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OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
IN SENATE
JANUARY 18, 1862
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION
PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 18, 1861
AND BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY 15, 1861
ALBANY: PUBLISHED BY HENRY RILEY,
STATE PRINTER, 1862.



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AMERICAN EMBASSY ID CARD, PROJECT 404, VIENTIANE, LAOS

Back in 1969, my first tour in Bangkok was coming to an end, so I volunteered for duty in Laos with DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI with duty station Project 404 which was Laos; we had to go to numerous briefings detailing the secrecy of our mission. Due to the Geneva Accords of 1962, no American Military was allowed in Laos, a neutral country. MAAG Laos which had been advising and assisting the Royal Laotians prior to the convention was withdrawn and headquartered on the 5th and 6th floors of the Capital Hotel in Bangkok. They picked the unassuming name of Deputy Chief Joint Military Advisory Group Thailand (DEPCH) to make everyone think they were part of the real JUSMAGTHAI located across town on Satorn Road. The North Vietnamese did not abide by that convention agreement, failing to withdraw their troops as agreed in Geneva, so Project 404 grew up to counteract them. MAAG Laos was back in business of providing support for ongoing military operations in Laos providing equipment, munitions, training and personnel to assist the Royal Lao Government and General Vang Pao, but under a covert operation called Project 404. Project 404 was strictly a civilian status assignment and we had to turn in anything that would associate us with the military, hence I left my military ID card, dog tags, military uniforms, even a jacket that had 105th Signal on the back with the folks in the Capital Hotel prior to my departure for Vientiane. In fact, to this date, my military records show this time as me being station in Thailand, no place in my records will you ever find any official evidence of myself being in Laos, except for the memories, my Lao Drivers license and my American Embassy ID I received upon my arrival in Vientiane. Officially, I was not in Laos, my official military records show this assignment as me being assigned to: DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI with duty station Project 404 APO SF 96237. APO SF 96237 was UDORN Thailand.

In processing and part of getting ready to depart for Laos, was getting my official passport stamped at the Royal Lao Embassy located just up the road from JUSMAGTHAI's Satorn road compound. The driver assigned to take me to the Lao Embassy, was instructed to stop at the JUSMAGTHAI Compound and for me to walk about a half of a mile further up the road to the Lao Embassy, an official U.S. Government vehicle could not be seen parked in front of the Lao Embassy it seems. I did this, had my passport stamped and walked back to my awaiting vehicle, faithfully parked inside the JUSMAGTHAI compound, for my ride back to the Capital Hotel. Once all my processing was finished, I caught an ride on the American Ambassador to Laos C-47 shuttle from Don Muang to Vientiane, I did this with no identification, no orders, not a thing except myself, some civilian cloths and the assurances some one would be waiting for me at Wattay Airport in Vientiane. Once I arrived in Vientiane, the pilot of the C-47 told me to wait right there on the tarmac, that someone would be by shortly and for about 15 minutes, I wondered what I had gotten myself into. But in about 20 minutes, my ride arrived and I was transported to the USAID Compound, Attaché building and processed in. All that consisted of was the issuing of an American Embassy ID card, my Lao Drivers License and being assigned to Village House 18, better known as the Pimpa house, where I would be billeted for my duration of my tour in Laos. The next day, I began by job working in the Attaché Communications Center and the rest is history. I found out my passport was delivered to the Attaché office by a courier on the

same C-47 I was on by diplomatic pouch, I guess I was part of the pouch, as I did not see one Lao Government official or representative during this whole episode. In fact, it seems I bypassed all the official procedures to enter the country of Laos with the exception of getting my passport stamped in Bangkok.

I carried that Embassy ID with me for the whole tour in Laos and did not have to show it to anyone that I remember. How I left Laos with my Embassy ID and Lao Drivers License must have been just one of those things, everyone else had their confiscated and having talked to several other ex Project 404 er's, I am the only one they know of who ever left Laos with these 2 items. The ID card is very worn having been caught in the monsoons and even drench in a culvert during a time when Vientiane was flooded. This American Embassy ID and my Lao Drivers License are the only documents that prove I was in Laos, officially, for the U.S. Army and the U.S. Government, my time in Laos was spent in Thailand. That's Okay with me, I would do it all over again if I could.