

United States Army War College Oral History

USAID Police Advising during the Vietnam  
Counterinsurgency Campaign

Conducted July 2012

Col Nguyen's interview transcript is a separate document

INTERVIEWER: I was interested in your security operations  
there at Julio and Gallo [Ernest and Julio Gallo Winery]

(Unknown Male Voice: Okay we're ready for recording now

Mr. Clark: winery's

INTERVIEWER: Gallo Winery's

Mr. Clark: Winery's yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Nice job.

(Unknown Male Voice: You can go anytime we're recording.)

INTERVIEWER: Okay. My name is Col. Ed Low I work at the  
Peacekeeping Institute here at Carlisle and gentlemen I want  
to thank you for taking time out of your schedule to join us  
today and give us some of your prospective of when you  
served together in Vietnam. Any translation needed or is he  
good, okay. Just introduce yourselves, just some  
background and we'll go from there.

Mr. Clark: Well my name is Frank Clark and I'm from California, one of 12 children and our family were itinerant fruit pickers and moving through California we broke down in the Central Valley about 70 years ago and so I ended up growing up there going to school and always wanted to be a police officer. When I was 21 I became a police officer I don't know how far you want to go into that but I became a police officer and I was a police officer in Modesto, California for 13 years.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Sir.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: What after you joined, after the French left Vietnam you became you were transferred to the police what were some of the challenges you experienced going into this job as a police officer

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Some of the challenges, his initial challenges as a police officer after he joined, after he joined the police, after he was transferred to the police when the French left.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Clark, the 11 years in Modesto, where you were a police officer prior to I mean what, how did that experience help; help prepare you as an advisor in Vietnam?

Mr. Clark: Well I had no intention of ever being an advisor in Vietnam.

INTERVIEWER: Well my next question...

Mr. Clark: But I always had a guilty conscious that I had never been in the service and while I admired military very much it bothered me that I had never been in the service and this was an opportunity to serve my country and Vietnam and I was very pro the Vietnam War, very supportive of it, so being a police officer and having worked up from a patrolman to patrol division commander I had a great deal of experience and I also had a teaching credential and I taught at the local junior college so I think I had the right attitude in going to Vietnam and I think through my teaching and police experience, I had been through the narcotics schools, FBI

schools and had been very well prepared to pass that on through my counterpart to the Vietnamese police.

INTERVIEWER: Where there some aspects of that pre-deployment training that you wish you would have had going in, looking back?

Mr. Clark: Well certainly I wish there had been more cultural training which was very devoid of that you had some but not nearly enough, and there should have been more language trainings so that you were able to communicate better and not rely totally on an interpreter to tell you what was said or not said.

INTERVIEWER: You know in today's deployments with, in Afghanistan, Iraq cultural awareness, cultural understanding is a big thing as you know. What aspects of cultural, cultural training specifically you think would have helped profit you know benefitted you or your experience there?

Mr. Clark: Well you really had two, two factions in Vietnam as I saw it, you have a lot of people involved in Christianity and, and Catholics that tended to be higher up in the government

then a lot of people that where I guess were mostly were Buddhists and a couple of other religions that existed in Vietnam at that time and after 40 years I don't recollect them but there was the Cao Dai and a couple of other religions so you didn't always understand that culture but I wished that I had known more and I learned that after three years. What I felt was a fear on the Vietnamese people and I'm talking about I spent as much time as I could living out in the culture I mean I lived out there, I ate out there, I knew the people much better than most of the advisors and most of them had the sense of what is in this for the Americans you know we've, we've had the Chinese, we've had the British we've had the French, we've had the Japanese and now here are the Americans why would they sacrifice 55,000 lives and billions of dollars to help us, you know.No one else has ever helped us we've always been subjugated by every country and after all, the Americans left the French come back in here. So they were very worrisome I thought about that and it was hard to explain to them because their culture, I don't think, allowed them to understand the domino theory and the Communists taking over South East Asia and all that, they were concerned about Vietnam.

