

3 January, 1980

Dear Charles:

Many thanks for your kind letter. I have heard of your book (quite favorably) from several sources, although I made it a point to stay away from all Vietnam stuff while I was writing, and have yet to fully catch up. I'll be looking for it. I also, as you might guess, have a deep and continuing interest in Japan/Okinawa, and will be looking for your next one. In fact, if you would like me to read it for advance review comments, please feel free to give my name and address to your publisher.

I think you're probably right about our tours overlapping. I served with D - 1/5 from February to December 1969, first as a platoon commander and then as company commander. Although we did operate in the mountains from time to time, most of my tour was in the area covered in the book, the An Hoa Basin. Ironically enough, since you mentioned Caputo, his company commander in Vietnam (Peterson) was mine at Basic School, and the last combat operation in his book was in the An Hoa Basin. Sort of like World War I, actually: same terrain, over and over, different years.

Please look me up if you reach the Washington, D.C. area upon your return. It would be fun to have a beer and learn about Japan. My home phone is . And again, good luck on your coming book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.