

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Asia Training Center, UH/AID

The Asia Training Center has recently initiated an Alumni Newsletter. A questionnaire was enclosed with a recent newsletter to the field and the Center has received approximately fifty responses. Certain narrative responses are of more than just passing interest and so are reproduced below.

1. Job Title: NLD Advisor
Province: Vinh Binh

"Been shot at, rocketed, and mortared."

2. Job Title: Nurse
Province: Kien Giang

"It's difficult to do our 'improvements,' these days--we just about have to coast along and take care of each day's emergencies as they are brought in. Am having to live out of my suitcase as our house was first the V.C. hit early January 31. I hate the inconvenience Charlie constantly causes! I do have a wonderful situation at the hospital; my counterpart is an unusually well-trained nurse who wants our department to be best in every way. We've been mortared so frequently the past month that all our planned (sic) are sort of 'tabled' for the present. My only suggestion for the training center is that the girls coming over learn a little about using weapons. Don't know how you can do it without a demoralizing effect but truth is they need it as many times a person may be his or her only security for many minutes or hours! This I can personally swear to!"

3. Job Title: Nurse
Province: Khanh Hoa

"Our next door neighbor turned out to be V.C. and they had the house behind them reserved as a safe house for weapons. About 2:45 p.m. of the second morning of Tet we heard the noise of men running down the street screaming and then a volley of gun fire began. Our house is right across the street from the M.P.

Headquarters and a force of over 30 N.V.A. troops tried to storm it and were repulsed to the house to the left of ours. We were caught for over 6 hours in a cross-fire between the M.P.s, Koreans and N.V.A. troops. Since we had received a security briefing that we might have trouble, Steven and two of the fellows who are working with him in Refugees stayed with us -- thank goodness! We were tear gassed three times -- that was the most frightening thing. About 8:30 a.m. the M.P.s managed to get us out of the house and over to their place. We stayed with them for over 5 days.

"Our house was shot up pretty badly, but we are grateful to be alive and also grateful that none of us were hurt at all."

4. Job Title: Refugee Advisor
Province: Thua Thien

"The people, however, are proving to be less friendly and open than I had thought they would be. The effects of the war and the measures that are in force as a result of the fighting seem to have hardened the population into a stoical and disinterested populace. Quite truthfully, it is difficult to believe that these people want anything more out of this war than to be left alone. And of course that is quite impossible, since the processes that could lead to such a condition is quite out of their own hands."

5. Job Title: District Advisor
Province: Binh Duong

"I don't want to remain in Binh Duong. Working here is useless. The military is in full control, the Vietnamese officials are mostly dishonest and the people of course are given little choice but to sympathize with the V.C. A sad situation indeed. I love Vietnam and the Vietnamese people and of course the language has helped me tremendously but in truth I haven't been able to do the things I came to do. It's time for a change and I can't change the mess here so maybe I'll have to come home."

6. Job Title: Refugee Advisor
Province: Cam Ranh

"So far we haven't suffered an attack here but reports state that they are all around. We have to stand guard at night just in case they decide to attack."

7. Job Title: NLD Advisor
Province: Kien Giang

"Events of the past few weeks would be difficult to accurately describe and would prove to be demoralizing to the trainees. Keeping alive is the No. 1 problem at the moment but there is some reason to suppose that the situation will improve."

8. Job Title: Deputy Senior Advisor
Province: Vinh Binh

"During the early morning of 31 Jan., the beginning of the main Tet V.C. campaign, I was wounded by a B-40 rocket--schrappel in my face, neck, arms and legs (a flack jacket saved my life). My house, directly in front of the provincial admin compound & province chief's house, had been surrounded by a reinforced V.C. main force battalion. The V.C. took the compound at 0335. The province senior advisor, Lt.C. Girdner, and I hid in the dark shadows of the night as the V.C. and ARVN forces fought. We used evasive actions to avoid detection and certain death. At 0545 an APC troop (M-113's) with an ARVN battalion attacked the provincial compound. I stayed at the front of the open court yard area using a PRC-25 radio directing and advising the regiment and the calvary troop on the locations and concentrations of the V.C. I was hit at 0700 hours and moved to a safe area.

