

# Cruise news: page 2



Roger Hawkins called me some months ago and informed me that Corbis/Bettman Images was selling Harry Breedlove's iconic Vietnam photo imprinted with the legend "Copyright ©Corbis/Bettmann." Now, I'm not a lawyer, but I just don't see how on God's green earth they can make such a claim with a straight face.

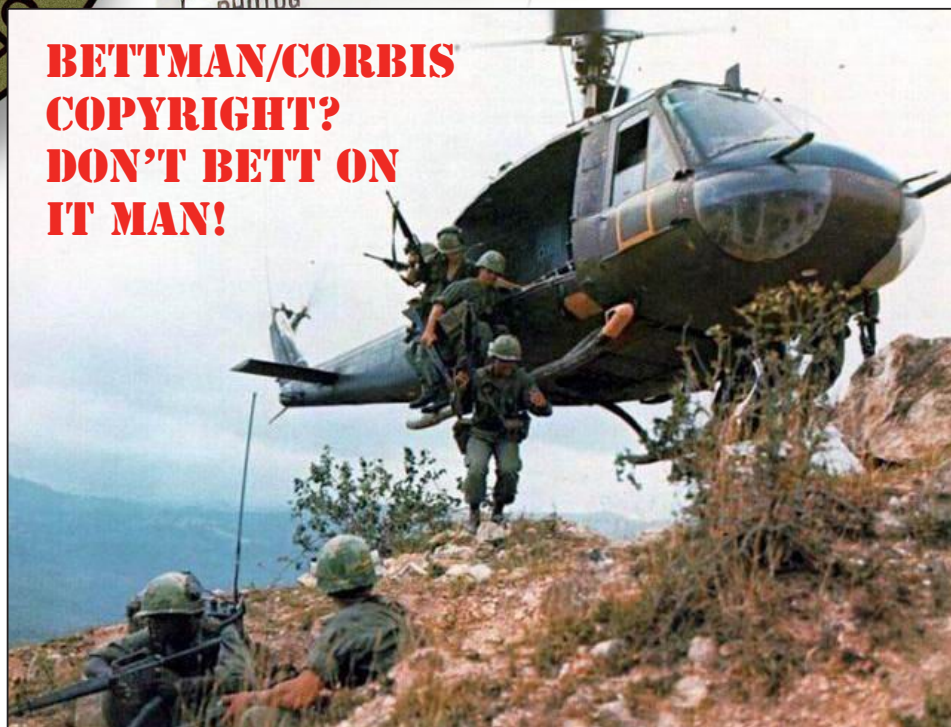
Roger and I had several phone conversations and emails and we came to the conclusion that they do because nobody wants to call them on it. It would cost money and time, and who would benefit?

I would love to launch such a lawsuit out of the pure goodness of my heart, but I don't have that kind of money. But it still irks me that Harry, and a lot of others like him, are not simply going unacknowledged for their work and service, but are actually being erased.

It should be a matter of law that no photograph or other image in the public domain be marked to suggest private ownership. In an ideal world, all public domain images would be marked, "Image in the Public Domain."

In an even more ideal world, the photo above would be marked, "U.S. Army Photo by SSG Howard

**BETTMAN/CORBIS  
COPYRIGHT?  
DON'T BETT ON  
IT MAN!**



*U.S. Army photo by SSG Howard Breedlove*

Breedlove," but I'm not holding my breath.

So, in a minor act of defiance, I'm posting Harry's photo. I didn't ask Corbis/Bettmann for permission and Lord knows I didn't give them any money, but if they want to make an issue of this, my name is Logan McMinn and my home phone number is 217-679-0797. Call me. Let's talk.



*Corbis/Bettman can resell SSG Breedlove's famous photo because it is part of the National Archive and in the public domain. But once in the public domain, claiming copyright restricts the rights of others by creating the false impression that Corbis Bettman can control use and access to the image.*



# Check Sent? Bags Packed?



**Twenty-three** cabins have now been booked for the October cruise so that forty- six DASPO alumni and their spouses, relatives and friends can gather aboard the Carnival Triumph, departing New York October 3.

