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OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

file
ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

Program Description
June 30, 1981

Contact: John P. Wheeler III
(phone) 202-254-8270

THE VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready, with the proper encouragement, to come forward to help their fellow veterans who have lingering problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will: (1) encourage Vietnam veterans to step forward as volunteers to help their fellow veterans who have needs; (2) assure effective help for the estimated 500,000 Vietnam veterans who still have significant lingering problems associated with their Vietnam experience, such as underemployment or unemployment; and (3) demonstrate the leadership of the Vietnam veteran.

The Program will stimulate a flow of new, able volunteers to complement and reinforce existing government and veterans organization programs.

This voluntary program has both practical and symbolic impact:

- It will recruit a significant number of Vietnam veterans to serve in a voluntary capacity who are not now involved in efforts to assist those Vietnam veterans with particular needs.
- It will recognize that Vietnam veterans are a leadership resource, not a group to be pitied or to be treated as victims.
- It will affect national defense in perhaps a modest, but direct way. By affirming the integrity of military service during the Vietnam War, the program will help serve to restore a national perception that military service is an honorable calling.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

ACTION volunteers will use their leadership, management and other professional skills, and community and local government contacts to encourage Vietnam veterans to make full use of all government and veterans organization programs and resources that aid Vietnam veterans. The volunteers will donate professional services and resources as appropriate.

ACTION will assist the new source of volunteers, the Vietnam veterans, by structuring this project, utilizing our organization to provide technical assistance so that the Vietnam veteran volunteers in each community will:

- (1) Increase the receptivity of employers in each community to hiring Vietnam veterans, through contacts with Vietnam veterans occupying key positions in business and industry;
- (2) Persuade local institutions to make more resources available to the solution of Vietnam veterans' problems;
- (3) Encourage and help Vietnam veterans to make full use of all federal, state, and community government activities that support them (for example: programs of VA, HHS and DOL);
- (4) Encourage and help Vietnam veterans to make full use of all volunteer activities that support them, especially those of the veterans organizations;
- (5) Aid and support (when appropriate) the Veterans Administration Vietnam veteran counseling centers; and
- (6) Encourage membership in veteran volunteer programs (such as Veterans Administration Volunteer Services).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will be headed by a National Program Director and will focus its efforts in 50 communities nationwide at a cost of \$2 million per year through the end of Fiscal Year 1984, when the federal role through ACTION will phase out. Recognizing the differences among communities, the program will encourage and assist local initiative among Vietnam veteran leaders, rather than impose a single design on all 50 communities. To do this, assessment of the needs of Vietnam veterans in each community will be conducted prior to the formal implementation of the Program in the community. ACTION will assist in the development of a volunteer advisory committee and interagency coordinating meetings in each area. These groups will design a Vietnam veterans leadership plan, tailored to meet the needs of Vietnam Veterans living in the community and to assure full use of existing resources.

Each community program will have a project director to serve as a catalyst for volunteer activity. The project director will be responsible for the implementation of the leadership plan, and will also make the appropriate

logistical arrangements to assure that maximum use is made of the limited time of volunteers.

Project directors will be paid from project grants funded by ACTION and will report through the local volunteer chairman or co-chairmen, to the ACTION National Program Director. In their own right, they will be able and successful individuals, who are Vietnam veterans and who are willing to contribute a portion of their lives to the program before returning to their businesses and professions.

A. Pilot Phase and Operational Phase

The program will begin in some five or six communities and will be judged according to such pre-determined criteria for success as quality and quantity of volunteers, cost, effectiveness in bringing veterans who need help into existing programs, and approval by Vietnam veterans. The pilot phase will last long enough to assure adequate learning. There will be a one-year buildup to a 50-community/city operational phase. The operational phase will last two years.

The pilot phase is needed to spot the tasks which these volunteers can best perform and to identify the best manner to provide training if needed for volunteers and to coordinate volunteer activities in the community. The pilot phase will also test methods for bringing more Vietnam veterans into existing programs of federal, state, and local government, as well as national and local veterans organization programs.

A key factor in the planning and pilot phase will be to identify any special training or needs of the community project directors. The directors, for example, will have to be familiar with the capabilities and needs of the major federal programs for veterans (such as those in the VA and DOL) and also the programs of veterans organizations.

B. Phase Down

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is intended to be a short term, cost-effective volunteer program and is therefore scheduled to phase out by September 30, 1984. Prior to the program's termination date, ACTION will provide training and development of a turnover plan in which the federal role can be assumed by the communities themselves.

OTHER KEY FACTORS

Under its new leadership, the ACTION agency is suited to identify and motivate the types of local directors and volunteers who will make the Program a success. The new Director of ACTION is a Vietnam veteran as will

be the National Program Director of this project and all who will be directly responsible for implementing it.

There is strong evidence that this voluntarism approach will work: the fellowship among many Vietnam veterans is strong, as exemplified, for example, in the successful organization (by volunteer Vietnam veteran professionals) of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which is co-sponsored by First Lady Nancy Reagan, and which has been entrusted with creating a national landscaped memorial on two acres in the Mall area.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 7/17/81

NOTE FOR: RICHARD SCHWEIKER

VIA: CRAIG FULLER

The President has

seen _____

acted upon XX

the attached; and it is forwarded
to you for your information.

Richard G. Darman
Deputy Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
(X2702)

cc: ✓ Tom Pauken
Bob Carleson
Ken Cribb

The President has seen _____

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1981

NOTE FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CRAIG L. FULLER 

SUBJECT: Attached Decision Memo on ACTION Program

The attached decision memo on ACTION's proposed program for Vietnam Veterans has been reviewed by the Human Resources Cabinet Council and the Vice President. It has no opposition. It is being submitted for your review and final determination. If you wish to have the matter discussed in a Cabinet meeting, please advise.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Richard Schweiker *Richard Schweiker*
for the Cabinet Council on Human Resources

SUBJECT: Decision on Proposed ACTION Program for Vietnam Veterans

At a meeting on June 9, 1981, the Human Resources Cabinet Council, with the Vice President's concurrence, approved an outreach program for Vietnam Veterans proposed by Thomas Pauken, Director of ACTION. The program would encourage able and successful Vietnam veterans to serve in their communities as volunteers to help fellow Vietnam veterans with lingering problems associated with their military service. The proposal is endorsed by the Human Resources Secretariat and the Office of Management and Budget.

The ACTION program will complement the already existing federal, local, and private veterans programs, and place particular emphasis on working closely with the Veterans Administration and the traditional veterans organizations.

The program will begin with a pilot phase in some four or five test communities which will last long enough to assure effectiveness.

Assuming a successful pilot phase, the operational phase will proceed in some 50 communities under a national project director and a local ACTION director in each community. Cost for the pilot phase is estimated at under \$200,000, now funded by ACTION. The operational phase is estimated at \$2 million per year from direct budget authority and appropriation to ACTION, and/or fund transfers from other federal agencies which have an interest in veterans.

The ACTION Program would be planned to end in late 1983 or early 1984 with the continuing flow of volunteers to be handled by existing agencies and programs.

RECOMMENDATION: The Human Resources Cabinet Council unanimously recommends that implementation of the ACTION program be given high visibility with participation by the President and senior Administration officials.

DECISION:

approve approve as amended reject no action



ACTION

WASHINGTON, D C 20525

May 11, 1981

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Ann Fairbanks
Morton Blackwell ✓
Don Moran
Members, Cabinet Council

FROM: Thomas W. Pauken, Director *Tom Pauken*

SUBJECT: Vietnam Veterans as Volunteers

ACTION, the federal agency for voluntarism proposes to encourage the able and successful Vietnam Veterans now moving into positions of leadership in their communities to serve as volunteers to help their fellow Vietnam veterans in need. The program will complement the already existing federal, local, and private programs, and place particular emphasis on working closely with the Veterans Administration and the traditional veterans organizations.

BACKGROUND

Vietnam as a symbolic issue will not go away. The stereotyping of Vietnam Veterans in the 1960's and early 1970's as dope addicts, killers, and/or fools was fostered by certain forces in our society who seemed bent on portraying Vietnam Veterans as guilt-ridden victims. In point of fact, most Vietnam veterans do not regret or feel apologetic about their service -- their objections go to the way the war was fought and its ultimate outcome. It is time to turn to that enormous untapped resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready, with the proper encouragement to come forward and help their fellow veterans with lingering problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

This voluntary program has both practical and symbolic impact:

1. It would recruit a significant number of Vietnam veterans to serve in a voluntary capacity who are not now involved in efforts to assist those Vietnam veterans with particular needs.

2. It would recognize that Vietnam veterans are a leadership resource, not a group to be pitied or to be treated like one might treat a "wounded puppy dog."

PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION

The program will begin with a pilot phase in some four or five test communities, and will be judged according to such pre-determined criteria for success as quality and quantity of volunteers, cost, effectiveness of bringing veterans who need help into existing programs, and approval by Vietnam veterans. The pilot phase would last long enough to assure adequate learning. Assuming a successful pilot phase, the operational phase would proceed in some 50 communities. ACTION employees would be a national project director and a local director in each community. Cost for the pilot phase is estimated at under \$200,000 and is now funded by ACTION. The operational phase, with 50 communities, is estimated at \$2 million per year, from direct budget authority and appropriation to ACTION, and/or such fund transfers as are possible from other federal agencies which have an interest in veterans.

The ACTION program would be planned to end in late 1983 or early 1984 with the continuing flow of volunteers to be handled by existing agencies and programs.

The work of the ACTION volunteers would be to use their leadership, management and other professional skills, and community and local government contacts to encourage Vietnam veterans to make full use of all federal and veterans' members organization programs that aid Vietnam veterans. They would donate professional services and resources as appropriate.

These key factors should be noted:

1. There will be no "anti-establishment" bias. The objective is to use volunteer leadership to stimulate Vietnam veterans successfully to turn to the resources of federal and local government programs and the veterans' membership organization programs.

2. Under its new leadership, the ACTION agency is suited to identify and motivate the types of local directors and volunteers who will meet this objective. The new Director of ACTION is a Vietnam veteran as is the Director of this project and all who will be directly responsible for implementing it.

3. ACTION's local directors will exemplify the approach of the project: they will be able and successful professionals who are Vietnam veterans willing to contribute a portion of their lives before returning to their full-time vocations. They will not be disaffected, bitter, or alienated.

4. This effort is to stimulate a flow of new, able volunteers to complement and reinforce existing government and veterans' membership organization programs.

5. The local directors will coordinate with the government agency representatives and veterans' membership organizations in the community to match volunteers to needed tasks.

6. The pilot phase is needed to spot the tasks which these volunteers can best perform and to identify the best manner to provide training if needed for volunteers and to coordinate volunteer activities in the community.

7. There is strong evidence that this voluntarism approach will work: the fellowship among many Vietnam veterans is strong, as exemplified, for example, in the successful organization (by volunteer Vietnam veteran professionals) of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which has been sponsored by Nancy Reagan, and which has been entrusted with creating a national landscaped memorial on two acres in the Mall area.

8. This is a short-term (two-year) volunteer program designed to be effective and low in cost, and in which the first step is a pilot phase to assure a successful operation. We are not interested in creating another permanent bureaucracy, nor in perpetuating "career Vietnam veterans." That is why we propose to phase out the federal role after a two-year period, and this aspect should be written into the program in the beginning.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1/22/82

Morton Blackwell:

Jim Baker thought that you might
be interested in the attached news
clippings.

KC

KATHERINE J. CAMALIER
Office of James A. Baker III
456-6797



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

January 13, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: James A. Baker, III,
Chief of Staff

FROM: Thomas W. Pauken,
Director

SUBJECT: Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Tom Pauken
file MB

I thought that you might be interested in some of the favorable press that emanated from the President's kick-off of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

Attachments

S.A. man leads fight to improve Viet vet's image

By REED HARP ²⁰
Staff Writer

John Baines is a man with a mission.

And this time, it's not in the jungles of Vietnam, but right here in San Antonio, against an enemy he says is as deadly as anything he and his comrades encountered in combat.

Target: the public image and self-esteem of this country's Vietnam veterans.

Baines volunteered for this one, too. And he has just returned from private meetings in Washington, D.C., with President Reagan, where he — along with four other Vietnam combat veterans — was called upon by the president to "turn the image of the Vietnam veteran around, once and for all."

And this time, these "troops" have the full support of Congress and the president.

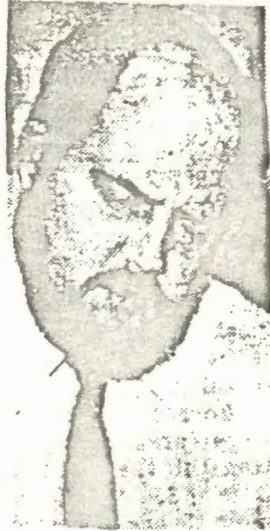
Their goal: to establish the President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, in order to help Vietnam veterans readjust to public mistrust, opposition and ambivalence, and to re-establish in those veterans the self-esteem so many lost because they "fought a war they weren't allowed to win, during a time when this nation's support of their effort was quite a bit less than whole-hearted," Baines said.

"I've carried this thing around on my chest for 10 years," he said, "and enough is enough. I was so damned mad when I came back from Vietnam, it took me a couple of years to even start getting my head straight. And I'm still working at it. No parades. No blessings. Just a lot of very serious flak about Vietnam and the men and women who served there."

Baines is a 35-year-old commercial real estate broker and developer with local and international business interests. He stands 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighs 240 pounds. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he played center and tackle on the UT football team.

"When I got back from Vietnam, I tried to go back to college in Austin, but it just didn't work. I couldn't study, couldn't concentrate. And, I was bitter, real bitter. I had no one to talk to about it. All I could think about was the guys over in Vietnam — where I had been just six months before."

He served two combat tours in Vietnam as an enlisted man — a Navy SEAL (that's "sea, air and land"), a highly trained, special combat Navy force, operating many times just a few miles from the North Vietnam border, "nowhere close to the water."



JOHN BAINES
Man with a mission

His decorations include the Purple Heart, and a list of medals and commendations he — like so many other veterans — is reluctant to discuss, saying, "Well, I just did a job like a lot of other dedicated people, but I sure don't like the 'hero' image."

Baines will be chairman of the San Antonio effort, for which he has refused any compensation. Similar operations will take place in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Phoenix.

"We'll have a nice office with nice furniture, it won't be a 'store-front mission,'" he said. "Services to Vietnam veterans will include help with job-finding, psychiatric counseling, educational pursuits, medical affairs and anything we can do for the less-fortunate Vietnam vets — a clearing house."

The program's formal opening is set for Dec. 5, with a host of dignitaries and officials expected to participate.

Baines said the program will be run "by Vietnam veterans for Vietnam veterans" — as a non-profit corporation. He said that by the end of this year, there should be a dozen more similar offices around the country, and predicts that by the end of Reagan's term there will be a least 50 such offices.

William C. Stensland of Austin will be director of the San Antonio program. An Annapolis graduate and former Marine Corps major, Stensland is said to be one of the most highly decorated and highly respected Vietnam combat veterans in the country. Baines said several Marines have been quoted as saying that if they "had to go back into combat, and could pick a commander," they would choose Stensland "hands down," adding Stensland was the type of leader whose primary concern was his men.

Baines said Stensland, too, has refused any compensation for his duties, and will commute from Austin to direct the San Antonio program.

Baines made it clear that the disenchantment experienced by so many Vietnam veterans "is going to become a thing of the past, and fast."

"The Vietnam War did an untold amount of damage to this country's morale and to the morale of many of the men and women who fought there. We're going to turn that around," he said.

"There are many, many well-adjusted, successful men and women who fought in Vietnam — congressmen, businessmen, attorneys, doctors and people from all walks of life. It's nonsense to look upon Vietnam veterans with anything less than the fullest admiration and respect that is due them.

"The military man that the United States sent into Vietnam was the best-equipped, most elite fighting force this nation and the world has ever known," Baines said.

✓
Rosenberg TX
The Herald Co.
(Cir. D 7,000)

FOCUS:

20 Vietnam Vets Finally In Limelight

By United Press International
Vietnam War veterans, rebuffed by a nation that chose to ignore the war they fought, were the special focus of Veteran's Day celebrations Wednesday and the beneficiaries of a new self-help program initiated by President Reagan.

Federal, state and local government offices, along with most banks and schools, will be closed across the country in commemoration of the nation's servicemen and women.

In a special ceremony Tuesday, Reagan said U.S. troops

who fought in Vietnam "never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication ... in a war they were not allowed to win."

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue," he said as he announced the start-up of a Vietnam veterans' program that is geared to buff their tarnished image and increase their chances for jobs.

The new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program has been budgeted \$2 million per year for three years and "is designed to draw volunteers from the

pool of successful Vietnam veterans to provide guidance for those with lingering problems," he said.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam, said the nation is moving out of an "irrational, sordid period as the scars of Vietnam begin to heal and the Vietnam vet is beginning to be recognized as an asset to the nation."

The eight servicemen who died trying to rescue the former American hostages in Iran were to be eulogized by Dorothy Royer.

Dallas, TX NOV 12 1991
Morning News
(Cir. D. 283,748)
(Cir. S. 356,320)

Veterans Program:

Healing the Wounds

20
Abraham Lincoln laid down the premise that still guides the federal relationship with veterans. The government, Lincoln instructed, has an obligation to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

Appropriately, President Reagan recently signed an 11.2 percent increase in disability payments for 2.3 million disabled veterans and their survivors, thus keeping the nation's covenant with its servicemen.

