



THE “AZ-LZ”

Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona State Council—Phoenix, Arizona

May-August 2017

50th Commemorative Events

Vietnam Veterans of America in Arizona has performed a marvelous job with their 50th Commemoration Events for the Veterans within our state. As of this issue, six events have been put on and at least two more are on the way. The Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs headed up by Wanda Wright has been so gracious in providing funds for us to put on what I would call first class gatherings that hopefully will last life time for the men and women that attended them. Events such as these are suppose to be a sweet remembrance for all of us as they are all different with different things to recall, listen to, and gain some insight about and pass it on to the generations after us.

As we age, we'll want to be a part of more and more things in our life and the military service and our tours to the Far East, possibly Europe, North America and other locations in the world. And let's not forget Vietnam as that was a major place for all of us. We all did “DIFFERENT” things, and they were “ALL” important, no matter what it was, “EVERYONE SERVED”.

We all have families and better than 95% of us have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who need to know “something about Vietnam”. Write your autobiography, write a book, develop that video, record yourself. You have three generations to attend to, not to mention the myriad of friends who “*likely want to know something about your tour and Vietnam*”. As you know, it is a unique and interesting country and, well worth visiting again, while you still can. For the “50th Events”, please attend one, make the most of them, remember them, pass it on, remember VVA, remember Vietnam and remember your family. It will become very important one day least expected.

This issue covers most of the types of 50th events, the people who served, the types we can recognize, all of the service branches and a lot of the other information you may want to read, study and pass on to your family as well as possibly planning your next “50th Commemorative Event” within Arizona or elsewhere.



In This Issue

- The “50th” - 2011-2025
- Teaching About the 50th
- 50th Details on Vietnam
- Who to Honor
- Six Branches of Service
- Nurses—Wonderful Ladies
- Australia—An Ally
- The Units in Vietnam

This Is About YOU—The Vietnam Veteran

The Vietnam Veteran is quickly becoming a “LEGEND”. One that we do not want forgotten. We also chose not have the veterans of World War II and Korea and the Global War on Terror forgotten either, so that is why we write, write, write and write about all of these veterans and what they mean to us. And frankly, it is our responsibility to alert others in the later generations about all of the Veterans mentioned above.

For example, if we (America) had not won, World War II, can you imagine what the world would be like today? That is exactly why we honor the World War II military and women that fought for four long years and we came out to be a better nation for it. And then Korea blossomed and for three years from 1950 to 1953 was you might say an unwinnable war and to this date, it is still a stalemate of a situation and dangerous on top of that.

The Vietnam cause came about in the mid-1950's when France lost their last battle at Dinh Bin Phu in 1954 and the time seemed right to take over all of Indo-China, and the countries in the region (eventually). Well, we all know that Vietnam started up around 1959-1960 and for the next fifteen years, we made great strides and in the end won from a political point of view. Yes, Vietnam became a Communist state, runs itself as a Socialized nation and carries out everyday business as a Capitalistic country and the nations in the three corners of Vietnam are still as they were when the war started over fifty years ago. Communism did not win.

And, who is the cause for all of this happen? Well, in the minds of the U.S. military who in and around Vietnam, it is a good guess that they “The Vietnam Veteran” is. It is our job to HONOR that Vietnam Veteran as much as we can.

A later article in this issue of the “AZ-LZ” talks about only having so many years left to honor those men and women that put their lives on the line. Many gave up their lives and many have suffered since then and many have not gotten over the trauma of the war, but, it is still time, now and for the rest of this 50th Commemoration to “HONOR” them, year after year after year.

If you happen to be a Vietnam Veteran, take the time to attend one or more of these events as it is a real honor to do so and be honored and at the same time, invite someone you to be honored for maybe they have “NEVER” had a thank you from the American public or be awarded a pin or a coin or even had a meal paid for by their counterpart or someone they don't even know.

Read this issue carefully as there is A LOT of information in here about Vietnam. A lot of it you may not know and if you do know it, read it again and again and then pass it on to: your children, your grandchildren, your great-grandchildren; that is three generations to learn from you. Then, email it to someone you may think would enjoy reading it. Teach it in schools, they need to learn as well.

Bottom line, don't let these events go by you. Enjoy them, invite others, join Vietnam Veterans of America in your city and make the most of your time left as a Vietnam Veteran as you too, along with us are in the winter of your life and we all need to make the most of it as a proud Vietnam Veteran in the time we have left. Keep that chin up, keep that smile on your face, be that proud Vietnam Veteran that fought in a war over fifty years ago and can still talk about it. You'll be glad you did.

We Have Only Until 2025

For those of you that HAVE NOT been to a 50th Commemorative event of the Vietnam War. You are missing out and should make it a practice to go to everyone you can. They are ALL different, well RECEIVED, done WELL and a BLESSING to be at.

We can NEVER complain when DOD goes out of their way for a fifteen (15) period to HONOR, RECOGNIZE and REWARD as many Vietnam Veterans as they can in their later years. While you still have breath in you, find out thru Vietnam Veterans of America which ones are still going on, about to be put one, even if it is in the future and attend one of them.

One that comes to mind is the Arizona Military Museum Dinner held every October and it is usually attended by 400 people and many of them return each year. The one in 2017 will be the 7th event coming up in which they have a wonderful dinner, great fellowship, a superb guest speaker and an all around good time for all to enjoy. Please look for the details in the next issue of the AZ-LZ newsletter that you are currently reading.

This also might be an opportunity for you to write you military memoirs and time in Vietnam that at many times you did enjoy. If you don't and let's say later this year or down the road, you pass on, who will do it for you? We all know the answer to that, so take the effort and make the effort to do it for your wife, children and grandchildren. Consider having it video taped so they can "see the real you" as you tell the myriad of stories you can still recall after the fifty years we have all been away from Vietnam. If you have a personal computer, buy a copy of the program called "DRAGON" that will take your voice over a microphone and enter the words right into MS Word. With a little bit of correction, you have a lot of work done in nothing flat. If your wife or daughter is good with graphics or scrap-booking, then consider making a 20-40 page book using SNAPFISH which puts out a wonderful memory book of pictures for anyone who knows you to enjoy.

Why am I saying all of this? Well, this is the 50th Commemoration of the War we were all in and if we don't react and act to the events and things we could and should do for us as well as our families, we will be sorry and then it will be too late.

In closing, this is the middle of 2017, a year I could not have possibly envisioned a long time ago, but here we are in the future and in the latter end of our life and we should make the most of what God gave to us. We don't have a timetable, but He knows exactly when that is, make the most of the time and make the effort that we have before us.

Enjoy the rest of the year and seriously consider attending as many of the 50th Events that you can and it will in fact put a real smile on your face and your families as well.



THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION

COMMEMORATION OBJECTIVES

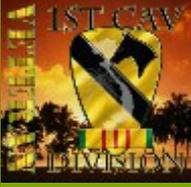
1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

www.vietnamwar50th.com



50th Commemorative Events Are Still Alive

To the Presidents and Commemorative Partners for the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War, the DOD Program Office is asking you to do think about your NEXT program event. You realize there are many ways to celebrate this commemoration. There are five (5) methods of doing so and they are:



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4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

In addition to honoring the veterans of Vietnam, we might consider locating some of the POW's that have been lost. You could check with VVA National to ascertain the POW's from your city and state and other fraternal organizations within your region to locate the names and possibly family members that may live in the area.

How about doing a special tribute to all of the ARMED FORCES that served in the Vietnam War? We typically realize and celebrate the five that are US Army, US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard and US Air Force, but let's not forget the US Merchant Marines who in the beginning of the war were the ones that got the men, supplies, and armor and artillery over to Vietnam until the larger ships and planes were able and capable to provide transport of some sort to the far away land we call VIETNAM.

We all know that there were many, many FEDERAL AGENCIES such as DOD, NSA, CIA and many others that provide intelligence and other information about the Vietnam War and possibly have a speaker come out to speak on behalf of that agency and bring forth a light of what they did and provide a nice gift to them.

As we,, there were many NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMPANIES that provide varied types of support to the Vietnam War and those too could be looked up on the Internet and there might be one, two or three within your city that you could recognize and provide a recognition on behalf of Vietnam Veterans of America

And lastly, the HOME FRONT PEOPLE who remained behind, such as the parents grandparents aunts, uncles and other close relatives. Providing them with a nice dessert and a speaker that "can relate to what they went through when their son or daughter went to Vietnam and providing them with a nice keepsake would be very appropriate.

A small gathering could and would make a difference for any of those mentioned above.

Information About the 50th Flag



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. The traditional use of the color gold to signify a 50th Anniversary was chosen for the phrase "50th Anniversary" and symbolizes the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings. The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognize all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were killed in action, held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation's freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor and Sacrifice"; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the families of those veterans for which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand. The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served.

The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served. The phrase "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is the personal message to each veteran, civilian, family member, and all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War

The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag. When placed next to the flags of World War II and the Korean War Commemoration Flags, the Vietnam War Commemoration Flag will signify the Vietnam Veterans taking their rightful place among generations of U.S. veterans

The Commemorative Seal



"The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

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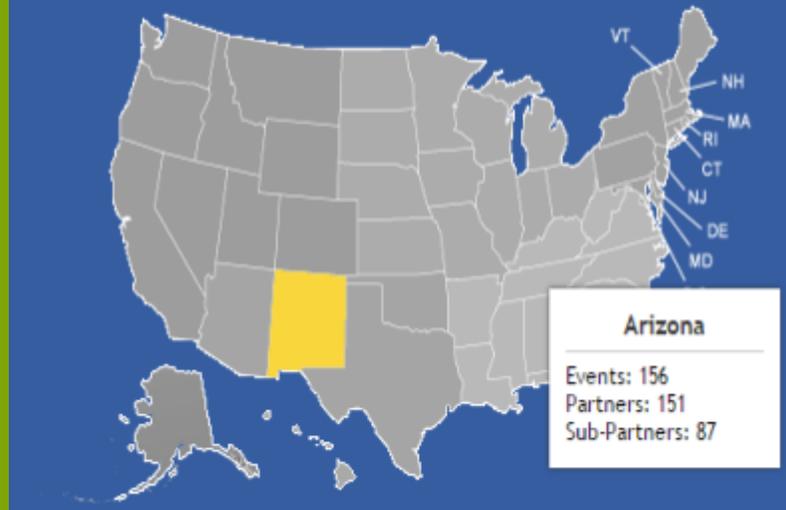
The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served. The white number "50th" emblazoned over the map, and the outer and inner gold rings which make traditional use of the color to signify the 50th anniversary, symbolize the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

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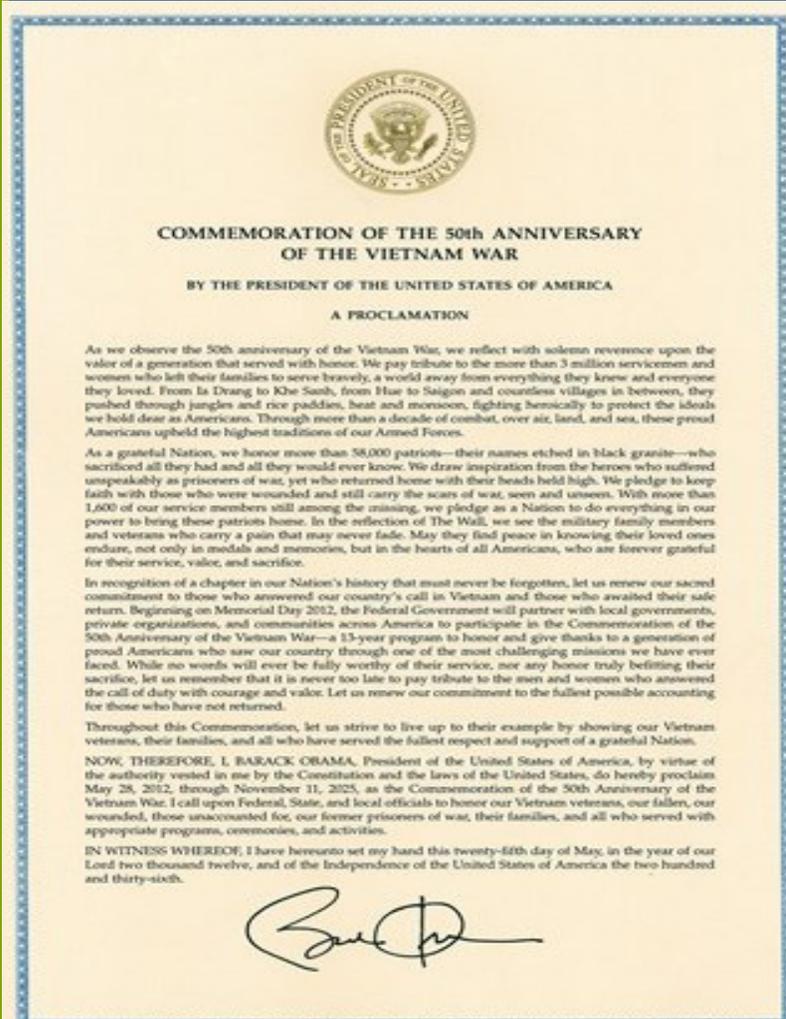
Information About the 50th Program

Total Events: 8114 | Total Partners: 10517



VVA-Arizona has put on its share of 50th Commemorative events for the Vietnam War and we are certainly proud of that. We only have a few years left to do so, lest, we should always prepare for the next one and the next one to honor **ALL** of the Vietnam Veterans within Arizona. For us, make the attempt to attend at least one if not all of them that are put on in our favor. We only have until year 2025.

The 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War is a very special document that one should read and take seriously. Typically, veterans usually live through one war, however, we have many that have served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam which is a real tribute to themselves and their country. But, the "Proclamation" is that the Vietnam Veteran has served and served well.



The Vietnam War was the longest conflict in American history and the ultimate goal was to not have Communism be apart of Southeast Asia, Oceania, Australia, New Zealand, The Philippine Islands , Papua New Guinea and other countries within that region of the world.

The American military men and women are and should be proud of their duties during this fifteen year war, Thank you very much to all of the Vietnam Veterans throughout this time period. You are part of a proud nation.

50th Commemorative Events Are Important

Arizona has seen a lot of 50th Commemorative Events since 2011 since we began our Commemorative Program. VVA Arizona has been involved directly and indirectly in about twenty-five plus events that have made the news on television, most in print in this publication and talked about at the highest levels of Vietnam Veterans of America. It is important to have **VIETNAM VETERANS** remembered in their lifetime over a period of about 70+ years of service, all the way from the Vietnam War in 1960 to 1975 and all of the items since then. We as Vietnam Vets certainly recall World War II and Korea and it is of the utmost importance that we are remembered and more importantly the Vietnam War is not forgotten. In this publication I urge everyone to get together with 2 or 3 other people and go to school to teach about Vietnam, the war and what it meant to fight there and the reasons why. If you're not sure why we fought, there was one major reason and that was **"to keep Communism out of Southeast Asia and the Oceanic Countries (NZ, Australia, Fiji, and others)"**. Most adults don't know much about Vietnam much less the rationale of the War, and the kids of today do not either, therefore, it is up to us to keep the Vietnam Spirit alive and train those that do not know anything about this War. In grammar school we learned all we wanted to about WWI, WWII, Korea and the conflicts around the world, but today is a different story. It is our responsibility



to teach, discuss, show, illustrate, pass on, watch everything on VIETNAM. We need to be productive in our later years and talk about our experiences, the purpose, the good times not the bad, the travels, the friends and your life.



STATISTICS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

The average U.S. infantryman in Vietnam saw about **240 days of combat in one year**, thanks to the mobility of the helicopter. In comparison, the average infantry in the South Pacific during World War II saw only 40 days of combat in four years.

U.S. forces sent to Vietnam were the **highest educated** of all previously deployed armies. **79% had at least a high school degree** prior to entering military service.

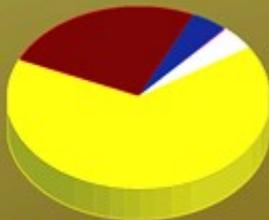


U.S. Troop Strength by Year End (1955 - 1973)



U.S. ARMED FORCES TOLL OF WAR (1955-1975)

KILLED



As of 2013, the total number of U.S. armed forces killed in Vietnam in the two decades of involvement was **58,253**.

Of these, there were:
38,224 Army,
14,844 Marines,
2,586 Air Force,
2,566 Navy,
26 Merchant Marines
7 Coast Guard.

WOUNDED



The total number of U.S. armed forces non-mortally wounded in Vietnam was **153,363**.

Of these, there were:
96,802 Army,
51,392 Marines,
931 Air Force,
4,178 Navy,
60 Coast Guard.

658 U.S. prisoners of war returned home alive from Southeast Asia.

As of 2014, 1,638 are still unaccounted for.

PEAK STRENGTH OF ALLIED ARMED FORCES DURING VIETNAM WAR 68



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor Program



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration established the Commemorative Partner Program, an organizationally-based, hometown-centric initiative to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families where they live. As part of the Commemorative Partner Program, Certificates of Honor have been designed to honor and give special recognition to four categories of veterans and their families.

Certificates of Honor are available for our Commemorative Partners to present along with accompanying lapel pins for the following groups:



Former, Living American Military POW

The Former POW certificate and lapel pin are for former, living American military POWs from the Vietnam War as listed by the Department of Defense. If the former POW is deceased, the lapel pin may be presented to the surviving spouse.



Unaccounted For

The Unaccounted For certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of American military personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War by the Department of Defense.



In Memory Of

The In Memory Of certificate and lapel pin are for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of a veteran who is listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse

The Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin are for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.





THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM

1945
SEPTEMBER 2

Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese nationalist who admired the works of Marx and wanted to establish a socialist state in his country, issues a "Declaration of Independence," borrowing language from the U.S. Declaration and stating, "...we, members of the Provisional Government, representing the whole Vietnamese people, declare that from now on we break off all relations of a colonial character with France." Although France would initially acknowledge this Declaration of Independence, the stage was set for what would become a decade long conflict between France and Ho Chi Minh's communist-backed Viet Minh forces.



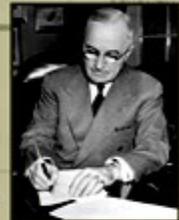
1950
JANUARY 14



The People's Republic of China formally recognized Ho Chi Minh's Democratic Republic of Vietnam and began sending military advisers, modern weapons and equipment to the Viet Minh. Later in January, the Soviet Union extended diplomatic recognition of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

1950
FEBRUARY 27

President Truman signs NSC 64, a memorandum that recommended "that all practicable measures be taken" to check further communist expansion in Southeast Asia.



1950
MAY 8

United States announces that it was "according economic aid and military equipment to the associated states of Indochina and to France in order to assist them in restoring stability and permitting these states to pursue their peaceful and democratic development."

1950
SEPTEMBER 17

United States establishes the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), Indochina, in Saigon. Its primary function was to manage American military aid to and through France to the Associated States of Indochina (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) to combat communist forces.

1954
MAY 7



The conflict between French forces and the Viet Minh culminated in the battle at Dien Bien Phu. Between March 13 and May 6, 1954, CIA contracted pilots and crews made 682 airdrops to the beleaguered French forces. On May 7, French forces surrendered to the Viet Minh after a 55 day battle, marking the end to France's attempt to hold on to its colonial possession.

1954
JULY 20

The French defeat at Dien Bien Phu led to the Geneva Accords which established a cease-fire in Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam and divided the country into a North and South Vietnam with a demilitarized zone along the 17th Parallel. French forces had to withdraw south of the parallel, the Viet Minh withdrew north of it. Within two years, a general election was to be held in both north and south for a single national government.





THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM

1954
SEPTEMBER 8

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) is formed as a military alliance to check communist expansion, and included France, Great Britain, United States, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand, and Pakistan.



1955
NOVEMBER 1



By 1955, France had given up its military advisory responsibilities in South Vietnam, and the United States assumed the task. To appropriately focus on its new role, on November 1 the United States redesignated MAAG, Indo-china as MAAG, Vietnam and created a MAAG, Cambodia. MAAG, Vietnam then became the main conduit for American military assistance to South Vietnam and the organization responsible for advising and training the South Vietnamese military.

1961
NOVEMBER 11

In the face of South Vietnam's failure to defeat the communist insurgency and the increasing possibility that the insurgency might succeed, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara recommend to President John F. Kennedy, "to commit ourselves to the objective of preventing the fall of South Viet-Nam to Communism and that, in so doing so, ...recognize that...the United States and other SEATO forces may be necessary to achieve this objective."



1961
NOVEMBER 22

President Kennedy substantially increased the level of U.S. military assistance to Vietnam. National Security Action Memorandum 111, dated November 22, stated that: "The U.S. Government is prepared to join the Viet-Nam Government in a sharply increased joint effort to avoid a further deterioration in the situation in South Viet Nam."

1961
DECEMBER 11



Kennedy's decision resulted in sending to South Vietnam the USNS Core with men and materiel aboard (32 Vertol H-21C Shawnee helicopters and 400 air and ground crewmen to operate and maintain them). Less than two weeks later, the helicopters, flown by U.S. pilots, would provide combat support in an operation west of Saigon.

1962
FEBRUARY 8

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) is created and commanded by General Paul D. Harkins. Henceforth, MACV directed the conduct of the war and supervised Military Assistance and Advisory Group-Vietnam.





THE UNITED STATES ROAD TO WAR IN VIETNAM

1963
NOVEMBER 22

President Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn in as President, following the assassination of President Kennedy. U.S. policy vis-a-vis Vietnam would change dramatically under Johnson's Administration.



1964
AUGUST 7

On August 2, 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked the USS Maddox, a Navy destroyer, off the coast of North Vietnam. Two days later, a second attack was reported on another destroyer, although it is now accepted that the second attack did not occur. In the wake of these attacks, President Lyndon Johnson presented a resolution to Congress, which voted overwhelmingly in favor on August 7.



The Tonkin Gulf Resolution stated that "Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

1965
MARCH 2

U.S. military aircraft begin attacking targets throughout North Vietnam in the strategic bombing campaign—Operation ROLLING THUNDER.



1965
MARCH 8



As the situation deteriorated in South Vietnam and the United States ramped up its air war activities there, the Da Nang air base in northern South Vietnam became both significant to those activities and vulnerable to attack by communist insurgents, the Viet Cong. To defend the air base, but specifically not to carry out offensive operations against the Viet Cong, President Johnson authorized the landing of the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, about 5,000 strong, at Da Nang on March 8.

1965
JULY 28

By May 1965, the situation had so deteriorated in South Vietnam that General William C. Westmoreland concluded that American combat troops had to enter the conflict as combatants, or else South Vietnam would collapse within six months. Johnson announced his decision at a press conference on July 28: "We will not surrender and we will not retreat... we are going to continue to persist, if persist we must, until death and desolation have led to the same [peace] conference table where others could now join us at a much smaller cost." On the same day he ordered the 1st Cavalry Division, Airmobile to Vietnam, with more units to follow. The United States was now fully committed.





U.S. SERVICEWOMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 1 OF 3



The first five enlisted Women in the Air Force (WAF) and the fourth WAF officer to be assigned to Vietnam arrive at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. Left to right: new unidentified U.S. Air Force personnel, Lieutenant Colonel June H. Hilton, Airman First Class Carol J. Horvick, Airman First Class Rita M. Plonick, Staff Sergeant Barbara J. Swartz, Airman First Class Shirley J. Brown, and Airman First Class Rita M. Nordeman, June 1967, U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives.



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Staff Sergeant Carol A. Ogg, a member of the U.S. Army 50th Radio Research Group, and Specialist Fifth Class Jo Wilson in front of the Madelon Bachler England Quarters, Saigon, South Vietnam, 1970, Sergeant First Class Carol Ogg photo.



Women in the Air Force (WAF) First Lieutenant Conita L. Wiggett, a member of the 27th Supply Squadron and the only WAF supply officer in Vietnam, operates the UNICOM 2050-II computer, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, February 1968, U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives.

Women in the United States military during the Vietnam War held diverse and important roles supporting the war mission. Many servicewomen stationed in the combat zone served with distinction.



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Sergeant Evelyn Ford, an adviser to the South Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces Corps, in the aftermath of the Tet offensive, Saigon, South Vietnam, 1968, Sergeant First Class Carol Ogg photo.

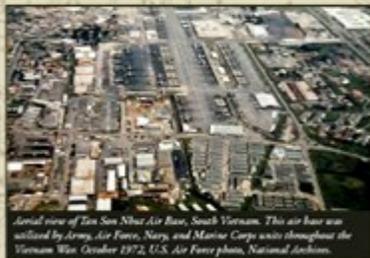
Women line officers, staff officers, and enlisted personnel performed a range of military occupational specialties in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. All of the women who served in Vietnam volunteered for military service. Most volunteered to serve in Vietnam than there were available positions. Military leaders, senior women line officers included, were reluctant to send women to Vietnam.

Military women were not permitted or trained to carry weapons at the time, though they were regularly under threat of enemy attack while carrying out their duties. On bases they evaded handbills like their male counterparts, and were often under fire from rockets and mortars. Women served in headquarters, staff assignments, operations groups, and information offices. They performed in a variety of clerical, intelligence, medical specialist, and personnel positions. With their sister servicewomen in the continental United States (CONUS), Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Thailand, and the Philippines, they demonstrated extraordinary professionalism and belief in the importance of service during wartime.

In March 1962, Major Anne Marie Doering, a Women's Army Corps (WAC) plans officer, became the first woman staff officer assigned to Vietnam as a member of the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group in Saigon. Major Doering had been born in Vietnam and spoke Vietnamese and French fluently. In January 1965, Major Kathleen I. Wilkes and Sergeant First Class Betty L. Adams became the first two U.S. WAC advisers to the newly formed Republic of Vietnam Women's Armed Forces Corps (WAF). With their leadership and command experience they assisted the WAF's Director and staff in

developing systems for recruiting, training, and assigning enlisted South Vietnamese WAF personnel and officer candidates.

From 1965 on, WAC officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted women served in a variety of capacities at Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) headquarters, support commands, and United States Army Vietnam (USARV) headquarters. Their roles included administration, finance, intelligence, logistics, plans and training, and legal and civil affairs occupation specialties. In September 1966, the WAC Detachment, Vietnam, led by Captain Peggy E. Ready and First Sergeant Marlon C. Crawford was established at USARV headquarters, Saigon. The unit had an average strength of 90 enlisted women, mostly clerk typists and stenographers. It relocated with the command to Long Binh Post in 1967. Approximately 700 WAC personnel served in Vietnam during the war.

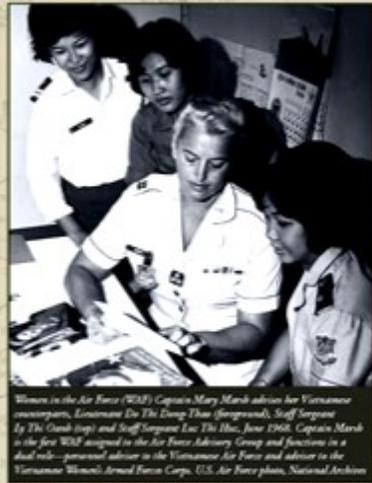


Aerial view of Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. This air base was utilized by Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps units throughout the Vietnam War October 1972, U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives.

In June 1967, Lieutenant Colonel June H. Hilton and the first contingent of Air Force women arrived in Saigon for duty at MACV headquarters. They were followed shortly by Air Force servicewomen of the 7th Air Force headquarters, assigned to Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, and Cam Ranh Air Bases and several air bases in Thailand. Examples of Air Force servicewomen assignments in Vietnam, as described by

Major General Jeanne M. Holm: "Women officers served primarily in noncombat fields such as supply, aircraft maintenance, public affairs, personnel, intelligence, photo interpretation, meteorology, and administration. Enlisted Air Force women served primarily in administrative, clerical, personnel, data processing, and supply occupations."

Air Force women throughout CONUS and the Far East were essential to air operations in the Vietnam War. Women served in Strategic Air Command and supporting bomber units. They served in Military Airlift Command and preparing personnel, supplies, ammunition, and equipment for airlift to Vietnam. Others served in the Air Force Communications Service that provided global communication links critical during every phase of the war. An estimated 144 line officers and 95 enlisted women of the U.S. Air Force served in Vietnam.



Women in the Air Force (WAF) Captain Mary March advises her Vietnamese counterparts, Lieutenant Do Thi Group (Group 7), Staff Sergeant Ly Thi Chanh (top) and Staff Sergeant Lee Thi Han, June 1968. Captain March is the first WAF assigned to the Air Force Advisory Group and functions in a dual role—personnel adviser to the Vietnamese Air Force and adviser to the Vietnamese Women's Armed Forces Corps, U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives.



U.S. SERVICEWOMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 2 OF 3



Captain Nancy J. Jaegerich assumes command of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) Detachment, Vietnam, Long Binh, South Vietnam, October 16, 1968. Left to right: an unidentified WBC servicewoman, First Sergeant Katherine Henry receiving the WBC Detachment packet, Captain James P. Murphy, Commanding Officer (inspecting) and Captain Jaegerich. Lieutenant Colonel Nancy Jaegerich photo.

Women line officers, staff officers, and enlisted personnel performed a range of military occupational specialties in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. All of the women who served in Vietnam volunteered for military service.

Lieutenant Elizabeth G. Wylie was the first female line officer in the Navy selected to serve in Vietnam. In June 1967, she arrived in Saigon and was assigned to the Command Information Center, Naval Forces Command. She was responsible for reports, including briefings to visiting elected officials, dignitaries, and journalists. Seven additional Navy women line officers were assigned to Vietnam between 1968 and 1973. Five officers were assigned to the Naval Forces Command staff in Saigon and two served at the Naval Support Activity in Cam Ranh Bay.



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Detachment, Vietnam, cadre at Bien Hoa Airport on the occasion of the first commanding officer's departure from South Vietnam, October 1967. From top, left to right: Private First Class Patricia G. Davis and Specialist Fourth Class Howard M. Swales, both now left to right: Staff Sergeant Leah L. Hoffman, Sergeant First Class Betty J. Brown, Captain James P. Murphy, Second Commanding Officer WAC Detachment, Vietnam, 1967-1968, Captain Peggy E. Brady (first Commanding Officer WAC Detachment, Vietnam, 1966-1967), and First Sergeant Marion C. Crawford, Vietnam Women Veterans, Incorporated photo.

Commander Elizabeth Barrett was the highest ranking female naval line officer to serve in Vietnam. Arriving in Saigon in January 1972, she became the Navy's first woman officer to hold a command in a combat zone. She commanded the Naval Advisory Group from November 1972 to March 1973, supervising several hundred personnel.



Commander Elizabeth Barrett was the highest-ranking woman naval line officer to serve in South Vietnam, and the first woman naval line officer to hold a command in a combat zone, serving as Commanding Officer of the Naval Advisory Group's 450 enlisted men at Saigon from November 1972 to March 1973. U.S. Navy photo.



Woman Marine Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar was nominated for the 1970 Unusual Heroism Award presented annually by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar volunteered to help the children of the St. Vincent DePaul Orphanage in Saigon, South Vietnam, in her off-duty hours, hold one of the youngsters, June 1970. U.S. Marine Corps photo, National Archives.

In Saigon, many worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section on the staff of the Commander, Naval Forces, Vietnam. The section provided administrative support to Marines stationed throughout the combat zone. Other Women Marines, such as Lieutenant Colonels Ruth J. O'Halloran and Ruth E. Reinholz, and Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar, served with the Military History Branch, Secretary, Joint Staff, MACV.

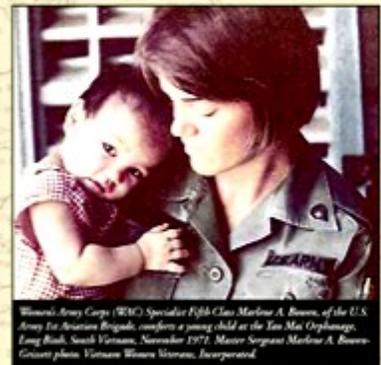
There are numerous instances of military servicewomen volunteering during their off-duty time to help the local South Vietnamese civilian population. An excellent example is Woman Marine Staff Sergeant Ermelinda Salazar. In 1970 she was recognized for her leadership and tireless work on behalf of Vietnamese orphans at the St. Vincent DePaul orphanage in Saigon. On her days off, she volunteered at the orphanage, facilitated quality care by initiating a donation drive, and motivated other Marines to volunteer at the facility. She was nominated for the 1970 Unusual Heroism Award sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. In the same year she was awarded the Vietnamese Service Medal by the Republic of Vietnam for her philanthropic work. Staff Sergeant Salazar was also awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for performance of her duties while serving with the Military History Branch.



Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dolinsky, who volunteered for duty in South Vietnam, became the first Woman Marine assigned to a combat zone when she reported to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) in Saigon on March 18, 1967. Women's Memorial Foundation Collection.

Another important step for women in the U.S. Navy occurred during the Vietnam War era outside the theater of operations. In September 1972, two women line officers and 32 enlisted women were selected for a yearlong pilot program serving aboard the hospital ship USS Sanctuary as members of its crew. Lieutenant Junior Grade Ann Kerr served as an administrative assistant, and Ensign Rosemary Nelson was assigned as a supply officer. Their service qualified them to be Officers of the Deck. The enlisted women performed their duties exceptionally in deck, administration, operations, and supply departments. Additional enlisted women were assigned to the ship's hospital staff.

The first Woman Marine assigned to Vietnam was Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dolinsky. She arrived in March 1967 and was stationed at MACV combat operations center in Saigon. Between 1967 and 1973, eight officers and 28 enlisted Women Marines served in Vietnam. They were assigned to administrative billets within MACV headquarters.



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Specialist Fifth Class Marlene A. Brown, of the U.S. Army 1st Aviation Brigade, comforts a young child at the Tin Man Orphanage, Long Binh, South Vietnam, November 1971. Master Sergeant Marlene A. Brown-Greene photo, Vietnam Women Veterans, Incorporated.



U.S. SERVICEWOMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 3 OF 3



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Director Colonel Elizabeth P. Hoisington meets with members of the WAC Detachment, Long Binh, South Vietnam, October 1967. Left to right, Specialist Fourth Class Howard M. Smith, Sergeant First Class Betty J. Brown (wearing First Sergeant), Colonel Hoisington, Captain Perry F. Brady, Staff Sergeant Edith L. Effner, and Private First Class Patricia C. Price. U.S. Army photo.



First Sergeant Marion C. Crawford, Women's Army Corps (WAC) Detachment, Vietnam, stands center with the WAC Drill Team, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, South Vietnam, January 1967. U.S. Army photo.



Carmen E. Marshall is presented in Lieutenant, U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps, while serving as a laboratory officer aboard the USS Rippon in the South China Sea, off the coast of South Vietnam, January 1968. Left to right, Captain James M. Campbell, U.S. Navy, Commander, USS Rippon, Lieutenant Marshall, and Captain Herbert Matthews, U.S. Navy Medical Corps, Commander, Naval Hospital, USS Rippon. Carmen E. Marshall Adams photo.