Now's the time to nail the last of it down - make the final payment and complete your registration with Carnival. If you're not sure of the expiration date of your passport, check it ASAP.

Be sure to email Ted at [fourvid@aol.com](mailto:fourvid@aol.com) and let him know if you will be coming in two days early or just the day before the cruise. Ted will make hotel reservations somewhere near La Guardia, so don't fly to Kennedy unless you must.

If you plan to fly in the day of the cruise, keep in mind the ship sails regardless of flight delays. Also email your cruise room numbers to Ted so that he can develop a group

directory handout. He'll designate a rendezvous spot where we can meet each other on the boat before dinner the first night.

Here's who's coming:

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Abbott  
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Acheson  
Mr. & Mrs. John Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. Stew Barbee  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Blake  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Conn  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Dawson  
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Delk  
Mr. Walt Gilmore  
Mr. & Mrs. John Gilroy  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Laley  
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Nelson  
Ms. Sonja Nelson &  
Mr. Bill Gibson  
Mr. Logan McMinn &  
Mr. Paul Moulton  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay Qualman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Shanus  
Mr. & Mrs. Duke Smith  
Ms. Nancy Richards &  
Mr. Bob Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Lee Swain  
with Ms. Denise Swain  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Golden  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert McFarlen

Final  
Payment  
Due  
July 15  
2009





# Berga



**WWII Photographer Elmore Martin documented U.S. soldiers sent to the Berga death camp**



**Nazis Dig Up Mass Graves: Photo by Army photographer Elmore Martin**

A WWII combat photographer who won a silver star documenting the war in Europe died and left behind a box of old photos, which his son promptly put in a closet. Recently, Elmore “Bud” Martin’s son, Jim, took a closer look and unearthed a gruesome

treasure - a photo of Nazi officers unearthing the bodies of American soldiers tortured and murdered under the Nazi regime. Yes, Americans. You can guess why. The story of the 350 soldiers sent to the Berga an der Elster slave labor

camp is well documented, but unequivocal evidence of Nazi Party members wielding shovels is a new find. But the photo also resurrects a much darker story that is rarely spoken of, probably because it reflects badly on everyone involved.

**More:** [http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/04/22berga.folo/index.html?eref=rss\\_topstories](http://www.cnn.com/2009/US/04/22berga.folo/index.html?eref=rss_topstories) - cnnSTCText



# Photography's Dogs of War

by Bill Foulke



Photo by Roger Hawkins

Accredited press and  
non accredited  
military journalists  
struggle for stories  
transportation and  
a place to call  
home for the night.

**The MACV** Public Affairs Office had many functions. It oversaw the Armed Forces Radio and Television Network, operated five press camps in Vietnam, and commanded five film teams from the four service branches. The office also prepared press releases related to the progress of the war and accredited the international press covering events in Vietnam.

The civilian press corps employed reporters from world renowned newspapers and independent news gathering agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press and United Press International, the BBC, NBC, CBS, ABC, other nation's television news crews, and freelance journalists. Journalists excepted or excluded from accreditation included military, press from nations without diplomatic relations with South Vietnam or the United States (Cuba, China, North Vietnam and North Korea). The five MACV Photo Teams were created to supplement network coverage concentrating solely on combat. The Pentagon spent millions on nation building and pacification projects seldom covered by the networks and major dailies. Combat operations were short, sharp and focused, rarely lasting more than a few weeks and easy to portray in a few minutes of air time on the evening news. Nation building dragged out in a continuing effort lasting years and yielding harder to quantify long-term results. This diffuse coverage resulted in feature stories rather than hard news. So the work product and life styles of the accredited press differed greatly from military journalists.

A senior DASPO NCO told me

that MACV reserved 30 seats for the accredited press on every Air Force passenger C-130. He added, 15 seats on smaller C-123 and Caribou planes were also reserved. So accredited press could show up at the passenger terminal during boarding, flash a press passes and hop on the plane.

Non-accredited military press had to book a flight days ahead or hope to fly stand-by. Having been in Vietnam three years and utilizing scores of passenger flights, I remember only a single instance where television film crews boarded with us. We (MACV Army Photo Team "A") wished to fly on the priority boarding with the accredited film crews. To my surprise, the Army "A" Team boarded that aircraft right behind the press. It was unprecedented and never happened again.

