

U.S. VETERAN

AUGUST 21, 1992

News And Report

AUGUST 21, 1992

Voices from the Wall

"We must set a date and this must be the earliest possible. Our one last mission is to search out and destroy the last vestige of this barbaric war." - John Kerry, executive committee, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, 1971.



Sen. John Kerry, chairman,
Senate Select Committee on
POW/MIA Affairs, 1992.

John Kerry, Vietnam veteran
against the war, 1971

IS KERRY ON ANOTHER "SEARCH AND DESTROY" MISSION THAT WILL BENEFIT ONLY HANOI?

See page 4

U.S. VETERAN



U.S. Veteran News And Report
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This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers about the human element created as a result of service in the military and the tragic ordeal of war. We will diligently attempt to interview and obtain comment from officials high and low in hopes that our stories and reports will help clarify and demystify the human sacrifice our servicemen and women are making everyday.

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U.S. VETERAN EDITORIAL

LET'S SETTLE WOMEN IN COMBAT DEBATE . . .

The issue of the suitability of women to serve in combat roles within the U.S. military still swirls about official Washington, with so-called feminist Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) continuing to pressure the Bush administration and the Pentagon to transform the American armed forces into her version of a new "charmed forces."

The U.S. VETERAN continues to maintain its position of firm opposition to women being assigned--either in the air, on land or sea--to stand beside men when engaging an enemy in armed combat. This is a position that, at the moment at least, appears to be shared with all of the members of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Actually, the U.S. VETERAN goes a little further, taking the position that "integrating" the sexes in the armed forces, even as it stands today, is disruptive to both the smooth operation of military units and can be disruptive to both operational procedures and morale of the troops.

We point, as an example, to a recent incident of "mixing the sexes" in military units, the so-called "sex tapes" incident which has shaken both the normal routine and the morale of troops of the Army's new elite 10th Mountain Division, stationed at Fort Drum in upstate New York, near the Canadian border.

Currently, four male officers, an enlisted male and an enlisted female face criminal charges and court martial proceedings for their behavior involving the female enlisted "person." (As the current "tippy-toe" approach to dealing with the issue of feminists stands, we don't even know how to refer to an enlisted member of the armed forces anymore. We are told that "servicemen" or "servicewomen" is "sexist".)

In any case, at Fort Drum four officers of the 10th more than a year ago had concentual--repeat, concentual--sexual relations, in apparently a variety of ways, with the woman. For some reason, apparently only known to them, they decided to video tape the proceedings. In short order, the tapes became a sizzling hot item at the base, reportedly even being offered for sale at, we are told, premium prices.

Imagine, for a moment, the potential damage to morale at this point. What respect could the men of the 10th possibly have for the officers, which they had viewed on the sex-capades tapes and yet had to serve under?

In any case, the whole episode came to an abrupt halt, when an enlisted man of the 10th used the tapes to blackmail the woman into having sexual relations with him. As a result, the woman brought charges against the enlisted man and thus the whole sordid episode came apart as Army C.I.D. probers looked into the case. Copies of the tapes have been seized by the C.I.D., but they reportedly still are supposedly circulating about the base.

Imagine the effect this incident would have had on a unit that had been assigned to duty in the Persian Gulf region during Operation Desert Storm.

So, once again, the U.S. VETERAN extends its challenge to the U.S. military, and particularly Pat Schroeder and her feminist legions, to set up a competition to determine the ability of women to perform in combat situations.

We suggest that two infantry battalions be drawn up, one composed of half men and half women with female officers, including its commanding officer, the other being all male, including all of its officers. If Pat thinks the men might not be up to competing with the women in the half-and-half battalion, then go ahead, Pat, make the battalion all female.

Then place both units in an awesome and realistic combat atmosphere, such as one of the jungle regions of Central America. Panama comes to mind. In this atmosphere, with everyone fighting off a million insects and up to their "whatevers" in muck and mire, the two battalions will hold combat-like maneuvers for three months, completely out of touch with the outside world, except under emergency conditions. In other words, no "Dick and Jane" conversations back and forth to the outside via radio, telephone, etc. In addition, the all male unit would be supplied by all male support personnel and the half-and-half/female unit by half-and-half/female personnel, which should determine the ability of each to carry their full share of duty lifting and hauling heavy supplies.

At the end of the 90 days, we think the results will allow an intelligent judgment to be made of the suitability of women for combat units.

How about it, Pat? Care to put your "charmed forces" where your mouth is?

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SELECT COMMITTEE PROBING SO-CALLED 'FRAUD' CASES

A U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORT

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs, has indicated that in November the committee will hold hearings regarding so-called "fraud" cases, involving false reports or information regarding American POWs and MIAs held in Southeast Asia.

The U.S. VETERAN has learned that the Select Committee has just hired two new investigators to make a total of four to probe the supposed fraudulent reports.

In recent testimony before the Senate Select Committee, long-time POW-MIA activist H. Ross Perot, in discussing fraudulent reports out of Southeast Asia, carefully pointed out to the Senate panel that most of those who have been taking the heat for the alleged reports are not, for the most part, intentionally using the issue for personal gain, that most were "well-intentioned" but sometimes "misguided."

The Texas billionaire went on to say that the people whom he finds the most despicable are those in government who have deliberately created and perpetuated the cover-up of Americans being left behind in Southeast Asia at the end of the war.

POW-MIA activists are hopeful that the Senate investigators will zero-in on the right targets when it comes to the "fraud" cases.

Interest in these cases has surfaced in the wake of several photographs of supposed POWs that have come out of Southeast Asia during the past year, photos bearing individuals whom families of POWs and MIAs have claimed are their missing loved ones still among the unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

The Pentagon, echoed by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), has urged that new laws be passed making it a crime to manufacture and distribute faked "evidence" of live POWs.

"I wish the DIA had spent as much time and money over the years trying to confirm the validity of live sighting reports than it has trying to debunk their sources, particularly the photos that have



Ross Perot, in discussing fraudulent reports out of Southeast Asia, told the Senate panel that most of those who have been taking the heat for the alleged fraud are "well-intentioned" but sometimes "misguided."

appeared," one long-time activist lamented.

"I just hope that when the committee investigators look for the perpetrators of fraud cases they look for those really responsible," the activist explained. "I mean, instead of going after people who released the photographs, believing they were genuine, they go after the people in Southeast Asia who were responsible for manufacturing them in the first place."

"I, for one," Ted Sampley, chairman of the Homecoming II Project, said, "would like to know why the Senate committee is ignoring the acts perpetrated by government officials against the POW-MIA activists over the years."

Sampley pointed to the recent testimony before the committee of Richard T. Childress, director of Asian affairs of the National Security Council (NSC) during the Reagan administration and the President's coordinator of POW and MIA affairs. He noted that "not a single question was asked of him about his harassment of activists. We had to listen to his tales of woe about how packages intended for POWs and MIAs in Laos were left at his house, causing somewhat of a disturbance, when activists were not

allowed to leave them at the Laotian Embassy."

Childress appeared at the committee hearings with former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage and retired Lt. Gen. Leonard Perroots, former DIA director.

"Not one word was asked any of these men about the surveillance and harassment of families of POWs and MIAs and activists who don't follow the official government line," Sampley explained. "Why?"

Perroots actually testified by asking himself a series of written questions, supposedly presented before hand by the committee staff.

Perot, in his appearance before the committee, was also critical of how "special treatment" was given to government witnesses, while people who were "just taxpayers" were raked over the coals.

Those who have appeared before the committee have been especially critical of Sen. McCain, who claims to be asking "tough questions" and is "hard" in his questioning because it is important that he gets at the truth.

The record clearly shows that McCain is hard only on those who are critical of

the government's official line on the POW-MIA issue or have appeared to present new evidence relative to the issue, while government witnesses have been "pampered," as Perot stated. Perot, in fact, said he had heard before appearing to testify that "one Republican Senator" on the committee was preparing to "ambush" him during his testimony. It became apparent he was referring to McCain.

Sampley blasted the panel for lumping those who are leaders of POW-MIA activist organizations into the category of "profiteers," who prey upon the families and the deep feelings among Americans for the plight of the missing servicemen.

"Now," Sampley said, "if you want to talk about 'profiteers,' don't look to the activists' leaders, look to people like Ann Mills-Griffiths of the League of Families and Frances Zwenig, staff director of the Select Committee." Griffiths is the \$90,000-plus per year (and "perks") executive director of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action in Southeast Asia, who has for years worked hand-in-glove with the U.S. government on the POW-MIA issue.

Zwenig receives \$119,800-plus per year as staff director of the Senate Select Committee.

Sampley also charged that the committee failed to ask Childress a single question about his use of Griffiths as a "bag lady" to collect and launder tens of thousands of dollars during the early 1980s, money that it is reported ended up in the hands of Laotian anti-communist resistance leaders. The money came from some of the same sources as funds directed by Childress's fellow NSC staffer, Lt. Col. Oliver North, to the Nicaraguan guerrillas during the so-called Iran-contra affair.

"The Select Committee has complete details of this devious episode because I personally gave it to them during early hearings of the committee," Sampley concluded.

Other POW-MIA activists accused the Senate panel of "going easy" on Armitage, whom it has been charged, though never proven, was involved in drug trafficking in Southeast Asia during and since the Vietnam War.

From: Linebacker '92

Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Select POW/MIA Committee, has declared war on all the POW activists and family groups who have kept the POW issue alive during all the years when John Kerry, John McCain and other politicians wouldn't give the issue the time of day.

Why is Kerry doing this when he ought to be examining the evidence that Hanoi has kept POW and lied about it?

Here's the inside scoop: The Committee's Chief of Staff, Francis Zwenig, who makes \$119,000 a year, journeyed to Hanoi in July. Mr. Le Bang, the Head of Vietnam's Bureau of North American Affairs, told her that the POW/MIA

Lobby was preventing normalization of relations." She immediately returned to Washington and hired four investigators to concentrate solely on these POW/MIA groups.

