Counterparts

Post Office Box 40, Circleville, WV 26804

SITREP Fall, 1990(#9)

Greetings to all. This quarter's developments all positive as membership increases, treasury stays healthy, and with belated awareness that we've brought about the first reunion between old comrades-in-arms, AKA Dong Doi; another may soon come about. Details follow.

Exact March reunion date still to be determined. Sorry for delay, but want to get hard info/straight poop from Houston VN community. Contact has been established/info sent to representative of same. You'll know by next SitRep. Glacial rate of progress may be frustrating, yet nothing stops a glacier. OK, on to the good stuff.....

Letters (some excerpted for brevity's sake):

'... I was with Naval Medical Advisory Unit in VN, '68-'69, and am interested in the reunion advertised in 30 July Navy Times. ... I would be pleased to participate in any helpful manner, and look forward to this opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends.' -Bob Cunningham. (New member)

Ed. - Welcome on board Bob; thx for signing on.

'...whoever came up with our insignia of dragon, sword, pen quill and leaf did an outstanding job. The 8 x 11 copy goes on the wall of my war room.Would you please list me as 'Pappy' as this is the way everyone knows me. I never know who in the hell anyone one is talking to when they call me 'Dave', and it pisses me off to be called Mister. In Brotherhood, D.L. 'Pappy' Hicks.

Ed.-Glad to have you in the ranks Dav Pappy; thx for phone call last month. (Members have probably read some of many articles written by Pappy, who now has several books in the works. Also prayers/best wishes to Pappy's son Ty in recovery from auto accident.)

".. Enclosed is copy of my latest Osprey Book, VIET NAW AIRBORNE, for use in 1991 raffle. Thought it appropriate for Counterparts raffle since it covers ARVN Airborne, LLDB, and MIKE Forces. .. It and related books can be ordered from Lancer Militaria Catalog: P.O. Box 886/Mount Ida, Arkansas/21957(Ed.-probably fair to send \$1.00/postage). .. I hope to be able to attend 1991 reunion... I do like Counterparts Logo; very nice design. Gordon Rottman

Ed.-Thx for book donation Gordon; see you in Houston.
Members are advised that Gordon is in working
stages of another book on ARVN OB and unit
histories.

A Veteran's Association of Advisors in Southeast Asia

in VN, 6 months w/MAT 36, 12 months w/MAT 111. ... I do miss all the good days and bad times we had. The jobs we did are forgotten by all, even our leaders. I did my part and felt good about it.

-George Fatheree (new member)

Ed.-You speak for many deorge. Try to make Houston/191 and we'll all go over the good days/ba! days....

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'I have wondered why we never had our own association. At last! I served as advisor w/ARVN 5th Div, 3/9 and 1/9.... I'm very interested in '91 reunion....any information on local chapters?' Ed Warneld.

Ed.-'At last' heard frequently Ed, you're among neople cut from same cloth. No local chapters yet though members should feel free to link up. Please advise Paul, or clerk-typist, of efforts. See you in Houston.

'Ey counterpart, MSG Tran Van Tan, and I are looking forward to reunion, and may also bring others along. If any members have a layover at Dallas-Fort Worth airport, and time to kill, my phone #: 574-8590.

George Davidson(new member).

Ed.-Thx for spreading word to others George, and offer to chew fat w/members at DFW.

Last letter deals with first ever reuniting brought about via CVM-V/DNA:

Paul, ..quick note to let you know how much I appreciated your sending information about Keith Payne's search for (Keith was member of Australian Training Team)me ...Without it I doubt that Keith and I would have met again after 21 years. He visited us here for a week and we had some lenghty discussions about time shared in Viet Nam. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.' Jerry Dellwo.

Ed.-This all came about before locator system was in place. Keith Payne placed ad in SF Assn. publication, spotted by Paul Brubaker, who knew Jerry was GVM-V/DNA member. Letter was sent to Jerry and that's all it took. The first of such 'meet-agains' Counterparts hopes to bring about.

More letters came in, but not enough space for all. Your voice is heard, even if not printed here. Keep 'em coming.

