

Special Agent, Vietnam; a Naval Intelligence Memoir, by Douglass H. Hubbard Jr.

Much has been written about U.S. Naval and Marine Corps combat operations carried out during the Vietnam War. Winning or losing in combat is often dependent upon accurate and timely intelligence. Equally important are aggressive counterespionage and counterintelligence operations to thwart known or suspected enemy attempts at limiting U.S. combat efficiency and, an effective criminal investigative effort designed to neutralize elements and actions that could harm military efficiency and troop morale. In **Special Agent, Vietnam**, the author relates how these combat support duties were carried out, throughout the war, by a small cadre of dedicated civilian Special Agents and their military counterparts within the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), later evolving into the Naval Investigative Service (NIS/NCIS).

The author, a former NIS Special Agent, who served three years in Vietnam, provides a factual, often colorful and sometimes emotional account of official adventures shared by NIS personnel, serving from Vietnam's Mekong Delta to the DMZ

Vietnam was a painful period in American history; not every American agreed with the path our political leadership had chosen. Those who did volunteer to serve (across all services) were sometimes demonized for doing so. The author's narratives recognized these dichotomies but focused rather on the positive attitudes and accomplishments of those ONI/NIS professionals, civilian and military, who chose to answer the call. The author interviewed dozens of NIS Vietnam veterans, pointing out that many civilian Special Agents who volunteered had no previous military experience, yet all hit the ground running, never balking at any of their in-country assignments. More than forty years have passed since the NIS Vietnam experience yet many who served, remain in contact; apt testimony to how strangers thrown together in a wartime setting, often form bonds that last a lifetime.

An exceptional read! Not an ounce of disappointment and for those who served in country with ONI/NIS, an entertaining, unthreatening and rewarding trip down memory lane.

Respectfully submitted,

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Vietnam, 1966 -1967