Then, just two weeks ago, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations, Trinh Xuan Lang, declared, "The MIA Lobby is holding normalization of relations hostage. This can't be allowed."

So, it is clear: John Kerry is following Hanoi's agenda and is working with the Vietnamese to shut down the very voices who kept the flame alive for nineteen years!

We urge all these POW/MIA groups to stand tall and refuse to work with Kerry until all POW records, files, sigint, (radio intelligence), intelligence and photography are made public by both the executive and legislative branches. When the government opens up, we'll open up.

FROM ACTIVIST TO SENATOR, KERRY DISPLAYS BEHAVIOR THAT ULTIMATELY BENEFITS ONLY HANOI

A U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORT

"Someone had to die so that President Nixon won't be--and these are his words--'the first President to lose a war.' We are asking Americans to think about that because how do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam? How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

These are the words of Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POWs and MIAs; not the John Kerry of August 1992 but the John Kerry of 1971, when he appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as one of the six members of the executive committee of the radical, Viet Cong flag-waving and "Hanoi" Jane Fonda-supported Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

And yet today, as observers watch his performance as chairman of the Select Committee, his words, particularly "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?" are hauntingly appropriate.

In 1971, a 27-year-old heavily-decorated Vietnam war vet, John Kerry, said to another Senate committee in another era, "To attempt to justify the loss of one American life in Viet Nam, Cambodia or Laos by linking such loss to the preservation of freedom is to us the height of criminal hypocrisy."

Two years later, facing increasing dissension at home, President Nixon withdrew U.S. forces from active participation in the war after his National Security Adviser, Dr. Henry Kissinger, signed the so-called Paris Peace Accords with North Vietnam.

Thus, contrary to what Kerry said of false statements about "preservation of freedom" as a reason for the war, hundreds of thousands of South Vietnamese were condemned to a life of communist slavery, thousands of others, the so-called "boat people," would flee the horrors of the Red dictatorship and lose their lives on a cruel sea, and tens of thousands of others would find themselves without freedom in the confines of communist "re-education" camps. And there was a loss of not only freedom but life itself for millions in neighboring Cambodia under the bloody rule of Pol Pot. Surely, looking back, there was no "preservation of freedom" as Kerry and his fellow war protesters lost the war, at home, for their comrades still in Vietnam.

ONLY WINNER HANOI

In the end, the only winner was Hanoi. Will it be so once again?

Today, Sen. Kerry faces the same dilemma as Richard Nixon. His Select Committee has determined beyond all doubt that Mr. Nixon and company left live Americans behind in Southeast Asian captivity.

Critics suspect as the body count winds down to zero, on paper of course, the committee, under Kerry's firm hand, will move to dismiss the issue as being closed, that no one is left alive.

So, Sen. Kerry must now be asked: "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam?" Veterans now ask this as they see Sen. Kerry never losing sight of his original agenda, the normalization of relations with Hanoi. Let no one forget that from the start of Kerry's chairmanship of the Select Committee, he continued to urge, as his long-standing policy, the normalization of relations with Hanoi.

The Senator must remember that after normalization of relations with Red China in the 1970s, that of 8,177 POWs and MIAs of the Korean War, which was then, too, 20-odd years passed, not a single one has ever been accounted for and Kerry has stated that their fate is not in the purview of the Senate panel.

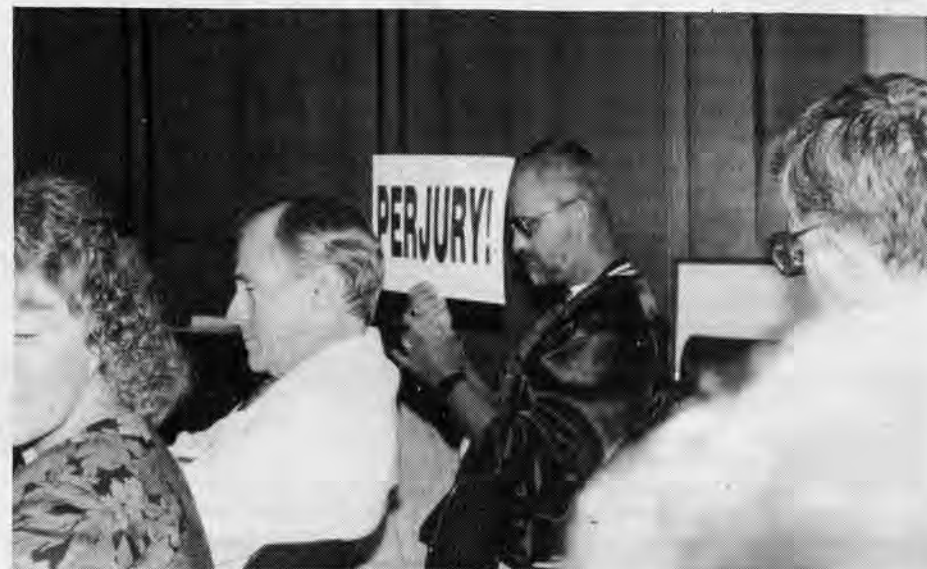
So, Senator, many of your fellow veterans now ask this, as you asked in 1971: Knowing, as your committee does, that American servicemen were left behind alive in Vietnam and that some could very well still survive, "How do you ask a man to be the last man to die for a mistake?"

So far, Sen. Kerry has managed to appear in public as a calm, sincere, intelligent and determined chairman of his committee. Behind the scenes, however, he has displayed a "slash and burn" mentality to make certain that the Senate panel follows the course he intends for it.

The U.S. VETERAN has learned that several current and former members of the Select Committee staff have signed a request that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate the destruction, allegedly ordered by Kerry, of documents relating to the POW-MIA issue. Kerry fired two members of the minority staff for supposedly releasing documents to the public, documents, which they contend should never have been withheld in the first place due to the fact their national security classification was only for the purpose of preventing the embarrassment of U.S. government officials who have dealt with the POW-MIA issue.

The respected "Wall Street Journal," reported on June 23 that the Select Committee was "at war with itself."

A day after a secret briefing of the Committee in May by its staff investigators, Senate security guards, on Kerry's orders, burst into the



Vietnam vet Jim Copp was banned permanently from the Senate hearings by Sen. Kerry, which angered a lot of veterans. Copp was booted for holding up a sign emblazoned with the word, "Perjury," which he held up each time a DIA spokesman was caught lying to the committee.

investigators' offices and ransacked desks, briefcases and "burn bags," and impounded four safes holding their intelligence files.

This reportedly led to committee vice chairman, Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.), threatening privately to resign.

NUMBERS PRIMARY CONCERN

Sen. Kerry seems consumed with numbers, trying to eliminate one-by-one the MIAs and POWs who could still be alive in Southeast Asia, a process not to different than that of the Department of Defense.

Critics suspect as the body count winds down to zero, on paper of course, the committee, under Kerry's firm hand, will move to dismiss the issue as being closed, that no one is left alive.

Thus, the path will be paved for normalization. Kerry would be well-advised to never forget that thousands of his fellow veterans are suspicious of his motivations, not because of his opposition to an unpopular war but for the vehicle through which he chose to express his opposition.

Although he never displayed a propensity for violence, as did so many other war protesters, there was something strikingly un-American about the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, which he helped to lead. It was not the flag of the United States under which most demonstrated, it was the flag of communist North Viet Nam; it was not photographs of Abraham Lincoln or other American patriots that they honored but photos of Ho Chi Minh. There was also something quite un-American about pouring red paint on the steps of the nation's Capitol. For this it is difficult to forgive; impossible to forget.

Veterans are also resentful of how Kerry has conducted the hearings.

Jim Copp is a Vietnam combat veteran--a "Sky Soldier" of the 173rd Airborne Division (1965-66) and a POW-MIA activist who became a POW of sorts after being caught distributing POW "reward" messages along the Mekong River. He was banned permanently from the Senate hearings by Sen. Kerry, which angered a lot of veterans. Copp was booted for holding up a sign emblazoned with the word, "Perjury," which he held up each time a DIA spokesman was caught lying to the committee. Some justifiably wonder how this squares with Kerry and his followers hoisting in the nation's capital the North Vietnamese flag and pictures of Ho as their expressions of dissent.

Nor does it please many that Ms. Frances Zwenig, the committee's \$119,800-plus staff director and former associate of the People for the American Way, an organization of the political far left and of many former war-protestors who got no closer to Vietnam than the California shores, serves as the committee's enforcer. She scans the room and runs about pointing out to guards those whom she wants removed, bodily if necessary, from the hearing room.

Ms. Zwenig knows about as much about POWs-MIAs as Madonna, her greatest claim to fame having served two years with the Peace Corps in Thailand. As the Senate Select Committee completes its work by year's end, Sen. Kerry, unless the panel really achieves an actual accounting of the men left behind, will face the burning question:

"How do you ask a man to be the last man to die in Vietnam?"

HANOI OFFER TO "SELL' BACK LIVE POWS REJECTED BY WHITE HOUSE

A U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORT

Shortly after President Ronald Reagan took office in January 1981, word was received via two foreign government channels that the Vietnamese were willing to sell to the United States live American prisoners of war for \$4 billion.

Although this shocking report has been rumored for years in intelligence circles in Washington and among those close to the POW-MIA issue, it has now appeared as fact during the investigation of the fate of America's missing servicemen in Southeast Asia by the Senate Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs.

Richard V. Allen served briefly as President Reagan's national security adviser during the start of the Reagan administration. His tenure was brief due to the discovery of several \$100 bills and some watches in a safe in the office he used temporarily in the Old Executive Office Building, which adjoins the White House, during the administration's transition period. Allen had been given the "gifts" by Japanese newsmen for supposedly arranging an interview with First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Allen, although forced to resign in the resulting scandal, after the items were discovered in the safe, the former National Security Adviser was subsequently found innocent of any wrongdoing. He had simply placed the items in the safe, not knowing what else to do with them at the time, and figuring he would get back to them later. There, in the safe, they

were forgotten during the hustle and bustle of the transition from the Carter to the Reagan administration.