Many servicewomen were given meritorious service awards, wartime citations, and decorations for their work during the Vietnam War.

At least four servicewomen were awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained while serving in Vietnam: Air Force Captain Mariana Grant and Camilla Wagner, Army First Lieutenant Sharon Lane, who died from shrapnel wounds, and Army Specialist Fifth Class Sharon Green. In 1970, Army Specialist Fifth Class Karen Offert rescued Vietnamese adults and children from a fire near her Tan Son Nhut quarters at the risk of her own life.

A recommendation for the Soldier's Medal was downgraded to a Certificate of Achievement; reexamination of the circumstances in 2001 resulted in the belated award of the Soldier's Medal. Chief Warrant Officer Thore Doris "Lucky" Allen, who served three tours in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970, served first as a Specialist Seventh Class senior intelligence analyst, Army Operations Center, Long Binh, South Vietnam. In a report, 50,000 Chinese, she informed her superiors about a large number of Chinese troops amassing 30 days before the January 1968 Tet Offensive. "Unfortunately," she stated, "the report fell on deaf ears." In her second tour, she held the position of Supervisor, Security Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Security, Plans, and Operations, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, South Vietnam. In 1970, Specialist Seventh Class Allen was appointed as Warrant Officer and assigned as the Officer in Charge of the Translation Branch, Combined Document Exploitation Center, Saigon, South Vietnam. Her extraordinary contributions, leadership, and selfless service in each Vietnam assignment earned her the Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters. In 2009, Chief Warrant Officer Thore Allen was inducted into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame.



Women's Army Corps (WAC) Specialist Seventh Class Doris "Lucky" Allen served as a senior intelligence analyst in Long Binh and Saigon, South Vietnam, from 1967 to 1970. Women's Memorial Foundation Collection.

The courage and ability American servicewomen demonstrated before and during the Vietnam War helped convince U.S. leaders to improve women's standing in the military. Prior to the war, women had limited opportunities for advancement to higher ranks. In November 1967, Congress passed Public Law 90-130, which eliminated rank ceilings for women and lifted the two-position restriction on the number of women



Women Master Sergeant Doris E. Denton receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal from Major General Richard F. Shaffer, Assistant Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy, Saigon, South Vietnam, March 5, 1968. First Sergeant Doris Denton photo.

line officers and enlisted personnel who could serve. Elizabeth P. Hoisington, Women's Army Corps (WAC) Director, was promoted to brigadier general on June 11, 1970. On July 16, 1971, Jeanne M. Holm was promoted to brigadier general, the first Air Force woman to achieve that rank. She became the first woman in the U.S. Armed Forces to attain the rank of major general on June 1, 1973. After the Vietnam War, Fran McKee became the first Navy woman line officer to be promoted to the rank of rear admiral (lower half) on June 1, 1976. Nearly two years later, on May 11, 1978, the Marine Corps appointed Margaret A. Brewer to brigadier general.

As a result of personnel shortages, the important contributions of military women during the Vietnam War, and the transition to an all-volunteer force, more career fields and educational and leadership opportunities became available to servicewomen. Women began serving in previously restricted combat-related areas aboard surface warfare ships and in aircraft as pilots and aviators. Military accession and personnel policies regarding women also changed which opened the door for future educational and leadership opportunities. Women obtained the right to join reserve officer training programs and receive appointments to the service academies. They were also allowed to remain in the military after becoming pregnant.



Flowers and memorabilia left at the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, 2010. Photograph by Fred W. Baker III, Department of Defense.

Dedicated in 1993, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, located on the National Mall, Washington, D.C., serves as a lasting tribute to the servicewomen of the Vietnam War. A short distance across the Potomac River stands the Women In Military Service For America Memorial. Dedicated in 1997 at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery, this memorial highlights the service, sacrifice, and value of American military women who served not only during the Vietnam War, but throughout American history.



Retired Air Force Brigadier General Wilma E. Vaughn, Vietnam War veteran and president of the Women's Memorial Foundation, gives remarks at the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, May 22, 2013. Photograph by Corporal Christopher P. Bates, U.S. Marine Corps.

References can be found on The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration website <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/>.
*Military women were promoted to general flag rank in the early 1970s.

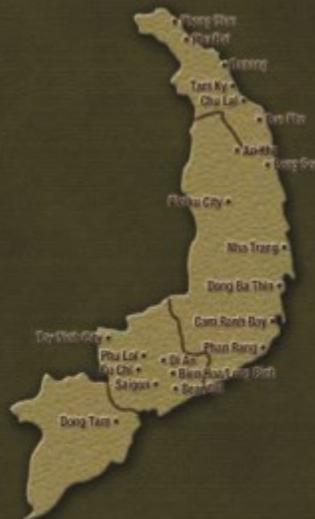




U.S. ARMY COMMANDS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



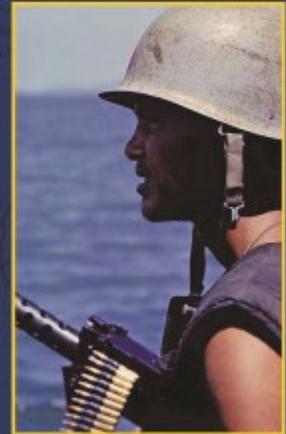
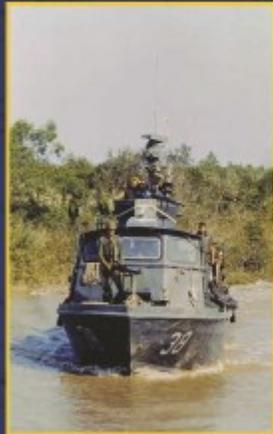
1. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, 1955-1964, Saigon
2. U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, 1962-1973, Saigon
3. U.S. Army, Vietnam, 1965-1972, Saigon, Long Binh
4. I Field Force, Vietnam, 1966-1971, Nha Trang
5. II Field Force, Vietnam, 1966-1971, Long Binh
6. XXIV Corps, 1968-1972, Phu Bai, Danang
7. Capital Military Assistance Command, 1968-1972, Saigon
8. 1st Infantry Division, 1965-1970, Bien Hoa, Di An, Lai Khe
9. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 1965-1972, An Khe, Phong Dien, Bien Hoa
10. 4th Infantry Division, 1966-1970, Camp Enari (south of Pleiku City)
11. 9th Infantry Division, 1966-1969, Bear Cat, Dong Tam
12. 23d Division (Americal), 1967-1971, Chu Lai
13. 25th Infantry Division, 1966-1971, Cu Chi, Long Binh
14. 101st Airborne Division, 1965-1971, Bien Hoa, Phao Rang, Phu Bai
15. 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 1968-1971, Dong Ha



16. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1966-1971, Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc, Di An
17. 11th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1967-1971, Duc Pho
18. 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, 1968-1969, Phu Bai, Phu Loi
19. 173d Airborne Brigade, 1965-1971, Bien Hoa, An Khe, Bong Son
20. 196th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1966-1972, Tay Ninh, Chu Lai, Tam Ky, Danang
21. 198th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1967-1971, Duc Pho, Chu Lai
22. 199th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1966-1970, Long Binh, Bien Hoa
23. 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1964-1971, Nha Trang
24. 1st Logistical Command, 1965-1970, Saigon, Long Binh
25. 1st Aviation Brigade, 1966-1973, Long Binh, Saigon
26. 1st Signal Brigade, 1966-1972, Saigon, Long Binh
27. 18th Engineer Brigade, 1965-1971, Saigon, Dong Ba Thien
28. 18th Military Police Brigade, 1966-1973, Long Binh
29. 20th Engineer Brigade, 1967-1971, Bien Hoa
30. 44th Medical Brigade, 1966-1970, Saigon, Long Binh



MAJOR U.S. NAVY ORGANIZATIONS VIETNAM WAR



PACIFIC FLEET, HAWAII



SEVENTH FLEET



U.S. NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM
1966-1973



U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT
ACTIVITY, DANANG



U.S. NAVAL SUPPORT
ACTIVITY, SAIGON



THIRD NAVAL
CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE
AND SEABEES
1966-1972



TASK FORCE 76
(Amphibious Task Force)
7th Fleet, 1965-1975



TASK FORCE 77
(Attack Carrier Strike Force)
7th Fleet, 1963-1976
Dixie Station, Yankee Station



TASK GROUP 70.8
(Cruiser-Destroyer Group)
7th Fleet, 1965-1972



NAVAL ADVISORY
GROUP
USNAVFORV, 1953-1972



NAVAL SPECIAL
WARFARE GROUP
USNAVFORV



TASK FORCE 115
(MARKET TIME/COASTAL
SURVEILLANCE)
USNAVFORV, 1965-1972



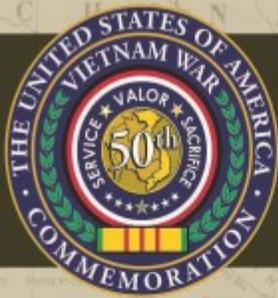
TASK FORCE 116
(GAMEWARDEN/RIVER
PATROL FORCE)
USNAVFORV, 1965-1970



TASK FORCE 117
(RIVERINE ASSAULT FORCE)
USNAVFORV, 1967-1969



TASK FORCE 194
(SEALORDS)
USNAVFORV 1968-1970



MAJOR MARINE CORPS UNITS IN THE VIETNAM WAR



1. Fleet Marine Force Pacific, 1965-1975, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii
2. III Marine Expeditionary Force, later amphibious force (III MAF), 1965-1971, Da Nang, I Corps
3. 3d Marine Expeditionary Brigade, later amphibious brigade, 1965-1971, Chu Lai, Da Nang
4. 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, later amphibious brigade, 1965-1969, 1972-1973, 1975, Da Nang, afloat
5. Special Landing Force (SLF) 1st & 33d Marine Amphibious Units (MAU), 1965-1975, afloat
6. 1st Marine Division, III MAF, 1964-1971, Chu Lai, Da Nang, I Corps

7. 3d Marine Division, III MAF, 1965-1969, Da Nang, Dong Ha, I Corps
8. 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MAF, 1965-1971, Da Nang, I Corps
9. Force Logistics Command 3d Force Service Regiment, 1967-1971, Da Nang, Camp Brooks
10. 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1965-1971, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai, Quang Tri, Hoa, Camp Le Mier, Camp D.M. Perdue, Dong Ha, Cat Viet, Khe Sanh, Dong Son
11. 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1966-1971, Bung Son, Chu Lai, Phu Loc, Phu Bai, Hoa, Que Son, An Hoa, An Ky, Da Nang

12. 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1965-1970, Qui Nhon, Chu Lai, Da Nang, Fire Support Base Ross, Landing Zone Bully, Duc Pho, Dai Loc, Quang Que Son
13. 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1965-1971, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Hue, Quang Tri, Phu Bai, Thua Thien, An Hoa
14. 27th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1968, Da Nang
15. 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division, 1965-1969, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Huan Phu Bai, Khe Sanh, Con Thien, Camp 13, Carroll, Dong Ha, Quang Tri
16. 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division, 1965-1969, Chu Dai, Phu Bai, Dong Ha, CoBi, Thanh Tan, Camp Evans, Camp J.I. Carroll, Cao Lanh

17. 9th Marines, 3d Marine Division, 1965-1968, Da Nang, Dong Ha
18. 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division, 1965-1969, Da Nang, Phu Bai, Chu Lai, Hue
19. 26th Marines, 3d Marine Division, 1966-1970, Da Nang, Khe Sanh, Quang Nam
20. Marine Aircraft Group 11, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1965-1971, Da Nang
21. Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1965-1970, 1971-1973, Chien, Bien Hoa
22. Marine Aircraft Group 13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1966-1970, Chu Lai
23. Marine Aircraft Group 15, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1968, 1972-1973, Da Nang, Nam Phong

24. Marine Aircraft Group 16, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1962-1964, 1965-1973, Da Nang, Marble Mountain, Dong Ha
25. Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1965-1969, Chu Lai, Ky Ha, Phu Bai
26. Marine Aircraft Group 39, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 1968-1969, 1975, Quang Tri, afloat
27. Combined Action Program (CAP), 1965-1971, I Corps
28. Marine Advisory Unit, Vietnamese Marine Corps (VnMC), 1954-1973, South Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos
29. 3d Brigade, Republic of Korea Marine Corps (ROKMC), 1966-1972, I & III Corps



MAJOR U.S. COAST GUARD ORGANIZATIONS

VIETNAM WAR



**TASK FORCE 115
(MARKET TIME)**
USNAVFORV, 1965



COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES VIETNAM
U.S. Coast Guard, 1968-1970



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
CON SON**
1966-1973, Con Son



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
LAMPANG, THAILAND**
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Lampang, Thailand



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
SATTAHIP, THAILAND**
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Sattahip, Thailand



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
TAN MY**
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Tan My



**COAST GUARD LORAN STATION,
UDORN, THAILAND**
USCGA-V, 1966-1973
Udorn, Thailand



**COAST GUARD SQUADRON ONE
(RONONE) TF-115**
USNAVFORV, 1965-1970
An Thoi



**COAST GUARD SQUADRON THREE
(RONTHREE) TF-115**
USNAVFORV, 1967-1972
Da Nang, Cat Lo, An Thoi



MAJOR U.S. AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), 1965-1976, Hawaii | 11. 51st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966-1970, Tay Hou AB, RVN | 21. 374th Troop Carrier (later 374th Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1966-1973, King Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan | 31. 396th Strategic Wing, 1955-1970, Andersen AFB, Guam | 41. 950th Tactical Control Group, 1965-1973, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN |
| 2. Seventh Air Force, 1966-1975, Tan Son Nhut Air Field, RVN and Nakhon Phanom AFB, Thailand | 12. 34th Training Wing, 1965-1965, Bien Hoa AB, RVN | 22. 376th Strategic Wing, 1970-1991, Kadena AB, Japan | 32. 433d Bombardment Wing, 1966-1970, Andersen AFB, Guam | 42. 552d Airborne Early Warning Task Force, 1965-1974, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN |
| 3. Thirteenth Air Force, 1964-1975, Clark Air Base, Philippines | 13. 32th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1964-1971, Da Nang AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN | 23. 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966-1975, Korat RTAFB, Thailand | 33. 425d Strategic Wing, 1965-1970, Kadena AB, Okinawa | 43. 1868th Communications Group, 1962-1973, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN |
| 4. Eighth Air Force, 1970-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 14. 37th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1967-1970, Phu Cat AB, RVN | 24. 401st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1959-1974, Clark AB, Philippines | 34. 425th Strategic Wing, 1966-1970, U-Tapao AB, Thailand | 44. 1974th Communications Group, 1965-1976, Korat RTAFB, Thailand and Udorn RTAFB, Thailand |
| 5. 2d Air Division, 1962-1966, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN | 15. 43d Strategic Wing, 1970-Present, Andersen AFB, Guam | 25. 452d Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1966-1975, Udon RTAFB, Thailand | 35. 623rd Tactical Fighter Wing (13th Air Force), 1965-1966, Korat RTAFB, Thailand | 45. 54C subordinate units frequently deployed under and under various (these deployments were temporary personnel units that ceased to exist upon inactivation). Previous unit crests are not authorized emblems, not even the emblems of their permanent counterparts. Therefore, none have been included on this poster. |
| 6. 834th Air Division, 1966-1971, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN | 16. 56th Air Commando (later 56th Special Operations) Wing, 1967-1975, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand | 26. 400th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1966-1971, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN | 36. 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing (7th Air Force), 1965-1966, Bien Hoa AB, RVN | 46. 1974th Communications Group, 1965-1976, Korat RTAFB, Thailand and Udorn RTAFB, Thailand |
| 7. 7d Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965-1970, Bien Hoa AB, RVN | 17. 307th Strategic Wing, 1970-1975, U-Tapao AB, Thailand | 27. 465d Troop Carrier (later Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1965-1971, Mactan Isle Airfield, Philippines and Clark AB, Philippines | 37. 6252d Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965-1966, Da Nang AB, RVN | 47. 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing and 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing have no official crests on file at the AFMMA. |
| 8. 8th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965-1974, Udon RTAFB, Thailand | 18. 315th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1964-1972, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN | 28. 483d Tactical Airlift Wing, 1966-1972, Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN | 38. 4258th Strategic Wing, 1966-1970, U-Tapao AB, Thailand | |
| 9. 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965-1971, Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN and Phu Cat AB, RVN | 19. 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1965-1972, Takhli RTAFB, Thailand | 29. 553d Reconnaissance Wing, 1967-1970, Korat RTAFB, Thailand | 39. 6234th Tactical Fighter Wing (13th Air Force), 1965-1966, Korat RTAFB, Thailand | |
| 10. 14th Air Commando (later 14th Special Operations) Wing, 1966-1971, Nha Trang AB, RVN and Phan Rang AB, RVN | 20. 368th Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966-1972, Phan Rang AB, RVN, Da Nang AB, RVN, Takhli RTAFB, Thailand | 30. 633d Special Operations Wing, 1968-1970, Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand | 40. 552d Airborne Early Warning Task Force, 1965-1974, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN | |



RIVERINE OPERATIONS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 1 OF 3



A river patrol boat crew searches a sampans for enemy material on the Perfume River on August 20, 1966. Viet Cong insurgents often used small rivers to secretly transport weapons, supplies, and intelligence throughout South Vietnam's complex network of waterways, requiring U.S. patrol crews to stop and inspect many of the boats they encountered (USN photo)



The Mekong Delta, where the Mekong River fans out and empties into the South China Sea, was one of the most economically and strategically important areas of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Six million people, nearly 40 percent of South Vietnam's population, lived in this humid wetland region south of Saigon.

