



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

THIRD QUARTER 2010 (JULY-SEPTEMBER)
COMMEMORATION NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- (1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
- (2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
- (3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
- (4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
- (5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

Vietnam War Commemoration

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorizes the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the anniversary of the Vietnam War. Specifically, "while conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

Latest Activities

We began outreach efforts by holding two Working Group Meetings over the last two months. The first meeting in April consisted of over 45 of the Non-Government and Government agencies Historians brought together to begin compiling a detailed historical time line. The meeting was a great success and we appreciate the efforts and input of all those who attended, this will be an ongoing process. The historical time line will be used as a basis for the multimedia interactive web version which will be the focal point of our web site. This also serves as a reference point for identifying significant events that may be commemorated through some event or activity. A second meeting was held in May, in the Board of Governors Hall at the Red Cross building on 17th St., Washington D.C., with over 60 Veterans Organizations representing 6.1 million Americans; who either served or were affected by the Vietnam War. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the commemoration staff and provide an introductory overview of our mission and objectives. Additionally, this interactive meeting provided a forum to gather input and recommendations for the program. The enthusiasm, support, and input from those in attendance was encouraging and a great start for the flow of information and ideas between the various veterans organizations and the commemoration staff.

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Soldiers of the U.S. Army 1/7th Cavalry disembark from a Bell UH-1D Huey at LZ X-Ray during the battle of Ia Drang.

Latest Activities cont.

We have also begun work on the official commemoration website which should be online in the next few months. The initial launch will provide background, contact information, and other basic information about the program. Subsequent updates will introduce the interactive multimedia timeline, interactive calendar of events, a Commemorative Partner portal, an Educational Outreach section, organizational links, and other program initiatives.

Vietnam Veterans' Organizations

Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT)

For 20 years Sons and Daughters In Touch (www.sdit.org) has worked to locate, unite and provide support to the now-grown children of American service members who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War. In that time, more than 3,000 members have visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and shared their life-experiences with one another and to-

day's new generation of Gold Star Children. According to SDIT "More than 70 SDIT members have traveled to Vietnam to meet the people their fathers fought to protect, to walk the ground their fathers tread and to visit the locations where their fathers died. Today, SDIT members take considerable pride in knowing that the loss of their fathers was not in vain."



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

PH (703) 465-7432

www.powmialeague.org

American public support is critical to achieving the League's goals: the return of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation in Southeast Asia.

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Fast Patrol Crafts (PCF, Swift boat) operating up a narrow river in Vietnam