe rooms upgrade \$79/\$89.00/night. Under "COUNTERPARTS Reunion"

In order to receive these deeply discounted room rates, reservations MUST be made NLT 4/7/2023

Hotel info: Located in Rapid City's vibrant historic downtown district, just steps away from shopping, entertainment options, the city of Presidents walk, & events at the Main Street Square or Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. Explore art galleries & museums, fashionable boutiques & an array of eateries. You'll find great entertainment, from music to live performances.

We've struck an elegant balance between Earth-friendly & Big City Chic with our sustainable efforts & newly renovated spaces. New eco-luxury bedding, free high-speed Wi-Fi, & a 40-inch flat-screen TV are included in every room. Free airport shuttle service is available to & from the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Guests enjoy our new fitness center or venture to nearby city parks, bicycle paths, golfing & hiking for outdoor activities. An electric car charging station & bicycle rentals are available on site. Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a 30-minute drive from the hotel.

New American cuisine is served for lunch and dinner each day at the onsite **Enigma** Restaurant or **Privé**. Soft lighting, cozy tables, and an atmosphere that is relaxing, fun and a new dining destination on Main Street at the Privé. Breakfast and room service are also available. The 445 Lounge features live music on the weekends as well as dinner.

The Hospitality Room will be staffed by a host couple as follows: Wednesday – 1200 to 2200, Thursday – 0900 to 2200, & Friday 0900 to 2200.

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Fee: \$195.00: Includes access to Hospitality Room & refreshments, banquet dinner, bus trip to Mt. Rushmore & lunch.

Registration must be received NLT April 17, 2023

\$70: Spouse/Guest for banquet dinner only.

\$45: Optional bus tour on Wednesday

\$45 x ___ per = _____

\$195 x ___ per = _____

\$70: x ___ per = _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Member Name: _____

MACV Team # _____

Spouse Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Email: _____

Please complete and send to Steve King, 1203 Cedar Creek Ct., Gillette, WY 82718. Make checks payable to COUNTERPARTS and mail to Steve King 1203 Cedar Creek Ct. Gillette, WY 82718

Jim Alkek Completes Major Revamp of Our *Members in Memoriam* pages.

Jim Alkek, a Founding Member of COUNTERPARTS, created and has maintained our Website for over thirty years, often at his own expense. At various times he has also served as Adjutant, XO, Treasurer and Membership Chair. The work described below is part of the extensive update and improvement to our website and is yet another milestone in Jim's impressive undertaking. We all owe him our thanks.

...The Editors

From: Jim Alkek
To: All COUNTERPARTS Members

Here are a few comments and statistics related to the new Members-in Memoriam webpage:

The Members-in-Memoriam (MIM) webpage has been changed to include all Advisor KIA's as listed by <https://virtualwall.org> . A link to each individual's Vietnam Memorial Wall listing which includes any photos, honors, Remembrances, and Military Profile has also been added.

The MIM webpage is now searchable by one or more variables such as name, unit, date, etc. In addition, the webpage is also sortable by some of the same variables to make finding and compiling information quicker.

The MIM webpage contains 292 MIM records of US military personnel who died after the war and unfortunately, we only have limited information or no information. A lot of these fellows were Counterparts members at one time. Please take a look and see if you recognize any of the names and let me know if you can provide any additional information.

In addition, there are 276 MIM records of non-US personnel, mostly Vietnamese, who Counterparts members requested be included. We have extremely limited information on the MIM Honorees so any help to add any information would be gratefully appreciated.

Finally, I have added some totals so you can get an idea of the Advisory personnel lost by various countries, units and teams.

I had to limit the number of Advisory Teams and SF Detachments but assure you that I review all the data and can give you the total for your unit if it not included herein. I will soon attach a live summary to the MIM webpage that will update all units each time you enter a MIM search.

Please let me know what you like and don't like about any of the webpages so I can make improvements as needed. Thanks, jimalkek@yahoo.com.

Some Facts about Our Database

There are 3,010 MIM records in the database. This includes KIA and Post War Deaths (mostly Counterparts members). Currently listed there are 2,671 US, 38 AUS, 1 NZL, 287 RVN, Thai, Laotian, or Cambodian Counterparts, and 13 Unidentified by Country MIM records.