Usually other high priority passengers would show up to bump us back, like the two MPs escorting a captured Viet Cong to a detention facility.

Vietnam's one-year tour of duty plus KIA/MIA losses created a yearly personnel turnover exceeding one hundred percent. As a result, leadership continuity made rapid senior officer deployment imperative. Worldwide, the Air Force boarded senior officers and families first, working down the ranks. Reserve seats on passenger flights were often filled with senior officers. Rarely did I fly passenger in Vietnam without majors or colonels to keep me company.

With over a half million military serving in Vietnam, there were many times that number of family members stateside. This comprised a formidable military-related community. When the emergency sirens of first response teams, the police,



ambulance and fire trucks sounded in the States it was also heard in Vietnam and the affected service member would be given priority transport to a major airport for the connecting flight home, a courtesy also extended to members of the Vietnamese military. So troops on emergency leave also filled many reserve seats.

Vietnam's nationwide 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew affected both the accredited and non-accredited press alike. The motor pool would not allow military vehicles to depart after curfew and MPs at installation gates stopped traffic during curfew. On base, military operations continued unhindered.

In major cities, accredited press lived and worked out of rented civilian hotel rooms. Non-accredited journalists lived in government leased BOQs and enlisted quarters scattered around town. Of course DASPO rated its own villa. When accredited press took civilian taxis to Tan Son Nhut Air Base, the taxis were stopped outside the gate for security reasons and the passengers had to hail a military vehicle or wait for the passenger terminal bus. By the time a military vehicle left the motor pool and travelled across town to our base of operation in the Brinks BOQ, the sun was high in the sky. So, due to the curfew, neither the press nor MACV had an edge getting to a story first. Combat units, immune to the curfew, began operations at will. By the time any of the press arrived at the Public Information Office, first echelon troops were already in transit to the field and logistical operations were in progress with such commodities as command post tents, ammo, water or C-rations entering the supply train. The PIO and aviation units

juggled logistical resources to balance combat requirements with press access.

## **PRESS AND MILITARY PHOTOGS GO TO THE DOGS**

During coverage of the 25th Infantry Division's scout dogs, a single 160 man infantry company had seven journalists attached. There were two DASPO photographers and five accredited people. I remember two network film crews, at least one wire service or newspaper reporter and a female French freelance journalist. All the press covering the scout dog story were on payroll except for the freelance reporter. She had to sell her stories one-by-one to make room and board. She told the DASPO Team that *Paris Match* bought her stories. Her name was Catherine LeRoy. Catherine was one of the most noteworthy photographers to cover the war and the first woman to win the *Robert Capa Gold Medal Award* for conflict photography from the Overseas Press Club in 1976. When swept up in a Viet Cong attack during the Tet Offensive, she spoke French convincing the VC to let her photograph their side of the battle. One of those photos ended up on the cover of *Life* magazine. DASPO pulled off a similar feat during the invasion of the Dominican Republic when rebels invited the press to follow and DASPO photographers in civilian clothes went along for the ride (that was truly non-accredited press). Catherine died of cancer in Santa Monica, California in 2006. What did the war photographer do in retirement? She formed a company to resell pre-worn high fashion

items cast off by the rich and famous.

By mid-morning of the first day the 25th was ambushed and two soldiers wounded. Air Force F-100's pounded enemy positions. Half the accredited press had their story-troops in the jungle, a fire-fight, wounded being extracted to the rear, bombs being dropped, loud explosions with huge dust clouds, and the dustoff helos evacuating casualties. As soon as the film crews accumulated two minutes of broadcast worthy footage they "got out of Dodge" aboard the medical helicopters. The rest of the accredited press remained until the evening hot-meal-resupply choppers arrived. The DASPO Team, packing plenty of film, remained with the scout dog unit for several more days.

If a PIO couldn't arrange air or ground transport, the press were stranded and without housing. DASPO photographers could hitch helo rides far more easily than civilian reporters.

