

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION AFTER-ACTION REPORT

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PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM AS DIRECTED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

INSTRUCTIONS

Please file an After-Action Report no later than 30 days after your event is complete. Your information will help other organizations in their planning of commemorative events. We encourage you to share your photos and articles of the events on the Commemorative Partner Portal on our Commemoration website to show other Vietnam veterans from around the United States how you recognized their service to our country. Submit reports using one of the following four preferred methods:

1. Through the Commemorative Partner Portal online: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/partners/login> (preferred)
2. Email to: WHS.VNWar50th_CPP_EVENTS@mail.mil
3. Fax to: 703-692-4691
4. U.S. Mail to: The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration
Attn: Events Team Chief
1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 810
Arlington, VA 22209

FOR EACH EVENT, PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING:

1. NAME OF ORGANIZATION: The EC-47 History Site		2. NAME OF EVENT: Fall of Saigon Party - 2016	
3. ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION:			
a. STREET ADDRESS: 4213 Green Meadow Drive	b. CITY: San Angelo	c. STATE: TX	d. ZIP CODE: 76904
4. LOCATION OF EVENT <i>(Site name; e.g., The Pentagon)</i> Buck's Inn Restaurant Trevoise, Pennsylvania	5. START DATE OF EVENT <i>(DDMMYYYY):</i> 04/28/2016	6. END DATE OF EVENT <i>(DDMMYYYY):</i> 05/01/2016	
7. ACTUAL ATTENDANCE 57	8. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WERE PRESENT? 31	9. HOW MANY VIETNAM VETERAN FAMILY MEMBERS WERE PRESENT? 26	

10. SUMMARY: *(Include the following information and anything else you would want other Commemorative Partners to know, such as: Was your event a success? How were your objectives fulfilled? Were there any issues that came up? Any media coverage? List any helpful suggestions or changes for future and lessons learned. Attach additional pages as necessary.)*

Our Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) pinning ceremony was held in conjunction with the retired Air Force Vietnamese linguists' annual celebration of the Fall of Saigon in April 1975. This military reunion is referred to as the Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP), and this year's festivities was the 41st annual celebration. It was a fitting venue to recognize and honor the sacrifices and service of these Vietnam veterans. The ceremony was conducted on the second day of our event during a banquet at the Buck's Inn Restaurant in Trevoise, Pennsylvania. There were thirty-one Air Force veteran awardees, with twenty-six spouses and family members also in attendance. The VWC banner and the partner certificate of the EC-47 History Site were prominently displayed in the banquet room. With the banner as a logical visual aid to help introduce the commemorative program to most of the veterans who were unfamiliar with it, the purpose and mission of the VWC and the pinning ceremony was explained using talking points including extracts from President Obama's inauguration speech and Secretary of Defense Ashe Carter's comments on the VWC. The senior Air Force Vietnamese linguist attending, Captain Walter Rosenstrom, (USAF Ret) conducted the actual pinning with an assist from MSgt Joseph Turney, (USAF Ret). Each awardee was recognized by name and asked to step forward to be pinned. After the pinning, there was a exchange of hand salutes by the pinning officer and the awardee. Photographs were taken of all awardees receiving their lapel pins. Since this ceremony was a complete surprise to virtually all of those attending, we were inundated with very positive compliments and remarks. Suggestions have already been made to include a VWC lapel pinning ceremony at every succeeding Fall of Saigon Party as well as the 50th Anniversary of Combat Apple/6990th Security Squadron to be held in Rockwall, Texas in September 2017. Particularly interesting among the lapel pins awarded was that given to Mr. Kent Hixon of Tonawanda, New York. Though a veteran of eighty-four combat missions, and having received orders for the Air Medal with three bronze clusters, Kent was never formally presented with any decorations during his active service. In the truest sense, we did "what should have been done fifty years ago" and fixed this mistake in awarding Kent his now highly-prized VWC lapel pin. The final ceremony of the evening was one that the VWC might also be particularly interested in. Our very informal organization has been the beneficiary of a number of construction bricks acquired when the communist Vietnamese government demolished a portion of the Hoa Lo Prison in North Vietnam. This prison is commonly referred to as the "Hanoi Hilton" by US prisoners-of-war. As you may imagine the presentation of "Hanoi Hilton" bricks to four of our most distinguished Air Force Vietnamese linguists is the capstone of our annual reunion. These two ceremonies - the VWC lapel pinning and the brick presentations - overwhelmed our group emotionally, leaving many speechless and more than a few misty-eyed. ///SEE CONTINUATION SHEET///

11. MATERIALS ACTUALLY USED: *(For each category of materials below, subtract the amount remaining from what was sent to you.)*

(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY	(1) ITEM NOMENCLATURE	(2) QUANTITY
Brochures	35	Stickers: Eagle	80
Tin Pin: Eagle		Stickers: Seal	80
Tin Pin: Seal		Stickers: Flag	
Tin Pin: Vietnam Veterans		Presidential Proclamations	31
Bumper Stickers	80	Other: Commemorative Lapel Pins	31

CONTINUATION SHEET – AFTER ACTION REPORT

Fall of Saigon Party – 2016

Needless to say, the entire ceremony as well as the reunion were a complete success. Only one small issue surfaced. The service time of one member of the group did not fit into the parameters outlined by VWC. She entered service in 1978 and thus was not eligible to receive the lapel pin. Noting this problem, we spoke with her ahead of time and explained the award criteria to her. She indicated that she understood and was very pleased that we addressed this ahead of time. This is an area that we will have to pay close attention to during later reunions since there are other group members that didn't attend this FOSP who also served outside the VWC's award window.

The group elected not to have any media coverage for any part of the reunion including the banquet and pinning ceremony. However, many photos are available and are included as part of this report.

It's apparent from the narrative above and the three days spent during the reunion that all of the objectives of the VWC were fulfilled. Along with the discussions about the group's military service during the Vietnam War at the mixers and the banquet, the FOSP group was also fortunate in visiting and spending time viewing Philadelphia's outstanding Vietnam War Memorial. All of these informal and formal get-togethers provided wonderful opportunities to retell old war stories, talk of old departed fellow veterans, share our experiences in working alongside our Republic of Vietnam allies, and, for us all, to repeatedly thank our spouses and families for their unparalleled and unflinching support during our service to the country.

After Action Report compiled and written by: Larry Miller, Doggers Event Coordinator



L-R: Vietnamese Linguist, CMSgt (R) David 'Dom' Domyancic, is presented a commemorative lapel pin by Captain (R) Rosenstrom during the "Doggers" annual Fall of Saigon Party program held this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 30, 2016. The Doggers are members of The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee.



L-R: Captain (R) Rosenstrom presents a VWC lapel pin to CMSgt (R) Gary Koehn during the “Doggers” annual Fall of Saigon Party program held this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 30, 2016. The Doggers are members of The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee.



L-R: Captain (R) Rosenstrom presents a VWC lapel pin to Vietnamese linguist Gary Beadle during the “Doggers” annual Fall of Saigon Party program held this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 30, 2016. The Doggers are members of The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee.



L-R: Captain (R) Rosenstrom presents a VWC lapel pin to Vietnamese linguist MSgt (R) Joe Turney during the “Doggers” Fall of Saigon Party program held this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 30, 2016. The Doggers are members of The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee.



L-R: Captain (R) Rosenstrom presents a VWC lapel pin to Vietnamese linguist MSgt (R) Ray Simmons during the “Doggers” annual Fall of Saigon Party program held this year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 30, 2016. The Doggers are members of The EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program committee.

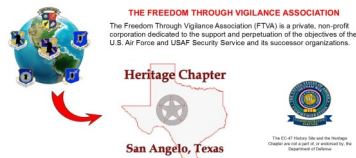


DOGERS

The Vietnamese Linguist Group



Vietnam War-era Veterans



The Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association fosters a continued local awareness of the mission and accomplishments of the United States Air Force Security Service and its successor organizations. Heritage Chapter members have been key players in commemorating Vietnam veterans previously trained at or assigned to Goodfellow AFB, especially those in the EC-47 airborne radio direction finding program.

<http://www.ftva.org/chapters/heritage/index.html>

FMI: CMSgt (Ret) JJ Graham, rgraha@hotmail.com, 325 651-4236



VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



CERTIFICATE OF HONOR

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR
SERVICE, VALOR AND SACRIFICE

PRESENTED BY:
THE HERITAGE CHAPTER
FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

President

Date