INTERVIEWER: Sir as a follow-up to that did you sort of have a sense of that also in terms of culture and our presence there. (Intrepreter speaking to interviewer) Yes. Okay, okay that's fine; so his impression of Americans before working with an advisor. What was your impression of Americans before working with an advisor?

Southern Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: I guess Mr. Clark going back as you came into Vietnam what were your expectations as an advisor when you set foot?

Mr. Clark: Well I had, I had expected to be able to put my feet on the ground and you know really get involved in upgrading the Vietnamese police, but to my surprise the Vietnamese police for what they were doing were very efficient and they had particularly good leadership; the police because in Washington people referred to the Vietnamese police as "white mice" because they were dressed in white and had grey pants and they were literally looked on with a little bit of disdain they were not highly respected. The American, the Americans had a misconception of, of the Vietnamese, including the police, what they saw as gentleness and friendliness and willingness to get along,

they identified that as a complacency, weakness and, and not a strong group of people which was entirely wrong. You know you had a very resilient, very wonderful, loving, caring people and I don't think we identified with that again a big...

[End of Interview Part 1 Time 0:16:31]

[Beginning of Part 2 Interview]

Mr. Clark: ...a big cultural divide.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that caused problems?

Mr. Clark: Oh, absolutely. Where I was you know we were under the AO [area of operations] of the Korean Army and we didn't have lots of infiltration, we didn't have a real NVA [North Vietnamese Army] or Viet Cong military presence there was some there, but it was very contained. If the war was, was won it was won in II Corps where Chief Cuong {Col Nguyen. Because some last names are so common in Vietnam, protocol often dictates they refer to each other with an honorific and first name] provided the, basically all of the security. That war was won in II Corps, you , you could go anywhere, drive anywhere, stay out all night but the

Americans that were there, the military advisory groups and so on,. there were drugs; you can run all over town, you know there was prostitution. Our soldiers left a very poor impression of America to the Vietnamese people, in my opinions.

INTERVIEWER: Sir at the time did you want an advisor coming in, did you feel you needed one, did he want an advisor?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: What was, what was placing like in Vietnam, Number 4, Number, what was it like when Mr. Clark came in?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand

INTERVIEWER: That's okay. That's fine.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Kind of an off shoot of that the Tet Offensive in 1968 did that change, for either one of you to want to do that, the Tet Offensive did that change aspects of policing from your perspectives, sir?

Mr. Clark: Well I wasn't there during Tet.

INTERVIEWER: You weren't well okay.

Mr. Clark: But, but I know

INTERVIEWER: But subsequent to that

Mr. Clark: But, yeah, I know I think when Tet came along they shot, the Communists shot, their wad, that was kind of it. I mean they made an all-out attempt to take over South Vietnam and they were terribly unsuccessful, and I think they were unsuccessful because the Vietnamese soldiers and police in particular didn't run and hide. They fought back and they deterred that, that aggression and I think that broke the back of the Viet Cong and I think that's why in 1970 about the middle when I was there the war as far as I was concerned...

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: ...was won.

INTERVIEWER: So with, as he described policing in Vietnam what, what did he see was the role that the police did play in society, Question Number 7, down at the bottom.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: (to interpreter) Yes ma'am?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand

Mr. Clark: Turn the page.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: So question to either one, do you have recollections of when you first met.

Mr. Clark: Vividly.

INTERVIEWER: Vividly.

Mr. Clark: Yeah, I had, I had never been out of hometown hardly, and when I stepped off the airplane in Saigon it was, that was colleda real cultural shock and there was no one there to meet me and I hung around in Saigon for three or four days and then we had our assignments where we were going to be sent and there are some terrible places in Vietnam to be sent and I was sent to the most beautiful place in all of Vietnam; Nha Trang right on the South China Sea totally pacified.

INTERVIEWER: Cam Ranh Bay?

