

Episode 4

I was in Vietnam during the time period of tonight's show. The policy that I carried out during my 20 months was based on "Body Count", obtained during "Search and Destroy" operations in "Free Fire Zones".

I found this episode to be a bit graphic but then I thought that the citizens who pay for and put up with the inhumanity that our government heaps upon others should see what war does.

I was totally unaware that while I was in the jungle fighting in May of 1966, a rebellion against the war was taking place in Vietnam's cities and that South Vietnamese army forces were fighting each other.

It is painful for me to see the human suffering on both sides. What makes it worse is all of the voices that said this would not work: George Kennan, the father of our "Containment Policy" saying there is no reason for this; the "Rand Study" which understood the dedication of the Viet Cong and the righteousness of their cause.

I have to say that I find the tenacity, resilience, dedication, and sacrifice of ordinary Vietnamese, who kept the Ho Chi Minh Trail open, to be heroic and admirable.

I loved the point that "You can not dispel ignorance if you have arrogance". This also makes me think of the similarities between what happened in Vietnam and what we are doing today. Just like our policies and tactics in Vietnam created more enemies, our current policies and tactics around the world create more enemies.

What did General Westmorland say? "We can win, just give me more troops and military." Sounds just like our Generals today.

Will we ever learn?