However, Allen has provided investigators of the Senate Select Committee a statement that the Vietnamese offer was discussed in the President's oval office, at a meeting which he attended, along with Vice President George Bush, White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker 3d, Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Michael Deaver, and Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese.

The proposal from Hanoi had been channeled to the Reagan administration through the governments of Canada and Red China.

The offer was rejected at the meeting, with Chief of Staff Baker, according to one source, stating, "Who give's a damn about POW's anyway?" Instead, President Reagan and his advisers arrived at an alternative plan, envisioning a Rambo-style rescue mission.

President Carter's failure to rescue the Iranian hostages was still fresh in everyone's mind, and no doubt it was judged to be a big public relations plus for the new administration if a rescue of the long-forgotten POWs could be accomplished.

The President reportedly approved a CIA-supported mission into Laos by anti-communist Laotian guerrillas to locate the POWs. The mission apparently ended in disaster, along with another undertaken by U.S. Navy Seals. No POWs were reportedly located.



The Vietnamese offer and the fact that it had been rejected by the White House reportedly became known in 1986 by Rep. Robert Smith (R-N.H.), now a Senator and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee, and former Rep. Billy Hendon (R-N.C.), who served until a few months ago as an investigator for the committee.

Smith and Hendon met with President Reagan and Vice President Bush at the White House on Jan. 9, 1986, to ask if the offer was in fact true.

Smith reportedly said of the White House meeting that he could not "comment on that at this time."

Hendon, however, confirmed the meeting, and, referring to his notes, stated that at first President Reagan said he could not remember such an offer, while Bush said he could recall an offer being made but thought it was for POW remains.

Hendon added that Bush called him a day after the White House meeting and angrily denied that the offer had been made by Hanoi and that stories being circulated about it were "potentially damaging to the presidency."

However, Allen's statement to the committee was reportedly precise and has been supported by the testimony of others.

When discussed at a hearing of the Select Committee, it was revealed that several Canadian sources familiar with the offer are being checked for details.

According to a report of the incident in the Washington-based SPOTLIGHT newspaper, "as late as 1986, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Joe Clark, with the approval of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, was extending the services of the Canadian government to help facilitate an attempt for the release of up to 175 American POWs by Red Chinese officials."

The Washington newspaper pointed out that while the validity of the Red Chinese offer could be questioned, the fact that the Canadians were willing to help could not.

Allen in many interviews since leaving the White House has stated, obviously based upon his knowledge of the offer, that he believes that American POWs are still alive in Southeast Asia.

NEW RELEASE

AMERICANS ABANDONED

In 1973, the last American POWs came home from Vietnam, or did they? The video *AMERICANS ABANDONED* reveals important evidence that some American POWs may still be alive in Southeast Asia and that others were taken to the Soviet Union. This video tells of similar U.S. POW tragedies after World War II and Korea and raises troubling questions about the U.S. Government's commitment to American servicemen held captive in foreign lands.

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NO EVIDENCE ANY POWS ALIVE, SAYS DIA

WITNESSES GIVE FIRST HAND ACCOUNT ON HOW TO DEBUNK LIVE-SIGHTING REPORTS

By Donna Long
U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On August 4 and 5, Defense Intelligence Agency officials testified before the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs on how they evaluate live-sighting reports of Americans being held captive in Southeast Asia.

The DIA's need to defend its methods of evaluation before the select committee was prompted by three separate internal defense department reports that, among other findings, concluded the agency focused their time and energy on "debunking" people who reported live-sightings of Americans, badgered sources who volunteered information, misused polygraph tests, and only pursued leads that would help discredit the source.

Although the three internal government reports were made in 1985 and 1986 (the Brooks' Memo, the Gaines Report, and the Tighe Report), Senator Bob Smith (R-NH), vice-chairman of the Senate select committee, said "basically nothing has changed in the past five years".

"The DIA is still the same. Shoot the messenger, and ignore the message", Senator Smith said. "And I point out that it's been the same people, some of them now sitting at the witness table, who have been shooting the messenger all these years".

Despite a "world class tap dance" by DIA Senior Analyst Robert DeStatte, (who interspersed his answers with long-winded personal anecdotes), the two-day hearing substantiated Senator Smith's charges.

In fact, had DIA presented its case on a college campus (instead of before the select committee), the course would have been entitled "Debunking 101 - How to Discredit Sighting Reports of Americans Being Held Captive in Southeast Asia".

The following is just a sample of how DIA debunks sources who report information about Americans still being held against their will in Southeast Asia after 1973:

- Sources are fabricators because they gave their information while still in a refugee camp and thought it would help them get resettled in the United States.
- Sources are fabricators because they didn't come forward with their information while they were in a refugee camp and stopped "cooperating" with DIA after repeatedly being re-interviewed (badgered).

• Sources are fabricators because they flunked a polygraph.

• Sources who passed a polygraph concerning questions about a sighting are fabricators because they showed "deception" in answers to other questions.

• Sources are fabricators (even if they passed a polygraph) because other refugees in the area said they never saw American POWs. ("Other" refugees who dispute the sources' claim are telling the truth because if there had been American POWs in the area they would have heard about them from "village gossip" and therefore there is no need to polygraph these refugees).

• Sources who hear from "village gossip" that American POWs were being held in an area are reporting a "second or third-hand" sighting and their reports are "unsubstantiated hearsay".

• Sources who claim they saw or heard about American POWs "under armed guard" and can not be debunked, actually saw or heard about Soviets "under armed escort".

• Sources are fabricators (even if they could have been in the place they said they were in) if they cannot give a detailed description of the placement of buildings or streets in the area they reported seeing an American POW.

• Sources are fabricators if they say they saw American POWs in prison uniforms that set them apart from other prisoners. (This is especially true if the source says the POW was in a "stripped" uniform. Prison uniform "fashion" changed after the war and it is not possible that the old stripped uniform would have been used even in remote, isolated prison camps).

• A source who claims he saw American POWs, under guard, wearing "seminar caps" (prison caps), rubber-tire shoes and red rashes on their ankles, actually saw Soviet soldiers "under escort". (Explanation - Soviets wear rubber-tire shoes and are escorted by armed Lao soldiers for their safety. Unexplained, but not relevant - prison caps on their heads and red rashes on their ankles).

• Any source who cannot be proven to be a fabricator and claims he saw American POWs actually saw someone other than an American (Soviets, missionaries, East Europeans, U.N. workers, light-skinned orientals, dark-skinned orientals, etc.).

According to DIA's testimony before the Select committee, the only reports of an American POW that have been proven to be true are first, second and third-hand sightings reports of Marine PFC Robert Garwood. The fact that some 300 reports about an American (which turned out to be Garwood) was not considered as "evidence" by DIA until after Garwood was released in 1979 was "danced around" by DeStatte, who said the analyst "suspected" the reports were about Garwood.



Despite a "world class tap dance" by DIA Senior Analyst Robert DeStatte, left, (who interspersed his answers with long-winded personal anecdotes), the two-day hearing substantiated charges of DIA "debunking".

DeStatte's lame explanation, coupled with his statement that DIA did not have "any evidence" that Americans were still being held in Southeast Asia, caused Senator Smith to speculate that the only reported live-sighting of an American POW that DIA would accept as evidence would be sightings that could be corroborated after the release of a live American.

"Out of thousands of reports - not one is deemed valid ... statistically that is remarkable," Smith said, of the sightings DIA still has on file.

DeStatte said some cases were still under investigation, but when questioned by Smith about one of the cases in which the source was reported to be in jail in Saigon, DeStatte said DIA had made no attempt to contact the source.

Smith also questioned DeStatte about nine photographs of a site in Hanoi (known as the "Citadel") that DIA provided the committee. The photographs of the area, which is the subject of some 70 live-sighting reports, had been reversed in printing, making sites difficult to identify.

Smith, who has visited the site, said he spent hours trying to figure out why one location was not where he knew it was before he realized the photos were reversed.

"If this was an accident ... don't you people know what the hell's going on...?", Smith angrily asked.

Smith added, "If its not an accident ... is this the kind of imagery you are showing to sources?"

After DeStatte studied the nine photographs, which were displayed at the hearing, he apologized and said there had been no intention to deceive.

Smith, however, was not satisfied and placed DeStatte on notice that he was going to review all live-sighting cases. Smith said that if he found that the same

reversed imagery had been shown to sources to confuse them in their description of places they said they saw American POWs, DIA would have a "serious problem".

"They better not match up," Smith said, referring to sightings DIA debunked because the sources' description of an area did not match up with maps shown to them by DIA.

During the two-day hearing, DIA tried to debunk the committee staff's "clusters" of live-sighting reports, but admitted that clustering (segregating areas where numerous reports of sightings have come from different sources) is an acceptable analytical practice.

DIA officials said they began using the cluster method in 1986-87 and blamed its failure to use the method before that time on the lack of "PC's". Smith noted that it was easier to use personal computers, but said that while it took longer, clusters of sightings could have been plotted on a map.

DIA's main argument against the validity of most of the committee's clusters was that none of the refugees and sources DIA had interviewed said they had seen American POWs in the cluster area.

Senator Chuck Grassley, however, pointed out that the sightings in the senate committee's clusters were made under unique circumstances - circumstances that would have prevented the sighting from having been seen by large numbers of people.

Grassley said that the most of the sightings were of POWs who were kept in remote areas, were kept isolated from the general prison population and were moved at night.

(One of the live-sighting reports, which DIA says is still under investigation, comes from a source who said he was on a bus and when they approached

a certain area, the shades on the bus windows were ordered to be pulled down. According to the source, he peaked through the shades and saw American POWs on the side of the road). The vast majority of senators on the Select Committee were not present during the two-day hearing.

Senator John McCain "popped in" the first day to praise President Bush "in lieu of what happened at the League meeting", made a short statement about the purpose of the hearings and left. He reappeared a couple of more times during the two-day hearings.