And on the eve of Veterans' Day, the administration announced the creation of a new program to help heal wounds remaining from the Vietnam War. The self-help effort, called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, is designed to enlist Vietnam veterans in voluntarily helping fellow veterans with problems.

The program is the brainchild of Tom Pauken, director of ACTION, the federal

agency that coordinates volunteer programs. Pauken, a Vietnam veteran, has designed the program to tap the leadership of the estimated 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who have made a successful transition to civilian life. The idea is to minister to veterans who need a friend or a job — and do so with a human touch, rather than through a distant bureaucracy.

The continuing controversy over what would be the most suitable memorial to the Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C., is a reminder that we are still at war among ourselves about the Vietnam conflict. But it is fast approaching a decade since the United States removed itself from the Southeast Asia battle, and the time is long overdue to show our gratitude and compassion for those who served. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a much-needed step in that direction.

International
New York City

TIMES HERALD
DALLAS, TEXAS
E-245,000 3-51

NOV-16-81

Help for Vietnam vets

Although he did it somewhat grudgingly, President Reagan is to be commended for signing into law a bill that grants medical-care eligibility to Vietnam-era veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and for inaugurating a volunteer program that will help veterans find jobs and overcome personal problems that may have had their roots in military service.

The programs represent victories for Vietnam veterans who felt they were ignored by the government they served in a bloody, forsaken arena.

As he signed the medical-aid bill, the President said he hoped it would be administered in a manner that would not "add to budgetary costs of Veterans Administration medical care and treatment." Many Vietnam war veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange believe they can prove that the defoliant caused many of the costly medical problems that have plagued them and their children, ranging from skin rashes to genetic defects.

Although an appropriation to fund the measure has not yet been approved by Congress, the bill also authorizes a new small business loan program for disabled and Vietnam-

era veterans and sets the number of hospital and nursing home beds in Veterans Administration medical facilities at not less than 100,000.

The volunteer program will be under the direction of Tom Pauken of Dallas, head of the federal ACTION program and a Vietnam veteran himself, as well as a two-time candidate for Congress. To be called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, it will last for three years and establish centers in 50 major cities to offer guidance and employment help for Vietnam veterans.

The creative aspect of the program is that the centers will be headed on a volunteer basis by men and women who served in Vietnam but have overcome whatever physical and mental scars they may have suffered to lead successful lives.

President Reagan was right when he said that the U. S. troops who fought in Vietnam "have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication in a war they were not allowed to win." The two federal programs are a decent and proper start toward making up for that deficiency.

Program to utilize Viet vets

By William J. Choyke
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — At a meeting of Vietnam War veterans in Dallas several years ago, lawyer Tom Pauken looked around the room and was impressed with the caliber of veterans around him.

"I thought at the time, 'If you could only marshal that talent' " to help other veterans help themselves, Pauken, a Vietnam veteran, said Tuesday.

As director of ACTION, the federal agency that coordinates volunteer programs, Pauken has done just that. He has organized a growing group called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program that is designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans.

President Reagan, who joined Pauken and other Vietnam veterans at a brief White House ceremony, formally launched the program Tuesday on the eve of Veterans Day.

"The nation must be as loyal to these veterans as they are to the nation," Reagan said.

The ACTION-backed program, approved by the president July 16, will encourage Vietnam veterans to volunteer their services to help the estimated 500,000 veterans who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience. The project also is aimed at enhancing the image of the Vietnam veteran as well as dealing with problems of unemployment and underemployment.

"More than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine," said Pauken, who has been defeated twice as a congressional candidate for the 5th District in Dallas. "There are those that still do need help, but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth."

Programs are under way in six cities, including one led by John D. Baines in San Antonio. By next October, Pauken predicted, 50 programs will be established in cities throughout the country at an average cost of about \$50,000 per year each.

ACTION has budgeted \$2 million for the veterans leadership program in each of the next three years.



United Press International

President Reagan confers with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blind

Veterans Association, after officially inaugurating a veterans self-help program.

Successful Viet Vets Tapped to Help Others

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Back when it was a dirty word to be a Vietnam veteran, a lot of ex-warriors quietly set out to make their mark in the civilian world.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John D.

Baines, a prosperous real estate broker based in San Antonio, Texas. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam, is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful former Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been

started in Baltimore, Nashville, Tenn., Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

William Jayne, deputy director of the national program, said the next line of communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chicago; New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

"High quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program, Jayne said.

Programs will be tailored and developed for the individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

As an example, Jayne said, program leaders "might speak to a group of small businessmen or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve employment opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as "drug crazed time bombs or hapless victims, wallowing in self-pity."

Help for Vietnam vets

15
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The programs represent victories for Vietnam veterans who felt they were ignored by the government they served in a bloody, forsaken arena.

As he signed the medical-aid bill, the President said he hoped it would be administered in a manner that would not "add to budgetary costs of Veterans Administration medical care and treatment." Many Vietnam war veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange believe they can prove that the defoliant caused many of the costly medical problems that have plagued them and their children, ranging from skin rashes to genetic defects.

Although an appropriation to fund the measure has not yet been approved by Congress, the bill also authorizes a new small business loan program for disabled and Vietnam-

era veterans and sets the number of hospital and nursing home beds in Veterans Administration medical facilities at not less than 100,000.

The volunteer program will be under the direction of Tom Pauken of Dallas, head of the federal ACTION program and a Vietnam veteran himself, as well as a two-time candidate for Congress. To be called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, it will last for three years and establish centers in 50 major cities to offer guidance and employment help for Vietnam veterans.

The creative aspect of the program is that the centers will be headed on a volunteer basis by men and women who served in Vietnam but have overcome whatever physical and mental scars they may have suffered to lead successful lives.

President Reagan was right when he said that the U. S. troops who fought in Vietnam "have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication ... in a war they were not allowed to win." The two federal programs are a decent and proper start toward making up for that deficiency.

Self-help veterans' program inaugurated by Reagan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Reagan officially inaugurated a self-help program for Vietnam veterans Tuesday, a program designed to buff up their tarnished image and increase their chances for jobs.

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue," Reagan said in a ceremony in the chilly White House Rose Garden. "The nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation."

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program "is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans to provide guidance for those with lingering problems," he said.

Reagan said the U.S. troops who fought in Vietnam "have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication" for their efforts "in a war they were not allowed to win."

The VVLP is budgeted for \$2 million per year for three years through ACTION, a federal agency coordinating administration volunteer programs. The veterans' program began at the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 but was formally initiated Tuesday, a day before Veterans Day. Federal participation is to be phased out by September 1984.

Plans call for the VVLP in its first year to set up

centers in 50 cities to offer guidance and employment help for Vietnam veterans, said Thomas Paulken, ACTION director and a veteran. The centers will be headed by men and women who served in Vietnam and have since risen to solid positions within their communities.

The list of those already signing up to help fellow veterans include lawyers, educators, physicians and writers such as best-selling author Jim Webb, who wrote "Fields of Fire."

Spokesmen said the primary goal is to attack "unemployment and underemployment" among veterans, but also major steps would be taken to refurbish the image of the Southeast Asia veterans.

"The image is a critical factor," said Paulken, saying much of the program will be geared for "the young high school-age ground pounder...who came back confused" and has not shaken his wartime problems in the decade that has passed since the end of the conflict.

Paulken said that "more than 80 percent" of those who served in Vietnam "have made it back successfully ... but there are a lot of guys that need a hand."

NOV-11-81

Reagan Christens Program To Aid Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Mr. Reagan said, "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote

a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Mr. Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self-image,"

the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Mr. Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."



—UPI Telephoto

Reagan and John Fales Jr., Blinded Veterans Association employment director.

11 November 81

Free the Veterans

What would you think if to celebrate, say, Martin Luther King's birthday the Public Broadcasting Service were to air a film suggesting that blacks have good rhythm? Or if, to honor Saint Patrick's Day, it ran a long documentary portraying the Irish as drunken brawlers? Or if, on a day set aside to honor the achievements of women, it showed a film depicting female executives as shrews and barracudas?

If you think PBS would never be so insensitive, think again. For it seems that to mark Veterans Day today the public network is going to show a film called "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran." In the wailing tradition of Jane Fonda's exploitation, "Coming Home," "Frank" is a one-hour documentary about a former GI who finds himself wracked with guilt over his war deeds (he claims to have taken part in an atrocity), unable to sustain his marriage, susceptible to homosexual urges, unable to stay away from drugs, and fearful that some day he'll snap and murder his children.

