

Just thought I would send this with Jim's membership; this hangs in our house to this very day. I had to do some cut and paste to get it copied (we had it framed and cannot get the frame open without damaging the document), however it is something we cherish and thought I would send it in case others lost theirs, it might be nice to read it once again.

Jim had this hanging in his apartment when I first met him and it made me cry and understand just a "little" about trying to readjustment when you brave men returned.

Reading it now I find it ironic that the line that says "If any problems arise that you cannot handle, please call the Vietnam police in Soc Trang" that was about the extent of support you got when you returned!

We hope to see you in Tennessee in June...

Best regards,

Patty Mathias

121<sup>ST</sup> ASSAULT HELICOPTER



SR Co.

*SOC-TRANG TIGERS*

KNOW YE ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS  
THAT

SP/5 JAMES R. MATHIAS [REDACTED]

This water soaked, mud-logged, slightly deranged individual is leaving our little village of Soc Trang, securely nestled among the rice paddies and mangrove swamps of the Mekong River Delta, is finally bound for the United States, civilization and HOME!

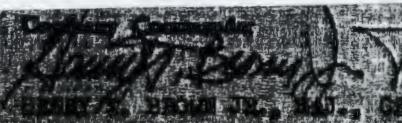
Therefore, your attention is invited to take particular heed to the following words of sage advice:

- a. Get your round-eyed girls off the streets, hide the keys to his care and either lock the refrigerator or be prepared to open a charge account at the nearest supermarket.
- b. This man has survived the worst the Far East has to offer the mud and rains of monsoons, heat, lonesomeness and isolations, not to mention frequent Viet Cong raids and mortar attacks. In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into respectable society, you must make allowances for this crude environment he has endured.
- c. Be the friend, son, brother or beau, he is still yours. He may look a little strange and act only slightly the same, but this is to be expected, of a tiger.
- d. Pay no attention when he stirs soy sauce in his potatoes or mixes raw snails with his meat in hopes of making both more palatable. Do not be alarmed if he chooses to eat his soup with chop-sticks or when he picks through his bread looking for bugs. Humor him and pretend to pay no serious mind.
- e. He may refuse to sleep indoors or demand a mosquito net. He may prefer to sit cross legged on the floor and to plod around the house in sandals and a towel.
- f. Do not be alarmed if in his sleep he shouts "Incoming" and continually falls and rolls under his bed or tries to rush you to cover. Allow him to sleep with at least his pants and shoes if he so desires and should a car backfire in his presence, you will find him in the nearest ditch and will only come out when an all "clear" siren wails.
- g. Do not say anything to him if he stares at such things as chairs, mattresses, fresh milk, paved roads and women. He may also be heard muttering such local Vietnamese phrases as Dee Dee Mau Mau, Choi Oi, Five p., Number Ten and Number One. Do not argue with him if he constantly flushed the toilet. Eventually he will get over it all.
- h. Do not by any means ask him if the Vietnamese girls are attractive.
- i. Above all else, do not ask him "How was the mail over there" for he is liable to get quite violent.
- j. If he accuses the grocer of being a "black-market thief", offers to pay only half for everything he sees, or tries to ply the girl next door with hairspray, soap and perfume, try to be understanding.
- k. When he is crossing the street, take special care for he has become impartial, indifferent and completely oblivious to car horns, motor vehicles and water buffalo.

Remember that beneath his tanned and rugged exterior there beats a heart of pure gold, the only thing of value he has left. In a few weeks after his profanity has decreased to a bearable level he will be able to join into mixed company and will be well on the road to recovery.

If any problems arise that you cannot handle, please call the Vietnam police in Soc Trang. It won't do you any good, but they like to use the phone and it makes them feel important.

Send no more letters to APO San Francisco 96296, for this dog-tired bleary-eyed, water-logged soldier of yours is on his way HOME. Treat him with respect and admiration for he has served his tour in the finest unit the U.S. Army and earned the right to be called a **"SOC TRANG TIGER"**.



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