"This was the umteenth time that I have been involved in hostile military activity and had to use military equipment."

9. Job Title: NLD Staff
Province: Saigon

"As a Saigon Commando my experiences are tame and I'll let the field boys tell the war stories. But I do live a half block from the National Palace and during the attack it was a bit noisy. The V.C. holed up in a building 100 feet away and everyone shot bazooka's, recoilless rifles, machine guns and small arms fire at everyone. Somebody needs target practice. Our building got banged up on both sides. I was too busy fielding stuff that got jarred off the walls and shelves to get involved in the war, but I did make a good tape recording of the melee."

10. Job Title: Nurse
Province: Khanh Hoa

"In recent attacking during Tet truce we barely escaped with our lives after 8 hours of shelling from the N.V.A. Would suggest training in weapons top priority for all trainees."

11. Job Title: Agricultural Advisor
Province: Vung Tau

"We have missed all direct action during Tet and since, but were on alert many nights. Baria, 15 K to the north, received lots of action. Lost one American and one Australian civilian. Estimated 500 V.C. and N.V.N. struck the town. About 250 of these were killed. Continues to be some harrassment and terrorism. Heard an American and V.N. were killed on road to Bien Hoa yesterday. Pacification work has slowed down but as result of the tremendous losses suffered by Communists, GVN and Allied forces are probably in stronger position than before."

12. Job Title: District Advisor
Province: Pleiku

"Here we sit in the middle of seven N.V.A. regiments, watching television. It is a strange war."

"This probably sounds like I'm enjoying myself. I wish I was. In fact, this letter should be for your eyes only. If you read it to any of the trainees, it might destroy their morale. I haven't been this miserable since I had my last automobile accident. My relations with my army buddies are excellent. In fact, the army seems to accept the civilians better than the civilians accept the army. That is the point: it's like being in the army again. I spend more time with military matters than I do with civil affairs. The major here thinks that the military-civilian integration is a great idea. He treats me as his executive officer. As a result, I write all of the reports, read all intelligence data and spend hours over routine matters on the radio. (I think I'm the highest paid radio operator in Vietnam.) The rest of my time is taken up in escorting VIPs around. My Vietnamese is worse now than when I left Hawaii. I spend more time talking to Americans than to Vietnamese. Also, most of the people here are Montagnards, who don't speak Vietnamese. I could go on forever, but I think I've complained enough."

13. Job Title: PAD Advisor
Province: Quang Ngai

"We are not out of the woods yet. Quang Ngai was attacked by an estimated 3,000 VC and NVA troops at 0400 hours Wednesday, 31 January. We were expecting the attack and set up watches. I went on duty at our billet at 0400 just as the attack started and for 4½ hours sat on the roof behind sand bags as bullets and mortars whizzed overhead. At one point I left the roof to let in another American at our blocked gate and started to walk away from the gate when a mortar came through the roof of a Scout just as I reached the front of it. Two seconds earlier and whoof! Another landed in the back of our compound housing eight civilians. The battle went on throughout the day and I'm told we had 708 KIA confirmed and 46 friendly fatalities. No CORDS personnel were wounded or killed. A second attack followed about three days later with much mortaring near the compound occupied by the three nurses Wendy, Cathy Abbott and Judy Stenz. Again no injuries. We are now expecting a third attack any day. Our compound and the Embassy house are on the list. Captured documents indicated this will occur the next time around.

"We are all armed. I have a machine gun, pistol and a box of grenades. Not bad for a "non-combatant." The military have not been overly concerned with our welfare. Indeed, Ambassador Koren came to Quang Ngai a few days ago and told me USAID does not have a policy concerning evacuation even if the town is overrun! This should be made known to the trainees.