We don't question the right of Congress to set up a Public Broadcasting Service to show this kind of movie with taxpayers' funds, if that's what the taxpayers want, even on Veterans Day. But we do think it's important to bear in mind what the film really is—a vicious stereotype of the Vietnam veteran and one, moreover, that has been carefully nurtured for more than a decade by an antiwar movement intent on nailing down the American defeat.

Thomas Pauken, director of Action,

the government agency that includes the Peace Corps, Vista and other volunteer activities, brings all this to our attention. He writes that more than 80% of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made a successful transition to civilian life and are doing well. This includes many who were critical of the way the war was fought, and who grieve over its tragic outcome. It includes many who feel hurt by the ambiguous public attitude toward their service. Just the same, most don't regret serving and would serve again if called.

None of this is to deny that there are veterans who need help with problems associated with their Vietnam experience. Mr. Pauken, however, argues that it does them no good to encourage them to "wallow in self-pity, to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth, to encourage, in effect, a self-fulfilling prophecy of Vietnam veterans . . . as losers." President Reagan yesterday announced a new program, to be run by Action, that will mobilize veterans to help other veterans shake off this stigma and get back on their feet.

Mr. Reagan himself took the first, most important step when during the campaign he declared that the American cause in Vietnam was noble. What the nation can dedicate itself to today is recognizing that the vast majority of men and women who fought in the war did so with a nobility worthy of the cause and deserve better than the stain the antiwar movement has burdened them with in the postwar years.

Express *Editorials*

Page 18A

Monday, December 7, 1981

Now action to help Vietnam veterans

Now something more than a pious statement of good intentions is going to be done to help Vietnam veterans.

San Antonio is one of five cities chosen from across the nation for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

The other cities are Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Nashville.

The program recently was announced by President Reagan at a White House conference. The program will be part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Primarily under this program successful veterans are volunteering to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans.

San Antonian John D. Baines, a commercial real estate broker and developer with operations across the Southwest, is chairman of the program here and one of five national chairmen. He is a Vietnam combat veteran.

William C. Stensland is unpaid program director for San Antonio. He was a highly respected Marine combat officer in Vietnam — twice wounded.

Said Baines of the program:

"This nation was ripped and torn apart by the Vietnam War and the Leadership Program can pull it back together again . . . We were patriots not chumps! It's now time to set the record straight."

Monday, November 16, 1981

Successful Viet Vets Are Lending a Hand

WASHINGTON — For a lot of veterans of the Vietnam War returning home meant quietly picking up the pieces of lives interrupted by military service and getting back to civilian occupations.

For some, however, readjustment has been difficult.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam who is now a prosperous real estate broker in San Antonio, Texas. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been started in Baltimore; Nashville, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

William Jayne, deputy director of the national program, said, "High quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program.

Programs will be tailored and developed for the individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

As an example, Jayne said, program leaders "might speak to a group of small businessmen or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve employment opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as "drug crazed time bombs or hapless victims, wallowing in self-pity."

Other efforts might include helping veterans who want to begin their own businesses, organizing activities such as veterans art shows or developing community support for a veterans center, Jayne said.

He said the next line of communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chicago; New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

The program that began Oct. 1 with the new fiscal year will cost \$2 million per year for three years or approximately \$50,000 for each of the 50 cities. At the end of the third year, federal funds will be withdrawn, and the program to continue on local initiative.

Volunteers are not expected to do counseling or provide health facilities offered by other agencies, Jayne said. And they will not provide a referral service.

San Antonio Light

12/6/81

New program for Vietnam vets in city

A federally funded pilot program to improve the image of Vietnam veterans and provide legal and psychological services for them will start tomorrow in San Antonio.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will be staffed almost exclusively by volunteers who fought in Vietnam and who will be able to relate to Vietnam veterans, local program chairman John Baines said yesterday in a press conference at the at the Marriott Hotel.

U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler, Ed Timberlake, the national deputy director of the program, and William Stensland, local program director also attended the press conference.

Stensland, awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, the Navy

Cross and two Purple Hearts, was forced to take early retirement as a Marine Corps major because of wounds he suffered in Vietnam.

"It's important that a Vietnam combat veteran staff this position because men with similar backgrounds have often found little understanding from other veterans assistance programs," Baines said. "To some extent, they suffer a stigma from having been in combat in Vietnam."

"To have one of their own as the staff person will give the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program instant credibility with other Vietnam combat veterans," he added.

Baines said the program will be a prototype for an expanding national

effort to assist Vietnam combat veterans with psychological and legal counseling and by enhancing employment opportunities through cooperation with the private sector.

San Antonio is one of only five cities where the program is being tested, he said. The other cities are Philadelphia, Pa., Baltimore, Md., Wilmington, Del., and Nashville, Tenn.

San Antonio was selected as one of the test sites because of the high concentration of Vietnam Veterans in the area, Baines said.

The local office is at 8626 Tesoro Drive, suite 112. The telephone number is 822-0211.

Vietnam veterans' leadership program opens

Three Vietnam veterans, volunteering to raise the posture of the minority of veterans who have not adjusted as they have, joined U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler Saturday in announcing the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio.

The center for the program, which will open Monday, will be located at 8026 Tesoro Drive. It will be one of five pilot offices devoted to helping Vietnam veterans under a program established by President Reagan in November. Other pilot offices will be in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Wilmington and Nashville.

"The program we are opening today in San Antonio," Loeffler said, "will be a prototype for an expanding national program which should provide invaluable assistance to combat veterans and help all Americans gain a better understanding of what these men went through and how the war affected them."

During the news conference at the Marriott Hotel, Loeffler presented the

local directorship, consisting of Chairman John D. Baines, director William Stensland and national deputy director Ed Timberlake of Washington, D.C.

Baines and Stensland are combat veterans, and Timberlake is a veteran Marine F-4 pilot.

They said they will try to pool veterans in the private sector — professional, technical and service workers — who can assist combat veterans who are unemployed, underemployed or needing counseling.

The program will receive federal funds of \$50,000 per year for three years, Timberlake said.

The leaders stressed the new program was not formed to replace other programs that assist Vietnam veterans. They added while all Vietnam veterans can be assisted by the program, they primarily are interested in helping the 5 percent who have not completed adjusted, most of whom are combat veterans.

About 15,000 Vietnam veterans are in San Antonio, Baines said.

Bartholomew to head Vietnam vets program

From Banner staff and wire reports

Nashville attorney Sam Bartholomew was one of 28 persons who met with President Ronald Reagan in Washington Tuesday to kick off today's special Veterans Day salute to those who served in the Vietnam War.

Bartholomew, who will head a Vietnam veterans' leadership program in Tennessee, told Reagan that unlike veterans from other foreign wars, many Vietnam veterans have suffered emotionally from the unpopular conflict.

Bartholomew's comments were in keeping with the theme of today's Veterans Day salutes as the nation paid tribute to the often-ignored Vietnam veterans.

In Nashville, a veterans' parade from the corner of 16th Avenue and Broadway was to be led by Gov. Lamar Alexander to Centennial Park. The parade was slated to begin at 1 p.m.

Other Veterans Day activities were to include a visit to Nashville by Gen. Lew Allen Jr., chief of staff of the United States Air Force. He was scheduled to speak to a luncheon co-sponsored by the Nashville Exchange Club, the Middle Tennessee chapter of the Air Force Association and the

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The top Air Force officer was slated to speak at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at noon.

State and federal offices were closed today in honor of Veterans Day.

Bartholomew said his White House discussion with Reagan centered on the many Vietnam veterans who were left scarred by their service in Southeast Asia.

"Three million men went to Southeast Asia," he said, "and today there are about one-half million who still have problems."

Bartholomew said he was one of three persons who spoke with the president during the meeting in the White House's Rose Garden.

"I believe the president was genuinely emotional and, being a veteran as well as commander-in-chief, he felt unusually sincere," Bartholomew said.

He said the president told the crowd, "It is the time to recognize the Vietnam veteran" and added it is also time to restore pride in the military service.

State General Services Commissioner Francis Guess also attended the meeting and will serve on the state board.

Nashvillian Joins Reagan To Launch Vets Program

From STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

Nashville attorney Sam Bartholomew joined President Ronald Reagan in the White House Rose Garden Tuesday for the official inauguration of a new program to assist Vietnam War veterans.

Francis Guess, Tennessee commissioner of General Services, was also present for the ceremony launching the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, which is designed, among other things, to buff the tarnished image of the Vietnam vet.

"HOPEFULLY this (program) will be a beginning to restore some needed recognition and pride to those 3 million who served their country in Vietnam at great personal sacrifice," Bartholomew told the president during the brief ceremony.

"The stigma of serving one's country is, in my opinion, the paramount problem and this program will go a long way toward alleviating this attitude. It is the case that the Vietnam vets were not treated like veterans of other wars...

"Getting the Vietnam veterans out of the closet will, I believe, improve the self-esteem and pride of those who served during Vietnam and our other wars, as well as those who now serve and defend our country."