## **PLANE SPOTTING PAYS OFF**

The Tan Son Nhut passenger terminal bused passengers along the flight line. Looking out the windows one could see three squadrons of C-130's-tail letters "DE, DH, and "DL." Also there were two squadrons of C-123's. Knowing tail numbers and where squadrons were based provided the key to efficient, off-the-books travel.

One day at Cam Ranh Bay there were no scheduled passenger flights for hours. I talked a Chinook helicopter crew into a ride to Saigon for our whole team. Civilian press couldn't even board cargo aircraft.

*Continued on page 9*







*Col. Thomas Nelson Moe was just one of the ex-POWs to ride Air Force C141, tail number 60177 on its way to the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force base, near Dayton, Ohio. This was his second trip in the "Hanoi Taxi" the first was on his release from 5 years of captivity in a North Vietnamese prison camp.*

#### **MOE, THOMAS NELSON**

- Rank/Branch: O2/USAF
- Unit: 366AW
- Home: Arlington, VA
- Date of Loss: 1/16/1968
- Country of Loss: N. Vietnam
- Coordinates: 180N, 105E
- Status (1973): Releasee
- Aircraft: F4C
- Missions: 85

**Here's a bit** of military history you might be interested in seeing.

C-141 Tail Number 60177 was the last of the 285 C-141's built by Lockheed to leave active service. She flew 100 POWs out of Hanoi on 12 February 1973, some of them tasting freedom for the first time in six years.

Each POW put his shot-down date on the face of the oxygen panel during their flight to Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

For her retirement ceremony, some of the POWs she brought home were brought back for the ceremony and one last flight by this gracious lady. Most of them are old men now but their enthusiasm, emotions, and excitement were evident during this flight and retirement ceremony.

Tail Number 60177 was then flown to Dayton, Ohio where she will spend her final days in the Air Force Museum.

A very touching video (Be sure to turn on the sound) can be seen at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BM09bxf3Ng>



*View of 60177's oxygen panel where the former POWs signed on the way home to freedom.*



# Are You OK?

## Recognizing When Someone May be Having a Stroke.

Stroke is a scary subject, but every DASPO alumnus has reached the age when it's threat is very real. The following is an edited version of an email that has been making the rounds on web:

During a barbeque, a friend stumbled and took a little fall. She assured everyone that she was fine. The host offered to call paramedics, but she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes.

They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital. At 6:00 p.m. Ingrid passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the barbeque. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. And perhaps even worse, some victims don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

## Take a minute to read

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim

within three hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. Totally.

He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within three hours, which is tough.

## Recognizing a Stroke

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions: To remember the questions, just remember STR—the first three letters of “stroke.”

**S** – Ask the individual to SMILE.

**T** – Ask the person to Talk and speak a simple, coherent sentence. (e.g., It is sunny out today.)

**R** – Ask him or her to raise both arms.

If he or she has trouble with any one of these tasks, call the emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

## A New Sign of a Stroke

Stick out your tongue. Ask the person to stick out his tongue. If the tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.



**WALK**  
(Is their balance off?)

**TALK**  
(Is their speech slurred or face droopy?)

**REACH**  
(Is one side weak or numb?)

**SEE**  
(Is their vision all or partly lost?)

**FEEL**  
(Is their headache severe?)

**Even if you only have one symptom or your symptom(s) go away, call 911 and go to the emergency department!**

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY | American College of Emergency Physicians® | American Heart Association | American Stroke Association. Learn and Live.

For more information: 1-888-4STROKE or [giveme5forstroke.org](http://giveme5forstroke.org)







33  
USA

The Vietnam War

## Mail Call

### Lost and Found

*First, an email from Randy Solvang. Randy was assigned to CONUS Detachment from 1971 to 1974 as a motion picture cameraman. He recently discovered the DASPO Combat Photographers Association and after a long and fascinating phone call, sent the following, which is a combination of two emails:*

### Live Round Fills in the Blanks

I can fill in a few blanks here as it relates to CONUS and the Pentagon.

At the Pentagon, I remember: COL Colville, LTC Birdsall (who later went to SHAPE in Belgium), CSM Puckett (who went with Birdsall), SP5 Robert Fromm (he was in my class at Monmouth 84C20 and went back there).