With its rich, fertile soil and plentiful water, the Delta produced most of the country's rice crop, and its 3,000-mile network of waterways afforded farmers with an efficient means to transport their produce to market. But in 1965, a group of Communist insurgents, known to U.S. troops as the Viet Cong, dominated the Mekong Delta and the adjacent Rung Sat mangrove swamp. From their concealed bases in the Delta, Viet Cong troops launched attacks against nearby allied forces and harassed water traffic moving in and out of the port at Saigon. The Delta became a stronghold for the Viet Cong, and they exploited the area as a source of food and supplies, collecting taxes from the local populace. In order to secure the Delta and restore it to Saigon's control, the United States determined to clear out the insurgents with a series of riverine campaigns.

TASK FORCE 116 AND OPERATION GAME WARDEN

To loosen the Viet Cong's grip on the Delta, the U.S. Navy established Task Force 116 in late 1965. Comprised of armed patrol boats, landing craft, helicopters, and other vessels, Task Force 116 initiated Operation GAME WARDEN: the campaign to interdict Communist military activity along the waterways of the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat.

The first crews of Task Force 116 arrived in Vietnam in early 1966. They manned river patrol boats (PBRs), which were organized into divisions and based around tank landing ships (LSTs) and dock landing ships (LSDs) anchored in rivers. The task force also incorporated a squadron of UH-1 "Huey" helicopters, nicknamed the "Seawolves," for air support. Typical GAME WARDEN missions included patrolling rivers and canals searching boats, junks, and sampans for enemy contraband, enforcing curfews, supporting allied ground troops, and clearing mines and enemies from shipping channels, especially between Saigon and the South China Sea.

By the end of 1967, Task Force 116 had secured substantial portions of the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat. During that year alone, task force personnel inspected tens of thousands of vessels and destroyed, damaged, or captured about 2,000 Viet Cong watercraft along with large amounts of enemy supplies and equipment. These efforts made it difficult for the Viet Cong to continue using the Delta and the Rung Sat as refuges and bases of operations.



RIVER PATROL BOATS

The Navy introduced the 31-foot long river patrol boat (officially: Patrol Boat, River or PBR) in early 1966. It became an iconic riverine operations vessel in Vietnam, and it was the workhorse boat of Task Force 116 and Operation GAME WARDEN. PBRs typically were manned by a crew of four and equipped with surface radar and VHF radios. They were armed with twin .50-caliber machine guns mounted forward, an M-60 machine gun and a grenade launcher port and starboard, and a single .50-caliber machine gun aft. PBRs traditionally operated in pairs, with a "lead" and "cover" boat. They were fast and maneuverable, using water-jet engines to reach speeds of 30 knots and operate in as little as two feet of water.

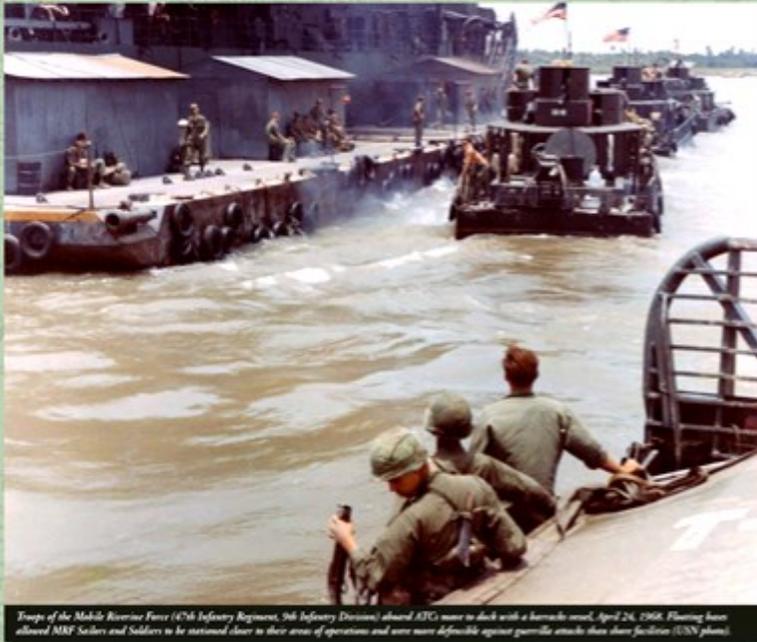


PBRs berthed alongside the tank landing ship USS *Warren County* (LST 821). LSTs anchored in rivers served as floating bases for PBRs and helicopters attached to Task Force 116, providing food, berthing, maintenance, and supplies among other services (USN photo)

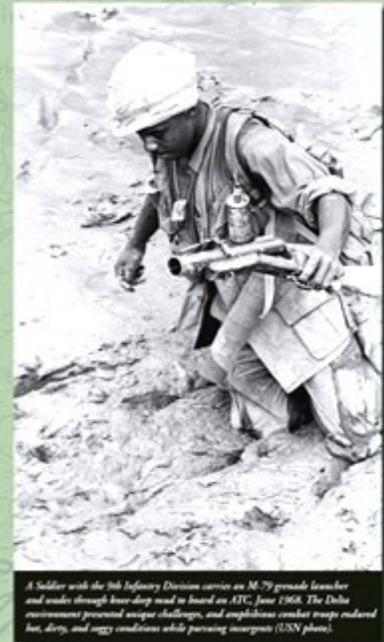


RIVERINE OPERATIONS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 2 OF 3



Troops of the Mobile Riverine Force (6th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division) aboard ATCs move to dock with a barracks boat, April 26, 1968. Floating bases allowed MRF Soldiers and Sailors to be stationed close to their areas of operations and were more defensible against guerrilla attacks than shore facilities (USN photo).



A Soldier with the 9th Infantry Division carries an M79 grenade launcher and wades through knee-deep mud to board an ATC, June 1968. The Delta environment presented unique challenges, and amphibious combat troops endured hot, dirty, and soggy conditions while pursuing insurgents (USN photo).

At the end of 1966, U.S. officials estimated that there were as many as 50,000 Viet Cong combatants in the Mekong Delta and the Rung Sat mangrove swamp, representing perhaps 45 percent of the total strength of the insurgency. GAME WARDEN operations prevented insurgents from openly using most waterways, but to pursue and engage the Viet Cong in the fields, paddies, and lowlands of the Delta, the United States established the joint Army-Navy Mobile Riverine Force (MRF).

MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE

The Mobile Riverine Force became operational in early 1967. Navy transport and assault vessels assigned to the MRF carried troops of the Army 9th Infantry Division, which engaged enemy forces in amphibious search-and-destroy operations near waterways. MRF vessels then remained on station to provide gunfire support and to pick up the infantrymen once the battle ended. MRF actions could last from hours to days, after which personnel returned to their bases, either on shore or aboard floating barracks and maintenance ships. The force's main shore base was at Dong Tam, northwest of My Tho between the Delta and the Rung Sat, but the MRF's floating mobile bases moved where they were needed.

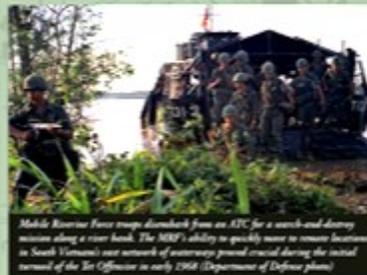
The MRF consisted of a host of patrol boats and armored troop carriers (ATCs), while heavily armored and armed mechanized landing craft, nicknamed "monitors" for their likeness to nineteenth-century warships, served as the "battleships" of the force. Additional watercraft functioned as helicopter landing pads, medical boats, and refueling and resupply vessels. The MRF's greatest strengths were its mobility and flexibility. It could transport over 500 Soldiers nearly anywhere in the Mekong Delta within 24 hours and then provide them with logistics and fire support. The force conducted operations in nine provinces during its first year of existence, fighting to reduce the Viet Cong's strength in the Delta.

"The Mobile Riverine Force saved the Delta [during Tet]."

— GEN William C. Westmoreland, former commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

THE TET OFFENSIVE

In January 1968, Communist forces launched the Tet Offensive. Over 84,000 troops, mostly Viet Cong, simultaneously attacked hundreds of bases, cities, and towns across South Vietnam. In the Delta, the scale of the offensive caught Task Force 116 and the Mobile Riverine Force off guard. However, they recovered quickly and proved crucial in repelling attacks on numerous regional towns.



Mobile Riverine Force troops disembark from an ATC for a search-and-destroy mission along a river bank. The MRF's ability to quickly move to remote locations in South Vietnam's vast network of waterways proved crucial during the initial turmoil of the Tet Offensive in early 1968 (Department of Defense photo).

Within weeks, Task Force 116 and the MRF reestablished control over the major river towns and were able to provide critical fire support for besieged allied troops. U.S. riverine units were instrumental in defending My Tho, Ben Tre, Vinh Long, and Can Tho, among other towns. The MRF's efforts were especially significant during Tet. The force's ability to quickly bring firepower and ground forces into action throughout the sprawling Delta made it difficult for the Viet Cong to exploit or consolidate any initial gains. The MRF conducted operations in eight provinces during February alone. Task Force 116, and additional riverine units further north near the Demilitarized Zone, also played vital roles in defeating the Tet Offensive, particularly by providing combat support for the defenders of Khe Sanh and the city of Hue.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS THOMAS KINSMAN U.S. ARMY



On February 6, 1968, near Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, Specialist Fourth Class Thomas Kinsman (then Private First Class), a rifleman in 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, was along on a reconnaissance-in-force mission. As his company moved up a narrow canal aboard ATCs, it came under sudden, intense rocket and automatic fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. The company immediately beached their vessels and attacked the enemy position, which was hidden in dense vegetation. With limited visibility, a group of eight men, including Kinsman, were cut off from the main company. While the men attempted to linkup with their comrades, a Viet Cong soldier hurled a grenade into their midst. Kinsman quickly alerted the group and threw himself on the grenade, blocking the explosion with his body. As a result of his courageous action, he received severe head and chest wounds. Kinsman's bravery, complete disregard for his own safety, and concern for his fellow Soldiers averted loss of life and injury to the other seven men around him.

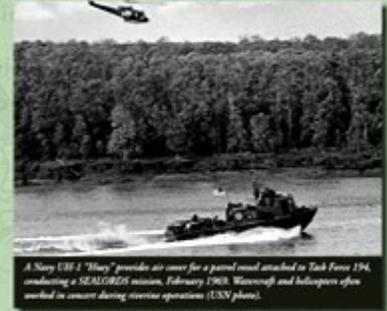


RIVERINE OPERATIONS IN THE VIETNAM WAR

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A US-1 "Huey" helicopter attached to the Navy's Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three, nicknamed the Seawhats, lands on the tank landing ship USS Hammann County (LST-421), on the Ca Chien River in the Mekong Delta, October 1967. As riverine forces pursued enemy troops into more remote parts of the Delta after the Tet Offensive, helicopter air support grew increasingly important. (Department of Defense photo)



A Navy US-1 "Huey" provides air cover for a patrol boat attached to Task Force 194, conducting a SEALORDS mission, February 1968. Winchcraft and helicopters often worked in concert during riverine operations. (USN photo)



South Vietnamese soldiers aboard river patrol craft during the Vietnamization period of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. As U.S. forces gradually withdrew from Southeast Asia after 1968, the South Vietnamese navy took on greater responsibility for riverine operations. (Department of Defense photo)

The Tet Offensive was a tactical victory for American and allied forces, but 1968 and 1969 were the deadliest years of the war for American troops, and the United States appeared no closer to winning. Task Force 116 and the Mobile Riverine Force secured most of the key waterways in the Rung Sat and the lower two-thirds of the Mekong Delta by late 1968. But the North Vietnamese remained committed to the war, the Viet Cong insurgency regrouped in the more remote waterways of the upper Delta and Cambodia, and enemy troops and weapons continued to flow into South Vietnam.

SEALORDS

Tet decimated the ranks of the Viet Cong, but the insurgents found sanctuaries along the more remote streams and canals of the upper Delta, near the Cambodian border. From there, they continued guerrilla activities and facilitated the ongoing movement of enemy troops, ammunition, arms, and supplies into South Vietnam from Cambodia, partially frustrating overall allied progress.



Members of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division stand aboard an air cushion patrol vehicle from the MRF's Air Cushion Vehicle Unit, 9th Infantry Division, to be transported to their area of operations, October 18-15, 1968. (Photograph by Dennis D. Connel)

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS JAMES WILLIAMS, U.S. NAVY



On October 31, 1966, two PBROs under the command of Petty Officer First Class James Williams encountered multiple Viet Cong sampans about two sampans. The enemy boats attacked, and the PBROs returned fire, sinking one sampan while the other fled up a small stream. Williams's two PBROs followed the fleeing sampan, but quickly came under heavy fire from additional Viet Cong forces along the shore. Pressing ahead, the U.S. boats encountered a large number of enemy vessels. After calling for helicopter gunship support, Williams ordered his PBROs to attack, and they pressed their attack for three hours. Only after the PBRO's ammunition was exhausted did Williams order a withdrawal. American forces destroyed a total of 70 enemy watercraft in the engagement.

In order to secure the remaining waters of the Delta and interdict infiltration across the Cambodian border, U.S. leaders formed a new task force, which launched the Southeast Asia Lake, Ocean, River, and Delta Strategy (SEALORDS). Known as Task Force 194, it combined elements from Task Force 116, the Mobile Riverine Force, and coastal surveillance units to patrol the upper regions of the Delta, from Tay Ninh to the Gulf of Thailand. There it harassed enemy forces and formed barriers and blockades near the border where Communist troops regularly infiltrated South Vietnam by water.

SEALORDS operations officially began in October 1968. Within a year, Communist forces began to lose their grip on the upper Delta. Task Force 194 helped to disrupt the flow of troops and supplies entering from Cambodia, and eventually it made forays across the border, participating in the short-lived Cambodian incursion in mid-1970. The task force extended its reach to Viet Cong strongholds along Cambodia's waterways and captured a vital ferry crossing at Neak Luong, while South Vietnamese riverine units moved all the way to Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital.

VIETNAMIZATION

Even with these accomplishments in the Mekong Delta, the war dragged on, and President Richard M. Nixon was elected in 1968 promising to extricate the United States from Southeast Asia. His administration committed to "Vietnamization": gradually handing responsibility for the war over to the South Vietnamese while incrementally withdrawing American troops. By the middle of 1969, the United States disestablished the MRF, turning over its vessels, equipment, and patrol duties to the South Vietnamese military. Other American riverine and maritime forces soon followed, and coastal surveillance personnel and Task Force 116 transferred most of their vessels and aircraft to South Vietnam's navy by 1971. Those turnovers largely ended major U.S. riverine operations in Vietnam. The United States reached a peace agreement with North Vietnam in early 1973, but the war continued and South Vietnam ultimately fell to Communist forces in 1975.



Captain Edwin S. Rieley, Assistant Chief of Staff for Technical Matters, Naval Support Activities, Saigon, 1961, accompanied by other officials, including the commanding officer of the South Vietnamese navy's Logistics Support Command (right) during a turnover ceremony at the naval support base at Long Xuyen, September 23, 1971. Long Xuyen was one of many naval facilities handed over to the South Vietnamese navy late in the war.





MILITARY NURSES IN THE VIETNAM WAR

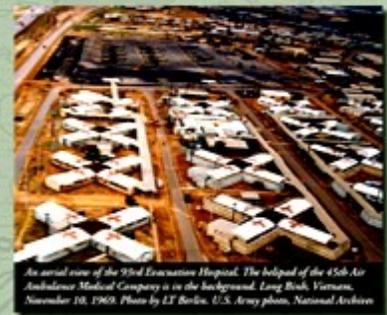
PART 1 OF 3



MAJ Patricia McHenry ANC, Chief Anesthetist, 3rd Evacuation Hospital, gives anesthesia to a patient before an operation, Long Binh, Vietnam, June 28, 1967. Photo by SSG Howard C. Boudreau, U.S. Army photo, National Archives



Members of the 6th Battalion, 12th Airborne Brigade, load supplies aboard a OH-10 (Dust Off) helicopter to be transported from Hill 671, located 11 miles northwest of Daik Tu, on preparation for the final assault, Republic of Vietnam, November 22, 1967. Photo by SSG Alfred Broughton, U.S. Army photo, National Archives



An aerial view of the 3rd Evacuation Hospital. The helipad of the 45th Air Ambulance Medical Company is in the background, Long Binh, Vietnam, November 18, 1969. Photo by LT Berlin, U.S. Army photo, National Archives

Whether stationed with training units, in hospitals, on planes, or aboard ships, in the Pacific Theater, or the United States, military nurses served with distinction throughout the Vietnam War caring for U.S. military personnel, Allied troops, and civilians.

In April of 1956, three Army Nurse Corps officers became the first U.S. servicewomen to serve in Vietnam. Majors Jane Becker, Francis Smith, and her sister, Helen Smith, were placed on a temporary duty assignment with the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group's Medical Training Team in Saigon, Vietnam. Their principal responsibilities were to educate South Vietnamese nurses in modern nursing care practices. One of the tools developed and translated into Vietnamese was a nursing procedure manual. In 1962, as America's commitment expanded in the Republic of Vietnam, Army Nurse Corps officers helped establish the 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang, South Vietnam.

