

1800 hrs., Saturday, 14 FEB 98

John B. Konek



Dear John,

Thanks for your letter dated 30 January.

I'm sending this by email to Jack (Swickard) to save time. He can make a hardcopy and post it to you. (OK, Jack?)

I tried looking you up in the VHPA Directory for 1996. Could not find you. Why not? And I thought Jack was the editor of the Newsletter, not Mike (Law).

Why am I behind the times? I have complained and complained. But I haven't received a newsletter since the one dated May-June 1997 (and that particular issue was sent to Thailand in error). I can't tell you how aggravating this is. So much so that I almost see "red" when VHPA is mentioned anymore. How come your letter gets through in two weeks but not one newsletter arrives in Laos in four times that many months? Please ask Mike about that. (I don't have a clue what's going on at VHPA, or why it's 1998 and there wasn't a Directory last year--this should be cake!)

Now to your question about Lao pilots. There are many around from the old royalist days. In fact, I gave a photocopy of your letter to my friend Boun Thanh--he once trained at Lackland--at Lao Aviation this morning. He'll begin putting "individual names" / "unit names" together. I'll get these guys over to the house for dinner some night, take some pictures, and forward you/VHPA a report.

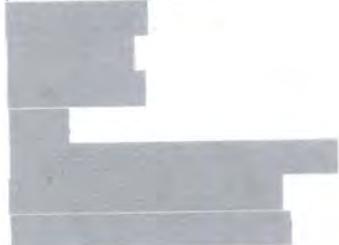
I'd imagine the network can come together fairly fast, that some VHPA members will remember quite a few Lao pilots. One, a "royal" colonel, has a great restaurant on the banks of the Mekong. They say he was the best pilot in the force, that he drove a Link trainer better than anyone else too.

Thanks for writing but please give Boun Thanh a few weeks to get some preliminary data together, OK?

Sayonara for now,

Jim

James Michener



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