"We could have another Hue on our hands. Most of the CORDS civilian personnel Hue are either missing or killed. Some real competent people. None in recent FETC cycles. I don't have any information about other FETC people except in Da Nang where everyone is on alert, Marion Mullin, Jan Sauber and Judy Schiebout are in good health.

"I visited the Quang Ngai hospital the morning of the attack and observed the three girls busily giving first aid to about 150 civilian casualties. Most of the fighting took place within a block or two of our compound. A huge school and post office were destroyed in the fighting, among other buildings. Bodies scattered all over throughout the day. A real test.

"Hoi An was hit hard but none of the people were injured, including Sturg Carbin and Bill Cook.

"The sad part of all this is that the entire pacification program has been hard hit. We have lost most, if not all, of the ground we gained in 1967. The VC have displayed great ability to move at will throughout the countryside. Only our main street through Quang Ngai is safe even today.

"Security simply does not exist anywhere. I read recently that Saigon reported 67% of the population in secure areas. Absolute nonsense. Actually security is fluid."

14. Job Title: NLD Advisor
Province: Vinh Long

"The situation here in the Delta is very bad. Vinh Long province town where I work is 30% destroyed. Despite many GVN troops in town, an attack (third wave) is once more imminent. I just arrived back here after a forced three-week absence. We were evacuated (Am. civilians) on the second day of the Tet offensive. The VC captured and held much of the town for about 2½ days. American gunship strikes killed many VC, but the Am. 9th Div. was called in to clear the town. We have no electricity. And we have no possessions - ARVN looted our compound - what they couldn't move, they destroyed. All in all, things are grim. The big question is the countryside and the RD program. The confidence of the people in the city is badly shaken. What must the people in the country feel?

Rumor is rife here about a possible large cut in the Mission. I personally doubt this, but maybe I should look ahead anyway."

15. Job Title: RD Advisor
Province: Kien Hoa

"We have seen here in Ben Tre fourteen years of work for the American government fall apart. The GVN is completely paralyzed, the army is too busy looting and pillage all the homes left standing - often at gunpoint while homeowners stand helplessly by - to fight the enemy camped within one kilometer of the city of Ben Tre. The Viet Cong have taken complete control of the countryside. They have surrounded the city and attack, mortar and intimidate when, where and whom they want. And yet the myth-makers in Saigon and Washington blissfully claim victory by a system of body count. Maybe they enjoy counting the rotting bodies floating down the Ben Tre River. They claim victory by the fact that they are still in control of the charred ruins of cities.

"The Viet Cong have completely won what they set out to do - to bring about the downfall of the GVN. ARVN refuses to operate against the enemy (but what's new about that!)...they spend their days looting and the nights sleeping in bunkers. They looted our Province Senior Advisor's house in broad daylight. When caught by Michael Grady they asked him if he would give them some clothes. The Province Chief only offered the suggestion that we hire more guards. The civil servants, to whom the difficult task of rebuilding falls, have moved their families and belongings into the province headquarters where they live in newly-dug bunkers and hope that the American airplanes will save them if the VC attack again.

"The real tragic people are those that have honestly devoted themselves to the GVN, those that are innocently anti-Communist. They choose to fight the Viet Cong but find no leader. They cling to the Americans who can offer nothing but more violent death and destruction. A victory in Kien Hoa Province would perhaps mean killing 200,000 out of 600,000 Vietnamese.

"I was lucky. I wasn't in Ben Tre when the Viet Cong made the first attack. I wasn't here when the decision was made "to destroy the town to save it." I had driven to Saigon to celebrate TET and to leave on Feb. 1st for a two-week vacation in Bali. Obviously my vacation never came about.

"Ben Tre is not as badly destroyed as the newspapers say. But the market is gone and vast residential areas. The Viet Cong still have all roads out blocked off. VC flags fly over the My Tho Ferry. Most days we cannot even drive to the Ben Tre Airfield and we get mortared every day and night.

