## **DEROS**

## Short Timer's Letter Home! 65 Days!

by Tom Aumack © 2004 12 SPS, Phù Cát, 1971

Attached is a copy of a "Short Timer's Letter" home for consideration for the VSPA site. Tom Aumack

NEOARTICA OF THE AIR PORC 12TH SECURITY ROLICE SQUARRON (PACAF) APO SAN FRANCISCO 96368 TO: 1. In the very near future, the undersigned will be once more in your midst, dehydrated and demoralized, to take his place again as a human being, with the well known forms of freedom and justice for all; to engage in life, liberty, and the somewhat delayed pursuit of happiness. In making your joyous horearations to welcome him back into organized society, you should provide certain adiowances for the environment which has been his miserable lot for the past twelve months. In other words, he may be a little Asiatic from Vietnameneitic and overseasitic and should be handled with care. Do not be alarmed if he is infected with all forms of rare tropical diseases. A little time in the land of the big BX will cure this illness. 2. Therefore, show no alarm if he insists on carrying his weapon to the dinner table, looks around for his steel pot when offered a chair, or wakes you up in the middle of the night for guard duty. "Keep cool when he pours gravy on his desert or mixes peaches with his Seagrams "7", pretend not to notice if he eats with his fingers instead of silverware and prefers "C" Rations to Steak. Take it with a smile when he insists on digging up the garden to fill the sand begs for the bunker he is building. Be tolerant when he takes his blanket and sheet off the bed and puts them on the floor to sleep. 3. Abstain from saying anything about powdered eggs, denydrated cotatoes, fried rice, fresh milk or ice cream. Do not be alarmed if he should jump up from the dinner table and rush to the trash can to wash his dish with a tooth brush. After all, this has been his standard. Also, if it should start to rain, pay no attention to him if he pulls his clothes off, grabs a har of scap and towel, and runs outside 4. When in his daily conversation he utters such things as "Xin Ioi" and "Choi 01", just be patient, and simply leave odickly and calmly, if by some chance he utters "Di Di Mou" with an irritated look on his face, because it means no less then "get the hell out of here". Do not let it shake you up if he picks up the phone and yells "III MAF Sir" or says "10-4 Over" for good-bye, or simply shouts "Working". f. Never ask why the Jones' son held a higher rank then he did, an' by no means mention the term "extend". Pretend not to notice if at a restaurant he calls the waitress "numba one girl", and uses his hat as an ashtray. He will probably keep listening for "Homeward Bound" to sound off over the radio. If he does, comfort him for he is still reminiscing. 6. Above all, keep it in mind that beneath that tanned and rugged exterior, there is a heart of gold (the only thing of value he has left). Treat him with kindness, tolerance, and an occasional fifth of good liquor, and you will be able to rehabilitate that which was once (and now is a hollow shell of) the happy-go-lucky guy you once knew and loved. 7. Last but not least, send no mail to the APC, fill your iceboxes with beer, get the civies out of mothballs, fill the car with gas and get the women and children off the streets because, THE KID IS COMING HOME!!

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