Senator John Kerry, chairman of the select committee, asked several hard questions about DIA's analysis of the live-sighting reports, but appeared to be satisfied with most of the answers he received. At one point Kerry said DIA was in a "catch-22" situation, noting that even if Hanoi allowed them to visit an area where a living-sighting was reported, there would still be those who would claim the POWs were moved because Hanoi had some prior notice.

At the close of the hearings, Senator Kerry wanted DIA to tell him if they could clear up the 62 unresolved live-sighting reports within the following two months. (The committee's final report is due by December).

DIA officials said they would have "30-40" cases resolved soon, but could not promise to have them all resolved by the end of October. DIA said Hanoi would no longer allow "short-notice" inspec-

tions on live-sighting reports. Instead, Hanoi is demanding advance copies of cases and to interview sources of the report before deciding to allow any on-site inspections.

"Relations between our two countries have been taken hostage in the hands of some strong MIA lobbies. So it is up to the lobbyists whether the United States and Vietnam have relations or not. That cannot be accepted"

Trinh Xuan Lang, Hanoi's top envoy in the United States

"We can't do that," DeStatte flatly stated.

Robert Sheetz, chief of the DIA's Special Office for POW/MIA Affairs, said the Vietnamese regard the alleged live sightings as "preposterous". He said POW field investigators have met with "great difficulty" in coordinating live sighting searches with their Vietnamese counterparts.

In addition to the problems in Vietnam and Hanoi reneging on the "short-

VIETNAM FEARS AMERICAN INSPECTIONS

Although Hanoi officials immediately denied they were no longer going to cooperate on "live-sighting reports", Trinh Xuan Lang, Hanoi's top envoy in the United States, confirmed to the New York Times on August 8 that Vietnam was asking to be involved in deciding on the merits of live-sighting cases before searches were ordered.

This admission, which rules out short-notice investigations, confirmed DIA's testimony.

Lang was also quoted by the TIMES as saying that the Vietnamese had begun to fear that American inspections of prisons and archives are "cloaks for espionage".

"It seems that the intention of the U.S. side is not only seeking MIA information, but also seeking something else - for example, information on the internal situation of Vietnam, state secrets of Vietnam," Land is quoted as saying.

Lang said Hanoi had joined in 35 live-sighting searches, including 6 short-notice and 5 in prison in 1992 - all of which proved that the information on live sightings was "inaccurate, incorrect and false".

Lang also told the TIMES that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statements that Vietnam veterans could still be alive in the Soviet Union "could have" been made for political reasons. In addition, Lang is quoted as saying, "Relations between our two countries have been taken hostage in the hands of some strong MIA lobbies. So it is up to the lobbyists whether the United States and Vietnam have relations or not. That cannot be accepted".

(Since Lang's statements, Vietnam claims it has "cooperated" in two additional investigations, but details on how those investigations were conducted remain unclear.)

notice" inspections, the Laotian Government is also not cooperating on live-sighting inspections.

"If Hanoi won't allow anymore short-notice inspections, and Laos totally refuses to cooperate, then the only

resolution DIA can possibly come up within the next two months - since DIA claims there's no evidence anyone is alive - is that everyone is dead," said one MIA relative, who left the hearings in total disgust.

**#19 -- RED and BLACK design
on a WHITE or GRAY shirt**



NEW!

**#18 -- VIETNAM SERVICE COLORS
on a WHITE or GRAY shirt**



NEW!

SEE PAGE 12 FOR ORDER INSTRUCTIONS

SUBSCRIBE TO THE U.S. VETERAN

U.S. POWS REPORTED HELD BENEATH HO'S TOMB IN HANOI

A U.S. VETERAN STAFF REPORT

Investigators of the Senate Select Committee on POW and MIA Affairs, working closely with committee vice chairman, Sen. Bob Smith (R-N.H.), have determined that the Vietnamese are operating a prison compound for American prisoners of war beneath the mausoleum of the late North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh in northwest Hanoi.

The underground prison complex, referred to by eyewitnesses in a series of reports obtained by the committee investigators from the files of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), is ironically directly beneath where committee chairman, Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), was standing when he visited the Ho tomb last April.

Access to the underground prison is gained from within a top secret military compound, known as the Citadel, which was built by the French prior to the French Indo-China War of the early 1950s.

The Citadel is strictly off limits to outsiders. It is considered the Vietnamese equivalent to the U.S. Department of Defense headquarters, the Pentagon.

At recent hearings before the Senate Select Committee, DIA representatives have vehemently denied that the underground prison is there.

"There is no credible evidence [that] such a prison ever existed," DIA chief analyst Robert DeStatte told the Select Committee under oath.

NEVER INSIDE

However, when pressed by Sen. Smith, DeStatte admitted that no American officials investigating the POW-MIA issue have ever been within the Citadel.

DIA insists that the water table in Hanoi is too shallow to allow the construction of an underground prison complex.

However, former POW Col. Ted Guy told the U.S. VETERAN that while he was confined in a prison compound known as "the Plantation," which is located across a street from the Citadel, he was punished by being confined to an underground area about 20 feet beneath "the Plantation."

In addition, former Marine Pvt. Robert Garwood, who returned from North Vietnam in 1979, has reported to DIA the existence of underground tunnels in Hanoi. He claims to have been led by the Vietnamese through the passageways, which were constructed of concrete and were lighted electrically. "Any good builder can describe how to waterproof a basement," one critic of the DIA's position said, "and how to install a sump pump. The Pentagon itself is built along the banks of the Patomac River, in a low swampy area, and could not have several floors of basement if DIA's logic is correct."

Sen. Smith stated that the Citadel is "one of the most secure areas in all of North Vietnam . . . [and] includes the

Ministry of National Defense, PAVN headquarters, various military agencies and residential quarters for senior military officers."

"You can see on a map that the Citadel is over a half-kilometer square," Smith continued. "It is bordered on the north by Phan Dinh Phung Street, on the east by Ly Nam De Street, on the south by Dien Bien Phu Street, and on the west by a park area leading to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum."

"During the war, some American POWs were held in the northeast corner of the walled-in compound at a facility known as Alcatraz, or Plantation West, which is near the military publishing house at Number 4 Ly Nam De Street. Also during the war, some American POWs were held across the street (at Number 17 Ly Nam De Street) at a compound known as the Plantation."

"After the war, the Plantation was rumored to house the remains of U.S. servicemen, and later it became an army film repository. There have been numerous visits to the Plantation by visiting U.S. delegations, including myself and several of my former House colleagues in 1986."

"Within the narrow confines of downtown Hanoi, 70 separate sources (22 firsthand and 48 hearsay), reporting over nearly two decades, betrayed Vietnam's secret by reporting sightings or other information about American POWs being held in Hanoi, the last place where people would expect them."

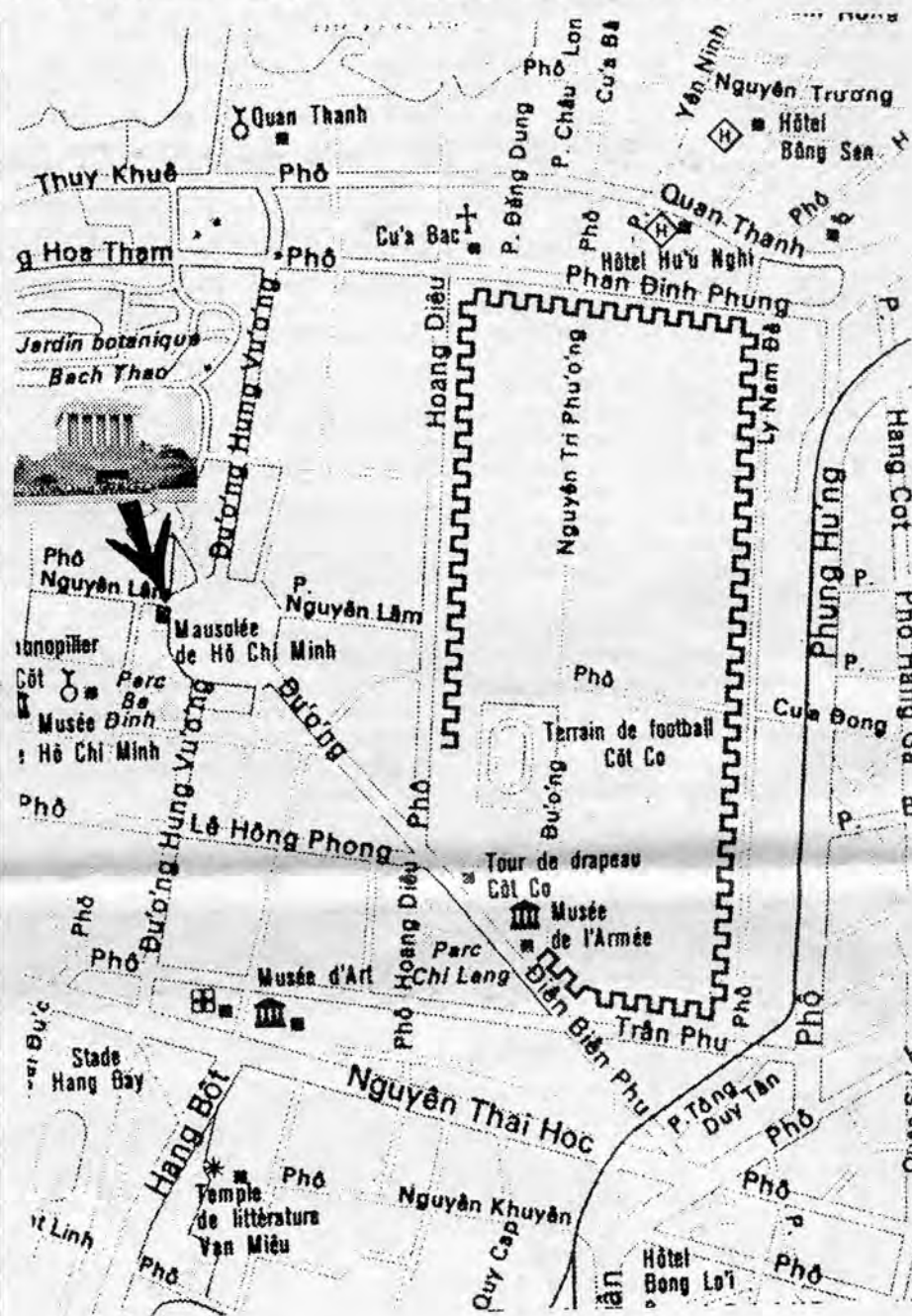
"And the Vietnamese Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Interior harbored the biggest secret of all, according to these sources. They ran a secret underground prison system in the heart of Hanoi under the feet of visiting dignitaries, a prison which held American prisoners of war after Operation Homecoming [1973] and well into the late 1980's."