Other matters....:

LOCATOR: Info here sent to J.C. Fischer, our locator. Please act as his eyes/ears. Address located for Al Cornett(SF). If Al can be contacted it will permit meet-again between Nguyen Van Chinh(37th Rgr.), and Le Xuan Phong, who spent upwards of nine years together in a NVN concentration camp. We will also probably pick up new members when Al is found. In addition, have some leads on three SFers sought by LTC Nguyen Van Lan... stay tuned.

David Kacannon(address on file) looking for anyone who was at ARVN OP west of Tam Ky(Nui Yon OP) or anyone who knew Paul O. Applegate, KIA. this loc. 1/19/71. And: Robert J. Smith/N. Hollywood Cal., anyone else connected w/these people, this OP. Info filed, search begins....

Ngoc Truong, writing from Hong Kong refugee warehouse, sent letter to 'Amvets' magazine, looking for SMG Hodge H. Hodge(as written) and

CWO Daniel Sharp, both SF, Da Nang area. Info forwarded to IC., letter sent to Ngoc Truong advising of search effort, asking if there is anything CVM-V/DNA can do for former Counterpart. Will keep you posted on any developments. Once again, J.C. can use your help as eyes/ears, and as spokesmen getting word out. Keep his address on hand: 100 Red Oak Circle/Temple, Texas/76502-3503

Operation QUIET RETURN: New member Dave Keen(MAAG '62-'64) sent flyer describing aims and objectives of 'Quiet Return', an organization of VN Vets dedicated to providing humanitarian and medical aid to civilian VN's pivilian war victims, as well as former counterparts who have health problems brought about by years in prison camps. First issue of 'Quiet Return' newsletter available from: Quiet Return Inc./P.O. Box 1931/Stuart, Florida/34995. QR hopes to set up medical clinics, start medical training programs, and address deficiencies in pediatrics and area of prosthetic devices. QR was granted a license from US Treasury Dept. and delivered \$20,000.00 of antibiotics to a Saigon children's hospital in March 1990. QR's present needs are computer equipment, desktop publishing software, assignable frequent flyer coupons good for Bangkok or Singapore. Donations of any amount accepted; \$25.00 donation gets you newsletter subscription. CVM-V/DNA position is for members to reach own decision at this time, pending majority vote on issue of formally supporting QR as an affiliate association. We are, aside from Human Rights issues, non-political, yet there is no course of action which would not be seen as political by some. Two main schools of thought exist. One, represented by QR, among others, holds that people-to-people contact and assistance is best means of healing all wounds, and making the world a better place. Opposing school of thought holds that Hanoi govt. remains oppressive, continues war/aggression in Laos/Cambodia, and will derive more benefit from such programs, in an indirect manner, than the people who are to be helped. Members are aware of our publicizing, if not implicitly endorsing, the Highlands Assistance Frogram, which appears similar in all respects to Quiet Return. Some agree, some don't. We are all big boys now. We'll let the chips fall where they may in the crucible of debate and discussion, conducted in a mature manner. Each member is encouraged to think through such issues, and follow dictates of individual conscience. Write Dave for more info on QR.

'Cousin/Neighbor' Association: VN Magazine ad generated response from Tom Harvey, editor of CUVA Newsletter (Combined Action Platoon Unit Veterans Assn.). CAPs, as many know, were essentially one squad of USMC EMs, living in a hamlet and operating/living with 3 VN PF squads, on a continual basis. Tom's letter did not propose any specific parallel affiliation but it is well within reason to begin exchanging newsletters. Several of our individual members were CAPs. Tom added that CAP members were not considered CO Vans in an official sense, yet CVM-V/DNA accords full membership to former CAP members by virtue of their mission and experience, in all significant respects directly equivalent to 'formal' advisor positions. 'CAP News' is a good quarterly newsletter, having info on books, current developments, and historical snippets from VN. Oct 90 edition has excerpts from 'TOC' log, which reveals CAP elements were ambushers more often than 'ambushees' (at least from this sample page). Also has list of civic action projects completed-dispensary construction, well repair, bridge repair, concrete steps built on river bank, etc.

