

Dear Family, Friends, Civilians and Draft Dodgers:

As assumed duty and as a service to American personnel department the Republic of Vietnam, this command, the famous Navy Seawolves, issues to you the following briefing containing some helpful hints that may make the readjustment easier for _____, and is most certain to make your reunion a more enjoyable experience.

As of _____, after serving in the "garden spot of Southeast Asia"-- Vietnam, the exciting, fun capitol of the world, for the past _____ months, _____ will once again be in your midst, de-Americanized, demoralized, and dehydrated, but ready once more to take his place as a human being, to engage in life, liberty and the somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness.

This, as we here are all aware, will be an anxious moment for you as it will be for him. However, we feel it is our duty, being totally responsible for his absence, to warn you of certain changes in his mannerisms and behavior that are likely to make those moments more anxious than you might normally expect.

In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into respectable society, you must make allowances for the crude environment in which he has suffered for the past _____ months. In a word, he may be somewhat asiaticized, suffering from Vietnam-itis, Viet Cong-itis, overseas-itis, mud, rain, heat, malaria, malaria pills, mosquitoes, lizards, bugs, bats, rats, pythons, jungle rot, lonesomeness, monsoons, typhoons, DT's, VC's, river washed laundry, or perhaps too much ba moui ba not to mention suicidal flights upside down in various aircraft taking off vertically from muddy or dusty airstrips. He should be handled with care. Do not be alarmed if he is infected with all forms of tropical disease. A little time in the "land of the big P.X." will cure this malady. Be he husband, brother, father, sweetheart, son or friend to you, he is still yours.

Therefore we forward in the interest of all concerned, some cautions, advice, hints, and do's and don'ts that should be strictly observed.

1. Prepare yourself for the initial shock of the first meeting because the man may look a little strange and act somewhat confused, nervous, and be prone to look at everyone with suspicion, but this is to be expected. You may, if you are carrying a handbag or sack, have to empty the contents of same on the ground for a routine inspection.
2. He will try to avoid crowds, and don't question him if you are told to sit near the rear of a bar or restaurant or if he refuses to enter any establishment or bus that doesn't have steel mesh screens over the doors and windows. Also, when the waitress takes the order, it would be wise to do all the talking yourself, as he may make an embarrassing comment such as "get lost," or "number on Co," use his hat for an ashtray and pick at his food suspiciously as though he thought someone were trying to poison him. He may also act nervous and check the room before he hands the waitress a five dollar bill. The only thing you can do to combat this peculiar behavior is to assure him that there are no CID agents present.

3. His eating habits may be somewhat changed. He will probably want his steaks well done and shove aside water and ask for beer. He may carry a weapon to the table, pour gravy on his dessert, mix peaches with Seagram's V.O., stir soy sauce into his Wheaties and use his fingers to eat instead of silverware. Incidentally, the word "rice" should be avoided for some time and insist that he sit on a chair while eating rather than squatting on the floor.
4. Do not ask by any means "did it rain in Vietnam?", "was it hot?", or "did you get fresh milk often?". Abstain from saying anything about powdered eggs, dehydrated potatoes, rice, ice cream, sandbags, the benefits of overseas duty, extending, exotic Southeast Asia, the fun sound of the monsoon rain on the roof or C-rations. The mere reference to any of these subjects may trigger an awesome display of violence.
5. When he crosses the street, look out for him or hold his hand. This may seem absurd, but after watching him cross the street one time, your nerves will never be the same. He will expect all drivers to avoid him and make no attempt to dodge them. He has become impartial, indifferent, and completely oblivious to cars, car horns, pedicycles, motorbikes, water buffaloes, and Vietnamese drivers speeding the wrong way on one way streets. Remember, he has been threatened by the Viet Cong, Saigon taxies, charging water buffaloes, speeding cycles, crazy pedestrians, angry fathers, outraged husbands, plastic bombs and exploding bicycles. He has been shot at, mortared, and rocketed by the VC and on occasion by friendly forces.
6. Any of these sights should be avoided since they can produce a state of advanced shock, people dancing, children with toy grenades and round-eyes women. He will stare at women. There is nothing personal in this behavior. If he tends to drool, wipe his mouth for him and be understanding, it's been a long time.
7. He may spend much time in the bathroom flushing the toilet--think nothing of it--he just wants to watch it work. Any loud noise or clap of thunder may cause him to dive for cover and yell "incoming". He may pad around in sandals and towel and slyly offer to sell cigarettes to the postman. He may complain about sleeping on a spring mattress and at first refuse to go to bed without a mosquito net. Be tolerant when he tries to buy everything at half the asking price or accuses the grocer of being a thief. On his first few trips to the store he may fumble around looking for his ration card.
8. In a relatively short time his profanity will decrease enough to permit him to associate with mixed groups. He may utter such as "I hate this place," "Choi oi," "di di mau," and "ba moui ba," but will soon be speaking a recognizable form of English after the first few weeks.

9. Above all, keep in mind that beneath this tanned exterior and waterlogged interior, there beats a heart of pure gold. Treasure this, for it is about the only thing of value he has left. Treat him with kindness, tolerance and an occasional drink of good booze and you will soon be able to rehabilitate this hollow shell of the happy go lucky guy you once knew.
10. Last, but by no means least, fill the refrigerator with good food, get the civies out of the mothballs, fill the car with gas and get the women and children off the streets:

BECAUSE THE KID ~~IS~~ GOING HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!