"Sources reporting over a 15-year period have filled in details concerning the construction and operation of this facility at the Citadel next to Ho Chi Minh's tomb."

"The story of American POWs in these areas long after the war sounds like something out of a Tom Clancy novel, but these reports are not from fictitious people. They are real people telling us what they have seen."

Smith was outraged and accused the DIA of purposely attempting to mislead the committee and causing it to waste three-quarters of a day trying to pinpoint landmarks in downtown Hanoi on nine photographs of the city that the spy agency provided. He showed how the photographs had been copied from reversed negatives, which made it impossible for the landmarks to be located. In this case, left became right, east became west, etc.

He suggested that the DIA may have been using the same reversed photographs to confuse witnesses trying to show them the location of entrances to the Citadel and various other key landmarks in downtown Hanoi.



SIX SOURCES CITED

Sen. Smith specifically pointed to six sources culled from DIA files referring to the underground prison complex:

Report No. 7591--Involves a Vietnamese army officer who describes to a source information about the construction of the detention facility, and that it was adjacent to Ho Chi Minh's tomb.

Report No. 10675--Involves a former lieutenant from the Ministry of the Interior, who describes to a source the existence of a detention facility for American POWs under Ho Chi Minh's tomb.

Report No. 8621--Involves a doctor who was treating a PAVN general inside the walled-compound west of Ly Nam De Street and stated he saw four POWs and was told by the general's son that there were 30 at an underground facility inside the Citadel.

Report No. 5633--Involves a Vietnamese police captain who tells a source about a secret underground facility next to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum that is holding American POWs.

Report No. 1101--Involves the son of a PAVN colonel telling a source that 50

American POWs in July/August 1980 were being moved to an underground facility at the Citadel, because a U.S. delegation was in town.

Report No. 4989--Involves a foreign diplomat who passed on information about 200 American POWs at an underground facility in Hanoi.

Vietnamese officials called stories about the underground prison reported in the press "funny."

Former Congressmen John LeBoutillier (R-N.Y.) and Billy Henderson (R-N.C.) and U.S. VETERAN editor and publisher Ted Sampley attempted to get the Vietnamese to allow them to visit Hanoi and to examine the sewers that run beneath the Citadel.

The Vietnamese delegation at the United Nations in New York were contacted by telephone regarding the proposal but would not even respond to the suggestion of holding a meeting with the three POW-MIA activist to discuss the inspection detail.



U.S. VETERAN

December 1991

News And Report

December 1991

PAD IN BLOOD

DA NANG • QUI NHON • QUANG TRI • ROUTE 13 • BEN HET • HILL 875
 • WAR ZONE D • LANG VEI • RED RIVER VALLEY • SE SAN •

INTERSTATE 9 • TET • DMZ •
 NUI BA HO • MY THO • CON
 THIEN • KHE SANH • XUAN
 LOC • THE DELTA • BIEN
 HOA • HUE • DONG HA
 • HAMBURGER HILL •
 DAK TO • HILL 881 • PHU
 BAI • CHU LAI • AN
 LOC • COM LO •

DUY XEN •
 THE IRON TRIANGLE

Statue Copyright
 Lawsuit... see page 6



PUBLIC JURIS

A PROPOSED BILL

AMERICA'S NATIONAL MONUMENTS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE

To insure that the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial with all its component parts is made available to the peoples of the United States without private control and without charge.

Whereas, it appears to the United States Congress that prior to 1982, a compromise was reached wherein a statue, flag pole, and American Flag were added to the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial as component parts to one certain memorial to honor the living, dead, and missing service personnel who had served during the time of the Vietnam War; and

Whereas, it was the intent that each component part, to wit: the wall, the flag and the statue, was to be a part of an integrated whole, which entirely was made available to the peoples of the United States without control and without charge; and

Whereas, it now appears to the Congress of the United States that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, without authorization from the Congress of the United States has copyrighted the Three Servicemen's Statue and has without authorization, given one-half of said copyright to Frederick Hart, the sculptor of said statue; and

Whereas, it is the intention of the Congress that the public should have the right to use and copy any part of the said memorial without restriction,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED,

THAT the owners of the copyright, The Vietnam Memorial Fund, a not-for-profit District of Columbia Corporation, and Frederick Hart, in a form that complies with applicable law, surrender legal and equitable ownership of the copyright to the Secretary of the Interior forthwith, or within thirty days from passage of this law, remove the Three Servicemen Statue from the memorial at their cost, and

THAT, in the event, the said statue is removed, that the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of replacing the said statue with one that will be available to all persons for public use and that will not be copyrighted by the author or any other person.

LATEST SEXPLOITS

*News makers in Pat Schroeder's
"Charmed Forces"*

FIRED ADMIRAL CHALLENGES PUNISHMENT, AIDE FACES NEW ACTION

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) -08/15/92- A fired admiral accused of protecting an aide from punishment for making homosexual advances has appealed his demotion and the sailor he allegedly helped is facing new disciplinary action.

Vice Adm. John Fetterman, who ordered the development of "core values" training to counteract sexual harassment and other unethical behavior, asked to be retired after he was removed as chief of naval education and training, the Navy's largest on-shore command, last month.

Fetterman has not changed his mind about retiring Sept. 1, but a Navy spokesman Friday confirmed he has challenged a reduction in rank from three to two stars upon leaving the service and a letter of censure.

His letter of response was delivered Wednesday to Acting Navy Secretary Sean O'Keefe, said Lt. Cmdr. Ray Kempisty, a spokesman for the training command headquartered at the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Fetterman has said in earlier interviews that he didn't believe he did anything wrong by referring a complaint against his aide, Chief Petty Officer Edmund R. Bonnot, to the man's commanding officer.

Navy officials say the admiral should have turned the matter over to the Naval Investigative Service, which normally handles cases involving homosexual behavior. Homosexuals are barred from serving in the military and are discharged if they are found out.

An investigator recommended Bonnot be court-martialed but the commanding officer, Cmdr. Wayne Hurst, ordered lesser punishment and treatment for alcohol abuse, which he found to be the cause of his behavior, not homosexuality. Fetterman denied he influenced Hurst and backed his decision because of respect for the role of commanding officers in such matters. The admiral said an NIS probe would have taken too long and he needed a quick solution to a volatile situation because Bonnot worked in close proximity to the sailor who had complained.

Kempisty said Navy headquarters has returned a report on Bonnot to Rear Adm. Louise Wilmut, acting chief of the training command, for review.

She has turned it over to the commander of the surface reserve fleet in New Orleans for further review and disposition. The most severe action could be a court-martial.

Fetterman has drawn support in his quest for retirement at three-star rank from U.S. Rep. Earl Hutto, D-Fla., whose district includes Pensacola and city officials in Pensacola and San Diego where he headed Pacific Fleet naval air forces before transferring here. The Navy has appointed an assistant chief of naval operations, Vice Adm. Robert K.U. Kihune, as Fetterman's successor. The Senate last week approved his appointment and he is due to take command Monday.

DECONCINI CALLS FOR STUDY ON MILITARY BAN OF HOMOSEXUALS

PHOENIX (AP) -08/14/92- Sen. Dennis DeConcini wants the Defense Department to stop expelling homosexuals from the armed forces until an independent study can determine if there is a factual basis for banning their presence.

In a letter sent Thursday, DeConcini asked Defense Secretary Dick Cheney to review its policy.

"Policies affecting those men and women who have chosen to serve their country in the armed forces and who happen to be gay should be based on fact and documentation, not emotion," DeConcini wrote.

The military alleges that their presence undermines morale and discipline.

"I believe the underlying rationale of these directives must be independently reviewed and, if necessary, updated to reflect the factual realities of late 20th-century living," the Arizona Democrat said.

The issue of gays in the military has received national attention in the wake of several recent announcements from military personnel that they are gay.

Sgt. Tom Paniccia, 28, who is stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, announced on national television July 23 that he is gay. He said that eight days later he received a notice that he was being honorably discharged.

Paniccia, who has been in the Air Force since 1981, challenged the dismissal and said a hearing date has been set for Sept. 21.

DeConcini asked Cheney to create an independent panel of military, psychological and sociological experts to review the issue.

"Issues of civil rights and fairness as they relate to gays in the military should be thoroughly reviewed as they were for blacks in the military in the 1940s and as they are currently being reviewed for women," he wrote. "Gay men and lesbians deserve to have their civil liberties protected as are those for all other members of our society." He said expulsion proceedings should be halted until the proposed study is completed.

FIGHTER PILOTS SPORTING TAILHOOK PATCHES UNPOPULAR WITH NAVY BRASS

SAN DIEGO (AP) -08/14/92- Thumbing their noses at Navy brass, some aviators at Miramar Naval Air Station are wearing banned "Tailhook '91-I wasn't there" patches inside their flight jackets. The brightly colored patch depicts television cartoon character Bart Simpson dressed in a Navy flight suit, holding a can labeled "beer" and saying: "I didn't do it! Nobody saw me do it -you can't prove a thing!"

Forbidden by Navy brass, it is worn secretly by a number of aviators at Miramar, where morale continues to sag amid the ongoing probe by the Pentagon inspector general's office of the Tailhook sex-abuse scandal.

