

Photo Essay for the members of SKY Geology Group, Development Battalion, MR II Long Tieng 1973-2013

Note No.1/06/13

The special SKY Geology Group (SGG) was created under the command of Maj. General Vang Pao with the funding of SKY and the management of FMDC (Fluorspar Mining And Development Company Limited of Bangkok) Dr. Suchit Hiranprueck, Managing Director of FMDC went to Long Tieng in August 1973 and agreed to assist in the development of a Geological Team of MR II under the Development Battalion led by Lt. Col. Vang Geu.

The program would oversee the mineral explorations of MR II in three steps:

1. Prove the reserve of iron ore deposits scattered around MR II area for future development.
2. Explore and prove reserves for various other minerals in MR II area.
3. Plan for Economy Development After War (Plantation herb, Chicken Farm, Pig Farm and buy cattle, buffalo to the Hmong and Laotian to raise).

The program was funded by SKY directly as a job creation and civilianization efforts for the SGU (Special Guerrilla Unit) and alternate economics programs for the region, replacing the war efforts that was winding down by the Paris accord of 1973 .

In order to manage the program, we decided to form a SKY Geology Group (SGG) which was to start with training personnel in geology classes, to staff it with Hmong FAG (Forward Air Guide) and FAC (Forward Air Control), FLO (Field Liaison Officer) who earlier worked as fighting unit liaison officers of the SGU and Thai Battalions to guide air supports and target ID for the jets and T-28 fighters most of which were well trained, young, bright and fluent with English and Thais. They were the elite group of SKY trained Hmong officers from many origins, areas and families. The group totaled close to 20 and reported to Col. Vang Geu, the Special Development Battalion Commander and supported by Jerry B, Daniels, the local SKY Station Supervisor, VP's confidant and case officer, Mr. HOG. We had a class room at Sky compound most of the time and use the SKY Mess Hall as assembly point. VP supervise this team directly and the activities keeps growing into other development tasks.

Xuwicha Noi Hirnaprueck was sent as Project Manager and with a young Geology Graduate from Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University Bangkok Mr. Somchai Sagiamsak who was there from the beginning of the program in fourth quarter 1973 till May 14, 1975.

Members Of The Special Geology Team

1. VP	(deceased)	Commander
2. Lt. Col. Vang Geu	Development Commander MR II	Director
3. Lt. Col. Tou Fou	ADC to MR II commander (Maj. Gen. Vang Pao)	Advisor
4. Mou Sue Bli Ya	Xiang Kuang Development Corporation	Advisor
5. Jerry B. Daniel	SKY /USAID (deceased)	Special Advisor
6. Yang See	Glass Man	Member
7. Vang Nhia	Judy	Member
8. Yang Lue	Lucky	Member
9. Vang Leng	Sancho	Member
10. Kue Sao	Bison Man From Tin Bong LS. (2 Hmong Jua/Leng)	Member
11. Thao Ngern	Money (Medic) Lao Therng	Member
12. Yang Long		Member
13. Vang Lee		Member
14. Vang Neng	(Now living in France)	Member

15. Jue Thao	Snow Man (deceased)	Member
16. Thao Kham Bick Pham	Thai Dam (Vang Geu's Brother In Law)	Member
17. Vang Tou	Artillery Captain	Member
18. Somchai Sagiamsak	Kru Hmong Resident Geology Instructor	Geology Director
19. Xuwicha Hiranprueck	Sethi	Program Manager
20. Moua Song	(deceased)	Associate
21. Mr. Daniel C. Arnold	COS / SKY /VTE	Special Advisor
22. Yang Yee	Bone	
23. Mr. Tony Zola	Tony the Chicken	Chicken /Pig Farm
24. Mr. Larry Woodson		Cattle
Mr. Daniel C. Arnold The Chief Of SKY Station in Vientiane approved the program and had given strong support to make the effort very productive until the end.		

Objective of the Photo Essay

1. To track down the still living members of SGG and interview, take their 40 years account and their memory, their history, their memory of SGG, their struggle in the new land, their livelihood, their members of family and their expected future. Take their life accounts.
2. To track down the family of the deceased, do the same and take account of their lives in the new land, members of their family and their information.
3. To translate the above into photo essays of their 40 years of living, wherever they are.
4. To identify their relation to the efforts towards the new life from Laos for the ones who has been involved in the departures and getting the Hmong to the new land and subsequent contributions.
5. The products will be shared with the Hmong Archive at the Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota.
6. VDO interview will be conducted as appropriate

Ms. Pimparae Nancy Hiranprueck will be the project Photographer

Ms. Veronica Taylor will be editorial assistant

Ms. Duangkamol Pui Tangjitpis Editorial/Research

Note SKY is the term we used in MRII through out the war efforts to refer to the Central Intelligence Agency activities in Laos, until today

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Col. Vang Geu Address
2. Col. Tou Fu Vang (In Milwaukee and back in St. Paul 1st July)
3. Lee Pao Xiong now back from SE Asia in St. Paul
Director of the Center for Hmong Studies
Professor of Hmong Studies and American Government
4. Pimprae Nancy Hiranprueck
5. Veronica Taylor

Information removed by the Vietnam Archive, original document placed in Restricted Access

6. Vang Nhia : (Currently in Wisconsin for a wedding and will be in CA 1st July.)
7. Yang Lue (Lucky)
(Lucky is currently at Pow Wow catering work north Montana)
8. Larry Woodson (Larry knows Yang Yee very well)

Mission 1 : St. Paul Program July 1-7

Pimprae
Veronica

Objectives:

1. Meeting with Hmong Archive to learn of the activities and operating procedure: Lee Pao Xiong (LPX)
2. Observe the Minnesota Hmong Tradition for July 4th Celebration which signifies new life in the new world (LPX, Noah)
3. Learn about the Minnesota Hmong community and the sub cultures and sub communities, clans and clans activities (source LPX, Noah)
4. SGG Interviews this trip
 - 4.1. Col. Tou Fou
 - 4.2. Vang Leng
 - 4.3. Yang See
5. To check with Col. Tou Fu to see if other member of SGG in Minnesota (Yang Long , Vang Lee, Vang Neng or Artillery Vang TOU?.) very likely they are here. Ask from Vang Leng or Yang See as he is cousin of Yang See
I have not met Yang See since late May , 1975 when he was flown to the US. Yang See was the first Hmong refugee to be settled in the US as he was highest risk . He was sponsored by Dr. Henry Kissinger as a special case. I remember he left Udorn before end of May.
6. Work and learn operating procedure and collect data , shots and footage. Keep record of expenses and work load daily.
7. Discuss with LPX and set up a special electronic storage for raw data as copy at the archive continuously.
8. Learn about other Hmong communities activities in Minn and other main settlements around US for period 3rd and 4th quarter 2013 for planning purposes.
9. Please ask around to locate a Sky Mess Boy with bad leg (I thing Hmong Yang) whose wife Somchai and our team kidnapped by helicopter from Pa Kae (LS 353) . add him in your story
10. Do ask specially for all of them to recollect the departure from Long Tieng.