

rcp3rd

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**From:**  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 06, 2005 4:43 PM  
**Subject:** Rob Warne's background

Rufe, Good to hear from you! I would be glad to help out. Briefly, I was born in Washington, D.C. and grew up in Alexandria until I reached high school. My day was a Roosevelt appointee and served 22 years with the Department of Interior reaching the position of Asst. Secretary for Water Power for the last years of the Truman administration. He was appointed by Eisenhower to lead the first foreign aid program to Iran (then called Point IV) and I went to Teheran as a dependent in 1951. I have been overseas a good deal ever since. I followed the family to Brazil where I graduated from Escola Americana at Rio de Janeiro. When Dad was transferred to Korea to be UN Economic Coordinator (AID Director), I visited the family during the summers while I was in college. Princeton University accepted me in 1956 and I graduated in 1960 with a major in the Woodrow Wilson School for International and Public Affairs. After completing the ROTC program at Princeton, I took a commission in the U.S. Army field artillery. I served as a battery commander and executive officer in an artillery battalion (105 howitzers) for two years at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During that time I took the U.S. Foreign Service exam and was scheduled for the second round, an oral interview. There is always a long wait before the actual FS commission. I asked around for job opportunities, including with AID. I heard about Rural Affairs and sent a letter asking for information. I filled out a brief application and got a call from your new office in Washington indicating that I was selected and should go to D.C. to sign a contract. (I believe Burt Fraleigh called me but I am not sure. I was getting ready to go out for a field exercise and had little time to talk.) I was making about \$250 a month as a first lieutenant and the offer of about \$8,000 as a FSR-8 sounded generous. (This turned out to be two grades below everyone else.) I spent only three days in D.C. including one day to take the oral FS exam at State.

My wife and I reported with our six month old daughter to duty at Saigon within two weeks of being mustered out of the military. (The Army offered me a career appointment but I did not want to be a soldier. Nevertheless, my military experience was invaluable in Vietnam. I was able to work closely with the MAAGs and Vietnamese military because we had similar experiences. I also developed leadership skills and a can-do attitude which leading a group of 110 men required.) I met with you and several others at Saigon and was told that you needed to open up provincial representative offices in Vinh Long and Vinh Binh. Frankly I had only a minimal briefing, had no idea where I was going and had only a general idea of what was expected. Dave ?, formerly with the CIA, took me to the two provinces and introduced me around including to the two province chiefs. I did not like the idea of being separated from the family nor of not living where I worked. You granted permission for me to move my family to Phu Vinh where we served for two years. I lasted less than a year in Vinh Long due to the dispute over the "long walls" and was moved to assigned just to Vinh Binh. After about six months, Vlad Lebovich took my place at Vinh Long.

My FSO appointment came through in about a year and I was integrated into the State Department. Embassy personnel decided that I should complete my tour. The Embassy recommended that the Department waive the initial training for new FSOs. When I reported to State at Washington, I had orders for San Salvador and my household effects were actually sent there. I offered to brief Len Unger on the provincial operations program. The Vietnam Working Group, an inter-agency policy group chaired by Unger, heard my report. (I'll be glad to describe the Group's reaction to my report. An Air Force two star was livid over my description of the some to the events that I described.) Unger asked me to stay in Washington and I served nearly three years on the Vietnam Working Group. In fact, my lectures (now a bit polished) became popular at the FSI A-101 course for entering FSOs and at Fort Bragg for advisers heading to Vietnam. Several military officers registered anger at my unvarnished report on problems and said that they were being misled. Conditions described by me were much worse in the Delta than they were led to believe. Bob Kromer, who coordinated Vietnamese affairs, asked me to go to the first anti-war "teach-in" at Ann Arbor to placate the thousands of students. AID put me on the speaking circuit to help recruit volunteers. I went to Vietnam with Kromer on a special trip and came out with an assessment of the Delta diametrically opposite than the official one. In fact, at a junior staff level I was one of the few who recommended against Johnson's decision to send the first major ground troops to Vietnam. Needless to say, I was glad to get out when orders came for me to go to Buenos Aires.

Rufe, I have a final report on my tour in Vinh Binh including a number of photos. I would be glad to give it to you for your research. You might also check "Who's Who In America" for added details and dates. Let's get together for lunch or breakfast and I'll be glad to fill in further details. Hope you are feeling well. Best wishes to Barbara, Rob (703) 528-8782

**rcp3rd**

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**From:**  
**To:**  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2005 10:23 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Rob Warne's background

Rufe, Sorry. suzy and I are vague on exact dates. I stayed in Saigon only one day before being assigned to Vinh Long and Vinh Binh. The family did not move to Phu Vinh until several months later after we found and set up a place. It was a shared bungalow with a Vietnamese family who rented part of their home. It was located on the main stree across from the governmental compound and the province chief's headquarters. If you would like to read over my final illustrated report I have a copy for you. Good luck in your efforts. As you may know, the Embassy/USAID is undertaking a somewhat similar effort in Iraq. Sorry they do not borrow from your expereince and insights. Rob