A reproduction of the emblem appeared today in The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The patch itself suggests the kind of activity that made Tailhook infamous. Discarded bottles and cans, presumably alcohol containers, are on one side of Simpson and on the other is a woman wearing a pink bikini and high heels.

Behind the woman are four aces from a deck of cards and a pair of dice, symbolic of the atmosphere in Las Vegas where the Tailhook Association held its annual convention last September.

The patches are flashed "almost like a password" among aviators, one pilot who flies in the back seat of an F-14 Tomcat told the Union-Tribune.

Pentagon investigators who took over a Navy probe in June have interviewing pilots at Miramar and other Navy bases to try to identify those who allegedly fondled up to 36 women, including other officers, during a drunken spree at a party that closed the three-day Tailhook gathering. The Navy conducted some 1,500 interviews, but identified only two aviators who allegedly participated in the molestations. About 70 other officers were accused of obstructing the probe.

Many of the pilots who attended the convention reportedly were from Miramar, where the San Diego-based naval aviation booster group was based until the Navy cut all ties to the group after the incident became public.

The Tailhook patch is believed to have originated at Miramar, but has turned up throughout the Navy.

Adm. Frank Kelso, the Navy's chief of naval operations, put out the word that he didn't think it was appropriate when he learned that some officers were wearing the emblem on their uniform, said Kelso's spokeswoman, Cmdr. Deborah Burnette.

Kelso, the service's top uniformed officer, also told that to Vice Adm. Richard Dunleavy, then the head of naval aviation, she said.

Some pilots protested that order by removing the patch from the outside of their flight suits and wearing it on the inside, where it can be shown to others when the jackets are pulled open, several officers at Miramar said. Their defiance likely will be unpopular with Kelso, who is trying to improve the Navy's image in the wake of the Tailhook scandal. Kelso is scheduled to visit Miramar on Monday in an effort to bolster sagging aviator morale there, Burnette said.

Acting Navy Secretary Sean O'Keefe also is scheduled to meet next Thursday with personnel at the San Diego base, according to his spokesman, Cmdr. Bill Harlow.

Neither session will be open to the public, but Kelso's planned topics include "the Navy of the future, the aviation plan, the threat and deployment patterns," said Burnette.

"He's been talking more about sexual harassment in general and the training and core values rather than specifically zeroing in on Tailhook," she added.

The top two Navy officers may receive a cool reception, however.

"They come out and think they're going to rally the troops," said one Navy commander who's also a pilot. "They will tell us to sit down, shut up and listen. Another guy telling us what to do rather than listening to us."

NAVY CLOSES BASE BAR BECAUSE SAILORS SANG DIRTY SONGS THERE

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -08/14/92- Talking like a sailor, or singing like one, has prompted Navy officials to close down a popular on-base watering hole.

The Anchor Lounge at the Alameda Naval Air Station was closed after a male sailor complained that other male sailors sang dirty songs in front of women, the Oakland Tribune reported Friday.

Besides, the place had become a dive, Alameda Commander Capt. Denny Major said.

"It was just not the kind of place to have in this era," he said. "Perhaps back in the Vietnam era this place would have fit. But times have changed. It was time to close the place and catch up."

Although the bar was shut in April, its closure didn't become public until Thursday, when it was discussed at a session on preventing sexual harassment at another Navy base, the newspaper said.

The Navy has ordered all personnel to attend such "stand down" sessions in the wake of the scandal over last year's Tailhook convention in Las Vegas. Twenty-six women were forcibly fondled and stripped of clothing as they were forced down a gauntlet of naval aviators in a hotel hallway.

OFFICER CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING GUARD MEMBER

SPARTA, Wis. (AP) -08/14/92- A Minneapolis police officer has been charged with sexually assaulting a fellow National Guard member near Fort McCoy. Capt. Kent Warnberg, 37, who lives in Chanhassen, Minn., was charged this week in Monroe County Circuit Court with second-degree sexual assault and false imprisonment.

Warnberg offered to give a female guard member a ride back to her barracks at Fort McCoy in July, then assaulted her along a rural road near Tomah, the complaint said.

Warnberg and the woman, a private first class, are members of the 34th Infantry Division of the Bloomington-based Minnesota National Guard, authorities said.

TWO BILLS TO COMBAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN MILITARY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS -08/13/92- Rep. Pat Schroeder has introduced two bills designed to prevent sexual harassment in the U.S. military and to provide assistance to victims of sexual violence in the armed services.

"If you wear the same uniform and work for the same flag, you will be given equal treatment, period," Schroeder said Thursday in introducing the measures in a Capitol Hill press conference. "This must be enunciated over and over as part of the core values of the military service, the absolute core values."

The legislative push comes amid the Navy's Tailhook scandal and after recent congressional hearings on problems with the treatment of women in the military.

One resolution introduced by the Denver Democrat spells out Congress' intent that the military revise its education system as well as its investigation and punishment procedures to prevent sexual harassment.

The bill calls for long-term counseling and crisis intervention for women who are the victims of sexual violence in the military.

The second bill mirrors legislation introduced earlier in the Senate that calls for treating sexual harassment as a service-related disability.

"That bill also makes the (Veterans Administration) much more female-friendly in its health-care services," Schroeder said. "Some of the VA hospitals have not been nearly as good in dealing with women's health-care issues as we had hoped."

TAILHOOK INVESTIGATORS ORDER POLYGRAPH TESTING

SAN DIEGO (AP) -08/12/92- Dozens of Marine Corps aviators stationed in Orange County have been ordered to take lie-detector tests by Pentagon investigators probing the Tailhook sexual misconduct scandal, a newspaper reported today.

The broad testing was conducted at the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station over the past few weeks and is believed to be the most extensive use to date of polygraph tests by the investigators.

But that raises questions about whether investigators broke Pentagon rules prohibiting the use of polygraphs in trying to identify suspects in criminal probes, according to a report by The San Diego Union-Tribune. Those rules allow military investigators to administer such test only to people already identified as criminal suspects, and only when an allegation can't be resolved by other means, a highly placed naval investigator told the newspaper.

Navy investigators used polygraphs sparingly in their eight months on the case before the Pentagon took over in June. The Defense Department probe is aimed at identifying aviators who fondled up to 36 women, including fellow officers, at a Tailhook Association convention last September.

The Navy probe identified two alleged participants out of about 3,000 active-duty fliers who attended the three-day gathering at a Las Vegas hotel, the Union-Tribune said.

Several pilots at El Toro said they believe the order to take a polygraph test was an effort to intimidate. They spoke to the newspaper on the condition they wouldn't be named.

The pilots said they were told that anyone who didn't cooperate fully with Pentagon investigators would be discharged, transferred to undesirable locations or removed from promotion lists.

One senior Marine officer who took the polygraph test described his interview as "degrading, humiliating and full of verbal abuse."

"You had to be there to believe it," he said. "That's why some of the people in the Marines say, 'Screw it, I'll get out before I submit to this.' Some have flat-out refused to submit to the test."

One reason for the tough tactics is that Defense Department investigators have encountered the same resistance that stymied their Navy counterparts, a Pentagon source familiar with the Tailhook probes said. But the Pentagon investigation has identified relatively few suspects, the source told the Union-Tribune.

Another officer at El Toro said investigators weren't interested in hearing his account of the Tailhook meeting and pressed him only for names of those involved in any sexual abuse or misbehavior.

"It was brutal. It was the most awful experience of my life," he said in complaining that his individual rights and those of others are being trampled. "They didn't believe my story that I could be there that long and not see any (wrongdoing)."

A Marine Corps lawyer from Camp Pendleton went to El Toro two weeks ago and gave guidelines concerning the upcoming interviews to about 150 aviators, several officers and high-ranking pilots said.

The lawyer said the Marines would be branded as uncooperative if they refused to take the polygraph test, demanded legal representation, asked to tape-record their interview or requested that a fellow officer be present as a witness, the pilots told the Union-Tribune.

Investigators have been at El Toro the past several weeks after spending two weeks in San Diego questioning pilots at Miramar Naval Air Station. They will return to Miramar next week to question the pilots further about the Tailhook gathering, Pentagon sources told the newspaper.

The San Diego-based naval aviation booster group, comprised of more than 15,000 retired and active-duty fighter pilots, is named after the hook that snags planes landing on aircraft carriers.



OFFICER SAYS DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS WRONG TO SOCIALIZE WITH SERGEANT

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) -08/12/92- A Navy officer charged with fraternizing with her former Marine drill instructor gave limited testimony under a grant of immunity at his sexual harassment court-martial.

Ensign Traci Fischer, a flight student at Pensacola Naval Air Station, admitted she allowed Gunnery Sgt. Michael E. Wallace, 34, of Miami, to watch television and have drinks with her and two other officers at her off-base home Jan. 4.

"I didn't think of it at that point as something wrong," she testified Tuesday.

Wallace's wife had complained to her husband's superiors shortly after his visit to Ms. Fischer's home that he was having an affair with his former student following her graduation from the Pensacola Aviation Officer Candidate School. The wife later recanted but her claim triggered an investigation that led to fraternization and sexual harassment charges against her husband and Gunnery Sgt. Clifford Ford, scheduled for a court-martial next Monday.

In earlier testimony, several women said that while they were officer trainees Wallace had made romantic advances or touched them. In one case he allegedly put his hands and a piece of ice down a woman's pants.

The Wallace and Ford cases are among widespread allegations of sexual harassment in the Navy that have surfaced this year. They include alleged groping and stripping of at least 26 women, including Navy officers, by naval aviators at the annual Tailhook Association convention in Las Vegas last year.

Wallace waived his right to a jury trial and his case was to be decided by the military judge, Marine Maj. John Walsh of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Walsh refused to allow the prosecutor, Navy Lt. Carol Lynch, to question Ms. Fischer about her relationship with Wallace except for the Jan. 4 visit. It was the only incident involving her specified in the charges against Wallace, Walsh said.

The prosecution rested its case after Ms. Fischer's testimony and the defense began calling its witnesses.

