

<https://hoiquanphidung.com/showthread.php?12244-Buồn-vui-dưới-mái-trường-Sinh-ngữ-Quân-đội>

(Google Translate)

Title: Sad to be under the roof of the Army Language School



It would be flawed if we were Air Cadets without talking about Military Language School. We have all read Nguyen Ngoc Chinh's "Memories of the School of Military Science" in the memoirs thread ... (chimtroi). I would like to continue with the still lecture of Lecturer Nguyen Ngoc Chinh "Sadness under the roof of the Army Language School" to review the old school that most of us had attended.

However, one thing to say is true that when the war ended, the commander of the CQD Huynh Vinh Lai was Colonel. I once had a memory of Colonel boarding a jeep with six other cadets after crossing the fence at the golf course in late 1973 ...

Sad and sad under the roof of the Army Language School

I was born on June 19, 1946, and by accident, later June 19 was chosen to be the Republic of Vietnam Army Day. Another rare coincidence, 10 years less than a day later, June 18, 1956, was the day of the establishment of the Army Language School (Military Academy), where I served during my military service in 1968. to the day the South fell, April 30, 1975.

So when I established the General Staff English School, the forerunner of SNQD later, I was only a 10-year-old boy. Unexpectedly, the boy who later grew up was also a member of the school and attached his youth to the coat of arms under the roof of the military school.



In 1955, the Vietnam National Army was reorganized by President Ngo Dinh Diem into the Republic of Vietnam Army after deposing Chief of State Bao Dai. In the direction of the reform, the military moved from the French Union bloc to the US model, so many officers needed to be sent for training in the United States. That is also the reason for the formation of a military school.



Headquarters of the Military Academy in the General Staff Department

In 2000, writing about the early days of the establishment of the SNQD school, the young leader Nguyen Huu Khoat, now in Montreal, Canada, and also the school's first commander, said:

“In the middle of June 1956, I was assigned by the General Staff to establish the TTM English Language School and organize the first English class at the Ministry of Commerce for the ARVN army and military personnel preparing to go to the United States for training ... should have been transferred to the local management unit No. 1, on 3-7-1956, working since June 18, 1956 ”.

That is why June 18, 1956 automatically became the date of the establishment of TTM English Language School, later changed to Military English School, then Armed Forces English Language School and finally is the Military Language School (Armed Forces Languages School).

Senior General Nguyen Huu Khoat, then Captain Commander, recounted the early days of the school in the General Staff:

“The school's headquarters are two fibro ciment houses, one for offices, a classroom, a lab for recording and one for boarding students. The total number of staff, including lecturers, administration and translators, is less than 10, so the school has encountered many difficulties in the early days because of lack of facilities and experience ... However, everyone tried overcoming all obstacles, and the first English class (Class 1 of the Military English School) was opened on time set by the Ministry of Commerce TTM in the middle of August 1956 ”.

In the first phase, the duration of the course is expected to be 4 weeks, the curriculum focuses on speaking and understanding English. In addition to learning about vocabulary and grammar, the students also practice on the recorder, listen and speak according to American lecturers recorded at the American Defense Language Institute (DLI). This is also a place of great professional support in training Vietnamese teachers to teach English as a second language.



According to the military system, the Military Security School is directly under the Ministry of TTM / Military Training Department, but is technically affiliated with the Military University. Since early 1957, the school has opened an English class for senior officers preparing to enter a career at Fort Leavenworth's Commanding and General Staffing School. Many generals in the army attended these classes, such as General Duong Van Minh, Nguyen Khanh, Tran Thien Khiem, Cao Van Vien, Nguyen Van Thieu, Tran Van Minh, Le Van Kim, Tran Ngoc Tam and Thai Quang. Hoang, Vinh Loc, Mai Huu Xuan, Hoang Xuan Lam, Lu Lan, Nguyen Vinh Nghi, Nguyen Ngoc Le and Duong Ngoc Lam

One of the senior lecturers of the school, Mr. Nguyen Hai Binh, now living in Canada, reminisces about his return to school: "I returned to the Army English school in early 1957, turned 22 with the lieutenant lieutenant" sparkling yellow cans on the shoulders ". Yes, the "can on the shoulder" because when I left the interpreter position after nearly two years at the Fort Benning infantry army, I was still wearing the "two leeches" cans of the French Union era. Arriving in Saigon, taking the new school in exchange for two yellow apricot flowers on the "lapel".

... The number of schools at that time was only a big brother, Pham Huu Khoat, carrying three apricot flowers to work as a boss, the haughty Brownstein civil advisor, Lieutenant Lieutenant, assimilating Ha Anh Anh so playful and considered disciplined. infantry as mixed. In addition to a few other faculty officers, the school was so poor, so at the time Mr. Khoát was very happy when nearly a dozen of us were present, his "commander" was clearly heavier. People in the afternoon were very young, and these kids were young, coming back to the US to say "antlers" like the West, plus Ha Anh Van, so everyone could not stand by the Brownstein "scare" grammar again. Actually, big brother Khoe afternoon we are also because of his good nature, unruly and willing to play.

Between the two hours of a 10-minute break, the 15-room lecture room was always noisy, fighting, telling stories of Go Vap just across the TTM back gate, the story of wearing "raincoat", the story of King Bao Dai of Nguyen Phuoc Bao De ... Noisy but in class, we are very respected. Initially, the candidates were from three military units [Hai, Luc, Air Force - NNC's comment] including officers and non-commissioned officers and men who were sent to attend training in the United States for the first time ”.

The trainers at that time were famous candidates such as "beep" Tu Uyen or the late Air Force Sergeant "De huc càn" Duong Hung Cuong ... respected, probably because ... "most self-taught, semi-micro fairy"! In the years 1958-1959, Mr. Nguyen Hai Binh and a few other colleagues were assigned to take charge of several classes dedicated to the generals who will be sent to become strategic advisers in the United States.

In the words of Mr. Binh, "Of the five generals who took charge of the coup in 1963, four were then honored to serve at these intensive classes. Very gay, nervous, worried just afraid of nothing wrong, violating the military, so the guys in the morning looked at each other to control the clothes, hats, signs to the ends of your hair. So far, the door of the classroom came out of breath, as hard as a log, then raised his hand and saluted "Good morning, Sir!" before starting "Please, repeat after me"!

All right, Commander Nguyen Huu Khoat was very "playful", allowing the instructor to "jump though" to take extra classes outside of teaching hours and on-duty. As a result, some lecturers gain additional

degrees in civil life such as bachelor of law or additional certificates in the literature ...



Majority Pham Huu Khoat
First commander of the SNQD School

There is a lot of public opinion about the change in the position of Head of the Military Academy. According to Mr. Binh, someone reported that the senior Nguyen Huy Khoat had allowed teachers to be too free to go to school, go out, and even knew that the "boss" blanket bosses beat up banning nights. Ignore ..

Therefore, in May 1959, the position of Chief Commander was transferred to Major Phan Thong Trang. Different from the first Chief Commander, Major Phan Thong Trang was an officer in the style of the army: uniformed uniform, polished shoes that could mirror.

He was a model soldier, many lecturers under his time even commented ... "on the exemplary" or worse with the word "sick" as Mr. Ngo Tri Thinh commented! "Illness" is also possible because he is too hygienic. Every time he shook hands, he would wash his hands with alcohol, the bottle of alcohol is always in the drawer of his desk!

Mr. Van Hung Doc recounted the reunion of Mr. Ton That Dong Nai in San Jose about 15 years ago, Mr. Dong Nai had to say: "Meeting with Van Hung Doc is a memory of Mr. Trang. Just because his hair was not cut, he banished to Nha Trang! "

Under Commander Phan Thong Trang, the branch of the Military Army School at the Naval Training Center in Nha Trang was considered "Con Dao" for teachers he disliked. But for Mr. Van Hung Doc, who was originally from Nha Trang, only a few months later he went to school and asked for an approval immediately.



Commander Phan Thong Trang (right angle)
reuniting with the young teachers Pham Gia Doan & Nguyen Ngoc Chinh
on the trip to Vietnam by Mr. Van Hung Doc (left corner)

Mr. Doc said: “13 of us in the 24th class of Thu Duc Reserved Officer returned to school in mid-1967. Only a few months later I was allowed to go to Nha Trang Branch. Captain Vu Duc Giang is the Branch Manager. After Captain Giang returned to school, Lieutenant Trinh Khoa Nghi (passed away 3 years ago) was replaced. In turn, the Branch Heads had officers Nguyen Long Giap, Nguyen Van Minh and Van Hung Doc (temporarily replacing Mr. Minh and going to Lackland) ”.

The Nha Trang branch was described by Mr. Doc as a "Country in a Country" because the school's instructors were part of the Infantry, were not wearing white uniforms and were not part of the Cultural Affairs Department (Military Training Section) and Bo Navy Commander. Therefore, there are some things that do not get along in the common life.

Mr. Nguyen Long Giap recounted: “The shroud began when the LRC of Nha Trang issued an Order for Lecturer To Cao Hoan (then Young Lieutenant) to go on a business trip at the LRC. As the Branch Manager, I objected, returned SVL and let LRC know that officials could mobilize lecturers to leave the office of the LRC but not the LRC. Since then, the tension between the two sides has been increasingly tense ”.

According to Giap, the situation of "unhealthy rice, unsweetened soup" turned into bitter medicine when the LRC made a fund to build the statue of the Holy Father and brought the lost book to the Head of the Branch. yards: “Extra food, guys share things together, now raise money and ask us to contribute! It is a long time. Holy Tran is your ancestor, not our ancestor! Sorry ”.

Later, I also had time to teach at the SNQD Branch at the Luc Quoc Hotel (Mondial) on Phan Thanh Gian Street, Saigon, where English training for the Navy was conducted. The atmosphere here is completely different from outside of Nha Trang because the branch is completely operated by the

school, unlike outside of Nha Trang, the instructor is seconded to teach.

Not all the memories of Major Phan Thong Trang were all dark. For Mr. Vu Anh Tuan "old letter" he was always "especially grateful" to Major Trang because he accepted him as a lecturer even though he graduated from the 16th class of Thu Duc but was allowed to wear a sergeant can.

While 14 people were in the same class with the cans of Brigadier, Tuan had to wear "chicken wings" because he was disciplined. lecturers. According to Mr. Tuan recounted, Mr. Trang said "just accept, if he" real thorn "then chasing it is not too late!".

The ending of Mr. Vu Anh Tuan's story became a "happy ending" as he said: "A chance happened to me when the homeland interpreter classes rushed to the school. So I was allowed to wake up, because "reluctant chicken wings" to get up "assimilated chicken wings" is too much, but nothing! "

The six of us in the 4/68 class, Thu Duc, returned to our school in early 1969, when the position of Chief Commander was transferred from the young Phan Phan Trang to Major Huynh Vinh Lai. Both of the Commanders have now died of age. Please burn a note of incense to commemorate the two elders who have devoted a part of their lives to the history of the Military Academy.

In 1975, Huynh Vinh Lai was promoted to lieutenant colonel and was in the United States to attend the High School General Staff course. Therefore, Lieutenant Colonel Lai is a rare case of a Vietnamese who "refugees in place" rather than crossing the ocean. Now, remembering it, I found that I was not mistaken when I looked at the granddaughter of my grandfather.

I still remember a "traumatic" memory with Chief Commander Huynh Vinh Lai. I did not complain to him because it was ... "my fault in every way". Back then I had just returned to the school so I was not in the class, I was assigned to take charge of the student officer of the Air Force course at the campus at 4 Nguyen Van Trang Street which later became Minh Duc University.

The work was too leisurely, only managing the lockup and setting up the cleaning of the upstairs floor ... But it was also because of the "unwholesome behavior" that led me to be severely punished by the Commander 4 days, with jeeps taken Army in the General Staff! Reason: The floor of the company I was in charge of "stinked" when a delegation visited the school, plus the crime of leaving in the office hours.

I remember it was the movie Lady Hamilton in the Vinh Loi cinema very close to the school. Later, it was discovered that there was a surprising coincidence: skydiving went to the cinema at Vinh Loi theater and was whipped by Captain Vinh Lai for 4 "bulbs". For me, the words "Loi" or "Lai" only bring disadvantages: 4 days of solemn imprisonment!



Lieutenant Colonel Huynh Vinh Lai (left) and Major Ngo Phat Tai (Federation of Students)
at a reunion meeting of the Military Academy in the United States

A special feature of our 6 freshmen, 4/68, is that there are 2 Vietnamese people of Chinese origin: Luong To (from Cho Lon) and Truong Bac Chi (a Chinese with "Chinese origin" migrated). Their lives are also "special". Mr. Chí voluntarily stayed in the United States after finishing the training course of trainers at DLI in 1971, he was considered one of the earliest "cross-border" !.

The second one, Luong To, died in the Ka Tum re-education camp. According to Nguyen Kim Trong currently in the United States: "... Brother To is in a different team than my team. It is said during the period of reform, he practiced an ancient Chinese breathing technique with a special name that I don't remember the name. Mr. Tô died because he was "possessed by a pipe fire" during the practice, later became ill and died, not because of "food shortages" like some of the gossip brothers.

Once again having to believe in the irony of fate, gentle people like Luong Su are short of numbers? Affordable, according to Buddhism, which is the consequence of previous lives, the cause and effect coincide with the rotation of the wheel of reincarnation?

Not only that Course 4/68 has up to 2 of the 6 new Lt. are Chinese-Vietnamese, before that, the SNQD had officers such as Phùng Gi On, Lưu Út, Lý Tô Hán ... I remember, Right in the first appearance of CHT, Mr. Lai "half jokingly half-truth" asked the new teachers: "How much do you guys go to school for?"

I and 3 classmates who are still alive today confirm that there is no "worry" because when we take the entrance exam, we have to take ECL (English Comprehension Level) test of DLI USA. ECL is a tape of 100 questions to test candidates' level of English in grammar, vocabulary, conversation, etc.

Candidates must listen to the tape and mark the answer "a, b, c, d" on the accompanying booklet. The maximum score is 100/100 and the standard to be passed as a lecturer must be 80 points or more. The part of my test, determined by Dinh Trong Dai and Nguyen Huu Phu, was from 89/100. Later schooling

courses were even more difficult because of the additional examinations of the Examination Committee.

I returned to the school with the original Ho Hoi "cultivating" but "stir" no one. People often say "the most devil, the second ghost, the third pupil" and some people revise the "most devil, second ghost, third ... teacher export". Ho Hoi's mischief does not harm anyone but sometimes makes the senior lecturers frowned and annoyed. There is little doubt, Ho Hoi today is an "old man", calm temperament different from the old days. "Song has a song, people sometimes" is like that!

Nguyen Cong Sang was the "most handsome" among the 4/68 class officers returning to the school. Coming from Long Xuyen, he has the style of "Prince of Bac Lieu" from speech to behavior. Sang was my roommate when we went to DLI (Lackland) in 1971 and he also had "sense of humor". I still remember Sang's jokes: "Goodbye took the bottle of wine", "Thank you for the excellent medicine" ...

Nguyen Cong Sang left Vietnam in early 1980, in an email from Canada, wrote: "I still remember my memories of Lackland. The cassette with the main guitar accompaniment let me sing "Oui devant Dieu" to give to my wife on the anniversary of our wedding anniversary in November 1971, I still have it here. Every time I hear it, I remember my cute and kind friend".

The last character of the 4/68 Course is the most mentioned person, both during the school period and after 1975. Currently in the US, Nguyen Cuong Nam is the person who can drive hundreds of miles to take old friends to visit and visit you for a long time without seeing you. At one time, Nam still held a "key box" for mutual funds, helping brothers in need at home.

Back in school, Nguyen Cuong Nam was small in stature, but in addition to the classroom, he also held many "miscellaneous" positions such as taking care of the military supplies for the school, so he died "Nam Gao". Nam was also "responsible" for the tables and chairs of all 4 bases Tran Hung Dao (General Staff), Phan Thanh Gian (Navy), Nguyen Van Trang (Army and Air Force), Dong Khanh (Air Force). .

According to a story of a kind of "joke" about memories under the school of Military Rangers, Nam "Rice" wrote about his story related to Commander Huynh Vinh Lai:

Upon returning to SNQD, First Lieutenant Nguyen Cuong Nam was favored (or unbeknownst to Diem) by Major Nguyen Tho Dan, outside of class time, taking care of tables and chairs for students of all 4 facilities: Tran Hung Dao , Nguyen van Trang, Phan Thanh Gian and Dong Khanh. Whoever breaks his broken arm will report it to Captain Gam. First Lieutenant Nam thus recorded this. Today is more than 57 years later.

At a birthday celebration at SNQD School held at Dong Khanh branch, Lieutenant Colonel Huynh Vinh Lai invited Lieutenant General, General Director of the General Department of Military Training (apparently the brother of Captain Lecturer Phan Trong Vinh) and some guests. Captain Nam was ordered to make tables and chairs. In the front row, because of the number of guests, Special Lieutenant Nam was about 5 seats. It's almost time, Lieutenant Colonel CHT comes in to check.

- Damn, who does this chair stand?
- Yes, Lieutenant Colonel.
- Damn you, we're cursing or stars are about 5 seats. The five guys sitting are the Five Devils.
- Yes, I would like another chair.

- Damn you to swear we are Buffaloes huh. The six guys sitting are Luans. You have to arrange 7 seats for That Hien or 8 seats to be Bat Tien, understand yet Milk (TT again called me Brigadier Tuyet because she had only graduated for 6 months).

The ceremony went well and finally the nudity dance of Tuyet Nhung. When she appeared on stage, applause filled with applause. When she threw her cloak on the floor, applause of applause. The cloth covering the top was taken off, applause and applause.

The last piece of cloth on her body was stripped off. The entire hall could only hear a few applause from the guests. Lieutenant Colonel CHT lost a call to the Head of Dong Khanh Branch.

- Isn't it good to have a walk, and no one is clapping?
- Submitted to Lieutenant Colonel, Captain Trach said, how could one hand pat and cry. Everybody has one hand in his pocket. ”

Nam concluded the story with a witty sentence, "If anyone does not believe, go and ask Mr. BACK if I told you right." But CHT is now too late, how can "verify". Although I have heard Lieutenant Colonel repeatedly swearing when he was upset, Nam's story has allowed him to throw out a lot of "big banknotes" that should probably be considered a pure jokes, "off the record ”.

In addition to the Commanders who have different personalities, the Military Academy also has officers who make the teachers and teachers "hatched", both in terms of qualifications and how to behave. There are names who remind everyone to respect, both in rank and knowledge, such as Mr. To Cao Hoan, Nguyen Van So, Nguyen Huu Phu, Dinh Trong Dai, Mai Vi Si, Dang Tran Hai ... List is still long and the choice is only the personal opinion of the writer.

On the Forum of the Military Rangers' School, Mr. Nguyen Van Nghien, who is in charge of the school's "Mô Village" and "Officers", mentioned a young adult who once served as Deputy Commander, Major Bui. Cong Minh. The story of "Ba" Minh "as gentle as Buddha" has now been passed for weeks, but everyone knows, but Mr. Ba's publication in the United States of the history of Vietnam War, A Distant Cause - A History and the Vindication of the Viet Nam War (*), many people do not know.

In addition to writing a book, the elder Minh also composed music, one of his songs, "Don't Hurry," was noticed by music lovers. A "talented" and "virtuous" person like Minh "Ba" Minh is rare, not only within the military military school but also in the ranks of the ARVN.

The number of military units at the time of "Vietnamization" at the time sometimes exceeded 200 and probably in the ARVN, this unit had a number of officers superior to non-commissioned officers and soldiers. Thu Duc Infantry School was the main source of lecturers, but later because of the need of the war, the school also recruited more officers in the army with English ability to go to school to teach many soldiers before going up. The road to the United States to study professional skills.

Initially, the school also had a Vietnamese Language Department to teach Vietnamese to allied soldiers who participated in the Vietnam War. Later, because the demand for learning Vietnamese was no longer available, Vietnamese-language instructors were facilitated by the school to continue studying in the United States as an English teacher.

It is said that lecturers about the school from Thu Duc are "natural children" and those who come from

other sources are "adopted". I disagree with that argument because I have not seen any "stigmatized" cases during my 7 years at the school. In a cultural environment like that at CBQQ, professional qualifications are the most accurate measure to be respected and respected by friends and colleagues.

That respect and respect, to this day, even in a state of "breaking apart", still exists in the daily life relationship between teachers. It is a source of encouragement for those who once wore a soldier coat but held white chalk instead of guns.

Source: [nguyenngocchinh's blogspot](#)