Mr. Clark: Just north of Cam Ranh Bay.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: Absolutely beautiful spot and I know I came into the police department and I had a nice office right next to his office and he came into the door to meet me and he introduced himself and his first words were, do you speak French, because he is fluent in French.

INTERVIEWER: And your answer was?

Mr. Clark: No. That was a French word.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: No.

South Vietnamese Police Officer:

Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: He's a little ahead of the script.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: So you had a close relationship,

Mr. Clark: Very close but the thing of it was you might go there to be the advisor, but when you're in a completely foreign environment you're going to need to get more advice than you give, believe me and I think that was the mistake of many of my advisors in America... American advisors they thought they knew more, that they could pass on to a Vietnamese culture that was grounded in American culture and that didn't work. So you first had to learn about the Vietnamese and have an understanding of them before you could truly be a good advisor.

INTERVIEWER: So how did you bridge that gap as coming in to establish that close relationship to gain his respect and how did you go and how long did it take you to go about doing that?

Mr. Clark: Well like this, I stuck by him, I lived off the Vietnamese economy, I lost 30 pounds in three months and when he would go out into the villages and hamlets I would go with him, so I began to learn the culture, I learned some of the language, but you began to see the problems they had and what their procedures were and then you could really truly try to give advice but when you go to a, a village and your searching for tunnels or searching for arms that sort of thing I, I had absolutely no experience in anything like that. When you set up check points and get people off of buses and interrogate them and look for mines and search under the buses I had no experience in that.

INTERVIEWER: What...

Mr. Clark: So I could only try and learn his techniques and improve upon those.

INTERVIEWER: Are you by yourself this whole time?

Mr. Clark: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: You had an interpreter?

Mr. Clark: I had an interpreter.

INTERVIEWER: And just you two and... embedded...

Mr. Clark: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And okay, no security?

Mr. Clark: No.

INTERVIEWER: Security was what you could...

Mr. Clark: You needed no security, you absolutely needed no security.

INTERVIEWER: And why was that?

Mr. Clark: Because the North, the South Koreans were there and because the police had virtually cleared most of that Corps...

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: ...from the communist and the Viet Cong.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: they had done a marvelous job ahead of us

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, okay. I'm on Number 10, here, what was your impressions of the military versus the civilian advisors that he had, because, because I got the impression that he had quite a few. Three advisors, okay.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

[End of Part 2 Time 0:16:31]

[Beginning of Part 3]

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: Sweeps.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Clark, you know in today's environment in Afghanistan and Iraq you know it was clear, hold, build, advising Army elements as well as police, from your experience in Vietnam, were the police given much due attention as the Army was from what you were able to see, from your experience?

Mr. Clark: Well I think...

INTERVIEWER: Well, do you think they didn't need as much?

Mr. Clark: ...no they didn't, the police, they weren't that, that many U.S. military where I was they were mostly just advisory teams, smaller advisory teams from USAID and there would be an agricultural advisor, maybe even an medical advisor, so you just had a small team of people and you didn't have a lot of interaction with the military.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And with that from the Vietnamese Police did they work closely with the Army that you saw, were they totally separate just doing normal police

functions?

Mr. Clark: Doing mostly normal police functions.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, and Question Number 14, the relationship he saw between policing and pacification?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: I guess as the following Question 13, we talked about the relationship between police and internal security, now how does he see that connection, with that relationship there?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: So he had good intelligence, good intelligence? Yeah, yeah.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: Special Forces,

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: Special Forces.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Now Mr. Clark, I'm sorry ma'am you were going to say something? (to interpreter) Yeah, right, okay, yeah. Do you want to go back to that sentence? Yeah I think so too, that kind of, Mr. Clark it sounds like from what you as an advisor, very well respected police force looked upon favorably by the populous is that how you