Ms. Fischer was charged with perjury and fraternization after she testified at a preliminary hearing on the charges against Ford and Wallace in April. Her commanding officer is awaiting a report from an investigating officer before deciding what, if any, disciplinary action to take.

The grant of immunity extends only to testimony Ms. Fischer gave at Wallace's trial.

Ms. Fischer said she thought Wallace's visit didn't violate regulations against fraternization because he no longer was in her chain of command once she graduated from the officer school last October.

Military regulations, however, prohibit officers from socializing with enlisted people in virtually all circumstances outside of official functions.

In other testimony Tuesday, Ensign Stacy Holland, a supply officer stationed at Athens, Ga., said she danced with Wallace and Ms. Fischer danced with Ford while on liberty during a class trip to Chicago where students put on a flag pageant.

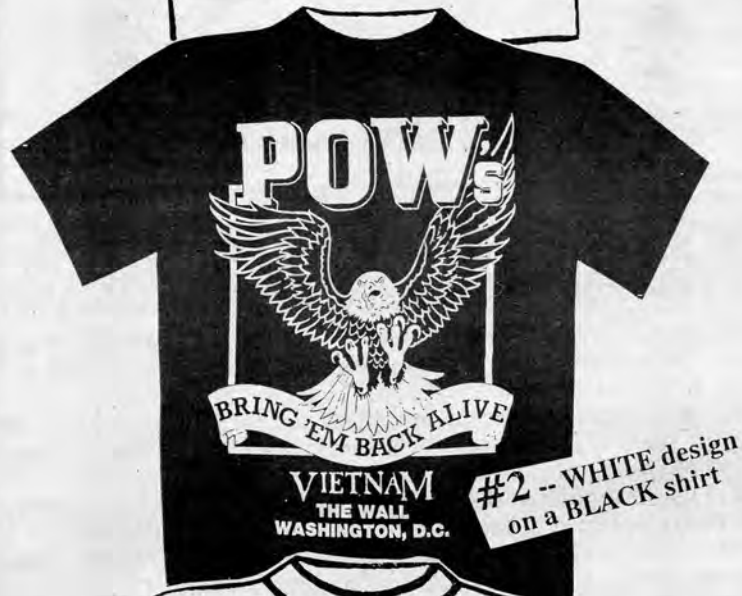
Ms. Holland also testified Wallace followed her into her hotel room but left after they talked for about five minutes. She said she was reluctant to testify against Wallace because he had saved her life by preventing her from choking. She gave no details about the choking.

WOMEN TESTIFIED MARINE MADE ADVANCES, TOUCHED THEM

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) -08/10/92- Women testified they were afraid to report alleged romantic advances and other sexual harassment by a Marine drill instructor while they were naval officer trainees.

At a court-martial Monday, the women said they feared retaliation that could have ruined their chances of graduating from the Aviation Officer Candidate School at Pensacola Naval Air Station.

Drill instructors are "scary," testified Ensign Elizabeth McConnell, a helicopter flight student at nearby Whiting Field.

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Britain's Growing POW/MIA problem

By Nigel Cawthorne
SPECIAL TO THE U.S. VETERAN

People in Britain have watched the plight of American POW/MIA families for years with amazement and pity. Now Britain has suddenly been plunged into the POW/MIA crisis of its own.

Recently released KGB documents show that more than 1,400 British prisoners of war disappeared into the Soviet gulags. The names of two hundred of them were published in the London Standard on August 7. A new list of seventeen Royal Air Force missing men unearthed in the British archives is also being investigated by six historians from Britain's Ministry of Defense. They claim that their investigations in the archives should be completed in a week. Fat chance.

When the matter of missing British POWs first surfaced in the British press in July this year, it took Britain by storm. The news media had a feeding frenzy. All the network news programs carried the story. The national newspapers vied with each other. Prison records at a camp at Tambov in Russia were uncovered showing that foreign POWs, including British, had been taken in 1945.

The British government immediately downplayed the story by claiming that there were only 2,780 men listed as missing from World War II. And it was assumed by the government and the British media alike that these men are long dead.

However, the missing British POWs from World War II actually number

probably over 30,000. Out of such a huge number, even after 47 years, some may still be alive. Other British prisoners are missing from the Korean War, the Cold War and even Vietnam - a war which Britain was not officially involved in. Their chances of survival are even better.

Despite the massive scale of the British losses, there have been no family support groups and no bands of activists lobbying the government in Britain. But now the families are coming forward.

Former British POWs who escaped Soviet incarceration in 1945 and made it to British and American lines - despite being fired on by their Russian allies - have also spoken out. They confirm that other British POWs were taken by the Soviets.

Tenacious anti-establishment Scottish member of parliament Tam Dalyell has taken up the issue in the House of Commons. He spent years badgering Mrs. Thatcher into admitting that the Argentine warship General Belgrano was, in fact, steaming away from the Falkland Islands when it was sunk by a British submarine during the Falkland War. For Mr. Dalyell, the matter of missing prisoners is personal. He was in the British army during the Korean War. Although he did not serve in Korea, he knew soldiers who did. Some of them went missing and Dalyell spent the latter part of the 1950's trying to find out what happened to them. He failed then, but hopes to succeed now.

Despite the UK governments traditional secrecy, British administration's resistance on this issue should be low.

Though Britain lost more prisoners to the Soviet gulags than America did, no one still in public life in the UK is culpable. Those to blame for Britain's abandoned POWs are long dead.

The POW/MIA issue seems set to take off in Britain. If it does, the issue could spread like wildfire across Europe. France, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg all have huge numbers of missing men from World War II. And as enemy nations, Germany and Italy have millions of prisoners taken into the gulags and never accounted for. The Italians have already received a batch of bones.

As head of the Commonwealth, Britain was also responsible for the missing prisoners of other nations - Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa. All these nations have POWs missing from World War II and Korea - and may have been denied knowledge of their losses by Britain's wartime governments.

Greece, Turkey, Columbia, Syria, Brazil, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Morocco, Algeria, Thailand, Nationalist China, Japan, South Korea and many other nations also lost prisoners in World War II, Korean and Vietnam. Hundreds of other wars around the world this century have consumed other prisoners.

The International Red Cross, the United Nations and Amnesty International have failed in their duty to these missing men. So have their individual governments. When forced to deal with POW/MIAs, the government has conceded that this is a humanitarian issue.



And it is up to the peoples of the world to do something about it.

The British, belatedly, are beginning to take an interest. Other nations may soon follow. At press briefings in London, foreign journalists are already beginning to show an interest in their own missing. An international movement of families, activists and other interested people could break this issue wide open worldwide - for the sake of forgotten prisoners, their families and their friends everywhere.

The British author of *The Bamboo Cage* Nigel Cawthorne is leading the POW/MIA fight in the UK. He would be grateful for any documents mentioning British prisoners of war held against their will in communist countries. He can be contacted at Flat D, Bevan House, Boswell Street, London WC1N 3BT, England (phone/fax: 011-44-71-4759).

THE BOOK AMERICA DARE NOT PUBLISH THE **BAMBOO CAGE** IS NOW AVAILABLE

Freelance journalist and author Nigel Cawthorne has spent three greuling years piecing together *The Bamboo Cage*, the story of America's lost legion. In the face of fierce official opposition, he has pieced together eyewitness reports, leaked intelligence documents and the individual stories of men known to be missing. He has tracked down boat people, the families and disaffected intelligence analysts to produce the first in-depth study of this issue. During his research, he traveled extensively in America, Australia and South-East Asia.

Finally, the trail took him to Hanoi itself.

The U.S. Veteran News and Report has made private arrangements to publish *The Bamboo Cage* in paperback.

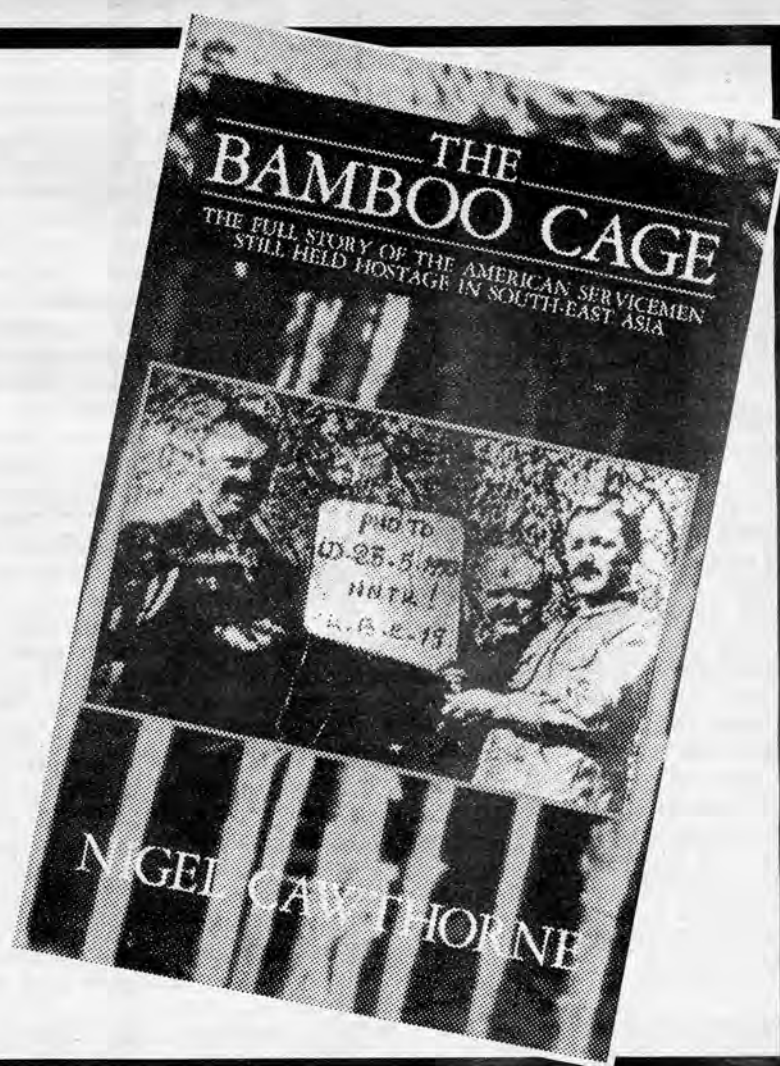
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LETTERS OF INTEREST

I WILL BE YOUR ABSOLUTE WORST NIGHTMARE!