(CAP, cont.)... Also, interesting statistical profile which flies in the face of movie/TV depictions of VN: CAP duty was hazardous, and in mid-'67 a CAP Marine had 75-80% of being wounded once, 25% chance of WIA twice, and 16-18% chance of being killed. And quoting from book excerpt in CAP News(THE COMBINED ACTION PLATOONS, Michael E. Peterson, Praeger Press): 'Nevertheless, morale was high...I know of no other combat unit that could claim at any time that 60% of its members extended their tours six months or more beyond the normal year's duty.' Other cap literature, mentioned previously in SitRep: THE VILLAGE, Francis West; THE BETRAYAL, William Corson; FIELD OF INNOCENCE, Jack Estes. Alsö see favorable mention of CAPs in Guenter Lewy's AMERICA IN VIET NAM(Oxford Press, out of print). Associate membership in CUVA is \$10.00, sent to: CUVA, c/o Russell Longaway/580 California St., 16th Floor/Sap Francisco, Cal./94104-1037. CVM-V/DNA and CUVA will patch into each other's 'net'; we'll see what happens. Hats off and a hoisted glass of Nuoc Mat Que Hudong to CAPs for job they did.

CO VAN BIBLIOGRAPHY: Frank Brown (USN, two tours) has volunteered to begin compiling an advisor bibliography. He's previously prepared a POW/MIA bibliography, a VN fiction biblio, written numerous articles on VN and Asia, and is well qualified for this job. Frank can use citations on books/articles(photocopies of latter helpful). This will take some time as Frank is still on active duty and spare time is limited. Send info to Frank: 18 Reed Avenue/Hamilton Township, New Jersey/08610, and slip in \$4.50 for his advisor diary, a recent publication well worth the read. While you're at it, fire off any POW/MIA literature citations(photocopies of articles better than a citation) of books as POW/MIA biblio is being updated. Thanks for volunteering Frank, and a hoisted glass of Rudu Ong Gia.

OTHER ADVISOR LIT: Last two editions, of five, of SF Magazine reprintare now available. As described last SitRep, total set is five volumes, containing exact well-reproduced bound, full size reprints of Gieen Beret Magazine, published in-country. \$25.00, \$2.00 p/h per volume, or \$125.00, free postage, entire set., w/box slip.cover. Excellent effort to preserve history which might otherwise be lost forever. Mug a dope pusher, grab his cash, and get these. RADIX Associates/234 Cheshire Lane/Houston, Texas/77018.

AND...SFECIAL FORCES OF US ARMY, 1952-1982. 736 pp., 1300 plus photos of people/places/wpns/insignia. Have not seen copies but those who have may it is very good, a comprehensive history with wealth of info and details. Author: LTC Ian D.W. Sutherland(Ret.). Available from: R. James Bender Publishing/P.O. Box 23456/San Jose, California/95153. Phone orders(Visa/M-charge): 408 225-5777. \$44.95, \$3.00 domestic p/h, \$5.50 foreign.

PUBLICITY: Ads have been run in VN Magazine, Military, etc., and brief write-ups printed by Chute & Dagger (Airborne Insignia Collectors) and VN Insignia Collector's bi-monthly. Steady flow of respondents and new members; will try to have tally next month. Jim Vincent (USN) placed some ads, and Pat Sherman (USA, SF) ran an ad in 'Military'. Thx guys, good initiative, good job. Also, we are now 'wired' into 'net' of VN Vet assns.; Paul routinely received flyers, newsletters, etc. Some useful/retained, some not/trashed. Word is getting out, and will spread as more members pass the word.

PRODUCTS: As a result of PR, we've received flyers from numerous suppliers of this/that. File being maintained and we'll be ready to spring if members want coffee cups w/logo(approx. #10.00), enamel lapel pins(#3.00-#4.00), etc. Bumper stickers anyone?

(Products, cont.).. Intent is not to make any arrangements until it apparent that members want any such items; prices set only to cover cost/overhead, mebbe w/micro profit for assn.

AMERASIANS: Here's latest poop from Pearl Buck Association publication. They do good things in a sometimes bad world. Donations encouraged.

Pearl Buck Assn. Green Hills Farm P.O. Box 181 Orphans Helped PSBF will assist Victorianiese orphans Perkasie, PA in Vietnam 18944-0181

Fifteen years after being forced to stop humanitarian work in Vietnam, The Pearl S. Buck Foundation has signed the first of several agreements to initiate new programs in this wartorn country.

International program director signed an agreement with the Hanot Department of Labor, Disabled Soldiers and Social Services to bertinsponsoring children in three Hanot orphanages.

With the help of caring Americans, physically and emotionally handlcapped.

We will match 50 orphans in each

of the following institutions with American sponsors: The Birla Children's Home, Nguyen Vict Xuan Orphanage, and Tay Dang Center for Social Care. A sponsor's monthly contribution of \$24 will provide On June 22, 1990 the Foundation's supplemental food, medical care, and educational supplies.

To a Victnamese orphan, sponsorship means a full day's worth of food.

According to the Victnamese government, a child needs 1,000 calories of food per day. Right now. each child in these institutions receives about 550.

Breakfast is a slice of bread that must carry the child through four hours of morning classes.

POW/MIAs: (This from a reliable source)-Robt. Kimmit, Under Sec. of Political Affairs, US State Dept., is reported to have said during recent testimony before Rep. Stephen Solarz' House Sub-Committee on SE Asian Affairs, that resolution of POW/MIA matters would not(repeat, not) be a precondition for setting up an 'Interest Office in Hanoi. This may be a subtle policy shift which could be inimical to resolution of FOW/MIA issue. Further, the US Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong Office, apparently was given the go-ahead, several months ago, to set up a liason branch office in Hanoi, and then backed off in face of pressure from POW/MIA groups who feel Hanoi should move before we do, and that do do otherwise is to risk involving POW/MIA matters in diplomatic bargaining. The National League of Families 24 Sept 90 'Citizen Update' cites some progress in POW/MIA matters, but warns 'Hanoi's obligations regarding Cambodian settlement and fullest possible accounting for (American POW/MIAs) must not be ignored in favor of commercial endeavors. CVM-V/DNA acknowledges opposing schools of thought on this subject and wants to alert members to a possible policy mini-shift, asking they follow their intellect and conscience. US Chamber of Commerce No: 1615 M. St., NW/Washington, D.C./20062(US Chamber is private sector, not government). Above info has been relayed to National Viet Nam Veterans Coalition, of which we are a member.

CAMBODIAN COUNTERPARTS: We have no contact, as yet, with any Cambodian Counterparts and no one has any clear idea how many survived the Pol Pot era, but keeping them in mind, and the entire issue of Human Rights in Cambodia, members would be well advised to obtain copy of 40 pp. monograph, PRACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA, Exploring from Within, by Kassie Neou w/Al Santoli. K. Neou is survivor of Khmer Rouge era. a Human Rights activist, and recently returned from a Cambodian trip with grim observations of de-facto Hanoi control, publicized 'troop withdrawals' notwithstanding. Counterparts, once again, is apolitical, and neither advocates nor disparages this/that policy, insofar as such policies do not repress Human Rights of Members or eligible members, as may be the case here. Information in this monograph is far more detailed than is found in our 'Weekly Reader' newspapers. Be informed. Follow your honest instincts. Available from Freedom House/48 E. 21st St./MY, NY/10010, for \$5.00, \$1.50 p/h.

VN Counterparts Human Rights: -repeat message here- Aurora Foundation Study(available for \$10.00, 160 pp) indicates situation is dismal. Order this study: 177 Toyon Road/Atherton, California/94027.

LAOTIAN COUNTERPARTS: In-country situation not well here either. Recent study by House Republican Research Committee/Task Force on Terrorism & Unconventional Warfare paints a dismal picture of situation here, w/Hanoi 'encadred' core units keeping iron fist in control(separate report covers Cambodia, with findings similar to those of Kassie Neou, cited above), quite contrary to some press reports of a new, happy Laos. If interested, request these reports from Committee cited above, US House of Representatives/ 1622 Longworth Building/Washington, D.C./ 20515.