Mr. Clark: Yeah absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah because I've been an advisor in Iraq and Afghanistan and it's kind of the antithesis of that almost  
Mr. Clark: But it was more so, the more, the closer you got into the city, the more well educated and the more fluent people were the more they understood that the more they accepted the police, the further you got out in the hamlets and the villages, you tended to deal with people like I think were not quite that well educated, had more to be fearful of because they're on the perimeter of the Viet Cong and your protection, the police were there, but your protection in the hamlets and the villages was dependent upon regional forces and popular forces, these are civilians that are given

arms and trained and it's their job night and day to keep the communists, the Viet Cong, and I don't know that all Viet Cong were communists, let's use the word Viet Cong...

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...that they could infiltrate these villages and the only combat situations that I ever saw were not North Vietnamese versus South Vietnamese Army they were these small Viet Cong units versus small regional and popular forces much like a volunteer fire department. They would be up all night and if there was a possible infiltration you would have a fire fight and those people did very well in protecting the villages and hamlets and the police were there more in a civil nature, checking ID cards and all that sort of thing.

INTERVIEWER: But I think I gather you sort of saw that as one of the biggest threats towards overall security was this and yet outlying areas...

Mr. Clark: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...you know where you had, where you had that so.

Mr. Clark: I mean if you were way out here...

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...you're less of a threat but the closer you get to the central government and the central population, and the central infrastructure the more danger you present.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: I remember one job Chief Cuong had, he had to sign identification cards, so you take a province with, say a million people, everybody needs an identification card he would spend half his day...

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...signing identification cards, only he could sign an identification card and we, we, through my efforts we finally convinced the Vietnamese National Government to delegate that to the Deputy Chief and it freed him...

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...to do, do a lot more then sit around the office all day putting his signature on something.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: Go ahead.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah, I want to go back to Page Three, to Question Number Three and sort of tie you know what Mr. Clark just talked about that relationship, how did you work and engage with each other on a daily basis?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: So I was busy building relationships...

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: ...with other American and Korean entities so that you could go and say 'we really need gasoline you know we're having a hard time doing the patrolling, we're having a hard time with the rations or whatever we wanted to give these policemen and you could work with those people and they would find the material for you.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Clark did your, did your advisor role evolve over time did it, did it change did it, was it pretty steady or I guess based on your relationship how did that, did it change over time?

Mr. Clark: I think it changed somewhat, the more you, the more you learned about the Vietnamese and what they were doing of course you were able to try and take your American experience and blend it with the Vietnamese experience to come out with something better, it didn't always come out better but sometimes it did come out better.

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: And again probably the most important thing was providing logistical support to the police but also monitoring that support, 'was the assets that you gave them, were they being used like they were supposed to', you know if you had a 100 jeeps did you use them 10 gallons a day that's a 1,000 gallons, how much gas was he using, so you know you had to monitor to make sure that the things you were giving them

were, were used correctly and not being miss directed somewhere.

INTERVIEWER: Again as a follow-up to that, you know your kind of higher headquarters, where there measures of performance or measures of, of effectiveness that, that you were required to give your higher headquarters and say “Hey this is how they are doing’, etc.”

Mr. Clark: Yes you did a monthly report and it would deal with confiscation of illegal goods, how many village and the hamlets did you sweep searching for weapons, how many literally, how many traffic tickets were issued for traffic violations because it wasn’t all military, you have a military mission and you have a civilian mission so there are civilian... how many fires did you have because he’s in charge of the fire department...

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

Mr. Clark: ...things of that nature, so you had a monthly report that you had to submit.

INTERVIEWER: Okay, okay. I'd like to go to Question Number Four Page Three, to what he saw as a mixture of varying training versus the application of on the job training; yes ma'am

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

[End of Part 3 Time 0:16:31]

[Beginning of Part 4]

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Well Mr. Clark then with training did you have, like you know a book that like what it said, 'this is how I need to be an advisor, this is what I need to use to help advise and train the police' or was it just based on your experiences?

Mr. