

Laos Questions

[Grouped by topic]

AIR CAMPAIGN

- 1- Did you feel the increased Nixon-era airstrikes in 1969 (and forward) slowed or otherwise disrupted the NVA advance?
- 2- Who handled post-airstrike battle damage assessment: Ravens or somebody else?
- 3- In your opinion, did the propeller aircraft (T-28s and A-1 Skyraiders, etc.) deliver more ordnance on target than the jets used?

VIENTIANE

If you visited Vientiane one or more times:

- 1- What was your impression of Vientiane: muddy street backwater or bustling small city? Something else?
- 2- If you visited Vientiane multiple times, what changes did you notice over time? Did American investment in the country show in the capital? [Especially if you visited in the 1968-1970 period]
- 3- Did the city change in the Nixon era as more airstrikes were used? Did you notice more refugees or other changes compared with previous visits?
- 4- Could US personnel go anywhere in the city or were they more restricted?
- 5- Was it possible to encounter foreign diplomats (especially North Vietnamese or Pathet Lao) at restaurants or otherwise in the city?

AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

If you met Ambassador Sullivan (1964-69):

- 1- How would you describe your impression of Amb. Sullivan? Was he a typical diplomat? More of a "field marshal" (as some called him)?

2- If you were able to attend briefings or other events: how would you describe Amb. Sullivan's management style?

3- Anything else you could add about Amb. Sullivan?

AMBASSADOR GODLEY

If you met Ambassador Godley (1969-1973):

1- How would you describe your impression of Amb. Godley? Was he a typical diplomat? More of a "field marshal" (as some called him)?

2- If you were able to attend briefings or other events: how would you describe Amb. Godley's management style?

3- Anything else you could add about Amb. Godley?

EMBASSY (VIENTIANE)

1- What relationship did the Embassy have with the Ravens? Was there a go-between or did the Ravens deal directly with the Ambassador's staff?

2- Did you get the impression the Embassy wanted to keep the military (i.e. MACV or USAF, USN, etc.) out of Laos as much as possible?

3- Did the Embassy make it a priority to suppress discussion of the war? Did you find it was progressively more difficult to keep the secret of US involvement in Laos or was the word out by the time you were there?

CIA

1- What relationship did the CIA have with the Ravens? Was there a go-between or did the Ravens deal directly with the CIA station chief or his representative?

2- Did you get the impression the CIA wanted to keep the military (i.e. MACV or USAF, USN, etc.) out of Laos as much as possible?

3- Did the CIA make it a priority to suppress discussion of the war? Did you find it was progressively more difficult to keep the secret of US involvement in Laos or was the word out by the time you were there?

LONG CHENG

Were you ever in Long Cheng?

If so, what was your impression: isolated outpost or bustling base?

1- How many Ravens stayed directly in Long Cheng? Only a small number or did they increase over time as the air campaign ramped up?

2- What interactions did the Ravens have with Hmong civilians, if any?

3- Outside of Long Cheng, what other bases hosted Ravens?

HMONG PILOTS

Did you know or work with any of the Hmong pilots?

1- Did you know any of the Hmong pilots? What was your impression of their abilities?

2- Did you meet or hear of Hmong pilot Lee Lue? If so, how would you describe him? Was he as legendary as some say?

3- How did Lee Lue's death in 1969 impact the Hmong?

3- Did you meet or hear of Hmong pilot Vang Seu? If so, how would you describe him? Was he as legendary as some say?

4- How did Vang Seu's death in 1972 impact the Hmong?

PLAIN OF JARS

If you flew in support of the 1969 fighting on the Plain of Jars (or otherwise over the plain):

1- Do you have any memories of supporting the Hmong against the NVA/PL on or near the PDJ?

2- What was it like to fly over the Plain? Was it different than other more rugged areas of Laos?

NVA/PL

If you flew missions against the NVA/PL in Laos:

- 1- How would you assess the NVA/PL fighting methods?
- 2- How would you assess the NVA/PL discipline?
- 3- Did the NVA/PL press home their attacks in the face of American airpower?
- 4- Did the NVA/PL adapt well to airpower with regard to their camouflage?

AIR AMERICA

If you encountered or worked with Air America:

- 1- Did you know any of the Air America pilots? What was your impression of their abilities?
- 2- Are you aware of any Air America helicopters participating in SAR missions in Laos?
- 3- What was the relationship between Air America and Raven personnel?