The total US MIM by Branch of Service is currently 2,072 USA, 45 USAF, 477 USMC, 62 USN, and 15 Government Agency Employees or Civilians.

The total US MIM by Advisory Group is currently:

MAAGV - 96 (Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia)
MACV Ads - 999
Sp Forces - 701 (1st, 5th & 10th Groups)
USAF - 19 (AFAT & Misc)
USMC CAP - 440 (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th CAG)
US NAG - 39

The MACV Advisory Teams with casualties in excess of 20 are currently:

Team 70 - 51
Team 88 - 32
Team 75 - 30
Team 1 - 28
Team 87 - 24
Team 3 - 23
Team 21 - 22
Team 60 - 22
Team 99 - 21

The Special Forces Team casualties as listed currently are :

MACV-SOG - 259
Detachments - 410

The Special forces Detachments with casualties currently listed in excess of 9 are:

Det B-52 - 29
Det B-20 - 23
Det B-36 - 14
Det A-411 - 13
Det B-36 - 13
Det A-101 - 11
Det A-302 - 10

BOOK REVIEWS

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

In The Mouth of the Dragon; John B. Haseman., McFarland Inc., 2022. Book Review by Bob Worthington

For a book to hold my interest it must accomplish two things: it must be well written, and it must tell a compelling story. Author John B. Haseman has succeeded in both instances. This book describes his 18 months as a district level advisor in separate assignments in the delta region of South Vietnam from mid-1971 to the end of the war in early 1973.

I had a personal interest in John's story. In late 1968, I was also a district advisor. At that time, the concept of "Vietnamization" was beginning. This strategy was to remove American fighting forces, increase the number of advisors, and turn the war over to the Vietnamese. I wanted to know how this strategy worked during the last years of the war.

Col. Haseman's book clearly depicts the frustrating challenges and obstacles he had to overcome as an advisor. As an example, in late 1968 my district advisor team consisted of a dozen American Army officers, NCOs, and civilian State Department advisors. Haseman's district advisor team, in late 1972, consisted of himself, an American NCO and an ARVN sergeant/interpreter. Yet he was expected to accomplish everything I did, almost by himself. Part of the Vietnamization plan was not to replace any advisor who departed Vietnam. More than once, Haseman was the last advisor to depart his district.

Throughout his book, he aptly defines his excellent working relationship with his Vietnamese counterparts. In the beginning of this advisor tour (previously he served as a military intelligence officer in the 9th Division), he explains his doubts as an advisor, his behavior in combat, and his ability to be of value to the Vietnamese people. John does very well in all areas. As an advisor he is respected, in combat he was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge and two Bronze Stars for meritorious service. Realizing how much he accomplished as an advisor he volunteered to be a Foreign Area Specialist, spending 18 of his 30 years in the Army in Southeast Asia.

MAT III Dong Xoai, Vietnam, 1971: Stories from "33 Quebec" Tour of Duty; Jim Roberts. Available from Barnes and Noble, hardcover, Kindle version from Amazon. Book Review by John Haseman.

Fellow *COUNTERPARTS* member Jim Roberts writes about his year on a five-man MAT Team, his year spent almost entirely as Deputy Commander of the Team. Co-located with an equally small district advisory team, he does a superb job of covering his team's work, cooperation with colleagues on the district team, and his respect for his RF/PF counterparts. He describes their work in his Forward in one of the best accounts I've seen of a small advisory team in a tough province: "The only heroics here were every day soldiers doing their every day jobs trying to accomplish the mission and protect the soldiers around them."

Jim gives us a series of short "stories," in more or less chronological order, published almost exactly 50 years after he lived those stories in Dong Xoai District, Phuoc Long Province, Advisory Team 67. I think every reader who served out in the districts of RVN will identify with something in just about every one of Jim's "stories." There is the isolation, the frustrations in getting support, the extremely dangerous change from good seniors at the province headquarters to "less than good" successors later on.

Jim writes with the prose of a guy who was there, in the mud, telling it like it is. I had a hard time putting down the book each time, after hours of reading. His descriptions of challenges, dangers, humor, and a few too many "oh shit" moments hit many chords of familiarity for me.