IN LAUNCHING the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Reagan said:

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue. The nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation. They have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication."

The leadership program will enlist the aid of Vietnam veterans who have succeeded in business to help other vets who are either unemployed or underemployed.

As outlined by Reagan the federal government will spend some \$2 million during each of the next three years to establish veterans assistance offices in 50 U.S. cities.

ONE OF THOSE offices will be located in Nashville and will operate under the guidance of Bartholomew, a West Point graduate and highly decorated veteran, who will become chairman of a state-wide, non-profit organization known as the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Program Inc.

"A fair bit can be done to help these veterans," Bartholomew said in the telephone interview from Washington yesterday.

"We will be helpful in getting assistance with employment programs and there is a possibility that we will create a Vietnam memorial."

SUCH A memorial would be particularly appropriate in Tennessee, Bartholomew said, since the first American to die in the Vietnam conflict was from Tennessee.

Preparations for opening the state office will begin next week, the attorney added. A director will be hired to man the office full time and a board of directors will be selected.

"We will be coming out with announcements in the coming weeks," Bartholomew said.

OCT 30 1981

Vietnam vets job location program planned

Sylvia Campbell
Media News Service

WASHINGTON - A new volunteer program to help Vietnam veterans find jobs is in the planning stages for 50 U.S. communities before the end of fiscal year 1982, officials say.

The new program will recruit successful, established veterans to serve as volunteers to help other veterans who are jobless because of problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

The new program, operating through ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer service, will attempt to stimulate the private sector to hire veterans, said William Jayne, a deputy director of ACTION.

"We would like to see South Dakota as one of the areas to benefit by the program," said ACTION staffer Marsha Landau.

Jayne, however, said that so far "no hard and fast list of the communities where we are going to go" has been made.

"That will depend to a great degree upon securing the right volunteers," he said. "We want to make an effort to include both urban and rural areas."

Under the program, a successful Vietnam veteran in each community will be chosen as a volunteer to coordinate the community's program. Each program will be designed according to the results of a community assessment made by ACTION.

"At that time, the community's problems and needs will be assessed as well as the problems of the veterans living there," Jayne said.

"Each volunteer veteran would be providing a positive role model while using his position in the community to stimulate interest in local organizations that would use local funds to help unemployed veterans find jobs."

Grants of \$50,000 per city will be awarded once the volunteer veteran for each community has been chosen, Jayne said.

President Honors Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said: "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

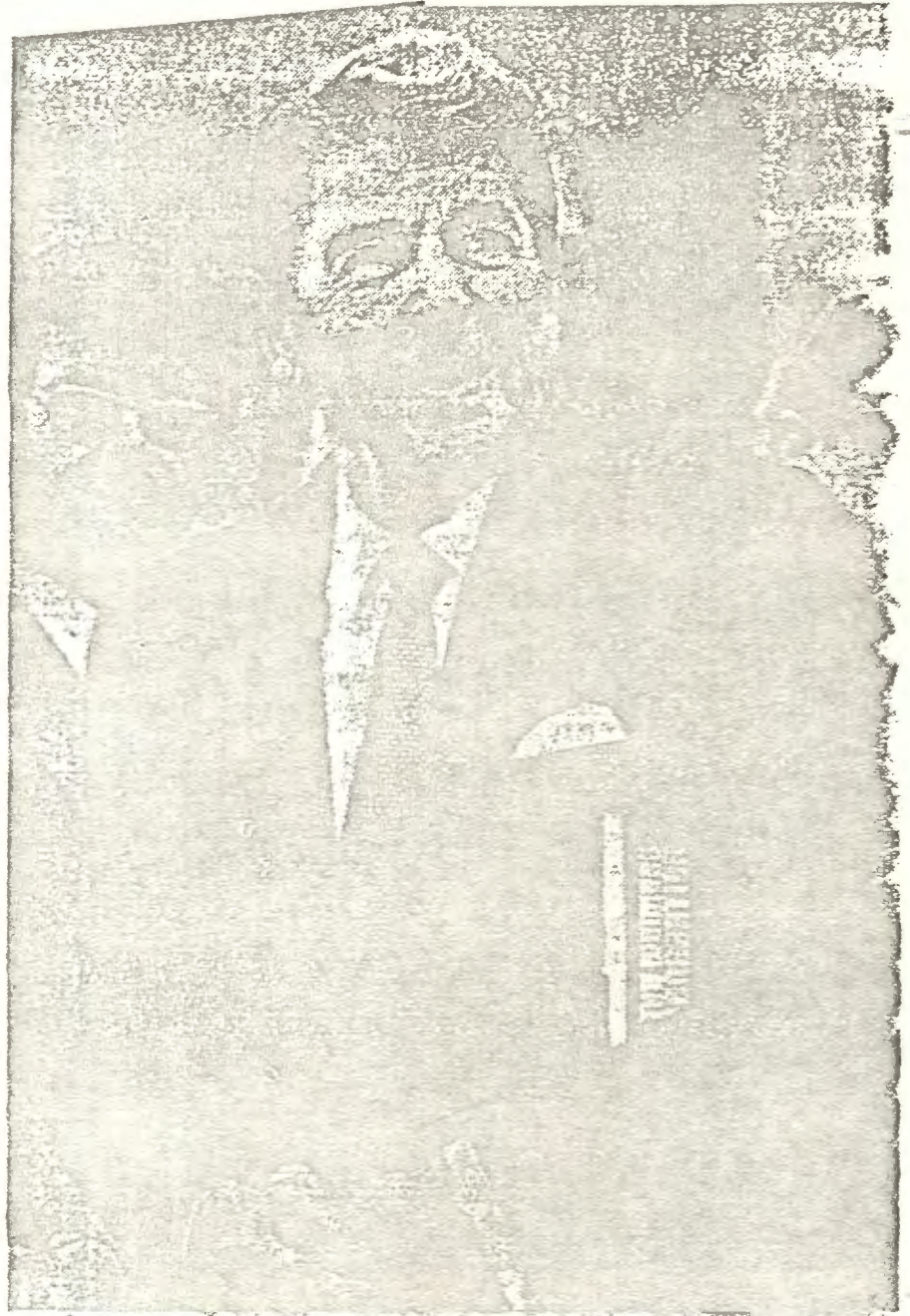
Gift Received

—Page 1

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self image," the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."



Meets Veterans President Reagan, with a book titled "The Founding Generation," met with members of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program at the White House Tuesday. The group works on programs to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans. Reagan received the book from a member of the group. Related story, Page 9.

Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City

Nov. 11, 1981

Veterans to Get Hiring Preference, Civil Service Chief Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite cutting back government pay, the Reagan administration intends to be sure that Vietnam-era and disabled veterans continue to receive preference in hiring for federal jobs, civil service chief Donald J. Devine said Tuesday.

In any view, there is a manpower shortage in the country and we owe more to those who will not flinch to risk their lives for their country," Devine, director of the Office of Personnel Management, told a subcommittee on Veterans Affairs.

Devine said he intends to see that disabled veterans receive the priority treatment guaranteed by law and enthusiastically endorsed by the Reagan administration policy.

Although there have

been personnel cutbacks in the federal government, we have not reduced the rate of hiring under the Veterans Readjustment Appointment program, Devine said.

During the first half of the 1981 fiscal year, the latest period for which figures are available, 8,677 veterans got federal jobs under the program, bringing the number employed to more than 170,000 since the procedure was created in 1970, he said.

Under the program, federal agencies are permitted to hire qualified veterans for jobs in the seven lowest pay grades without subjecting them to competitive examinations. After two years of education and training, those chosen are eligi-

ble for permanent job appointments.

Spokesmen for the American Legion and

the Veterans of Foreign Wars praised Devine's public attitude toward enforcing veteran-preference programs.

Devine said.

VFW lobbyist James W. Magill said, however, that his group

thinks the veterans affairs office in Devine's agency is underfinanced and under-

staffed, with only three full-time career employees and one part-time employee.

New U.S. program

Successful Vietnam vets to help others

Washington (UPI) — Back when it was a dirty word to be a Vietnam veteran, a lot of ex-warriors quietly set out to make their mark in the civilian world.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John D. Baines, a prosperous real estate broker based in San Antonio, Texas. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam, is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

"I REALIZE that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there

who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful former Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 30 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been started in Baltimore; Nashville, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

WILLIAM JAYNE, deputy director of the national program, said the next communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chica-

go; New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

"High-quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program, Jayne said.

Programs will be tailored and developed for the individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

Volunteers are not expected to do counseling or provide health facilities offered by other agencies, Jayne said. And they will not provide a referral service.

Viet vets to get help of buddies

Successful returnees
to work in program

By PATRICK J. KILLEN
United Press International

WASHINGTON — For a lot of Vietnam veterans, returning home meant quietly picking up the pieces of their lives and getting back to civilian occupations.