In our CONUS Unit: SP4 Tom Baer (or Bear) was a soundman from '72-'74. (Last I heard, he was in Hollywood doing sound.). SP4 Carey Roos got there about the time I was leaving (early '74). He was from Mercer Island, Washington (about 10 miles from me). I have no further info.

SFC Larry Windon retired in the Fayetteville area in about 1974 or '75. SP4 Chris Van Cleave is a singer and musician doing theater in Virginia. He has a website. I replaced a guy named Scott

Gibson. Everyone was distraught when I arrived. He died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever from a tick bite. On the autopsy they found the tick in his hair. Ironically he had just been sent home from TDY pending an Article 15 because he wouldn't cut his hair!

SFC Marty Steinbis was my team sergeant for a time and became first sergeant. He was there when I got there in '71 and still there when I left in '74. Great guy! He was born in Prussia. His hometown was in Maine, but he retired to and died in Georgia.

SSG Bill Snider was in CONUS all the time I was there. His hometown was Steubenville, Ohio. 1LT Thomas Rogers was the XO under CPT Poirier. His hometown is Florence, Alabama. SP6 Eugene Randon, 84C, was there from about '70-'73 and I believe went to Pacific. SFC Milo Pearson, 84B, retired in about '72 and went to California. He was a WWII vet as well. PFC Victor Rodriguez was there about '72. He was also born in Cuba.

SP5 Gerry Paulin, a Canadian, had enlisted to be in Special Forces. After enlisting he was not allowed in and was sent to the Americal Division, where he was an 11B and awarded a CIB and a Purple Heart, which he claimed he got for jumping out of a UH-1 and landing on a broken Coke bottle. He extended to get out of the field and instead they changed his MOS to 84B and he stayed in the field.

SFC Robert Payne, 84B and my First Sergeant in '71-'72. WW2 vet with CIB. Retired to Fayetteville area and became a prison guard. SSG Ronald Jackson was our supply sergeant. He served a couple of tours in 'Nam with The 82nd

Airborne as 11B. He was wounded several times and had some physical limitations so was re-trained in supply. Great guy and great supply guy. He got stuff for us when we needed it. His home town was in Ohio and he retired on a Medical with about 18 years in 1973.

SP5 Mike Griffey, 84B, and acting company clerk from about '70-'72. He was also in Panama and now lives in Guatemala. Home town in Indiana.

SP6 Danny Girtman was from Illinois and at DASPO from about '70-'73. I don't know where he went from there but he was still in the Army when I left. He was a soundman.

SSG Bill Donahoe, 84B was in 'Nam with a SOG Unit doing aerial surveillance in one of those Army fixed-wing planes with the plexi noses so you could shoot photos. He was shot down and had to E&E for four days until rescued. The plane's pilot died several days into his ordeal.

SP4 Earl Dawson left right after I arrived, so I'd say '72. I believe he was a soundman and was from Wisconsin.

SP6 Kenneth Conkle, 84B, had previously been in 'Nam and had a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star with "V." CONUS '70-'73 and then went to Panama. Hometown, Metairie, LA.

SP5 James "Paul" Chapman, 84C was from Georgia, but ETS'd back to the Ft. Monmouth area where he had met his wife while in AIT. He may have been SP6, -- I'm not certain -- and he planned an Army career but got out when he didn't get a promotion. He was going to go into accounting.

SP4 Bob Brawley, 84C, was in my class at Monmouth and got to CONUS October '71 and left





April '74. Hometown was Mundelein, Illinois. I last saw him in New Orleans and I believe he now lives in Mooresville, North Carolina.

SFC Harry Bowen, 84C, '70-'73, retired to northern North Carolina and I believe lives in Tennessee. or NC. Also a 'Nam vet.

CPT Harry Acker '70-'71, Commanding Officer of DASPO, hometown St. Louis, Missouri. Tragically his newborn son died of SIDS while they were on leave (he died in the back seat of the car). I don't know where he went from CONUS.