MAT 111 Dong Xoai is available on Amazon.com -- be sure to type in that much of the title. It is available in hardback, paperback, and Kindle versions. All proceeds from sales go to the Veterans Breakfast Club - a veterans outreach organization that works with veterans of all wars, past and recent, in western Pennsylvania. Your purchase will directly help other veterans.



End of year update from Vinh Son Orphanage

From The President's Christmas Letter:

We are delighted to announce that for the first time since the pandemic surfaced, FVSO has a team going to Kontum and Pleiku to visit the kids and the Nuns. Dave Chaix, Bart Ruud and Gene Mapa will be making the trip, our entire Auburn staff! That means we won't be able to pick up and process any mail until the end of January. Please be assured that the Post Office will hold our mail and that we will respond as we always have; however, it won't be until the end of January or early February before we can clear the inbox.

The numbers tell the story. Our donors have made November a month to remember, with a record amount of donations recorded in a single November (\$58,688). Support like this has helped us reach 76% of our annual Fundraiser goal of \$150,000. Since July, donor generosity has resulted in \$114,105 donations, leaving a balance of \$36,000 needed to reach our target by year's end.

We have not finalized our budget for 2023 yet. By all forecasts, it will be another year of challenges. Current travelers are reporting inflation rates in Kontum of 25-30% from their last visits in 2019. Financial support has been critical in helping the kids and the nuns become self-sufficient. What better way to fight inflation than to be able to manage your own farms, livestock and bakeries. As we develop our 2023 budget, the focus will be on basic needs as usual, but will also include self-sufficient projects when feasible. Your donations will be critical in the face of mounting costs.

Please help us complete another year of smile-generated life at Vinh Son and Sao Mai orphanages. On behalf of the kids, the nuns and the Board of FVSO thank you so much.

Patrick Leary, President FVSO

CONTACT US

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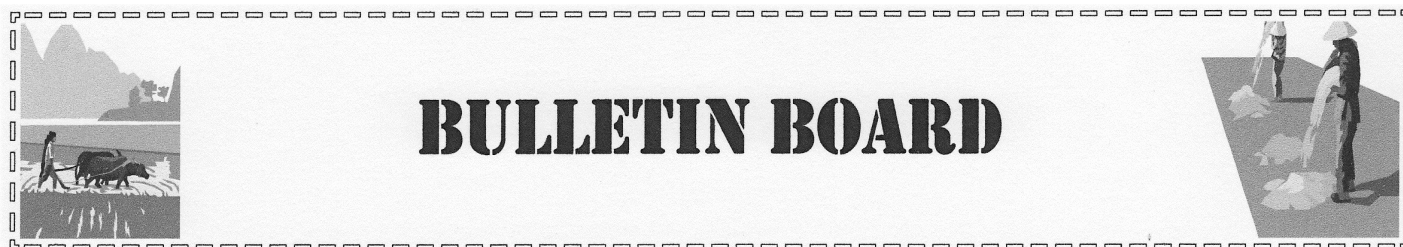
White T-shirts all sizes (M, L, and XL. \$12.00 for XXL)	\$10.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Patch (3x 4.75" Oval 7 Color Logogram)	\$6.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Decal (3x 4.75" Oval 7 Color Logogram)	\$2.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Lapel Pin (.75x 1.06" Oval, Bronze over Pewter)	\$12.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Challenge Coin (1.5" dia. solid bronze, Counterparts Logo one side Map of Southeast Asia other side)	\$10.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Baseball style Cap (direct embroidery logogram)	\$15.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Coffee Mug (Counterparts color logo)	\$11.00
COUNTERPARTS Knit Polo shirt with collar Black. (Embroidered Counterparts Logo, Medium, Large, 2XL)	\$20.00
MACV Shoulder Patch (full color mfg. 1968)	\$3.00
COUNTERPARTS/THDNA Jacket, black, Logo. (Large only)	\$35.00

Shipping and handling fee is \$6.00

Please send prepaid orders (including Shipping & Handling Fee) with US bank check or US money order payable to:

**Mike McMunn
Counterparts Quartermaster
2310 Newberry St, Williamsport, PA 17701 USA**

**For information, call 570-220-8156.
covan2@verizon.net**



DUES NOTICE

Counterparts annual dues for 2023 become payable on 1 January 2023. Dues are still \$35.00 per year. Please make your check out to "Counterparts" and mail to Membership Officer **John Haseman, 555 West Saddle Drive, Grand Junction CO 81507**. Your dues fund all of the programs through which Counterparts makes contributions to support our former counterparts in Southeast Asia. If you have questions about your dues status, email: jhaseman@earthlink.net.

New Members

Please welcome these new members to Counterparts. Several are planning to come to our Rapid City reunion.

James Carmona served as Deputy District Senior Advisor, Chau Thanh District, Binh Duong Province, Advisory Team 91, from September 1965 to August 1966. James lives in Bellevue, Nebraska.

James Roberts served as Deputy Chief and Team Chief, MAT Team 111, Dong Xoai Village, Don Luan District, Phuoc Long Province Advisory Team 76, from April to December 1971. Jim is author of the book "MAT 111 Dong Xoai, Vietnam, 1971," an excellent account of the mostly boring, sometimes exciting, always interesting days on a small MAT Team. The book is available on amazon.com. Jim lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Brian Walrath served Team Chief, MAT Team I-24 and later as Assistant S-3 Advisor in Tam Ky, Quang Tin Province, Advisory Team 16, from July 1970 to May 1971. Brian lives in Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

James Wyatt served as Team Chief, MAT Team 10 and MAT Team 12, Phong Dinh Province, Advisory Team 56, from April 1969 to March 1970. Jim lives in Lansing, Kansas.

Paul D. Mather, LtCol USAF-Retired, served as Province PSYOPS Advisor, Advisory Team 47, Binh Long Province, from January to December 1970. For many years Paul has been one of the most influential and most active leaders on the POW/MIA issue, filling posts in Southeast Asia as well as high up in the Pentagon both in uniform and as a senior civil servant. Paul lives in Fort Washington, Maryland..



BULLETIN BOARD

Second Groundbreaking for Tri An Vietnam Memorial in Louisville, KY.

COUNTERPARTS members who attended the 2017 Reunion in Louisville will remember the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Tri An monument in Veterans Memorial Park in Jeffersontown, Ky. COUNTERPARTS members participated in the ceremony and both COUNTERPARTS and a number of individual members contributed to the fund to build the Memorial. Unfortunately, the Pandemic put a halt to progress, and post-Pandemic material shortages caused further delays. Tri An Foundation organizers never gave up however, and recently a second Groundbreaking was completed and work has begun.

...From The Louisville Courier Journal.

Jerry Hubbs was among the many veterans on a cold Thursday afternoon ready to witness a historic groundbreaking in Louisville. Hubbs, 81, was in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War but this week, he was in Louisville to watch as the Tri An Foundation, a local group that pushes to honor American and Vietnamese veterans of the Vietnam War, take a key step toward building a new monument. Veterans and members of the Vietnamese community gathered at the Jeffersontown Veterans Memorial Park for an early look at a monument that will serve as a thank you to Hubbs and all the other soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War. Work on the installment is expected to be done by summer of next year, according to Tim Mulloy, a Tri An Foundation member.

The idea was originated by Yung Nguyen, an immigrant from Vietnam, who told Jeffersontown Mayor Bill Dieurf more than nine years ago that he wanted to thank the people that fought for their freedom. Dieruf recalled Nguyen said “we have a vision of thanking the men and women that fought for our freedom in our country.”

The project was halted during in 2021 when Vietnam was put under lockdown after COVID-19 cases rose, which caused granite production to stop. Construction is now set to begin Monday though, Mulloy said, using 600,000 pounds (270 tons) of granite that’s been imported from Vietnam.