None of above is submitted to rekindle, or defuse, sentiments many members have carried for some time. Our objectives are well-being of members, active and eligible, and their being accorded basic Human Rights. Bulk of all evidence indicates this is not the case. We may be perceived as a 'political' group with policy agendas and so forth, yet this runs counter to our demand for utmost historical integrity, no matter whose ox is gored, and for simple Human Rights accorded to former Comrades, if we are to avoid mention of any of the above for whatever reason. Counterparts does not advocate any specific policy approach to future dealings with Hanoi, but we will demand that all verifiable factual information be on the table for discussion. Members are encouraged to do as they see fit, and to accept and tolerate opinions, at variance with their own, as to how our objectives may be obtained. If others consider historical accuracy and Human Rights to be political, so be it.

.. and on the subject of <u>Historical Accuracy</u>: Stay abreast of what your children(grandchildren?), nephews, neighbor children are being 'taught' on VN. There is some specious material being pawned as ultimate VN truth. Some pre-packaged 'VN Curriculums' are being agressively marketed, and many of these will not hold up under rigorous intellectual challange and inquiry. We are NOT talking opinions and subjective interpretations, but rather the full range of knowable, verifiable hard history, much of which is excluded from the 'curriculums' now in vogue. Example-none of these sources mention the late SVN's land reform program, which expropriated large land holdings from landlords, and provided 800,000 formerly landless peasant families with 2,500,000 acres of farmland, free. Au contraire, it is suggested that the 'other guys' were land reformers. They were not, yet posed as such and told peasants what they wanted to hear. Many of these sources make no mention of the 200,000 Hoi Chanhs, roughly equivalent to force structure of 20-22 divisions, and fact that many Hoi Chanh Viens, knowing all the tricks, were highly motivated combatants who felt the 'other guys' had prostituted and manipulated nationalist sentiments for their own ulterior motive. It's called bait and switch. There is seldom, if ever, any mention or suggestion that some Americans, some VN, some Montagnard, etc. counterparts got along famously, and did very, very well. In fact, you are hard pressed to find any significant mention of Advisors, mil. and civ., CAPs, MEDCAPs, and so on. My Lai is always mentioned, as it should It is often implied to characterize all of VN, as was not the Your clerk typist asked a high school class how many had heard of My Lai. All had. Next question: ever heard of Dak Son? None had, and were thence informed that it was a Montagnard village whose inhabitants were literally incinerated by NVA flamethrowers

(.. Accuracy, cont.) Many students believe all of VN was crawling with adversaries all the time and that everybody hated all Americans and SVN troops/counterparts. Coastal lowlands in 1965, perhaps close to it; Go Cong or An Giang or Sa Dec in 1971 and afterwards, far from it, and quite to the contrary. The 514th LF Bn. which kicked butt at Ap Bac in Jan '63? In '72 they could only survive behind protective shield of three NVA-manned regiments, nine-plus times 514th force structure. 1956 elections to reunify the country, supposedly scuttled by US and Ngo Dinh Diem (Mr. Diem scuttled them on his own, informed US of decision)? No mention of fact that US and SVN delegates at 1954 Geneva treaty talks proposed nation-wide, <u>UN supervised</u>, open, free elections. rejected outright by opposing side. Try to find any mention of that in Karnow's book, packaged curriculums, etc. You will not. It goes on and on and on. So, check around with teachers, students, and find out what is being taught; do not be hesitant to ask for equal time if you see fit. Counterparts/CVM-V/DNA will accept nothing less than hard honesty and historical integrity; all truths of VN/SE Asia/US role are acknowledged, good or bad. Yes, corruption was abundant, yet it was not typically the advisor's fault, it worked to his detriment, and impeded development of counterparts and their units. Some of our members were fortunate enough to have been in right time/place and encountered none of this rot; others were placing life at risk in opposing corruption. Know your material, read, and speak out when nonsense rears its stupid head.

Clerk-typist admits to veering near very edge of 'political' matters, and going off to limits of editorial license. No attempt to deny that implicit message in some statements have 'political suggestion', yet nothing stated and/or suggested departs from Counterparts objectives of historical balance/objectivity/honesty and concern for well-being of members. Members taking issue with any of above will get equivalent space to present another view. Fair play and all that stuff. End sermon.