Really not sure about this one, but I believe SSG Jerry Rucker (a German National) is the guy who came in right about the time I was leaving. He is the guy that Brawley punched that got him the Art. 15 and demotion. Don't know his MOS.

Our clerk/typist was SP4 George Walters from Ohio. As SSG Jackson was leaving, a new supply sergeant was coming in, SSG Arthur Dalton. I don't know anything more about him.

Two new guys were coming in as I was leaving: SP4 Glenn A. Martin, 84C, from Orange City, California, and SP4 Thomas R. Scott, 84C(?), hometown unknown. Wow! I have so much more but I'll stop for now.

I hope this helps and let me know if you want more.

—Randy Solvang

## Lakeside and the Livin is Easy

Hi Logan. Friday, the Abbotts and the Harbisons came to Hot Springs for lunch, a cruise on the party barge and burgers at our favorite dive. We had a wonderful time and talked about opening up this area for a future reunion. Perhaps late September or early October of next

year. We think a central location would be appreciated and we could fill four or five days with lots to see and do.

It's after season but boating, casinos, the bathhouses, etc. are open and there should be cut rates everywhere for groups. Our daughter is a member of the Chamber and knows a bunch of folks, but we could provide all kinds of information to Ted so he could wave his magic wand. We all feel it would be very inexpensive, for example, one may get a full steam, massage, etc. for \$50. With your own personal attendant. The history of this place, being the oldest National Park in the system, with a gangster museum, Al Capone was a regular, OH, I could go on and on but am just planting a seed for consideration. It would probably be pretty cheap!!! Especially after school starts. Horse Racing doesn't start till January but there are slots and other gambling at the Race Track. We could round up boats, fishing is ample, golf is available and there is a river boat lunch or dinner cruise on the infamous Belle.

We live right on Lake Hamilton with an acre and we could even accommodate a few campers, no amenities, except a lovely view and water and bathrooms in our house. If an extension was desired, the Clinton Library in Little Rock is available as well as an Air Force Base. Might be done before the reunion or after.

We are expecting company this afternoon, family from Iowa for a week but they have a timeshare so we'll just get the good parts. Hope all is well with you. Are you going on the cruise this fall? Have a great summer?

—Ed and Isobel.



## Texas Tech: Recent Retiree Reckner

Dr. James Reckner, founding director of Texas Tech University's Vietnam project, and who embraced the idea of the archive being the primary depository of DASPO memorabilia, retired last January. When Ted Acheson and Stew Barbee were searching for a suitable archive for the DASPO records, Dr. Reckner met with them and enthusiastically endorsed the idea. For more on Dr. Reckner and his retirement ceremony, follow this link:

<http://today.ttu.edu/2009/01/a-farewell-to-archives/>



Dr. James Reckner (left) and TTU Chancellor Kent Hance (right)

At Can Tho, the MACV “A” Team was stranded for the night. Spotting a Saigon based C-123 cargo plane, I talked the cargo master into another return flight. Leaving Chu Lai, a Saigon based C-130 sat on the tarmac in the middle of the night. With a little whining and pleading the exhausted team was again on the way home.

True, the press could board a passenger plane on demand, but the ability to catch rides on helos or cargo aircraft gave military photographers a tactical advantage when racing the press around the country. Maybe we didn’t get a seat, but stretched out on a pallet or wooden crate you could try to sleep.

## **F8 AND BE THERE**

“F8 and be there” has long been a rule of street-wise journalism, meaning that being in the right place at the right time is more important than perfect photo technique. We were total strangers begging rides. We could have been AWOL troops with stolen cameras, but there wasn’t a single instance of pilots or load masters asking for travel documents. Only the passenger terminal corporals with clip boards demanded travel orders. Anyhow, we became masters of the “be there” in “F8 and be there”.

Numbers of accredited press in Vietnam during the war range from 1,500 to 5,000. Even the lower estimate surpasses military photographers and non-accredited journalists combined. With no guest houses available, stranded newsies spent the night at the PIO office or passenger terminal. An evening in a passenger terminal at Chu Lai and it is not my favorite memory.

Military photographers could grab some Zs with a local signal unit, but not so the press.

To alleviate the situation, MACV established five press camps near major military concentrations around Vietnam. In deference to operational security, press were not put in direct contact with military units in rear areas. At Nha Trang, the press camp was a villa in town. At Pleiku, the press camp was a building in a secure area, but not collocated with a military unit.

The press camps also accepted non accredited journalists and military photographers. I spent time at Pleiku and Nha Trang press camps studying the ebb and flow. The press camps were dynamic operations. You could wake up one morning with two or three other occupants and by noon it would be buzzing with dozens of news hounds. And, by evening only a half dozen hard core news gatherers would remain—the rest, back in Saigon, recounting tales of derring-do.

Press camps weren’t free, but the costs were reasonable. It averaged \$7.00 a day to stay at a press camp. The press covering the war averaged \$600.00 a week. That was over four times the wage of a 2nd Lieutenant. At the snack bar, a hamburger with fries cost less than a dollar. A beer was roughly half a dollar and a quarter bought a soda. Even with these modest fees, a prolonged stay put a crunch on an Army photographer’s wallet.

A 21-day stay at the Pleiku camp was the worst. The MACV “A” team was in Pleiku for a dental story. Upon arriving they found the dental unit awaiting equipment from the States. The team waited and waited. However, on a protracted trip, soldiers could go to the

local finance office for a draw.

The accredited press had a colossal advantage getting stories from the combat zone to print or T.V. Newspaper and wire service reporters needed only a teletype machine where stories were transmitted worldwide in minutes. The ABC News staff in Saigon’s Caravelle Hotel converted a room into a news office with two teletype machines printing and transmitting news stories from far-flung locales.

The teletype has since been supplanted by the Internet and computers, but in its day it was the best and fastest transmission available. In the early days of the war, it took 36 hours for network news film to reach living rooms in the U.S. When film reached Saigon it was transshipped to Honolulu or the west coast for processing. As the war evolved, the networks established film processing locations in Manila, Tokyo, Hong Kong and Bangkok. There, the film was processed and transmitted by satellite to worldwide news headquarters in New York, shortening the news cycle by a day.

## **CHARLIE DON’T SURF AND I DON’T TYPE**

US military photographers had to type captions containing the who, what, where, when, why and how of film being submitted. While some could type, most did not, and just creating the triplicate copies was a nightmare.

Neither DASPO nor MACV photo teams used air freight to forward film and sound tapes. The military opted for the U.S. mail. DASPO shipped film to the East Coast at Army Pictorial Center in New York City until its closure in mid-69. The MACV teams like-





wise shipped their film to the East Coast. Their film went to Washington, D.C. for processing and editing. In the two cases where MACV's Army Photo Team was pitted against civilian news crews covering the same events, the Army film was still in Saigon while the civilian news version were aired across the U.S.

The civilian press competed among themselves. They needed the "scoop," to be the first, the fastest and the best. DASPO's primary clients were the Pentagon brass, the top Army chieftains, so DASPO didn't compete with network crews. Most film DASPO shot was not intended for civilian consumption. In the case of MACV's five photo teams, the usual fare consisted of feature stories, not hard news. Since feature news developed over time periods of months and years, who cared if the story was aired this week, or even this month.

Exactly who was the non-accredited military press corps. Every Army division had a PIO with reporters, photographers and a lab. These internal assets rarely ventured outside their own area of operations. Both the 25th and the 9th Division were headquartered in III Corps less than thirty miles apart. It was unusual for their PIO photographers to cross that short distance let alone travel 360 miles "as the crow flies" to Da Nang in I Corp. Thus the PIO shooters worked for the military equivalent of a local tabloid compared to DASPO or MACV teams as the military's major dailies.

Military photo units other than DASPO that could perform missions from I Corps in the north to IV Corps in the south were the Air Force's 600th Audio Visual Squadron and the Navy's Combat Camera

Group-Pacific (CCGPAC). All of these were part of the unaccredited Military Press corps.