For some, however, readjustment has been difficult.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

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As an example, Jayne said, program leaders "might speak to a group of small businessmen or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve employment opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as "drug-crazed timebombs or hapless victims wallowing in self-pity."

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The program that began Oct. 1 with the new fiscal year will cost \$2 million per year for three years or approximately \$50,000 for each of the 50 cities. At the end of the third year, federal funds will be withdrawn, and the program will continue on local initiative.

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WINDSOR POLICE DEPT 1
340 BLOOMFIELD AVE
WINDSOR CT 06095

Patterson at White House Police Chief to Lead New Veterans Project

Chief of Police Maxie L. Patterson came from Washington with a new role. He returned to the nation's capital by his friend, Thomas Pauken, director of ACTION, the national volunteer agency. Patterson met with federal officials who are organizing a new program that will use successfully returned Vietnam veterans to solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans.

"I need three Vietnam vets" like myself, Patterson said Monday, "who have reached responsible positions in their careers to form a board of directors" for a newly approved Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

He said that \$50,000 is available to start the program and to hire a project director "who would then attempt a needs study of the Greater Hartford area .. to see if there is a significant number of Vietnam veterans sharing a common problem."

The program "cannot duplicate what any other program does. It's not designed to do any one-to-one counseling or job placement," Patterson said.

However, the project director would be contacting area industries to encourage them "to give greater attention to Vietnam veterans."

The new program is a short-term, volunteer effort; funding will be phased out by Sept. 30, 1984.

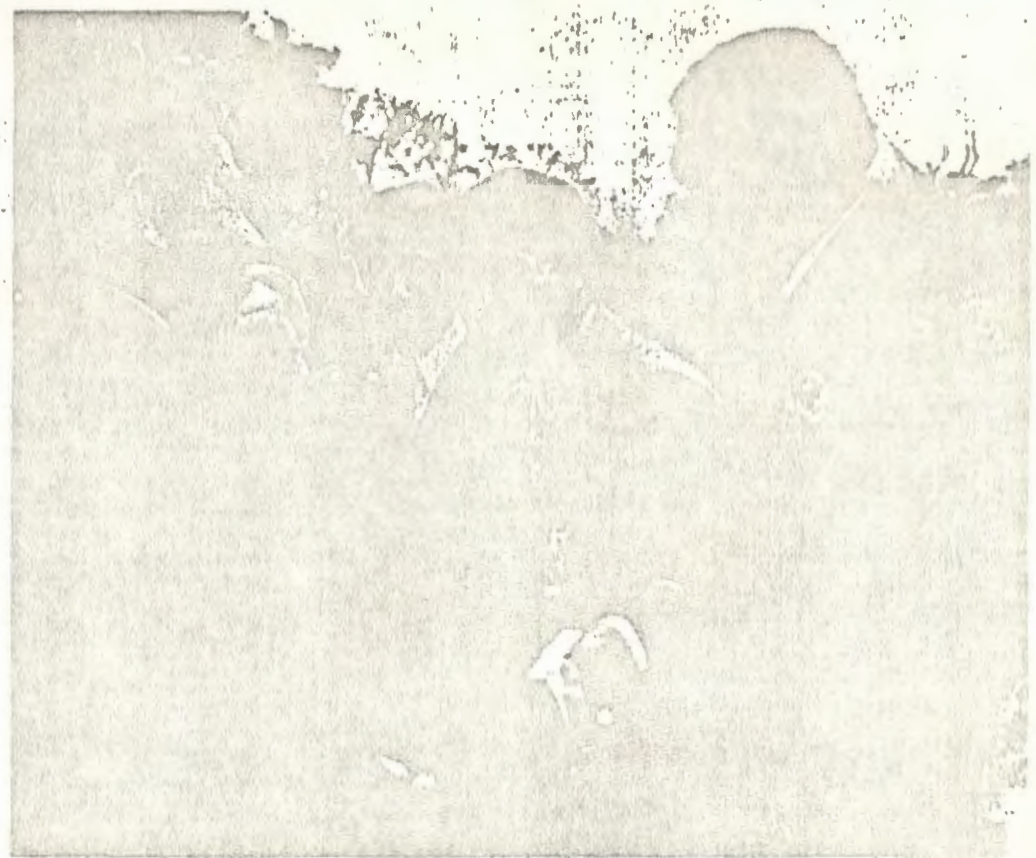
Patterson has received some positive input from other Vietnam veterans who are willing to volunteer their efforts. If others are interested, they should call or write him at the police department.

Patterson met with President Ronald Reagan during his meeting with Pauken over the new program. Reagan noted that Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

Pauken noted that "80 per cent (of the Vietnam veterans) made it back successfully" with "10 per cent or a little higher" having emotional and employment problems.

The VVLP will be established in 50 communities across the nation with programs already underway in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix, and Nashville.

The program is designed to demonstrate the leadership of Vietnam veterans and to stimulate help for the thousands of men and women who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience.



President Ronald Reagan greets Police Chief Maxie Patterson at the White House during a ceremony to inaugurate a new Vietnam veterans program. The town's police chief serves in the national Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

White House Photograph

NOV 11 1981 99

COLORADO PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE
DENVER, COLORADO 80204

U.S. prepares to remember its veterans

News wire service

WASHINGTON — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said: "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by VETNET, the national veterans employment organization.

Reagan said Vietnam veterans "deserve our gratitude for the risks they have taken."

"A long, bloody and costly Vietnam war did our nation and damaged America's self-image," the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting man have ever fought."

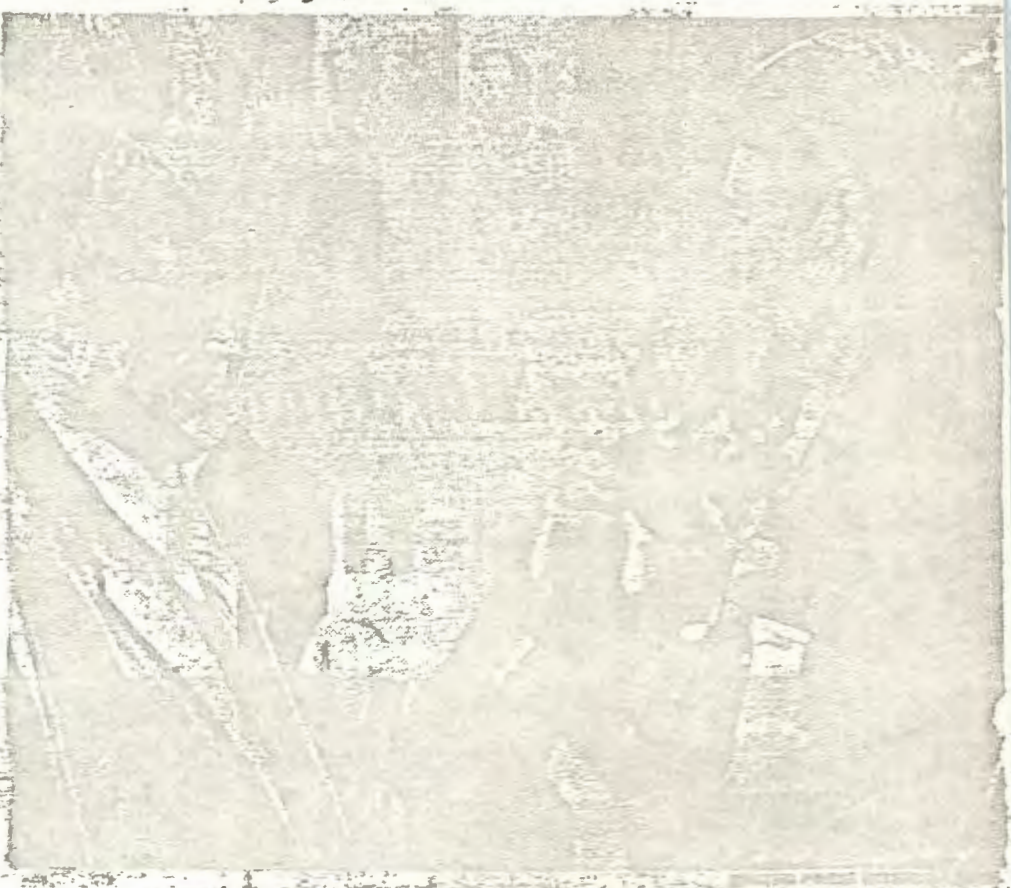
"Stereotype is an unjust stereotype," Reagan said. "A vast majority of Vietnam veterans returned home with the skills and abilities that made them successful in their civilian lives."

Reagan said he would like to see a program that would be based on the skills and abilities that made them successful in their civilian lives.

The first ceremony was held in the White House.

The program will be a major part of the effort to help veterans find jobs.