August 10, 1992

To: Ann Mills Griffiths

National League of Families

RE: Involvement in individual cases

Ann:

After recently going through my brother's file at the Army Casualty Office in Virginia I came across a memorandum written by Lt. Col Jim Cole. He stated that you called Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Carl Ford, to state you personally endorse the Army's policy that the symbol next to my brother's name on The Wall should be changed to reflect an accounting.

First, the Army records show that no identifiable remains were returned in relation to my brother. And second, how dare you get involved in my endeavor to do what I feel is right for my brother! In answer to my plea for help from you, you personally told me that the League does not get involved in individual cases. You are cruel and deceitful. Carl Ford himself said that the procedure to change the symbol against my wishes was antagonistic and inhumane. Thank God he had the

sense to completely ignore your worthless opinion.

Aside from the fact that you have hidden facts from family members, have complete control over the distribution of ballots (several members never received them), and have done everything you can to prevent the formation of the Senate Select Committee, I will be your most absolute worst nightmare if I EVER hear that you are involved in my brother's case again. You have no idea how bad it could get!

I intend to bring this to the attention of the media immediately, and to the board of directors at the next meeting.

Lou Ann LaBohn

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a March 2, 1991 memorandum, Lt. Col. Jim Cole stated he met with Carl Ford on February 25 and defended the Army's recommendation to change the status symbol next to SSGT Gary R. LaBohn's name on THE WALL from missing to dead against the express wishes of Lou Ann LaBohn, Gary's sister and primary-next-of-kin.

Mr. Ford, according to Cole's memorandum, stated that "the Army went too far; that if the family doesn't want the symbol changed then don't change it; that the Army's action was antagonistic, confrontational and not humane".

Cole argued that the Army and DOD considers LaBohn accounted for, that the Memorial should reflect that "reality" and that the Army shouldn't acquiesce to family members' desires for the "wrong reasons".

"Their (the families) desires can't run our programs," Cole told Ford.

(Reality was 147 bone fragments and 15 teeth, all unidentifiable as to race, sex or age that were buried on March 23, 1990 in a mass grave as the remains of seven Green Berets and two South Vietnamese. LaBohn's name was subsequently removed from the headstone at his sister's request).

Ford not only disagreed with Cole, but directed him to contact the proper authorities and direct them to suspend action to change the symbol next to LaBohn's name.

The following day, on February 26, Ford met with Ms. LaBohn and Veteran Staff reporter Donna Long (who wears LaBohn's POW/MIA bracelet) and informed them that Ms. LaBohn would receive a letter in the mail stating that the missing symbol next to her brother's name on the Memorial would not be changed.

Ms. LaBohn subsequently received such a letter (See Oct/Nov 1991 Issue U.S. Veteran News and Report).

As a final note in his memorandum, Cole stated that Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of POW/MIA Families, had been aware of Ms. LaBohn's visit with Ford and that Ms. Griffiths had called Ford and agreed with "our" (the Army's) action.

Ms. Griffith's covert attempt to interfere in, and override, the wishes of a POW/MIA family member confirms allegations by other family members that she is nothing more than a "government puppet" and does not represent them or their missing loved ones.

SHE CAN KISS MY TAILHOOK

Dear U.S. Veteran:

What if they gave a war and Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, and her girls, and her girl-boys, and her boy-girls were the Naval Aviators? I think we can agree on one thing, there would be blood in the cockpit (except in the case of the girl-boys who would have to use catsup).

As a former naval aviator, I feel qualified to comment on the brutal, chauvinistic, macho "Tailhook" predators who groped, fondled and otherwise manhandled women at a drunken party. Ain't life a bitch?

It was much tougher in the old days, there weren't so many women in the military to kick around then. So we just shot people, burned a few alive, blew people apart, dreamed of cutting throats, and then spent some considerable time booting each other around. We also landed helicopters in hot LZs at night without seeing the ground, identified the partial remains of our friends, and sometimes washed off the blood or scraped off the brains of our buddies. And we did this for people like you who didn't give a damn for us, and we knew the score. And we didn't give a shit, Patricia, babe. We didn't need your approval, for we were warriors - bloody, murderous warriors. And we were treated as such.

When my ship pulled in to Cubic Bay during the Vietnam War, I got a good taste of how real Naval Aviators are treated. At the Cubi Point Officers Club, a special bar was set up for us in the basement, in an attempt to separate us from the REMFs like you. The carrot which enticed us to the pit under the club was 10 cent mixed drinks. (They thought we would by-pass the plush regular bar frequented by people like you, if they could keep us drunk for a few dollars a day - and they were largely correct.) Consequently, the REMFs were spared our tender presence.

Our special bar, "The Tailhook," was well prepared for us. The windows were covered with wire mesh to make it more difficult to knock the damn things out - we sometimes needed air conditioning. The chairs were bolted to the non-carpeted concrete floor so we couldn't hit our buddies over the head with them if we became pissed-off, which was nearly all the time.

They served our whiskey or bourbon in paper cups to prevent our throwing glasses at each other - or more commonly, to prevent us from eating glass, which many of us did when drinking and/or pissed-off, which again, was most of the time. (Often, we also enjoyed breaking our empty whiskey glasses against our own heads. The paper cups were designed to prevent this quaint pastime of Naval Aviators.) Additionally, they served our beer in paper cups. This was unfortunate for we preferred steel cans because we enjoyed having races eating the tops off the cans. (For those who don't eat the tops of beer cans, you should know that steel cans are better than a aluminum cans. Unless you have very sharp incisors, the aluminum bends. I recommend the steel cans, Patricia. You should try it sometimes. With those choppers of yours, you could probably eat the whole damned can.)

But, they knew us well, so we got paper cups. The ashtrays were small, prissy aluminum things which you undoubtedly would have liked. They were absolutely worthless if you wanted to hit your buddy in the head and cut the living shit out of him. And worst of all, the bar was made of hardwood. The lovely leather padded bars were a treat to tear with our teeth, but again they knew us well, so we got the cheap wood shit - and some of us chipped our teeth trying to eat the damn thing. Hey, ever see someone eat a big oriental cockroach in a filthy bar?



suppose you believe such behavior is repulsive and "un-officer" like. If so, then you have never had the need to vent your pumped-up adrenaline. If these little dip shit things are repulsive then, my dear Patricia, you have never been to war. You have never smelled your friends rotting, you have never watched a terrified young man die with his guts lying at his feet.

Are all Naval Aviators "animals." Some aren't. Some are easy-going, teetotalers, church going men. Many are men who would never pinch a woman, whether she deserved it or not. Would I tolerate someone pinching, groping or otherwise sexually assaulting my wife (who incidentally married a Naval Aviator over 20 years ago) or one of my daughters? Tolerate hell, I'd stomp the dog shit out of the bastard. (In fact, I recently had the opportunity to knock the hell out of a young man who upset one of my daughters, and he didn't even touch her.) And I didn't need an ACT OF CONGRESS to take care of the problem.

Generally speaking, I have few problems with men bothering my wife and girls, but then, my wife and daughters are smart enough to avoid drunken parties, especially ones attended by Naval Aviators.

Have I ever hit, slapped or otherwise physically abused my wife? Never. Did I ever sexually harass any woman? No, I did not. Do I approve of such activities? I do not. Did I ever see or hear of sexual harassment during the nearly six years I was a Naval Aviator? Not one time. But then we didn't have to live with the double standard of today.

You want a perfect world, babe? You want equality, then support equality - demand that women take the same tests, including the same PT tests as men. Until you are prepared for true equality, expect problems when unequal women are expected to be treated as equal warriors. In the meantime, remember this, you aren't only a REMF, you're the one thing lower than a REMF - you're a two-faced REMF.

To the Naval Aviators I served with - I am proud to be one of you. To those who now serve - you remind me of what I once was, and you keep me proud.

Simper Fi, my friends.

Sweat Hog, Vietnam 1969

EDITOR'S NOTE: Proudly printed with no apologies to be forthcoming. In other words, Patricia can kiss our tailhook, too!

OFFICIAL VIETNAM RADIO BLAMES HOLLYWOOD FOR MIA MYTH-MAKING

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - 08/16/92- Vietnam's official radio has blamed Hollywood for perpetuating "a top-hit myth" that American soldiers are still imprisoned in Southeast Asia.

Cinematic myth-making began with the 1983 film "Uncommon Valor" starring Gene Hackman and reached its peak with the 1985 film "Rambo" starring Sylvester Stallone, said the Voice of Vietnam radio.

"The story about American prisoners being left behind in Southeast Asia would not have become a top-hit myth in the United States had it not been for a factory, namely the Hollywood film industry, churning out imaginary stories on this subject," it said.

The radio said the films purposefully distort history, showing North Vietnamese Communist troops committing atrocities that actually were committed by U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers during the war. A text of the broadcast was seen in Bangkok.

"The Vietnam War is not completely over yet," it said. "And the Americans have tried to win a victory through movies in order to save face."

Vietnam long has denied it held prisoners after the war ended in the April 1975 fall of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City.

HOW ABOUT THIS MYTH?



Earlier this month, Hanoi recently repeated the denials after Sen. Robert Smith, R.-N.H., vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee probing the fate of missing soldiers, cited reports of a secret underground prison in Hanoi.

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency officials said there is no credible evidence such a prison ever existed.

SEE PAGE 12 FOR ORDER INSTRUCTIONS



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In the late 1960's, Americans concerned with the inhumane treatment American prisoners of war were receiving at the hands of their Vietnamese captors, picked up on the "Montagnard bracelet" and created the idea for the POW/MIA arm bracelet.

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