In 1963, the first Navy Nurse Corps officers arrived in South Vietnam to help establish the U.S. Naval Station Hospital, Saigon. Within a few years, additional Navy Nurse Corps officers served on board two hospital ships, the USS *Repose* and USS *Sanctuary*, off the coast of South Vietnam. These floating hospitals arrived in 1966 and 1967, respectively. Their primary mission was offshore medical support for American and Allied Forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone from Da Nang to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 17th parallel. In 1966, Navy Nurse Corps officers helped establish the Navy Support Activity (Naval Station Hospital) in Da Nang, which was to become one of the busiest combat casualty treatment facilities in theater.

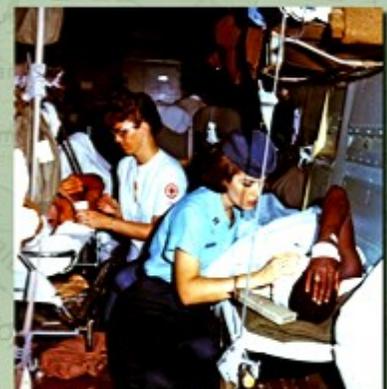
In February of 1965, as fighting intensified and U.S. combat forces were committed to Vietnam, the Air Force Nurse Corps augmented the 9th Air Evacuation Squadron, Clark Air Base, Philippines with male nurses to help evacuate wounded American servicemen from Vietnam. In February of 1966, the first contingent of female Air Force Nurse Corps officers arrived for duty at the newly established 12th U.S. Air Force Hospital and the casualty staging unit in Cam Ranh Bay. Other Air Force nurses soon followed, serving in aeromedical evacuation squadrons, such as the 903d, and dispensaries throughout the Pacific Theater. The Air Force assigned nurses to two types of air evacuation missions during the war: "intra-theater" or in-country flights transporting the sick and wounded to military hospitals within South Vietnam; and "inter-theater" flights from Vietnam to U.S.

military hospitals in Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines, and the United States. During the Tet Offensive in February of 1968 the Air Force evacuated more than 10,000 patients.

By December of 1968, Army Nurse Corps officers were assigned to seven surgical, five field, eleven evacuation, and one convalescent hospital within the four Corps Tactical Zones of South Vietnam. These hospitals provided regional medical support to U.S. forces as far north as the 18th Surgical Hospital, Camp Evans near Quang Tri (only 21 miles from the DMZ), and south to the 29th Evacuation Hospital, Can Tho, South Vietnam, in the Mekong Delta region. Reserve and National Guard medical units were also deployed.



CPT Beatrice Scott, ANC and LT David Van Vliet, ANC, cut the field bandages from a newly arrived patient at the 2nd Surgical Hospital, Lai Khe, Vietnam, September 21, 1969. Photo by SSG Ronald DeLaunay, U.S. Army photo, National Archives



A U.S. Air Force flight nurse and a Red Cross nurse attend to American wounded aboard an Air Force C-141 prior to an aeromedical evacuation from Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam directly back to the United States, January 5, 1967. U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives, Courtesy Women's Memorial Foundation Collection



MILITARY NURSES IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 2 OF 3



Linda J. Brewer, an Air Force nurse with the 8th TFW MEDCAP team, examines a Thai girl, Bang Son Village, Thailand, January 18, 1974. Photo by CPT George B. Clemens, U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives.



A Navy nurse offers a word of encouragement to a patient about to leave the Navy hospital ship USS Repose for further treatment in the United States, October 1967. The USS Repose was then operating in the South China Sea, a few miles south of the Serranville Peninsula off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam. Photo by JOC R.D. Moore, U.S. Navy photo, National Archives. Courtesy Women's Memorial Foundation Collection.

Renowned for their ingenuity, compassionate care, and leadership abilities, military nurses in Vietnam treated 153,303 wounded warriors. The expert quality care provided by military nurse corps officers greatly contributed to the fact that 97.4 percent of wounded service members admitted to military hospitals survived.



Army nurse, 92nd Evacuation Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam, 1968. R.J. (Gateway) Reusser Collection, Women's Memorial Foundation Collection.

Air mobility of the wounded and increased patient acuity characterized service in Vietnam. Evacuation by helicopter (which began in 1962) brought severely wounded servicemen, who in previous wars would have died from their injuries, to medical facilities within minutes flying time from the

battlefield. Artillery, mortars, high velocity bullets, rocket propelled grenades, booby traps, punji sticks, and claymore mines all inflicted vicious multiple wounds. Trauma care specialization as well as shock/trauma units were developed from this experience.

Military nurse corps officers in Vietnam ranged from novice clinicians in their early twenties, who recently graduated from the Officer Basic Course, to seasoned veterans. Possessing a broad range of clinical experience and leadership skills, military nurses quickly learned the technical skills necessary to be proficient war time nurses.

The "guerrilla warfare tactics" employed by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong meant there was no battle front in Vietnam. This constant threat of enemy mortar, small arms, and rocket fire into the bases where the hospitals were located did not stop the nurses from their mission. When the alert sirens sounded, military nurse corps officers and medics quickly protected their patients and themselves, as well as treated fresh casualties.

Renowned for their ingenuity, compassionate care, and leadership abilities, military nurses in Vietnam treated 153,303 wounded warriors as well as those incapacitated by tropical diseases such as malaria. The expert quality care provided by military nurse corps officers greatly contributed to the fact that 97.4 percent of wounded service members admitted to military hospitals survived.

The vast majority of nurses who served in Vietnam were volunteers. A tour of duty was 12 months with the nurses working an average of six days per week, 12-hour shifts, and longer when mass casualties came in from battle. In addition to their primary mission, nurse corps officers often spent off duty time as members of Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) teams providing out-patient health care services to South Vietnamese in outlying villages, hamlets, and orphanages. Whether stationed with training units, in hospitals, on planes, or aboard ships, in the Pacific Theater, or the United States, military nurses served with distinction throughout the Vietnam War caring for U.S. military personnel, Allied troops, and civilians.



U.S. Navy Hospital Ship USS Sanctuary. In 1967, the USS Sanctuary joined the USS Repose, the Navy's other hospital ship operating in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War. After recording over 18,000 helicopter landings, performing over 4,600 major surgical operations, admitting 13,500 patients, and treating about 15,000 servicemen, the USS Sanctuary departed Vietnam from Da Nang Harbor in April 1971. U.S. Navy photo, Gift of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America, Women's Memorial Foundation Collection.



MILITARY NURSES IN THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 3 OF 3



Navy Nurse LCDR Dorothy Ryan checks the medical chart of Marine Cpl Ron Haddaway aboard the hospital ship USS Reopsis off South Vietnam. LCDR Ryan is one of 29 nurses aboard the hospital ship selected from 500 volunteers of the Navy Nurse Corps, April 22, 1966. U.S. Navy photo, National Archives



2LT Kathleen M. Sullivan treats a Vietnamese child during "Operation MEDCAP," a USMFC Civil Action Program in which a team of doctors, nurses, and aides travel to Vietnamese villages, treat the sick and teach villagers the basics of sanitation and dentistry, 1967. U.S. Air Force photo, National Archives



Army nurses assigned to the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Qui Nhon, arrive in Vietnam aboard the transport ship USSB Barrett, September 1, 1965. From: First Lieutenant Joan Shoemaker. Back row, left to right: First Lieutenant Kathleen Gilly, Sharon Forman (later Bryant), and Mary Rose (later Capers); Sharon (Forman) Bryant Collection, Women's Memorial Foundation Collection

Military nurse corps officers in Vietnam ranged from novice clinicians in their early twenties, who recently graduated from the Officer Basic Course, to seasoned veterans. Possessing a broad range of clinical experience and leadership skills, military nurses quickly learned the technical skills necessary to be proficient war time nurses.

Three illustrations of military nurses' exemplary courage under fire: In 1964, a Viet Cong saboteur bombed the Beink Bachelor Officer's Quarters in Saigon. Four Navy Nurse Corps officers, Lieutenants Ruth A. Mason (Wilson), Frances Crumpton, Barbara J. Wooster, and Lieutenant Junior Grade Ann D. Reynolds, selflessly cared for the multiple victims even though they themselves were wounded. These officers were the first females to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal for action in Vietnam, "an honor bestowed in the name of the President of the United States to service members wounded or killed as a result of combat." First Lieutenant Diane M. Lindsay, an Army Nurse Corps officer stationed at the 95th Evacuation Hospital in Da Nang, was awarded the Soldier's Medal in 1970 for valiantly restraining a distraught soldier who had thrown a live grenade. Many additional casualties were prevented by the quick interventions of 1LT Lindsay and a male officer who, while subduing the soldier, convinced him to turn over a second grenade. 1LT Lindsay was the first African-American woman to be presented the Soldier's Medal, "the highest honor a soldier can receive for an act of valor in a non-combat situation." On April 4, 1975, First Lieutenant Regina C. Aune, an Air Force flight nurse with the 10th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was severely wounded as the C-5A Galaxy she was aboard crashed near Ton Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam. 1Lt Aune and other surviving crew members carried over 140 Vietnamese orphans to safety from the wreckage. The orphans were being transported to the United States from Vietnam as a part of Operation Babylift. 1Lt Aune was the first woman to be awarded the Air Force's Cheney Award for her heroic and

selfless act of valor "in a humanitarian interest performed in connection with aircraft."

Key federal legislation impacting women in the military was enacted during the Vietnam War. One outcome was the opening of senior officer ranks to women. Anna Mae V. Hays, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, was the first female general officer in U.S. history. She was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on June 11, 1970. Alene B. Daerk, Chief,



Hammack, AMC-5W-5.jpg, National Archives

Navy Nurse Corps, became the first woman in the Navy to be promoted (on June 1, 1972) to the rank of rear admiral (lower half), the Navy's equivalent to brigadier general. The first Chief, Air Force Nurse Corps to be promoted (on July 1, 1972) to brigadier general was E. Ann Hoeffly. Another noteworthy development created through legislation during the Vietnam War was the opportunity for male nurses to apply for regular commissions in the military nurse corps.

Ten military nurse corps officers died while serving in Vietnam—nine Army and one Air Force Nurse Corps officers: Second Lieutenants Carol Ann Drazba and Elizabeth Jones of the 3rd Field Hospital died in a helicopter crash on February 18, 1966, near Saigon; Captain Eleanor G. Alexander and First Lieutenant Jerome E. Olmstead of the 85th Evacuation Hospital, and First Lieutenants Hedwig D. Orlowski and Kenneth R. Shoemaker of the 67th Evacuation Hospital perished in a plane crash near Qui Nhon on November 30, 1967; Second Lieutenant Pamela D. Donovan of the 85th Evacuation Hospital, Qui Nhon, died of pneumonia on July 8, 1968, while undergoing treatment at the hospital; Lieutenant Colonel Annie R. Graham, Chief Nurse, 91st Evacuation Hospital, Tuy Hoa and a veteran of WWII and the Korean War, died in Japan on August 14, 1968, a few days after suffering a stroke; First Lieutenant Sharon A. Lane, the only nurse killed by hostile enemy fire, died of shrapnel wounds sustained during an enemy rocket attack on June 8, 1969, while she was on duty at the 312th Evacuation Hospital, Chu Lai; and the last military nurse to die in Vietnam was Air Force Captain Mary T. Klinker of the 10th Air Evacuation Squadron. Captain Klinker perished aboard a C-5A Galaxy that crashed on April 4, 1975, during Operation Babylift. The names of these brave military nurses are included on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

References can be found on The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration website <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/>.

* Women other than nurses were promoted to general/flag rank in the early 1970's. See the Service Women in Vietnam poster.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



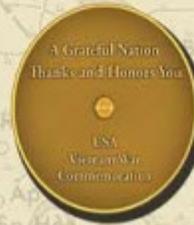
Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"

Front



Back



Purpose: To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.

Eligibility: Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.

Presentation: These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.

Symbolism:

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION
HISTORY & EDUCATION



The goal of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration History & Education effort is to provide the American public with historically accurate materials and interactive experiences that will help Americans better understand and appreciate the service of our Vietnam War veterans and the history of the Vietnam War.

In the Classroom

The History and Education Office will develop high quality educational content for classroom use based on best practices of pedagogy.

Resources for teachers and students in the grades 7 - 12 will be available on our website.

Educational Resources

- Maps
- Chronological and thematic posters
- Fact sheets
- Primary sources and reference materials
- Suggested service learning opportunities.

Future initiatives will include web-based oral history interviews with Vietnam veterans and a traveling museum.

Commemorative Partners

Schools are also encouraged to become a Commemorative Partner to honor the service, valor and sacrifice of the Vietnam War veteran in their hometowns. Partner schools receive additional materials.

Information on how to become a Commemorative partner can be found on our website.



WWW.VIETNAMWAR50TH.COM/EDUCATION

Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" - 2016, Issue 5

"Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"

Thursday, May 5

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Memorial Day, originally known as "**Decoration Day**," is observed the last Monday in May to **honor and recognize** those who died while serving in our nation's armed forces. This year, it falls on **May 30**.

As you host and attend **Memorial Day events** this year, remember the following: **1)** Consider an appropriate way to commemorate your area's fallen veterans from all wars. **2)** More than 58 thousand of those heroes made the **ultimate sacrifice** during the Vietnam War, and their **names are engraved on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, pictured at the right**. **3)** While Memorial Day is set aside specifically for those who have died, **every day** is a great day to honor all veterans! If your event is honoring **living** Vietnam veterans, submit your request for [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins](#) (through the Partner Portal) **right away** so you can honor these heroes with this "**lasting memento of the nation's thanks**" at your Memorial Day event!



Above & Beyond

**Maryland Public
Television (MPT)**



Two capstones of a 4-year initiative:
[MPT Salutes Vietnam Veterans:](#)

1. "**Maryland Vietnam Stories**"
a documentary, airs in three parts: **May 24-26**
2. **LZ Maryland**, a weekend event honors Vietnam veterans **June 18-19**

Thank you MPT!

Additionally, our office **will be moving** to a new location this week. Our new mailing address is now: 241 18th Street South, Suite 101, Arlington, VA 22202. Our website, phone, and email contact information remain the same, but if you have any questions, as always, email: whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil. If you are ever in the Crystal City area, let us know and we will show you the new office!

We look forward to hearing from **you** on your continued successes via your [After-Action Reports](#). **One way** we share **your success stories** is on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/vietnamwar50th). If you have not done so already, please "like" and

"tag" us in any stories your organization shares, and thank you for being a ...

"Proud partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!"

Sincerely,

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff

Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP"

2017 – Issue 2

"Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Tuesday, March 7

Vietnam Veterans Day is nearly upon us! Half of our 56 states, commonwealths and territories now recognize this day annually; the majority on either [March 29th or 30th](#).

Last year in the month of March, you hosted an astounding **960 commemorative events** around the country during which nearly **182 thousand** Vietnam veterans and their families were publicly and individually **thanked and honored!** We anticipate a similar surge this year, so please request your materials (i.e., [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins](#)) early. Simply log into the [Partner Portal](#) and mark your [DD2956](#) to indicate whatever materials you desire for distribution at your upcoming commemorative event(s).

Speaking of materials, don't forget to visit our [website](#) to peruse and download high-resolution versions of our **four multi-page poster sets** honoring service in the Vietnam War (see examples at right). Many of our partners display professionally printed versions of these posters at their commemorative events to the delight of all who attend.



Above & Beyond

National Society of the
Daughters of the American Revolution



1,505 chapters of the NSDAR have hosted 2,408 events around the country during which nearly 104,000 Vietnam veterans and their families were thanked and honored!

We humbly thank the current and previous NSDAR Presidents-General for inspiring and mobilizing their membership to achieve these amazing results. Thank you, NSDAR!

As you plan your 2017 events, please consider *collaborating* with other partners in your area. *Co-hosting* events *amplifies* your *efforts and impact*. Together, you'll *energize your communities*, reach a larger audience, and touch more Vietnam veterans and their families as compared to when each of you operates separately. To locate partners in your area, visit our [CP map](#). Zoom in to your location. Then, click each pin to reveal a CP. While you'll need to consult your white or yellow pages, or the Internet, to retrieve contact info for CPs shown on this map, you also can visit our [Events map](#) to find contact info for CPs already planning events in your area.

Thank you, for continuing to serve as a ... *"Proud Partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!"*

Sincerely, *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff*

www.vietnamwar50th.com

The U.S. Army in the Vietnam War



The Communists' victory at Dien Bien Phu in May 1954 marked the end of French involvement in Indochina. The Geneva Accords of July 1954 divided Vietnam into a Communist state in the North and an anti-Communist state in the South.

The United States had supported the French army in Indochina through the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), and U.S. advisers continued to train and organize the South Vietnamese Army to repel an invasion from the North. In 1955, MAAG numbered 342 officers and men—most of them Army personnel—rising to around 700 by 1960. In February 1962, the Joint Chiefs of Staff established the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), appointing General Paul D. Harkins as the first commander. General William C. Westmoreland succeeded Harkins in June 1964. As MACV's responsibilities expanded, U.S. military strength in South Vietnam increased to 23,000 by the end of 1964. Of these, about 15,000 were Army personnel.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson began sending U.S. ground troops to stave off the defeat of the South Vietnamese Army. At first, Army combat units played a defensive role, protecting Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital, and other important cities and bases. The president authorized the Army to send 20,000 support troops to establish a supply network that had to be built from the ground up. The newly formed U.S. Army, Vietnam managed the logistical effort.

As the U.S. troop presence increased, Army combat units operated farther afield. In the fall of 1965, Westmoreland sent the 1st Cavalry Division—the Army's first airmobile unit—to the rugged Central Highlands, where it defeated North Vietnamese regulars in the month-long Battle of the Ia Drang.