## HAVE CAMERA WILL SHOOT

The five MACV photo teams had the same authority as DASPO to travel anywhere, anytime within Vietnam. However the MACV photo teams had the extra advantage of being able to cross service branch boundaries in search of a story. As NCOIC of Army "A" photo team, we filmed Navy Seabees and hovercraft. We did an Air Force fighter/bomber story. The MACV teams were true non-accredited press.

The Army had, in addition to DASPO, had the 221st Signal Company (Pictorial) which provided the photographic manpower to the Southeast Asia Pictorial Center (SEAPC) which handled tasking and the interface between photographers and military clients. The two MACV Army teams belonged to the 221st for support and logistics, but were under MACV's operational control in Saigon. The less time I spent at Long Binh with the 221st better I liked it. The unit had far too many personnel and equipment problems.

## TELLING IT LIKE IT WAS

At a recent Texas Tech Vietnam symposium, former military journalists mingled with well-known members of the press and network news. Civilians who had always labored under the impression that military journalists were held on a short leash were surprised to find out just how wide-ranging and free-wheeling the Army's photographic Vietnam-era "dogs of war" were.



## '09 Dues Due

Yes, the association has dues! Voluntary, but \$25.00 or whatever you feel like giving. If you're not sure if you are up to date, email John Gilroy at: [johngilroyphotography@charter.net](mailto:johngilroyphotography@charter.net) or call him at: (269) 375-6923.

Checks should be made out to "John Gilroy DASPO" and mailed to: John Gilroy (DASPO) 474 N. 2nd Street Kalamazoo MI 49009.

**Director of Photography for the Texas Chainsaw Massacre?**

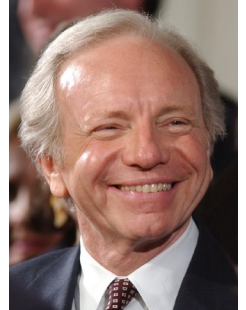


Name this man. Winners in next issue.

Hint 1: Last time you saw him that was a camera in his hand.

Hint 2: If you don't pay your dues he will show up on your doorstep.

February 19, 2009  
Mr. Mark Buxton  
*Address removed*



Dear Mr. Buxton:

Thank you for contacting me regarding rumored cuts in benefit programs for military retirees, including TRICARE for Life. Currently, a wealth of false and misleading information is being distributed on this matter; and I welcome the opportunity to explain the source of the confusion.

I am aware of several chain emails, online discussion boards, blogs, and even articles in well-intentioned veteran publications that imply that President Obama and Congress plan on eliminating TRICARE for Life. The insinuations put forth by these sources are false. The source of these stories is a report issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), entitled Budget Options Volume 1: Health Care, released in December 2008. Before jumping to conclusions about the report itself, however, it is important to know exactly what the CBO is. CBO is a nonpartisan federal agency, tasked with providing Congress with cost estimates for the many legislative proposals considered each year. It also periodically offers Congress suggestions for adjusting federal spending. CBO is an information gathering body for Members of Congress. Its recommendations about the budget are completely non binding; and its officers do not draft actual policy, legislation, or law. The Budget Options report in question offers a total of 115 options for reducing (or, in some cases, increasing) federal spending on health care, only three of which relate to TRICARE.

These options are merely suggestions, not policy statements or actual legislation. Reports such as this one are routine, and very few options or recommendations made by CBO are typically acted upon. President Obama has not indicated support for the three recommendations in this report related to TRICARE, nor has any Member of Congress, to the best of my knowledge. Any suggestion that the Administration is affiliated with this report ignores the fact that it was drafted by the CBO - which, again, is an advisory body of the legislative branch, not the executive branch.

You may also be interested to know that both the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) have issued statements condemning the aforementioned rumors that are being perpetuated through these chain emails.

I hope that you have found this letter informative, and I encourage you to share this information with members of your community who are concerned about issues relating to military retirees. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, please be assured of my continued commitment to protecting the various interests of all those who have fought tirelessly to protect our cherished freedoms.

Thank you again for sharing your views and concerns with me. I hope you will continue to visit my website at <http://lieberman.senate.gov> for updated news about my work on behalf of Connecticut and the nation. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or comments about our work in Congress.

Sincerely,

*Joseph I. Lieberman*

Joseph I. Lieberman  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

