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MS-235: LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 Papers

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MS-235: LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 Papers

Description

The collection includes maps, photographs, documents, and correspondence related to the service of LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 and the Vietnam War. These include detailed maps and items highlighting aspects of Pendleton's time in Vietnam and broader pieces regarding different aspects of the Vietnam War era. Much of this correspondence is in the form of e-mails written many years after the war, and thus includes the personal opinions and biases of their authors. The printed articles included in the collection were also selected by Pendleton and reflect his interests and opinions on the war and its aftermath; they are not necessarily sources original to the Vietnam War era. The collection includes deep information on and discussions of Pendleton's advisory team and its operations in Vietnam as a major strength, though it may not be as useful for those seeking first-hand information of those who served in different types of units and organizations. Potential research interests include the work of MACV Advisory Teams, intelligence operations in Vietnam, and veterans' perspectives on the war.

This collection includes some graphic content in Binder 1-2, most notably images of dead Viet Cong soldiers.

Special Collections and College Archives Finding Aids are discovery tools used to describe and provide access to our holdings. Finding aids include historical and biographical information about each collection in addition to inventories of their content. More information about our collections can be found on our website <https://www.gettysburg.edu/special-collections/collections/>.

Keywords

Richard F. Pendleton, Vietnam War, Correspondence, MACV Advisory Teams

Disciplines

Asian History | History | Military History | United States History

**Guide to the
MS-235: LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 Papers**



**Ryan Bilger '19, Glatfelter Intern
December 2018**

MS – 265: LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 Papers

(3 boxes plus oversize maps, 3.5 cubic feet)

Inclusive Dates: 1966-2018

Bulk Dates: 1966-1969

*Processed by Ryan Bilger '19, Glatfelter Intern
December 2018*

Provenance

Items collected by LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 and donated to Special Collections in November 2018.

Biographical Note

Richard F. Pendleton graduated from Gettysburg College in 1963 with a major in political science. He joined the U.S. Army after graduation and began his first tour in Vietnam in June 1966 as a member of Advisory Team 83 of Military Assistance Command Vietnam, or MACV. Pendleton served in this position until June 1967. He returned to Vietnam for a second tour of duty from February 1968 to February 1969, during which time he served in intelligence at US Army Headquarters in Vietnam.

Historical Note

Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) oversaw all American military activities and operations in South Vietnam. Its Field Advisory Teams worked closely with various units of the South Vietnamese military, known as the Army of the Republic of Vietnam or ARVN. Advisory teams provided their expertise and assistance to ARVN units during their operations, often operating independently of other American forces and/or in remote areas. As many as 155 of these teams operated throughout South Vietnam. Each team usually had a province in which they were headquartered and primarily worked. LTC Richard F. Pendleton's Team 83 operated in Go Cong Province, located near the Mekong River Delta south of Saigon. This area saw high Viet Cong activity throughout the war, and Pendleton's team sometimes encountered these enemy guerrilla fighters during their various operations.

Scope and Content Notes

The collection includes maps, photographs, documents, and correspondence related to the service of LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63 and the Vietnam War. These include detailed maps and items highlighting aspects of Pendleton's time in Vietnam and broader pieces regarding different aspects of the Vietnam War era. Much of this correspondence is in the form of e-mails written many years after the war, and thus includes the personal opinions and biases of their authors. The printed articles included in the collection were also selected by Pendleton and reflect his interests and opinions on the war and its

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Subjects

Vietnam War

U.S. Army

Vietnam Republic Quan Luc History

Vietnam War 1961 1975 Military Intelligence United States

Series Description

This collection is divided into three Series. **Series 1:** Papers; **Series 2:** Viet Cong flag, and **Series 3:** Maps. The collection has preserved Pendleton's original classification system wherever possible.

Series 1 consists of the papers and photographs preserved by LTC Richard F. Pendleton '63. They are separated into seven binders organized by Pendleton.

Series 2 consists of a Viet Cong flag captured in November 1966 and preserved by Pendleton. This series is classified as oversized.

Series 3 consists of the maps of various areas Southeast Asia preserved by Pendleton.