By the fall of 1966, Westmoreland had enough forces, including 240,000 soldiers, to mount sustained offensives. For over a year, Army combat units conducted search and destroy operations against an elusive enemy. Whenever the Army could bring its superior firepower to bear, the results were often devastating. On 10 March 1967, a Viet Cong regiment mounted a night assault on Firebase Prek Klok, defended by a battalion of the 1st Infantry Division, resulting in 200 enemy dead at a cost of 3 U.S. fatalities.

On 31 January 1968, the Communists launched a major assault known as the Tet Offensive. U.S. Army units helped to repel Viet Cong attacks at Saigon and other South Vietnamese cities. The fiercest battle occurred around Hue, where soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division helped U.S. marines and South Vietnamese forces defeat North Vietnamese regulars. Although a tactical victory, Tet signaled a change in U.S. policy in Vietnam; henceforth, peace negotiations would play a pivotal role in ending the war.

In 1969, President Richard M. Nixon introduced a program called Vietnamization, in which the South Vietnamese Army assumed an ever-larger combat role, as MACV began a phased withdrawal of over half a million U.S. soldiers and marines. Westmoreland's successor, General Creighton W. Abrams, continued search and destroy operations, gradually reducing their frequency as the drawdown progressed. Notwithstanding their diminishing numbers, Army units and advisers supported South Vietnamese forces in the Cambodian Campaign (1970), Operation LAM SON 719 (1971) in Laos, and in the repulse of the enemy's Easter Offensive (1972). The Army's role in the Vietnam War officially ended on 29 March 1973, with a ceremony marking the deactivation of MACV.



The U.S. Navy in the Vietnam War

The U.S. Navy performed a wide array of missions in the Vietnam War. In the air, it was a key partner with the U.S. Air Force during the Rolling Thunder and Linebacker air campaigns against North Vietnam, and in other air operations in Laos and Cambodia. On the coast, it developed a highly effective blockade to prevent the resupply of enemy forces by sea, engaged in naval gunfire support missions against enemy targets in the littoral areas of Vietnam, and provided amphibious transport for Marines operating in I Corps. On the rivers, it stood up several task forces designed to protect commercial traffic, assist allied ground forces in pacifying these areas, and interdict enemy troops and

supplies moving on these inland waterways. The U.S. Navy also supported the war effort with a massive sea and riverine logistics operation, built and managed shore facilities throughout South Vietnam, and provided extensive medical support for the allied military operation. Advisors assisted the Republic of Vietnam in developing the Vietnam Navy (VNN) that grew from 5,000 sailors and 122 vessels in 1959 to over 42,000 men and 1,500 vessels in 1972, making it the fifth largest navy in the world. Naval advisors worked throughout the war to train this indigenous navy, and experienced many hardships and much danger serving on VNN ships.

The U.S. response to the North Vietnamese attack on USS *Maddox* (DD 731) in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964 marked the beginning of the Navy's air and surface bombardment against North Vietnam. During the course of the war, Seventh Fleet aircraft carriers supported allied air campaigns by bombing fuel and supply facilities, power plants, bridges, and railroads in Laos and North Vietnam, and after 1970, in Cambodia. Navy surface vessels steamed up and down the coasts of both North and South Vietnam, raining down shells on a variety of targets. Rolling Thunder air and naval gunfire attacks, however, did not prove decisive. The 1965–68 interdiction campaign neither resulted in a peace treaty nor altered significantly the ground situation in the South. Linebacker attacks in 1972, by comparison, were more effective, especially in blunting the Communist Easter Offensive. During Linebacker I, the Navy flew an average of 4,000 sorties a month, which represented 60 percent of the air effort; Navy surface ships fired over 111,000 rounds at targets on the North Vietnamese coast. Navy aircraft also closed North Vietnam's major ports in a highly successful mining operation, code-named Pocket Money. In December 1972, peace negotiations with North Vietnam stalled, compelling President Nixon to resume the air offensive. Linebacker II was a maximum effort air campaign, focusing heavily on strategic military targets in Hanoi and Haiphong. Air Force B-52s performed the brunt of the bombing missions during the operation, but Navy aircraft played a vital role in air defense suppression missions and also reseeded North Vietnam's major ports with mines.

The discovery of a 100-ton enemy trawler in Vung Ro Bay in February 1965 led to the establishment of a U.S. Navy and Coast Guard patrol force to complement the existing VNN anti-infiltration program along the 1,200-mile coast of South Vietnam. The purpose of this deployment, which became Operation Market Time (Task Force 115), was to halt the seaborne infiltration of supplies to Communist troops. Market Time represented the Navy's most successful interdiction program during the war, all but eliminating infiltration by North Vietnamese steel-hulled freighters and significantly reducing North Vietnamese resupply by sea.

In December 1965, the U.S. Navy initiated Operation Game Warden to patrol the major rivers and canals in the Mekong Delta and Rung Sat Special Zone. Consisting of a fleet of 31-foot patrol boats augmented by attack helicopters and SEAL units, this naval inshore force (Task Force 116) imposed a curfew in the region, interdicted enemy troop and supply movements, curbed Communist taxation of peasants, and hindered large-scale Viet Cong operations. Minesweeping forces and harbor defense units kept the vital waterways to Saigon and Hue and South Vietnam's major ports open for allied use. In performing these varied functions, Game Warden helped secure the major rivers in the area for commerce and extended government control to the "breadbasket" of South Vietnam.

The U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War



The U.S. Marine Corps provided ground, air, supply, and logistic support in the Vietnam War for over two decades as part of III Marine Amphibious Force. Initially in Vietnam as advisors, the Marines forces grew with the need to protect the key airbase at Da Nang. After the Gulf of Tonkin incident, more troops arrived and the Marines began to engage in the counterinsurgency effort with small-scale pacification units. Combined Action Platoons – comprised of U.S. Marines and Vietnamese soldiers – were a novel concept that the Marines brought.

By 1966, there were nearly 70,000 Marines in Vietnam carrying out large scale ground operations against the Viet Cong. In addition to ground combat, the Marines Corps provided air support from helicopter

squadrons and fixed-wing aircrafts striking targets in South and North Vietnam. In 1967, the Army leadership in Saigon advocated that the Marines concentrate their efforts on large unit search and destroy operations. The Marines' mission was split, with fighting against the North Vietnamese Army along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) toward the north, and a counterinsurgency operation waged against the Viet Cong in the villages in the south.

In the north, the Marines engaged in heavy fighting between Khe Sanh in the West and Leatherneck Square in the Eastern DMZ. They also began to create the McNamara line, a series of strong points, sensors and obstacles meant to detect communist forces crossing the DMZ. The North Vietnamese focused much of their firepower on destroying the McNamara line in its early stages, resulting in many conflicts, most notably Con Thien. The McNamara line ultimately failed to materialize, but the Marines were largely successful in stemming the flow of communist forces across the DMZ, although at a large price. 3,461 Marines were killed in action in 1967 and another 25,525 were wounded. Despite the fewer numbers, it was clear that more troops would not guarantee more success.

The year 1968 proved to be a watershed for the Marines in Vietnam. The January 31 Tet Offensive – the massive offensive the North Vietnamese launched against South Vietnam in 105 cities on the Tet Lunar Year – was largely repulsed by U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese forces. This was not the case at Hue, a city where Marines fought for 26 days before expelling the North Vietnamese. The Marines also defended Khe Sanh in a 77 day siege, under fire by as many as 1000 shells per day, until the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division broke the siege.

After footage of these bloody battles was aired on television and with no clear end in sight by 1969, much of the American public support for the war eroded. President Nixon began to bring troops home. Few Marines units were involved in the U.S. military actions in Cambodia or Laos, and while 1st Marine Division fought in major engagements around Da Nang, 3d Marine Division was heading back to base at Okinawa. By 1971, the 1st Division and 3d Marine Aircraft Wing departed for the United States and Japan.

Marine advisors, fire support personnel, and air units fought during the 1972 Easter Offensive supporting the Vietnamese Marine Corps. A peace treaty was signed in Paris in January 1973. The U.S. agreed to withdraw all of its forces from Vietnam and in turn the North Vietnamese returned its U.S. prisoners of war, 26 of whom were Marines. In 1975, Marines led Operations Eagle Pull and Frequent Wind to evacuate the American embassies in Phnom Penh and Saigon. Immediately after saving hundreds of American lives in the embassy evacuations, President Ford ordered the Marines to rescue the crew of the *USS Mayaguez*, which had been taken by the Khmer Rouge. A joint task force completed the mission and recaptured the ship, but not without Marine and U.S. Air Force casualties.



The U.S. Coast Guard in the Vietnam War

Early in the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese forces obtained their supplies in many ways and the forces allied with the Republic of South Vietnam had great difficulty stopping the enemy's flow of men, arms and supplies.

In February 1965, U. S. Army helicopter pilot 1LT James Bowers flying a HU-1B Iroquois over Vung Ro Bay near Qui Nhon noticed an "island" moving slowly from one side of the bay to the other. Upon closer observation he saw the island was a carefully camouflaged ship. Air strikes were called in and the vessel was sunk. Intelligence sources determined the ship was North Vietnamese engaging enemy forces.

While the U.S. Navy recognized the need for an effective security and surveillance system, it also knew this would be a difficult task with 1,200 miles of coastline to patrol and over 60,000 junks and sampans to control.

In March 1965, the Coastal Surveillance Force was established and began Operation MARKET TIME, so named after the native boats using the waterways for fishing and marketing. This task force provided a single command to integrate sea, air, and land based units and coordinate U.S. Navy, and South Vietnamese naval units.

Soon the Navy recognized the need for Coast Guard units to support this mission and on April 29th, President Lyndon Johnson committed the USCG to service in Vietnam under the Navy Department's operational control and announced the formation of Coast Guard Squadron One (RON ONE). Initially, 47 officers and 198 enlisted were assigned to the newly formed Squadron and on 16 July, Division 12 of Coast Guard Squadron One departed Subic Bay, Philippines for Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. It arrived on July 20th and began its security and surveillance patrol mission on July 21st. Throughout the war, OPERATION MARKET TIME units stopped many enemy vessels carrying supplies and men. The largest naval engagement of the Vietnam War was on 29 February 1968. Four trawlers attempted to penetrate the barrier. Of these, three were destroyed and the fourth retreated to the north.

The success of this and other operations forced the enemy to rely on the Ho Chi Minh trail to transport supplies. As many of the trawler kills were in southern Vietnam near the Ca Mau peninsula, the enemy had to carry supplies over an extraordinarily long distance. As the United States military involvement in South Vietnam shifted from an advisory role to combat operations, advisors from Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) to the South Vietnamese military noticed an increase in the amount of military supplies and weapons being smuggled into the country by way of North Vietnamese junks and other small craft.^{[8][9]} The extent of infiltration was underscored in February 1965 when a U.S. Army helicopter crew spotted a North Vietnamese trawler camouflaged to look like an island.^[10] The event would later be known as the Vung Ro Bay Incident, named for the small bay that was the trawler's destination. After the U.S. Army helicopter crew called in air strikes on the trawler, it was sunk and captured after a five-day action conducted by elements of the Republic of Vietnam Navy (RVN). Investigators found one million rounds of small arms ammunition, more than 1,000 stick grenades, 500 pounds of prepared TNT charges, 2,000 rounds of 82 mm mortar ammunition, 500 anti-tank grenades, 1,500 rounds of recoilless rifle ammunition, 3,600 rifles and sub-machine guns, and 500 pounds of medical supplies.^[12] Labels on captured equipment and supplies and other papers found in the wreckage indicated that the shipment was from North Vietnam. Concern by top MACV advisors as to whether the RVN was up to the task of interdicting shipments originating in North Vietnam led to a request by General William C. Westmoreland, commanding general of MACV, for U.S. Navy assistance.

The U.S. Merchant Marines in the Vietnam War



The merchant ships of the **Military Sea Transportation Service** delivered 95 percent of the military equipment and supplies consumed by allied forces in Vietnam. Navy Seabee construction units built enormous support bases at Danang and Saigon to supply all Navy and Marine Corps forces in the field as well as some Air Force and Army units. Naval Support Activity Sailors administered these logistical hubs and operated a fleet of supply craft and barges that plied the waters of the Mekong Delta and beyond. The Navy also operated

two hospitals at Da Nang and Saigon and two hospital ships, *Sanctuary* (AH 17) and *Repose* (AH 16), staffed by Navy doctors, corpsmen, and 425 female members of the Nurse Corps.

In February 1951 the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS) aircraft carrier **Windham Bay**, was the first large ship to navigate the Long Tam River since 1925. While the ship was docked at Saigon (French Indochina) 17 hand grenades were tossed at the ship by terrorists. The Military Sea Transportation Service was established in 1949 to provide sea transportation to the military as a successor to the Army Transportation Service. MSTS operated a fleet of ships and had charter agreements with commercial shipping firms. MSTS was succeeded by Military Sealift Command.

In 1954, after the partitioning of Vietnam, MSTS evacuated Vietnamese refugees from North to South Vietnam. USNS **Howze** was one of many MSTS ships involved in "Passage to Freedom" bringing 300,000 refugees and 200,000 tons of Cargo from North Vietnam.

The Military Sea Transportation Service had the job of bringing war supplies to Vietnam -- 10,000 miles from the Pacific coast. MSTS had four separate customers to serve: the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps. MSTS ships were staffed by "civilian" crews, but carried 95% of the supplies used by our Armed Forces in Vietnam including bombs and ammunition into combat zones under fire. Crew members were given Navy grades and rank identification in event of enemy capture. During Vietnam, MSTS first utilized roll-on/roll-off ships and container ships which speeded loading and unloading.

MSTS took about 100 Victory ships out of the **National Defense Reserve Fleet** (mothball fleet), repaired them, and assigned them to private companies for operation to carry ammunition across the Pacific. MSTS carried guns, tanks, trucks, trains, riverboats, barges, helicopters, bombers, fighters, reconnaissance planes, food, fuel, and medical supplies. By 1965 MSTS had 300 freighters and tankers supplying Vietnam, with an average of 75 ships and over 3,000 merchant mariners in Vietnamese ports at any time.

Early in the Vietnam War, troop ships such as the USNS **Upshur**, **Geiger**, and **Gordon** carried two thirds of U.S. troops to Vietnam; later, most American troops traveled by air. However, Korean troops were transported by MSTS throughout the war, with the first 2,000 coming on the MSTS **Mann** in March 1965. In August 1966 **USNS Patch** and **Darby** carried troops 12,500 miles from Boston to Vietnam, the longest troop lift in U.S. military history. In October 1966 the converted **Liberty ship SS Benjamin Chew** and the **SS Meredith Victory** were added as troop carriers. Men and equipment of the Army 1st Cavalry Division went to Vietnam aboard the baby flat-tops **USNS Kula Gulf** and **Point Cruz** which were taken out of mothballs to transport the 434 aircraft and other equipment. Other escort carriers which saw WWII duty included the **USNS Core**.

The United States Air Force in the Vietnam War



The United States Air Force provided tremendous and diverse contributions in Vietnam, beginning as advisors in the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group in the 1950s and ending with large bombing operations in the early 1970s.

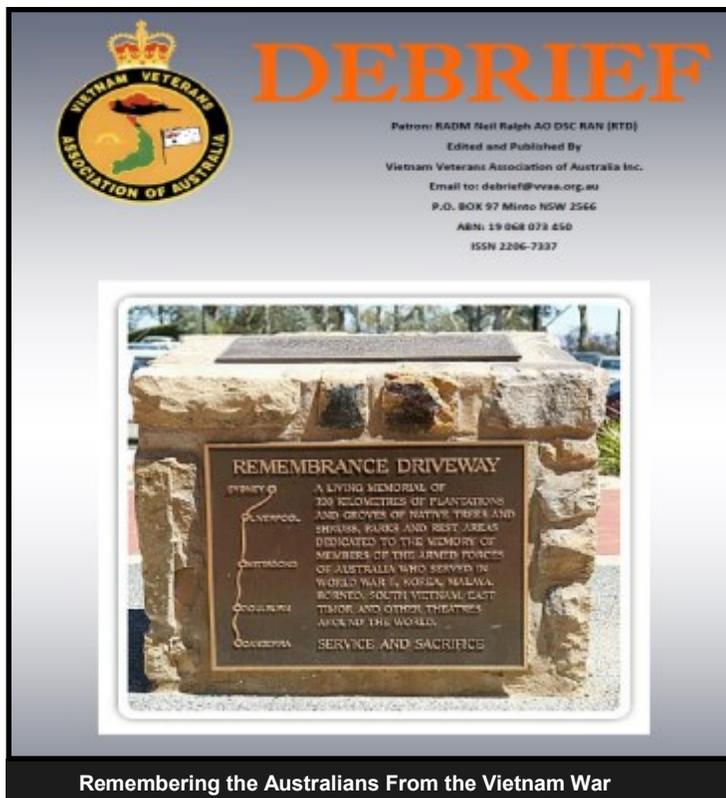
Initially, the USAF helped train and equip the growing South Vietnamese Air Force, while also building up radar, reconnaissance, air control, and counterinsurgency capacities. After the Gulf of Tonkin incident in 1964, a major military buildup began and many new types of aircraft arrived in country. At this point in the war U.S. leadership emphasized restraint and gradual escalation, so the USAF mission was at first limited, even as forces grew.

During the second half of the 1960s, the USAF gained more flexibility and took on a more active role in the War. Operation Rolling Thunder, ordered by President Johnson in 1965, had two objectives: (1) to smash the North Vietnamese air defense system, industrial base, and supply network; and (2) to erode its support in the South. The campaign targeted rail lines, highways, bridges, and petroleum targets, as well as the supply lines running down the Ho Chi Minh trail to the South. China and the Soviet Union continued to help North Vietnam build up its supplies of anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles, eventually creating the strongest air-defense system then in existence. USAF losses in the campaign totaled 531 aircraft and 547 airmen. Increasing losses also meant increased numbers of prisoners of war falling into enemy hands. In total, some 800 men – most of them Air Force and Navy aviators – were taken captive by the North Vietnamese and their allies.