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United Press International

President Reagan talks with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded Veterans Association, after inaugurating a self-help program for Vietnam veterans.

President Pays Tribute To Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute yesterday to the 2.7 million Vietnam War veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

Banks, schools and federal, state and local government offices will be closed across the country today in commemoration of Veteran's Day.

Mr. Reagan participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam War veterans and to promote a positive image of them.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-

esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Mr. Reagan said Vietnam War veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self image," the President said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Mr. Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."

Vietnam Vets to Help Others With Problems

By KIM BEGGHEIM
Staff Writer

A newly created program is expected to help Vietnam veterans in southeastern Arizona. "Our comrades are still having problems," said the architect of the program.

State Rep. Jim Hartdegen, R-Casa Grande, was named state chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Washington, D.C., Tuesday in a meeting

with President Reagan and 30 key VVLP volunteers.

The initial meeting lasted about 20 minutes with Reagan making supporting comments of VVLP followed by organizing meetings throughout the day.

"The job is a challenge and I'm looking forward to it," Hartdegen said in a telephone interview Wednesday night from his home.

"Often, Vietnam veterans are

portrayed with a negative image," he said.

"We want to show the public all combat veterans don't have problems and many are living a normal life and are lawyers, engineers, doctors and the common working man," he said.

"It's time to show the public why we were there and to relay what it was actually like to be in Vietnam since that's hard to get

across to the people."

Hartdegen was one of the first Vietnam veterans to win a seat in a legislature anywhere in the nation when he took office five years ago. There are 11 in Congress now, he said.

In 1967, Hartdegen was a fire team leader in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division in War Zone C. He was there for six months and nine days, as he quickly remem-

bers.

"I believe as a Vietnam veteran I have a responsibility to help veterans who have service connected problems," Hartdegen said.

"When I came home from my tour of duty, I also had problems readjusting to regular life from the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Eloy," he said. It took only 48 hours. "From war to peace in such a short time was a shock to say the

least. The Vietnam war lasted ten years and nine months, which is the longest war of our history. For some people who spent time in Southeast Asia, the war is still going on. However, I believe with the help of VVLP, positive things will happen."

VVLP is a new federal initiative administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

See Vietnam, page 3

Vietnam Vets to Help Others

Continued from page 1

"It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready to come forward to help solve the problems of their fellow veterans," Thomas Pauken, ACTION director and Vietnam veteran, said.

VVLP is intended to be a low key and inexpensive volunteer program, Hartdegen said.

The federally funded program will cost \$2 million per year for three years. VVLP will be established in 50 communities throughout the U.S. Pilots are under way in Phoenix, Philadelphia, Pa., Baltimore, Md., San Antonio, Texas, Wilmington, Del., and Nashville, Tenn. About \$50,000 will be designated for each city. There will be a

salaried project director and volunteer chairman for each community.

Federal participation in VVLP is scheduled to be phased out by Sept. 30, 1984.

Specific needs of the communities will be evaluated followed by an action plan to solve the most severe problems, a VVLP spokesman said.

VVLP is also designed to demonstrate the leadership of veterans and to stimulate effective help for the veterans who still have significant problems associated with Vietnam such as under-employment and unemployment.

VVLP will not provide individual counseling or a referral service

and is not intended to duplicate or overlap services of the Veterans Administration, the spokesman said. VVLP will supplement the services to create services in all needed areas.

Some typical activities of the program might include job placement and developing business support for veterans who want to begin or expand their own business.

From 1963 to 1973, about 2.7 million Americans served in Vietnam. About 98 percent were men between age 26 and 35.

During the war, 57,698 persons were killed and 270,000 were wounded. More than 21,000 were disabled and about 5,000 lost one or more limbs.

Thursday, November 19, 1981

Viet Nam vet Jim Hartdegen helping others

Representative Jim Hartdegen was named November 10th in Washington D.C. to be State Chairman of the new Vietnam Leadership Program. This is a program in which successful Vietnam Veteran volunteers will try to assist their fellow Vietnam Veterans solve problems associated with their service. Action, the National Volunteer Agency, oversees administration of the community based program.

In 1967, Hartdegen was a fire team leader in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division in the area of War Zone C. After his discharge, Hartdegen attended Mesa Community College and Arizona State University. While attending college, he also worked in the Arizona State Senate.

"I believe, as a Vietnam Veteran, I have a responsibility to help veterans of Vietnam who have service connected problems." Hartdegen went on to say, "when I came home from my tour of duty, I also had problems of readjusting to regular life from the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Eloy. It only took 48 hours. From war to peace in such a short time was a shock to say the least. Although most returning Vietnam Veterans have done quite well and have been successful in their professions and businesses, it's time we help our fallen warriors. The Vietnam War lasted ten years and nine months; the longest war of our history. For some people who spent time in southeast Asia, the war is still going on. However, I believe with the help of VVLP, positive things will happen."

Successful Viet Vets Urged to Join Volunteer Effort

By LAURIE PARKER
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Vietnam veterans who have established successful civilian careers after their military service are being encouraged by a new federal program to volunteer their time and leadership to help solve some of the problems still facing their fellow veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, an effort recently begun under ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, will establish volunteer programs in 50 communities across the country.

The local programs will be led by salaried project directors, who are Vietnam veterans and community leaders successful in business, the professions or academia, and volunteer chairmen. The programs will study the specific

needs and characteristics of the local Vietnam veteran population and then develop plans for solving those problems, working with local business and governmental structures.

VVLP activities might include liaison with local employers to help improve job opportunities for Vietnam veterans and business development efforts to help veterans who want to begin or build their own businesses.

Pilot programs already are under way in Philadelphia; Baltimore; San Antonio, Tex.; Wilmington, Del.; Phoenix, Ariz., and Nashville, Tenn.

The other cities have not yet been chosen, said Bill Jayne of the VVLP.

"Almost every large city needs an effort like this," Jayne said. "We're recruiting volunteers to run the program first, and then deciding on the cities, based on how many Vietnam veterans are there, what their needs are and what resources are available to them."

Since the program relies on Vietnam veterans who are established community leaders, city selection also must be made on that basis, he said.

The VVLP will not duplicate or overlap services already offered by the Veterans Administration, veterans service organizations or local community organizations, organizers said.

"We're not a panacea; we can't solve all the problems by ourselves," Jayne said. "We're just another thread in the fabric of veterans services."

The program is planned to last about three years, with federal participation and funding scheduled to phase out by Sept. 30, 1984. At that time, individual programs may be turned over to the local communities.

"It's a short-term, cost-effective, volunteer program with significant but realistic, limited goals," Jayne said.

People interested in starting a volunteer program or working with one already established, may contact Jayne or Ed Timberlake at the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, ACTION, 806 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.

JANUARY 1982

ACTION Program Gets Underway

A new volunteer program, intended to fill some of the gaps in service programs to assist Vietnam veterans, is getting underway, with pilot projects operating in six cities.

Designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans to assist other veterans, the program was established as part of ACTION by Thomas W. Pauken, the Vietnam veteran President Reagan named to head the federal government's volunteer agency.

Called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), the new ACTION project is attempting to attract successful Vietnam veterans to help solve the problems still faced by many of their fellow veterans. Pauken has appointed several DAV members to management positions in the VVLP.

Included among them is James Webb, author of the best-selling Vietnam combat novel, *Fields of Fire*, and a new novel, *A Sense of Honor*. Webb will be an advisor to the program.

The advice of several established Vietnam veterans' leaders, including DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach, was sought in setting up the VVLP, which will be funded at \$2 million a year for three years. VVLP National Program Director John P. Wheeler, III, hopes to get the program going in 50 communities nationwide.

Each community will have a salaried project director and a volunteer chairman, who will seek as volunteers Vietnam veterans who have been successful in civilian life. "We're looking for veterans who have excelled in a wide variety of civilian pursuits—the professions, business, labor, the arts," VVLP Deputy Director Bill Jayne told *DAV Magazine*.

"We're looking for people who can function at the senior levels of the business and

government structures in their communities to help build and maintain coordinated community-wide efforts to help Vietnam veterans."

While VVLP would like to concentrate on combat veterans as volunteers, Jayne stressed that commitment and integrity are the essential characteristics of the Vietnam era veterans the program is seeking.

Among the problems VVLP wants to confront are unemployment and underemployment of Vietnam veterans, though VVLP leaders hope to avoid duplicating or overlapping services already provided by the VA, the DAV and VA outreach centers, existing community-based organizations, and veterans' service organizations, such as the DAV.

However, the program will attempt to tackle some symbolic goals as well. Most important among these, according to Jayne, is "counteracting the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as losers—a notion that most harms those Vietnam veterans who do have significant problems."