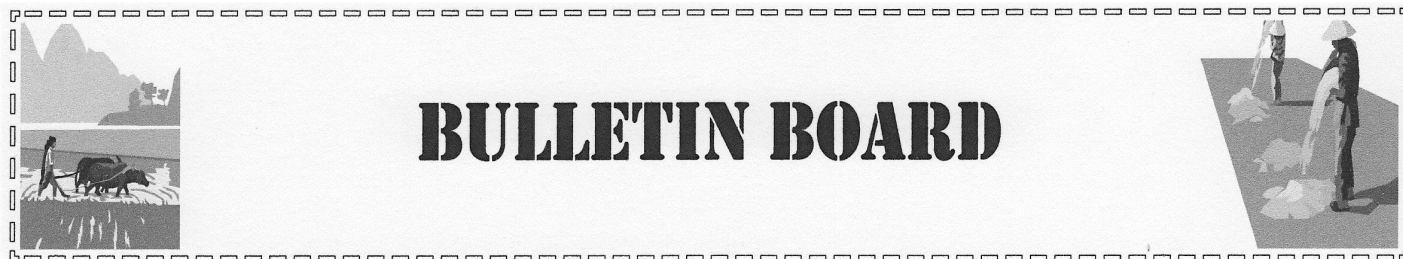
The monument will be funded solely through donations. The nonprofit has already raised \$1.8 million, according to its website, but the group hopes to raise a total of \$2.2 million.

Slovenian architect Grega Vezjak is behind the monument’s design, which the foundation said was chosen from a competition that included 128 entries from 29 counties. The criteria used to choose the winner was a “monument that is meaningful, unique, dramatic, and timeless to commemorate those who had fought and sacrificed during the Vietnam War,” the website said.

When it’s finished, the installment will be an immersive experience where visitors can walk along a pathway made up of the granite floors and pictures from the war. On the walls there will be QR codes that show soldiers’ stories when scanned. It will also have eight pillars, representing the eight countries that allied to fight communism, including South Vietnam.

“We left a piece of ourselves in Vietnam when we came back. But we brought back a piece of Vietnam with us. And it’s with us still every day in a very positive way. Because when you go to war for your country, you become an equity owner in your country. And you start to think and act and feel like an equity owner in America. That’s what we got all of us by serving in Vietnam,” Davidson said.

For more information go to: <https://tri-an.org/monument/>



BULLETIN BOARD

Cambodia Corps Update Winter 2023

Greetings one and all, we hope everyone is safe and healthy. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Rapid City this spring. CCI had a very pleasant surprise this fall. Two of our university students were chosen to participate in and speak at international forums. Both were chosen as representatives of the Montagnard Indigenous People. Rochom Munny was selected for the United Nations Fifth Peace Forum in Paris, France and Romam Leap for the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform in Thailand. Both are very active in volunteer work and participate in community improvement programs. It was through their training in workshops and development programs that earned them recognition and the invitation to represent their people on the international stage. We are proud to support their education. Through role models such as these two young ladies we hope their example will inspire more impoverished but capable kids to seek an education which will help their people.

We say the words "we are small but effective" and that we are training "force multipliers" and it is true. Since member, and our founder, Tommy Daniels, began working with homeless and disadvantaged Montagnard kids back in '99, we have steadily sought out and recruited those who want to make a difference for their community, for their people. Those recruits are now producing. They are making a difference. From native speaking teachers reaching 30 kids a day to our multilingual graduates assisting NGOs making them more effective in their programs to help the locals cope with the rapid changes facing them. Several are now in government positions at the province, district and in communes. Two are doctors, others serve as nurses, midwives, native healers and in community health. We see it when we return to the highlands and visit our graduates. We see it in the pride they have in their work, how they ask that we thank their sponsors and supporters for their education. None of these achievements would have been possible without the support of Counterparts and many of the individual members. Together we are making a difference. With your help these young leaders are leading the way for the Montagnard to have an equal say in their future, in their government. Let us continue to support this successful program as a way to give back to the ones who were so loyal to us.

Book Analysis By Bill Laurie.

The following is an introduction to an extensive Review and Analysis of America's Longest War by George Herring McGraw-Hill, by COUNTERPARTS founding Member and Southeast Asia War Historian, Bill Laurie. Due to the length and detail of the Review we have included only a brief introduction. The Full review can be found on our website at www.counterparts.net

George Herring's America's Longest War is a popular and often cited book, used in many college classes over the past two decades. Herring himself is considered among the pantheon of Viet Nam experts. It receives high ratings from Amazon readers, receiving a top 5-star rating from 59% of reviewers, and 26% giving it a 4- star rating. A thorough examination yields a different judgment, showing the book to be an egregious example of how thoroughly American academia has been hypnotized by conventional wisdom which does not hold up under thorough examination. In sum, ALW is an excellent example of group-think herd mentality.

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