The USAF served in close air support operations with modern fighter-bombers like the F-4s and F-100s as well as older A-7 Skyraiders and the AC-47 Spooky, and B-52 bombers from Guam. This close air support proved crucial to the defense of the Marine base at Khe Sanh, which lay under siege for two and a half months during the Tet Offensive that began in January 1968. The effort also included a supply mission, an important but overlooked element of the war, since, along with aero-medical flights, para-rescue, and air sea rescue, they proved essential to supporting and maintaining U.S. personnel and activities throughout the entire region. Between 1965 and 1973, the Military Airlift Command evacuated over 400,000 medical patients. To improve the military infrastructure that allowed all these operations, the Air Force also created new construction and engineering teams to construct, improve, and repair airfields, buildings, roads, and wells.

As Rolling Thunder ended and Vietnamization began in late 1968, the USAF continued its bombing campaign, including in southern Laos and Cambodia. As ground troops continued to pull out, air power began a greater offensive. During Operation Linebacker I, from May to October 1972, the USAF dropped over 150,000 tons of bombs over North Vietnam, concentrating mostly on transportation targets, airfields, power plants, and radio stations. The USAF also continued to develop a wider range of weapons suited to the conflict, including specialized bombs to penetrate or defoliate the jungle canopy, nonlethal gas bombs that could provide cover for air rescue missions, and a new arsenal of radar- and laser-guided bombs. These bombs felled several important bridges over the Red River, including the Paul Doumer Bridge, which was one of the longest bridges in Asia and the only bridge to link Hanoi and Haiphong—it was a logistically and symbolically important target that had withstood previous attacks.

A Tremendous Ally—Australia



Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley

Birth date: 13 March 1937

Birth place: Australia: New South Wales, Sydney

Death date: 13 November 1965

Death place: Vietnam: Quang Ngai Province, Tra Bong

Final rank: Warrant Officer Class 2

Service number: 29890 - Vietnam, 1962-1975

Unit: Australian Army Training Team Vietnam

Kevin "Dasher" Wheatley was born in Sydney, and had several jobs before joining the Australian Regular Army in 1956. He served in different battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, including me in Malaya, before being posted to Vietnam in 1965. A short and stocky man, he had become known as "Dasher" for his rugby skills. On 13 November 1965 Wheatley and Warrant Officer Ronald Swanton, were operating in the Tra Bong valley. Their platoon came under heavy fire and Swanton was shot. Although he knew his mate was dying, Wheatley refused to leave him. Again urged to withdraw, Wheatley would not. Instead, he pulled the pins from two grenades and waited for the enemy. Two explosions were heard, followed by bursts of fire; both men were killed. Wheatley's refusal to leave a mate was seen to be in the highest traditions of gallantry. His body was returned to Australia for burial. Wheatley was awarded the Victoria Cross, the General Service Medal (for Malaya), service medals for the Vietnam War, the United States Silver Star, and South Vietnamese awards.



A VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT FOR AMERICA

On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

"35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth. I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American. If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people. I am a proud U.S. citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf. 35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the U.S. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience. In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life. Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here. Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the U.S. Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders. At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all."

Quang Nguyen
Creative Director

P.S. We did do some goof after all and here is proof of that. He was willing to give his heart and life to America.

Roosevelt and Stalin Discuss the Future of French Rule in Indochina, Teheran Conference, November 28, 1943, from *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy, Volume II: Since 1914*

The President [FDR] said that Mr. Churchill was of the opinion that France would be very quickly reconstructed as a strong nation, but he did not personally share this view since he felt that many years of honest labor would be necessary before France would be re-established. He said the first necessity for the French, not only for the Government but the people as well, was to become honest citizens. Marshal [Josef] Stalin agreed and went on to say that he did not propose to have the Allies shed blood to restore Indochina, for example, to the old French colonial rule. He said that the recent events in the Lebanon [where the French ended their mandate] made public service the first step toward the independence of people who had formerly been colonial subjects. He said that in the war against Japan, in his opinion, that in addition to military missions, it was necessary to fight the Japanese in the political sphere as well, particularly in view of the fact that the Japanese had granted the least nominal independence to certain colonial areas. He repeated that France should not get back Indochina and that the French must pay for their criminal collaboration with Germany. The President said he was 100% in agreement with Marshal Stalin and remarked that after 100 years of French rule in Indochina, the inhabitants were worse off than they had been before. The President continued on the subject of colonial possessions, but he felt it would be better not to discuss the question of India with Mr. Churchill, since the latter had no solution of that question, and merely proposed to defer the entire question to the end of the war. Marshal Stalin agreed that this was a sore spot with the British.

Eisenhower on the Strategic Link between French Forces in Europe and Vietnam

Serious problems were plaguing our nation in Korea and Vietnam. In the former, indecisive and costly fighting still dragged on. In Vietnam the French had not yet convinced the world that the struggle was between those who stood for freedom on one side and Communist rebels, supported by the power of Red China, on the other. Consequently a considerable portion of world opinion viewed the war there as merely a French effort to continue their prewar domination in the region. Until this point was clarified, it was difficult for any Western nation, including our own, to offer or provide any help to the French and loyal Vietnamese.

This was a matter that had troubled me greatly when I was serving as military commander of NATO in 1951-52. In that period the French government had found it necessary to deplete their NATO military contingent by a number of battalions so as to reinforce promptly French troops in Vietnam. In expressing my disappointment in that development I had strongly urged the government to interpret, publicly, their Far Eastern war effort in terms of freedom versus Communism. This could be done only through a French public commitment assuring to the Vietnamese, unequivocally, the right of determining their own political future. Such a pronouncement, I argued, would earn the approval of the Free World as well as its moral and greater material support.

During my service in NATO a considerable number of responsible officials in France had assured me of their complete agreement with this view. General de Lattre de Tassigny, who was then the commander of French forces in Vietnam, had come to the United States, at my urging, just a few months before his death and in a nationally televised speech in this country made just such a statement. But because his government did not follow with a public political pronouncement, the matter was still subject to misinterpretation and an American support for the French in that region could not achieve unanimous domestic approval. Nonetheless, recognizing the necessity of stopping Communist advances in that country, we started immediately after my inauguration to devise plans for strengthening the defenders politically and militarily within the proper limits.

Some Facts About Vietnam

March 29th is a very special date for Vietnam Veterans and the nation. It is the day in 1973 when the last American combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam, and with the support of Congress in 1974 the first Vietnam Veterans Day was proclaimed by Presidential order, and again in 2012 was proclaimed Vietnam Veterans Day by Presidential order. It is important that those who served with Honor, Dignity and Valor during the Vietnam War and Era and their families can finally experience the nations and citizens' appreciation and respect for a job well done.

This year we also commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. Sadly there has never been a closure for those who served in country and during that Era nor for their families nor our nation. Establishing a national March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day in perpetuity will deliver, to those who were indelibly touched by the Vietnam War and its consequences, the earned respect and gratitude and ultimately the healing as well as closure. Declaring this special day will also uplift the spirits of our current generation of our nation's defenders, knowing that theirs and their families' sacrifice and service will not be forgotten. It will also deliver the opportunity for our whole nation to reflect and heal.

NUMBERS

- 7.6 million - Number of Vietnam-era veterans in 2009. Thirty-five percent of all living veterans served during this time (1960-1975).
- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam Era which was August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
- 8,744,000 GI's were on active duty during the war (Aug 5, 1964-March 8, 1973).
- 2,709,918 Americans served in Vietnam, this number represents 9.7% of their generation.
- 3,403,100 (Including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the broader Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
- 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 to March 28, 1973).
- Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
- Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack.
- 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
- Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1968).

YEARS

- E1: 525 men at 20.34 years
- 11B MOS: 18,465 combat soldiers at age 22.5.
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- Highest state death rate: West Virginia - 84.1% (national average 58.9% for every 100,000 males in 1970).

Some Facts About Vietnam

RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND:

- 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian; 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.
- 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics);
- 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.
- 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.
- 70% of enlisted men killed were of North-west European descent.
- 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black and 1.1% belonged to other races.
- 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.
- 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.
- Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.
- Religion: Protestant -- 64.4%; Catholic -- 28.9%; other/none -- 6.7%

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS

- Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
- Vietnam veterans' personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
- 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.
- Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle income backgrounds.
- Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.
- 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military
- Service. 63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation. Deaths by region per 100,000 of population: South - 31%, West -29.9%; Midwest - 28.4%; Northeast - 23.5%.

WINNING & LOSING

82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will, however, we won due to "Communism" NOT being spread thruout SE Asia. Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms. Almost 69% believe that the ultimate purpose of keeping Communism out of the East Hemisphere was accomplished.

HONORABLE SERVICE:

- 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their Country.
- 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.
- 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

INTERESTING CENSUS STATISTICS

1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive.
As of the current Census taken during August, 2010, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between '95 and '00. That's 390 per day

Remembering You

"The Vietnam Veteran"

We do this for the VIETNAM VETERAN, because the men and women of the United States to illustrate just how important you are to us: **Vietnam Veterans of America**. VVA has over 80,000 members within its organization and while all of us are in the "*wintery days of our life*", we all need to take advantage of this time to be honored and honor those who have had a large impact on the Vietnam War from 1960 to 1975, America's longest war.

1. To thank and **honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice** on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the **contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations** that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the **home front** by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in **technology, science, and medicine** related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- 5 To recognize the **allies of the United States** who fought the North Vietnamese whom include:
 - South Vietnam
 - Thailand
 - Philippine Islands
 - South Korea
 - Australia
 - New Zealand

The United States DOD 50th Commemoration Program Office in Washington D.C. is making great strides to have every Vietnam Veteran in America honored before they leave this earth and they are to be thanked for making that effort. Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona State Council has put on nine 50th Events within Arizona to honor all of these men and women who most certainly deserve a huge thank you. Now, we of you "Vietnam Veteran" to pass that thank you onto the next generations after us and let them know what Vietnam was all about, for if we do not tell them, teach them, "*How will they ever know?*". It is critical to inform them that their Grandfather or Great Uncle served in a war and they no little or nothing of. This is **not** the way to leave a legacy. **We need to pass it on to them so they will know.**

From The Commemorative Chairman

I have been the chairman for Vietnam Veterans of America for Arizona for going on five years and I am delighted to see the Chapters within VVA-Arizona and the State Council do their share of ensuring that all of the veterans of Arizona get their recognition of keeping all regions of the world safe from Communism.

Chapter 1011 in East Phoenix headed up by Mike Marks put on a beautiful event with 212 veterans on hand, while **Chapter 106** in Tucson also commemorated 196 veterans and their families. **Chapter 1043** in West Phoenix in January of this year had a superb event with 95 veterans being honored.

Chapter 975 of Bullhead City held their event in September of 2016 with 129 on hand and provided a great event honoring those Vietnam Veterans. **Chapter 1093** of Sierra Vista provided their 50th event in 97 with 54 on hand to receive DOD pins and coins. **Chapter 432** of Central Phoenix had their event in November 2016 with a large crowd of 158 held at the Heard Museum. We are also pleased that at this writing that **Chapter 1093** Sierra Vista is scheduled to host their second 50th Event.

Chapter 835 and the **Arizona State Council** will also host their first 50th Commemorative Event in October 2017 in Yuma, Arizona with hopefully around 200 veterans and their families. With receipt of a the DOD pin and a nice challenge coin and honoring those that had families serve with the **Allied Nations**, along with honoring those Federal Agencies such as Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) and the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) that played a large part in preparing the Armed Forces in Vietnam to be ready for their enemy. Between the three categories of **medicine, science and technology**, these three attributes has improved how conflicts are handled both on and off of the battle field. In addition, it is true blessing and integrity that we honor the **families** of those that sent the men and women off to battle America's longest war.

We with the 50th Commemorative Partnership of the 50th Commemorative System have honored hundreds of different of men and women throughout the state of Arizona and it has been the first time that many of them had had that precious thank you with a nice remembrance.

So, as you hear and read about these, I request you the reader that you provide the information to another veteran before he or she does not have a chance to attend one of our events in the major cities of Arizona. 50th Commemoration Events can be critical when we look back on our lives 50 years ago when most of us went to Vietnam and upon coming home, we did not get that "warm greeting" by the American public, mostly because they did not know the reason for Vietnam, and today the thinking of "Why Vietnam Was" is even more critical now.

Are we all looking for a reason to be "Welcomed Home" and "Honored"? If so, then it is up to us to "teach" those two and three generations after us "the who, what when, where, why and how of Vietnam". It is essential that: "*We Teach The American Public What The Vietnam War Was All About*". Think on this and then do something about so that our legacy will go on and on the way the heritage of the World War II veterans has carried on since 1945. And it (WWII) is still going on and in my mind it always will.

From A Commemorative Partner

I asked a special friend of mine to let us know from his perspective on the military and here is what he had to say. His name is Pastor John Goetsch, a 50th Commemorative Partner.

“A Sense of Responsibility”



I did not grow up in a military home. I did have a Grandfather who fought in WWII but my own father was a preacher. My parents certainly tried to instill in their children a sense of patriotism and respect for this country and its patriots. I remember learning about the attacks against freedom and about those who so bravely fought to preserve the liberties that we are so privileged to enjoy. I was always intrigued and interested in the history of WWI, WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam, but I don't think I ever truly understood the value of those wars nor their individual and collective enemies until 1991.

I was 14 years old and I had just come home from church with my family when my father asked the family to sit with him in the living room. He proceeded to explain that our country had declared war on Iraq for invading Kuwait and that we needed to pray for the men and women who were putting their lives in great danger to defend freedom. We stayed up rather late that night and sat and by the radio, listening to the news reports. I will never forget those sounds of war that evening as, for the first time in my life, war became reality. Since that night twenty-six years ago, I have retained an authentic sense of gratitude for those who have defended my freedom. I have thought many times that it never seems to enough to simply say “thank you.” Surely there must be more that I can do.

Now these many years later as a father of five children and as the Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Yuma, Arizona, God has given me the opportunity and the sense of responsibility to do more. For the last nine years our church family has held a Veterans Appreciation Sunday on the first weekend of November. It has been our opportunity to express our deep gratitude to those who have served this great nation in the armed forces. What a privilege it has been to host hundreds of veterans over the years, and to honor them and recognize them for their service. Every year as I have opportunity to present each veteran with a challenge coin and a handshake I can't help but feel a sense of indebtedness to each one of them for what they have done.

I want my children and our church family to never forget that freedom is not free. We enjoy what we have today because someone was willing to pay the price of freedom. In a day where patriotism is getting lost, you will still find it very much alive at Faith Baptist and I pray that you always will, for we have a responsibility to remember, thank, and honor those who have defended this nation. The next time you see a veteran wouldn't you also sense the responsibility to perhaps give a handshake and say “Thank you for serving?”

Chapter 1043—50th Event



Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Luncheon



Sun City Elks Club
10760 West Union Hills Drive
Sun City, Arizona 85373
7 January 2017
1200 hrs to 1500 hrs

*Sponsored by the Arizona Department of Veteran Services
and
Vietnam Veterans of America – Billee Culin Chapter 1043
West Valley/Sun City*

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1043 Vietnam War 50th Commemoration Luncheon



Saturday, January 7, 2017

- 1200 **Opening Ceremonies/Posting of the Colors**
JROTC Cadets, Sandra Day O'Connor High School
- National Anthem**
Performed on bagpipes by Matt Clark
- Pledge of Allegiance**
- Moment of Silence**
- 1215 **Welcome Remarks**
John Coppalla, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1043
- 1220 **Invocation**
Reverend Fannalou Guggisberg, Major, USAF, Ret.
- 1230 **Keynote Speaker**
James Oliveri, Vietnam Veteran and Author
- 1250 **Lunch**
- 1400 **Presentation of Commemorative Lapel Pins**
Col (ret.) Wanda Wright, Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
- 1430 **Closing Remarks**
Michael Roberts, President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1043
- Retirement of Colors**



President **Mike Roberts** of VVA Chapter 1043 in West Phoenix, Arizona provided a superb luncheon commemorating the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War on the **7th of January 2017**. This is a "Thank You" to veterans who never got the "**Welcome Home**" they deserved. Held at the Sun City Elks Club in Sun City, this was one that many of the veterans that attended will never forget. There were about 200 people that attended and the main guest speaker was a **John Oliveri**, a Vietnam Veteran and author.



This event was superb with 95 Vietnam veterans on hand, 198 others present and 93 family members also on hand. A Choice of delicious dinners. T-shirts, DOD pins, and Commemorative coins were also gifts to the deserving Vietnam Veterans that attended.

Quilts of Valor



What if I told you that six of us received a wonderful and unexpected gift from someone we may not have known for us being “Vietnam Veterans”?

The lady to our left in this photo is largely responsible for making our day “to be remembered with a gift of love from four people that hardly know us. All of us like to be remembered and thought of and be kept warm. And that is what **Jennifer Wilson**, the State Coordinator of Arizona on behalf of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Everyone of us likes to be thought of in a way that something like this was a real surprise and to say the least it truly was. We occasionally see others receive

“gifts from the heart” and once in a while it is nice to do the same for someone else that either you know or you don’t know. We are all provided with a heart that keeps us alive and the heart can be broken or softened with something like this to be thought of in a heartfelt human way.

