

Wed. Oct 9, 1970

Dear Mr. Williams,

I promised I'd write once I got stationed. Well, it took almost two weeks to get a definite assignment. The 1st week I spent in Saigon. The 1st two days of orientation were helpful, but after that we all became anxious to get to work, especially since we had already spent a ~~week~~ ^{year} in preparation.

In Saigon, I was told I would probably be an NHO Advisor in An Giang, but they would not state positively if that were so. All they would do was tell me what MR I would go to. On Sat., we left for MR IV. John Pitts, Joe Melrose, Chuck Smith, Steve Faber, and Dick Burk are also in 4 MR.

Once in 4 MR Mr. Vann sent all of us on a tour of 3 provinces. It was the best orientation I ever had, since it gave a real feeling for the job. I saw Go Cong, Châu Đốc, and Phong Dinh, all of which I would have liked to work in.

I was however assigned as NHO education advisor in An Giang. I'm afraid, since my training in VTC centered on security problems, that it will prove of little help here. An Giang is so pacified that serious thought is being given to reducing the advisory teams here to 1 or 2 people, or to cut it out altogether. In fact, of the 4 Districts

only I still have advisors, one in each.
 The biggest problem here are administrative ones.
 We know, if that possible. My job is basically to
 arrange the need and get paper to flow faster. The
 training I got as an organizer is proving to be the most
 helpful part of my DC. Later, except of course for the
 language. People are so much more helpful when they
 find out I speak Vietnamese even my immediate assistant.
 In Hanoi, of course, is different from most of
 Vietnam. The Capital Hanoi is built to last. Many
 of the buildings are new, clean, stone structures. At one
 glance you know the people do not fear that VC will
 come in to destroy their houses.

I was quite lucky to get this position. Only work
 I hope VC is still going strong, if we get back to
 Washington. We have the ability to speak to a close
 I feel some school should tell them that their efficiency
 will increase if they know the Vietnamese government
 structure before they come over. A Vietnam become more
 peaceful, a hopefully it will be an advisory job become one of
 getting the Vietnamese people to work together, and helping
 the get in touch with the right organizations.

Please, give my regards to the entire staff and my
 thanks for the year of training.

Sincerely,
 Joseph H. White