MATIONAL VIET NAM VETERANS COALITION: an 'umbrella' organization of VN Vet associations, of which CVM-V/DNA is a member. Bob Cunning-ham will represent CVM-V/DNA at NVNVC meeting in October. We do not have space to reprint copies of NVNVC bi-monthly newsletter, but will try to provide summary of NVNVC pursuits in coming SitReps; they, and thus we, are actively involved in efforts to resolve matters of Agent Orange, POW/MIAS, VA policies, etc., and proposed legislation addressing such concerns.

EXPULSION: Sooner or later.... A applicant member has been expelled, with all monies refunded, for repeatedly failing to provide documentation, submitting contradictory description of rank/credentials, and for refusing to permit CVM-V/DNA interview with another individual who had previously been submitted as a reference. NO assertion is made that applicant member is posing as VN Vet, however failure to provide anything except questionable documentation, and/or reliable references precludes Counterparts acceptance of membership.

BY-LAWS: By-Laws have been cleaned up, obtuse language simplified, in preparation for submission to members and affirmative vote in Houston(or by mail vote for those not in attendance). There are no substantive changes from draft prepared two years ago.

IT'S-THE-LEAST-WE-CAN-DO-DEPT.: A translucent, polished cut cross-section of Lake Superior Agate was sent to Miriam Brubaker as token of appreciation for her sterling efforts in designing our very-well-received patch/logo. As yee give, so shall yee receive.....Many thanks Miriam.

SERVICEMEN/WOMEN IN MIDDLE EAST: Once upon a time servicemen/women on other side of the world received little support for what they were doing. Today, on another side of the world, their successors might enjoy receiving a letter of support/God(or Buddha)-speed and protect, stay well, etc.:

Army/AF/Marines Navy/ship-borne Marines
Any Serviceperson
Opn. Dear Abby/Desert Shield
APO New York 09848-0006 (All same ex.:
09866-0006).

Only takes a few minutes, and it's the right thing to do.

DEGA: Mike Little, Dega Association Liason has not received any response from Kay Reibold regarding latest developments in medical aid shipments to Degas still in VN, or status of Kay's documentary of an earlier visit. Mike has been in contact with Chuck and Sherry Thomas of ADF, an independent Dega support group(F.O. Box 56895/Orlando, Florida/32856-8795), who reported the Degas were to have had a cultural festival in late September, and that efforts are underway to arrange passage of family members still in VN. Mike also received word from former SF advisor to Hre people(northern I Corps), asking if Highland Assistance Project intended on expanding operations beyond present Central VN location, dealing with Bahnar, Rhade, etc. Biggest stumbling block at present is Hanoi travel restrictions and paperwork.

LAST MINUTE REUNION NEWS: Contact w/VN community in Houston results in suggestion that Houston Reunion/1991 be held two-three weeks after Tet(16-17 Feb, 1991). Reason: Houston VN community expends great deal of time/effort in Tet festivities and would spread themselves too thinly for appropriate participation/involvement in both Reunion and Tet. Decision made/suggestion given on basis of three-four day reunion. Additional phone calls being made to ascertain exact date. Will be mid-March, plus/minus a week.

OFFICERS: Most pressing need is for reunion coordinator. Heed call of conscience pangs. Preference is someone in Houston area, but with probable assistance from VN community contact(committee being formed there now), and other members in area, wonders can be worked via mail/telephone. Also wrack brain for CO nomination.

FINAL PAGE: To be used as master for photocopying/distribution. Win a knife!! Recruit members! Copy 'em, use 'em

Signing off for this quarter. Thx to all for efforts/patience; maintain present course, speed of march.

Van an cho buu quyen

Bill Laurie/clerk typist

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

***** Cut ***** Cut **** Cut ***** Cut ***** Cut ***** Official Counterparts Raffle Ticket

value \$5

Drawing to held at COUNTERPARTS Convention during Tet 1991 in Houston Texas. Prize is a new Ek "S/F-5" Bowie Knife. Need not be a member to win.

Address:.... Send completed raffle ticket, together with five-dollars for each entry, to: Adjutant. Counternante D.A. Boy An Constanting in account