As a result there were six of us that were presented with “**quilts of valor**” made by the ladies and gentlemen of the Quilts of Valor Foundation so that “*we may be warm*” and in a very thoughtful way. These people “*took the time*” out of their busy schedule and life to “*think of others*” (such as us), and made the effort with their own funds “*to do this for us.*” That is extremely unselfish and very loving towards the Vietnam veterans of America. This is an honoring to us that have never received one before. Every event (such as this always has a story and those of us that received one of these are humbled and ***we truly thank you for taking the effort, taking the time to something so thoughtful for people you either don’t know or hardly know.***



Quilts of Valor



What Quilts of Valor Are

*I (Catherine Roberts) knew a Quilt of Valor had to be a quality-made quilt, not a “charity quilt.” Quilts of Valor would be the civilian equivalent of a Purple Heart award. A Quilt of Valor had to be quilted, not tied, which meant hand or machine quilting. Quilts of Valor would be “awarded,” not just passed out like magazines or videos. A Quilt of Valor would say unequivocally, **“Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor” in serving our nation in combat.***

Our Mission Statement

The organization’s original mission statement said its purpose was **“to cover all those service members and veterans wounded physically or psychologically with comforting and healing.”**

Those of us fortunate ones who received a quilt and blessed when presented are below:



Butch Morgan

Randy Schriver

Walt Schumacher



John Zohovetz

Larry Mitchell

Mike Woods



“The Quilted Group”

Jennifer Wilson, Cheryl Voirin, Michelle and Robert Bernal

VVA-Arizona cannot thank you folks enough for blessing us with something so thoughtful as to your capabilities and love for us; the Vietnam Veteran. This is something **we will not forget for a long time**, knowing you thought enough of us to **remember us**. Thank you again from all of us.

VVA State Council & Chapter 835 50th Commemorative Event

The Vietnam Veterans of America State Council and Chapter 835 is embracing their own 50th Event in Yuma, Arizona. The 3rd of November 2017 will be the date to honor those Vietnam Veterans within Southwest Arizona.

To be held at Faith Baptist Church situated at 1535 S. 8th Avenue in Yuma, Arizona, we are expecting around 200 personnel to attend with 150 Vietnam Veterans to be honored.

Yuma has a population of just right at 100,000 residents that live here all year long and about another 100,000 winter visitors that comes here from Canada, the West, Northwest and the Mid-West of the United States and within those numbers approximately 1,000 former military personnel which likely served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It's just a matter of "finding them" and inviting them to this event, not to mention the ones that live here on a full time basis with two military installations on hand nearby named Yuma Proving Ground and Marine Corps Air Station-Yuma. The Canadians were also a part of the Vietnam War as hundreds came south to join the American military to fight the enemy in Southeast Asia.

The expectation is to have Director Wanda Wright on hand as a guest speaker, Col. Randy Murray from Yuma Proving Ground, AZ as "YPG" provided a lot of military support with arms and ammunition as well as artillery during Vietnam. Along with the Commander of the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station. We are also expected to pay tribute to representatives of allied forces from Thailand, Philippine Islands, South Korea, Australia, South Vietnam.

The Desert Southwest is home to over 5,000 retired and/or separated personnel that served somewhere in the Armed Services. It is realized that NOT everyone could have been in Vietnam during 1960 and 1975, but they served somewhere and did something to be honored today.

If you are on hand to be in the Yuma, AZ area at that time, please consider coming.



Thoughts From a Vietnam Veteran

I have learned in my studies and in my travels in Viet Nam that Ho was an ardent Nationalist who wanted freedom and unity for all of Viet Nam and all Vietnamese people. He left his Country in the 30s and 40s, including the time of WWII, and lived much of that time in Paris, France developing his goal for his movement to free his country from the Imperialist French and Japanese, who Viet Nam has always hated much more than they disliked us. Ho wrote a Declaration of Liberty word for word following our Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson, which is today in the Viet Nam Declaration of Rights, an important document in their country's government. He also asked our Country to support his movement in the 1940s that he planned to bring to his country, but we refused because of our great developing fear of Communism from Stalin and Lenin in Russia, which Ho was embracing too at that time. We then, after World War II, went through the McCarthy Era in the 1950s, because of the great fear in our country of Communism after its taking over in China and North Korea. That was a low point in our Democracy and our own Civil Liberties in my opinion, but I was caught up on this Red Scare as a kid in the 1950s and 1960s as well. In the 1940s and early 1950s, Ho needed assistance from other bigger countries in the world for his cause with his new political party, the Viet Minh. The Russians and Chinese obliged and they being Communist influenced Ho to continue the Communist route he planned for his country. He had developed infatuation with Communism during his time in Paris in his readings of Marx and Lenin. But still his goal was only to unite his country under Communism but not to spread it elsewhere.

The tragedy of our war was the misunderstanding each side thought about the other. After the Geneva Accords in 1954 and our steady tilt toward the South Vietnamese side opposed to Ho's movement, influenced by the McCarthy era Red Scare in the United States, we developed our incorrect and irrational fear the war was necessary to stop the spread of Communism throughout the world. Ho and the Viet Minh and later the National Liberation Front (VC) fought us to the death so to speak because they thought we were then just another imperialist nation, like the French, who only wanted to take them over and exploit the riches and people of their country. This is what the French did do to them for 100 years, and I noted that they even today are a little wary of the French in a way they are not with us, even when the French are tourists, as many of them are. Ho and the Vietnamese communists were wrong about us, and we were wrong about them. After the war, the Vietnamese had two other very short and quick wars against the Chinese and they soundly defeated the Chinese who were encroaching on their northern border with China, causing the Vietnamese to fear the Chinese would now try to invade them again. They also whipped Pol Pot's abusive regime in Cambodia who was bothering them on their western border. The Vietnamese government, to this date, is very concerned about it's borders, not unlike our fear of our borders.

During the Vietnam War, which the Vietnamese call the American war, Ho Chi Minh and his government gladly took the support in weapons and material and money from both the Russians and Chinese, but they never liked either of these powers. Their history was that the Chinese and Mongolians from the north tried over and over again to try to conquer and subjugate their country for a thousand years. Why? To get the riches of Viet Nam and Southeast Asia for themselves. The Vietnamese did not like Russians as well. Although both the Russians and Chinese offered their troops to help the Vietnamese, like the Chinese had done with the Koreans in 1950, Ho and the Vietnamese generals were smart enough to know that would be a big mistake. They never allowed the Chinese or Russians to fight in Viet Nam, but they freely took (and thus tricked both the Russians and Chinese) by taking their money for guns and ammunition. They also used a few Russian advisors to help them with SAM missiles, but my reading showed they endured these officials for only as long as they thought they needed them and then casted them off as soon as possible. Today, the Vietnamese government and people both do not seem to like either the Russians or the Chinese and interestingly enough seem to like us much more than they like peoples from the other countries in the world. Also, the Vietnamese seem to want us to vacation in their beautiful country and spend money, etc. They are industrious people and have built up their economy. When you see the rice, rubber, clothing industry, etc. (Viet Nam is the second largest producer of rice in world, one of the largest exporters of rubber in the world and we see all the clothing made in Viet Nam today) and the nice country, you get the idea of why the Chinese and Mongolian Hordes for centuries wanted to conquer Viet Nam and why the Vietnamese had to fight them incessantly for more than a thousand years.

Thoughts From a Vietnam Veteran

Today, I have found in my discussions with the Vietnamese people, they are truly done with fighting and war and want nothing of it and definitely do not want to conquer other areas of the world. After all the war they have endured for centuries, they desperately seem to be choosing peace now at all costs.

At the end of our war the Communist government of Viet Nam was pretty horrible to their own people with the communist ideology and collectivization, etc. They terrorized the Vietnamese people who supported our side, and we know about all of them who wound up in California, Texas, and the entire west coast and now throughout our country. By 1987 their country was starving and, despite the riches of their country, everything was failing. Like the Chinese, they then made a great change in their policy called Du Moï (a French term) which means great transformation. Their transformation was to go to a market based free enterprise type economy, surprisingly not much different from our own capitalist economy. Now the Vietnamese farmers own their own rice and vegetable farms, the people own their own businesses and land, and the government does nothing more than what we do in the form of taxation but they call it required contributions of a percentage of profit rather than taxation. But the amount of money the people of Viet Nam owe the government is not much different from what you and I owe our various government entities in the form of taxes. Today, Viet Nam is prospering greatly under their new system and you see it everywhere you go, especially with bricks and mortar and construction. And, they are now welcoming back those Vietnamese people who went to California and other states in our country. Some of them are coming back and investing their new found wealth in the high rise hotels you see now all over Viet Nam. The Vietnamese government got over its hatred of their people who left for our country and now they are welcoming them back with incentives.

But, the negative part of the Vietnamese government, which has not changed much in my opinion from what it was in 1975, is still with their one-party dictatorial political system. Civil Rights are not in vogue and I have heard that people who speak out against the government get hauled off to the slammer. Also, I have found that the Department of Tourism and treatment of tourists, especially the American tourists, is a number 1 priority for their Government in that they want us to love their country and come back and have a nice time and spend money. But I have heard that Vietnamese people who do bad things which could negatively impact the tourist trade such as offering to sell drugs to the tourists, or prostitution could be hauled off to the slammer without due process of law if they are caught. Although these things go on because, as we know prostitution and drug selling is very profitable and some people simply take the chance because of the profit they could make, it is done very much in secret because if and when prostitutes or drug dealers/sellers are caught they are hauled off to the slammer without much due process of law to protect them. Actually, for us tourists, Viet Nam is about as safe a country for us to visit as any in the world. I had a Vietnamese waiter one time run after me, after I had accidentally left my expensive digital camera on the restaurant table after leaving the very nice Hoi An restaurant, to return the camera to me. Where would you find that anywhere else, including our own country? I did befriend a Vietnamese Communist party Official my last time there (April 2016, and we since communicate by email) who told me his government is now working hard on trying to improve their poor record of civil rights, which he acknowledges has been poor, so maybe there is hope for them there too. But I won't hold my breath on that one just yet. I know too many other Vietnamese people who have had civil rights trouble big time and so the jury is still out on this aspect of their government.

Chapter 106 Honors Its Veterans

Butch Morgan and Jennifer Wilson honored some of the Chapter in Tucson with quilts from the organization we fondly call "QUILTS OF VALOR". Headed up in Arizona by Jennifer Wilson, these quilts were a wonderful endearment of a gift.



Keith Carter



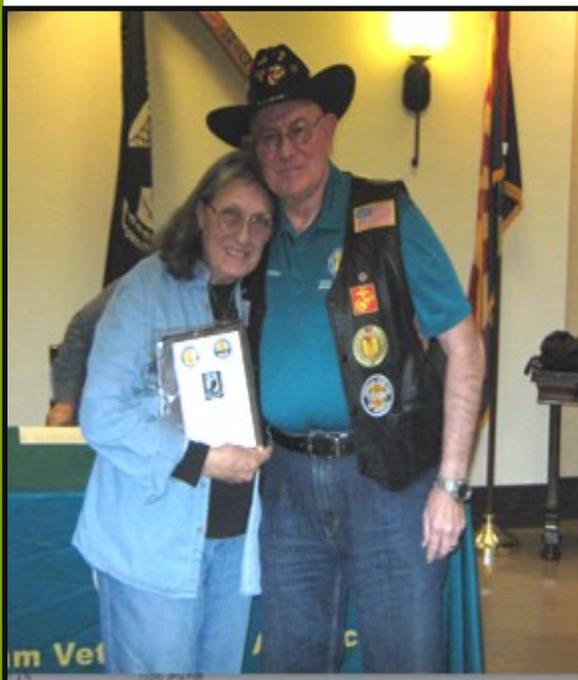
Martin Belden



Sarge Rodriguez



Dan Ross



Along with that, Eleanor Apodaca was awarded a plaque for her years of service with Associate of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) and as the State Committee member of the POW/MIA member of the State Council. Remembering people is something we should all do, and we should all think on it on a weekly basis..

We so appreciate Butch Morgan and Jennifer Wilson for remembering, honoring and blessing these five personnel within their chapter. This is what the 50th Commemoration is all about, is to honor the men and women of the Vietnam War with HONOR.

The Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C.



The **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** is a 2-acre national memorial in Washington, DC. It honors U.S. service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War, service members who died in service in Vietnam/South East Asia, and those service members who were unaccounted for (Missing In Action) during the War. Its construction and related issues have been the source of controversies, some of which have resulted in additions to the memorial complex. The memorial currently consists of three separate parts: the Three Servicemen Memorial, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, which is the best-known part of the memorial. The main part of the memorial, which was completed in 1982, is in Constitution Gardens adjacent to the National Mall, just northeast of the Lincoln Memorial. The memorial is maintained by the U.S. National Park Service, and receives around 3 million visitors each year. The Memorial Wall was designed by American architect Maya Lin. In 2007, it was ranked tenth on the "List of America's Favorite Architecture" by the American Institute of Architects. As a National Memorial it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Arizona Military Museum—7th Event

The Arizona Military Museum is pleased to host the **7th Annual Commemoration** of the Vietnam War Honoring Arizona's Vietnam and Vietnam era veterans. This symposium includes a Vietnamese Color Guard, a wonderful dinner, good music, videos, and a special presentation to Vietnam Veterans. The symposium will dispel myths and "alternate facts" about the war. Two great guest Speakers will present a **Symposium on the Vietnam War**.



Professor Mark Moyar is the Director of the Center of Military and Diplomatic History in Washington, D.C. Dr. Moyar has served as a professor at the U.S. Marine Corps University and a Senior Fellow at the Joint Special Operations University, and has advised the senior leadership of several U.S. military commands. He holds a BA summa cum laude from Harvard and a PhD from Cambridge. Dr. Moyar's articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and numerous other publications. He speaks at a wide range of public and private institutions around the world. His newest book is "*Oppose Any Foe: The Rise of America's Special Operations*". The author of six books and dozens of articles, he has worked in and out of government on national security affairs, international development, foreign aid, and capacity building. He holds a B.A. summa cum laude from Harvard and a Ph.D. from Cambridge. He critiqued US national security policy during the Obama era in "*Strategic Failure: How President Obama's Drone Warfare, Defense Cuts, and Military Amateurism Have Imperiled America*". (Threshold, June 2015).



Professor Robert F. Turner holds both professional and academic doctorates from the University of Virginia School of Law, where in 1981 he co-founded the Center for National Security Law. A former distinguished lecturer at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Academy of Political Science, and other professional organizations. A former Army captain who served two tours in Vietnam, he has also served as national security adviser to a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, as Counsel to the President's Intelligence Oversight Board in the White House, as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, and as the first president of the United States Institute of Peace. He spent more than a decade focusing almost entirely on the Vietnam War and for the past quarter-century has taught undergraduate and graduate seminars on the war at the University of Virginia—as well as at the Naval War College, where he held the Charles H. Stockton Chair of International Law.

Details for the 50th Dinner-Event

DATE: Saturday, 28 October 2017

TIME: . Check-in 4:30pm for seating. No-host bar 4:30-5:30pm.

PROGRAM: Seating at 5:30. Program begins at 5:30 pm.

LOCATION: Elements Event Center, 16000 Maricopa Road #200, Maricopa, AZ.

ATTIRE: Business-casual or Army Class A or service equivalent, military decorations.

COST: \$50.00 per person for a double entree meal.

HOTEL: AC CHIN Casino Hotel at 800-427-7247, near the Elements Event Center.

QUESTIONS: Call Joe at 520-868-6777 or 602-509-8762.

From The President of VVA-Arizona

As we come into the middle of the year of 2017, we have become a blessed nation with a new start of our country. Vietnam Veterans of America in Arizona has increased its membership up to nearly 1,200 members and hopefully more on the way.

A lot of our celebrations are at this time of year which include Memorial Day, July 4th, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Vietnam Veterans Day not to mention Veterans Day on November 11th and Thanksgiving and Christmas and we wish you very best on these days by remembering those in your family and those that served your country. We all need to remember our parents, grandparents, those that brought our country to what it was over two-hundred years ago and those veterans of all eras that have kept us safe from danger of the enemies of the world.

We need to express to the later generations that include our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren about the veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Global Wars on Terror (GWOT) the needs that all of these veterans will have as they progress in their later years. And most of that will include: **“being remembered by their person and their health care”**.

Vietnam Veterans are quickly becoming the “World War II Veterans” of their time and like all veterans of any conflict America has been involved in, we all need to remember all of the veterans that have fought for the good of America.

I plead that all of you reading this newsletter that you be involved in something with your fraternal organization **“Vietnam Veterans of America”** to fulfill your dreams, then and now of being that kind of veteran that will be important to your family and you pass on to them what you believe that they'd like to know about you.

Vietnam Veterans of America–Arizona is quickly becoming a well known State Council with new and different concepts for operating as a statewide organization including maintaining records for archive purposes after VVA is closed, ensuring all of the State Committees bring forth important information about legislative and medical information for the good of the Vietnam Veterans themselves, attending events throughout the year, holding “50th Commemoration Events” within the state of Arizona with the help of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services. As well as looking out for the Homeless, Legislative items, Health Issues, Veterans Affairs, POW-MIA unaccounted for personnel, Minority Affairs, Agent Orange, PTSD, Women's Affairs, the members within VVA, Grants for tremendous purposes as well as fund raising for those that need to spend it on those men and women that need it. We should all remember to be there for those less fortunate than we are.

I trust you will all have a great rest of the year 2017, do what you can for yourself, remember others, pass on to others in your family your remembrances to your family about your time as a Vietnam Veteran. Take the time to pass on this newsletter in your family to illustrate where “YOU” may have been in Vietnam.