"Security will probably return soon. But it is obvious that we can never return to the old programs. In spite of Ambassador Bunker's public statements I think that the GVN has disappointed us. We now have to choose between a political settlement with the National Liberation Front or an all-out American military effort. Or perhaps some of Galbraith's ideas will take hold.

"It will be an interesting time in Vietnam."

James V. Hall:gsi
March 5, 1968

APPENDIX B.

COSH-PES Input Data Card Formats

- A. Project Card Format
- B. Personnel Inputs/BDA
- C. Cluster Data Card Format

COSH-PES Input Data Card Formats

A. Project Card Format

<u>Field Title</u>	<u>No. Digits</u>	<u>Card Address</u>
I. # Cluster (District)	2	02 - 03
II. Name Village (s)	10	04 - 13
III. No. Activity Plan	2	14 - 15
IV. Sector + Project Code	8	16 - 23
V. AID Dollars	8	24 - 31
VI. AID Local Currency	10	32 - 41
VII. Village Local Currency	10	42 - 51
VIII. Approval Date	6	52 - 57
IX. Starting Date	6	58 - 63
X. Completion Date	6	64 - 69
XI. No. Month of Project	2	70 - 71

B. Personnel Inputs /BDA

<u>Field Title</u>	<u>No. Digits</u>	<u>Address</u>
I. # Cluster	2	02 - 03
II. Personnel Type	2	04 - 05
III. Pay Scale	4	06 - 09
IV. Sector	(56	10 - 65)
(1) Public Works		
a. No. People	2	
b. Time multiplier	2	
c. Man Equiv. (40 hrs/p/w	<u>3</u>	
	7	10 - 16
(2) Agriculture "	7	17 - 23
(3) Education	7	24 - 30
(4) Public Health	7	31 - 37
(5) Women + Welfare	7	38 - 44
(6) Industry + Commerce	7	45 - 51
(8) a. Local Government +	7	52 - 58
Administration		
b. Local Administrative		
Staff	7	59 - 65
V. TDY		
(1) Sector No.	1	66 - 66
(2) a. No. People	2	
b. Time multiplier	2	
c. Man Equiv. (40 hrs/wk	<u>3</u>	
		67 - 73

C. Cluster Data Card Format

<u>Field Title</u>	<u>No. Digits</u>	<u>Address</u>
I. # Cluster or District	2	02 - 04
II. Cluster or District Name	10	05 - 14
III. Area Km. ²	4	15 - 18
IV. No. People	6	19 - 24
V. No. Families	5	25 - 29
VI. No. Villages	3	30 - 32
VII. Date Started	5	33 - 37
VIII. No. Months from start to: (5/31/66)	2	38 - 39
IX. Access from capital by (cummulative as actual)		
(a) Air Km.	4	40 - 43
(b) Road Km.	3	44 - 46
(c) Water Km.	3	47 - 49
(d) Walk Km.	2	50 - 51
X. Total Distance (Km.) from cluster to:		
(a) National Capital by air	4	52 - 55
surface	4	56 - 59
(b) Province Capital air	3	60 - 62
surface	3	63 - 65
(c) Region Office (Area) air	3	66 - 68
surface	3	69 - 71
(d) District Office air	3	72 - 74
surface	3	75 - 77

__APPENDIX C.

Output Data Tables and Graphs Cluster Project List

Section (1)

Table I. Basic Data and Total \$ Investments

" II. Technical Personnel & Inputs

" III. Per Capita ME and \$ Indices (a)

" IV. BDA Input Indices and Ranking

Graph I. Total Accumulated Investment/BDA

" II. Per Capita Total Investment/BDA

" III. Per Capita Annual Investment/BDA

" IV. Correlations of Cluster Inputs (Laos 1964-66)

Section (2)

Table I. Per Sector/BDA \$ Inputs

" II. Per Sector/BDA ME Inputs