Box List

Box 1

1-0 Finding Aid and Biographical Information

Series 1 – Papers

Binder 1-1 U.S. Military Assistance Command, Advisory Team #83, June 1966-June 1967 Papers

- Newspaper clippings on the subject of leaving Vietnam
- DD2-14 (discharge certificate) for 22 years of active Army duty
- List of members of Advisory Team 83 (compiled from memory)
- Biography of and letter from LTC Charles T. "Tom" Stevens
- Informational fact sheet on Go Cong Province
- Notes and email correspondence from team members, especially Bill Pooley (nicknamed "Delta Bill")

Binder 1-2 U.S. Military Assistance Command Advisory Team #83, June 1966-June 1967 Photographs

- Aerial photos of Hoa Tan District with annotations marking U.S. and Viet Cong-controlled territory

- Computer prints of color photographs of Go Cong Province taken by a friend of Pendleton
- Black and white photographs of Go Cong Province taken by Pendleton
 - Buddhist and Cao Dai temples
 - Views of Saigon and Go Cong City
 - Images of Nguyen Bach Ho (former Communist working with Americans/ARVN) and his family
 - French forts
 - Dead Viet Cong, including image taken off a dead VC soldier
- Clippings of paintings evocative of Pendleton's Vietnam experience
- Viet Cong propaganda leaflet
- Novelty cards distributed by the 2nd Platoon, 54th Aviation Company, nicknamed "Rat Finks"

Binder 1-3 U.S. Military Assistance Command Advisory Team #83, June 1966-June 1967 Operations, Overlays, and Maps

- Book of South Vietnam Provincial maps, September 1967
- Rice paper overlays for 1/25,000 scale maps showing operation plans, including annotations from after the operations
- Maps of Go Cong Province and Go Cong City
- Map of South Vietnam highlighting areas controlled by the ARVN and by the Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army (NVA)
- Intelligence reports in English and Vietnamese

Box 2

Binder 2-1 Friends Lost, Articles, and Newspapers

- List and photographs of friends lost in Vietnam, including CPT Joseph Murphy (Gettysburg College '66) and CPT Millard Valerius (Former ROTC instructor at Gettysburg College)
- Various articles of interest on the Vietnam War era printed from internet sources
- Articles and clippings from period magazines and newspapers
- After-action report written by LTG Hal Moore on the 1st Cavalry Division's engagement in the Ia Drang Valley, November 1965
- Email correspondence with friends and team members
- Report on "The Final Forty-Five Days in Vietnam" by Homer D. Smith
- Excerpts from intelligence reports about the NVA
- Program from the 30th Year Remembrance of the Fall of Saigon event, held in Phoenix, Arizona in 2005

Binder 2-2 HQ, U.S. Army Vietnam G-2, February 1968-February 1969 Papers

- Welcome materials for the 90th Replacement Battalion, Long Binh Post
- Map of the Long Binh Post area
- Article on the Vietnam Generation by former Senator Jim Webb
- Photographs, including aerial views of Vietnam taken from a helicopter and images of Pendleton and his wife Barbara, an Army neurosurgical nurse, at home after their return from Vietnam

- Article on first-hand accounts of the fall of Saigon
- Binder 2-3 25th Anniversary of the Fall of the Republic of South Vietnam Papers
- Various clippings, articles, and emails on the fall of South Vietnam
- Binder 2-4 Defense Attaché Saigon RVNAF Final Assessment
- Final assessment/report on American involvement in Vietnam and the fall of Saigon (declassified 1981)

Series 2 – Viet Cong Flag

Box 3 (Oversize)

Viet Cong flag – Red and blue flag with white star in center. Captured during an operation against the Viet Cong in November 1966 and preserved by Pendleton.

Series 3 – Maps

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet ND48-8, Edition 3, 1967, Muang Mai, Laos

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-10, Edition 1, July 1967, Changwat Nakhon Phanom, Thailand

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-14, Edition 1, July 1967, Changwat Roi Et, Thailand

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet ND48-4, Edition 3, September 1967, Chavan, Laos

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet ND48-7, Edition 2, September 1967, Muang Khong, Laos

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet ND48-11, Edition 2, September 1967, Stoeng Treng, Cambodia

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-7, Edition 3, September 1967, Vinh, Vietnam

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-11, Edition 3, September 1967, Ba Don, Vietnam

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-2, Edition 2, October 1967, Cua Rao, Vietnam

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-6, Edition 2, October 1967, Muang Pakxan, Laos

Joint Operations Graphic (Ground) Map, Series 1501, Sheet NE48-15, Edition 3, October 1968, Muang Xepon, Laos

Go Cong Province, 7th ARVN Division Tactical Area

Go Cong Province, 7th ARVN Division Tactical Area (2)

IV Corps Tactical Zone

Cambodia and Vietnam Road Map

Saigon City Map

Viet Cong Base Areas

Related Collections:

MS – 044: [Stephen H. Warner Collection](#)

MS – 051: [The Letters of Richard A. Moore to his Wife during the Vietnam War](#)

MS – 069: [The Papers of John W. Vannorsdall](#)

MS – 221: [Cpt. Robert L. Morris '66 Papers](#)

MS – 222: [Lt. John M. Colestock '65 Papers](#)