The DAV's Drach agreed with VVLP coordinators that the program "cannot be a panacea that will cure all of the problems Vietnam veterans have experienced." But, he said, "It can, if successful, serve as a needed link in a chain of services for Vietnam era veterans."

"There are many Vietnam veterans in the DAV who today occupy responsible positions in their communities—business managers and executives, doctors, union officials, lawyers, clergymen, and so forth," Drach said. "These are the kind of people VVLP needs as volunteers, and this program offers such leaders a genuine opportunity to do something really meaningful for their fellow veterans."

DAV MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1982


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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Vietnam Veterans
Leadership Program*

October 8, 1981

TO: Red Cavaney

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell 

When you called me regarding the President's veteran related activities on November 11, I told you I was unaware of any schedule proposals other than the wreath laying, which is traditional and appropriate.

Subsequently, I learned of this pending proposal by Tom Pauken. I strongly suggest that Veterans Day is a very appropriate occasion for the President to announce this now approved new program of voluntary action in behalf of veterans which his Administration has undertaken.

Not only would this show a real sensitivity for problems of veterans but it would be right in line with the President's policy of encouraging volunteerism. As you may recall, this ACTION project, Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, involves successful Vietnam veterans in voluntary counseling programs for the less successful veterans of that era.

Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE


WASHINGTON

November 9, 1981

MEETING WITH VIETNAM VETERANS
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

VVLP

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 1981
LOCATION: ROSE GARDEN
TIME: 11:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE 

I. PURPOSE

To increase public awareness of the emerging leadership role of the nation's Vietnam veterans through recognition of the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP).

II. BACKGROUND

The vast majority of Vietnam veterans have readjusted into the mainstream and are now moving into leadership roles throughout society. The leaders before you are successful veterans who are stepping forward as volunteers to help their fellow veterans who still face lingering problems associated with their service in Vietnam. Administered by ACTION, this new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is an important new thread in the support fabric of the veterans' services. In June, you approved the unanimous recommendation of the Human Resources Cabinet Council and instituted the VVLP. Following your remarks, Tom Pauken will introduce you to each of the Vietnam veteran volunteers (31), who will be assembled in the Rose Garden. The veterans plan to use photos of these handshakes to promote the program at the community level.

III. PARTICIPANTS: Elizabeth H. Dole; Tom Pauken, Morton Blackwell; and a group of 31 prominent Vietnam veterans and others associated with the program (list attached).

IV. PRESS PLAN: Full press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

- 11:44 a.m. Welcoming remarks by Elizabeth Dole.
- 11:45 a.m. Upon announcement, you depart Oval Office and proceed directly to Rose Garden podium for remarks.
- 11:48 a.m. On conclusion of your remarks, you will remain at the podium while Tom Pauken, ACTION Director, thanks you on behalf of the Vietnam veterans and invites you to greet assembled Veterans.
- 12:00 noon You depart Rose Garden and return to Oval Office.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

JOHN BAINES: Chairman, San Antonio VVLP; international commercial real estate developer; U.S. Navy Seabee--built the longest bridge in Vietnam at the time.

SAM BARTHOLOMEW: Chairman, Tennessee VVLP; attorney; former legislative assistant to Senator Howard Baker; West Point Distinguished Cadet; patrolled Cambodian border with 4th Calvary.

KIP BECKER: Chairman, Wilmington VVLP; Ph.D.; Assistant Dean, Wilmington College; U.S. Army gunship pilot.

DAVID DECHANT: Program Director, Baltimore VVLP; restaurant manager; Marine scout; spent a total of 31 months in Vietnam.

RICK EILERT: Volunteer, Chicago VVLP; Marine rifleman; retired by reason of wounds; author of two novels which he plans to publish.

JOHN FALES, JR.: Advisor, VVLP; Employment Director, Blinded Veterans Association; Marine forward observer; wounded in Vietnam in 1967.

FRANCIS GUEST: Volunteer, Tennessee VVLP; Administrator, Tennessee GSA; Air Force in-country veteran.

WAYNE HANBY: Program Director, Wilmington VVLP; former Justice of the Peace; Marine rifleman; retired from wounds received.

JIM HARTDEGEN: Volunteer, VVLP; Arizona State Legislator; Vietnam combat veteran.

DAVID HUFFMAN: Program Advisor, Wilmington VVLP; blinded in Vietnam as Marine rifleman; first blind graduate of Delaware Law School.

BILL JAYNE: Deputy Director, VVLP; Marine rifleman; wounded at Khe Sanh during Tet offensive of 1968; author of "Immigrants from the Combat Zone" appearing in THE WOUNDED GENERATION.

DICK KOLB: Volunteer, VVLP; Oil Scout for Tenneco Corp.

JOHN MCCAIN: Advisor, VVLP; prisoner-of-war 1967-73; now Vice President of Hensley Company, Phoenix.

JOCK NASH: Volunteer, VVLP; Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Senate Committee on the Judiciary; infantry platoon commander in Vietnam.

WALLACE NUNN: Volunteer, Philadelphia VVLP; graduate of Villanova University; is an investment banker in Philadelphia; served in Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner with the 101st Airborne Division.

CHUCK O'BRIEN: Chairman, Philadelphia VVLP; attorney; first of group of disabled persons to top Mt. Rainier last summer; Army platoon leader; wounded on Cambodian border and lost part of his leg.

MAX PATTERSON: Volunteer, VVLP; Chief of Police, Windsor, Connecticut.

TOM PAUKEN: Director, ACTION; enlisted in Army; served one tour in-country as Intelligence Officer.

LUIZ SANZ: Medical Doctor; advisor to VVLP; Georgetown University faculty member; was Army combat medic.

BOB SEARBY: Volunteer, VVLP; Deputy Undersecretary of Labor, International Affairs; was with 101st Airborne in Vietnam.

BILL STENSLAND: Program Director, San Antonio VVLP; highly decorated; wounded twice while serving two tours as Marine officer.

ED TIMPERLAKE: Deputy Director, VVLP; Naval Academy graduate; Marine F-4 pilot.

MARK TREANOR: Chairman, Baltimore VVLP; attorney; Annapolis graduate; Marine rifle platoon commander with 1st Marine Division.

JIM WEBB: Advisor to VVLP; author of the best-selling *FIELDS OF FIRE* and *A SENSE OF HONOR*; Marine platoon commander; Navy Cross.

JACK WHEELER: Director, VVLP; co-founder of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund; attorney; co-author of *THE WOUNDED GENERATION*; West Point graduate; Captain in Vietnam.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

CHARLES HAGEL: Deputy Administrator-designate, Veterans Administration; squad leader in Vietnam - was wounded twice; served with his brother in the same squad; his brother was wounded three times.

SPECIAL GUESTS (cont.)

MARCIA LANDAU: Media Director, VVLP.

HONORABLE THOMAS LOEFFLER: Congressman; strong supporter of VVLP;
responsible for San Antonio VVLP.

HONORABLE JOHN P. MURTHA: Congressman; Korean veteran who reenlisted
to serve in Vietnam.

JIM McCLOSKEY: Program Director, Philadelphia VVLP; economist; was
U.S. Army adviser to South Vietnamese.

(Rohrabacher/TD)
November 9, 1981

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

- It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication.

- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict divided our Nation and damaged America's self image.

- Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.

- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.

- It is important to recognize that the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many of these fine young people have excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful vets in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

- This volunteer self-help program is within the spirit of brotherhood that has characterized American veterans of every war. Such comradery is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam veterans.

- Americans should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its soldiers -- and soldiers will be as loyal to the nation as the nation is loyal to them. This program

is one way of expressing our commitment not only to Vietnam vets but all those who now serve their country. So thanks to all of you for participating in this fine effort.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- VIETNAM VETERANS ARE LEADERS AND THESE PEOPLE HERE TODAY ARE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THAT FACT.
- IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT ON THE EVE OF VETERANS DAY 1981 WE MEET TO DISCUSS UTILIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF VIETNAM VETERANS AS AN ESSENTIAL NATIONAL RESOURCE.
- VIETNAM VETERANS DESERVE HIGH PRAISE AND THE SUPPORT OF THEIR COMMUNITIES FOR HAVING SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN A DIFFICULT AND DIVISIVE WAR.
- I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THESE VETERANS HERE TODAY FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING THE WAR AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE NATION.
- THE VAST MAJORITY OF VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE READJUSTED WELL AND MANY OF THEM ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL. FROM THIS LEADERSHIP POOL THIS NEW PROGRAM WILL DRAW VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL WORK TO SOLVE THE LINGERING PROBLEMS STILL FACED BY THEIR FELLOW VETERANS.
- WHILE THESE PROBLEMS ARE SIGNIFICANT, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE STEREOTYPE OF THE VIETNAM VETERAN AS A LOSER, OR VICTIM, IS INACCURATE AND, INDEED, MOST HARMS THOSE WHO DO FACE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS.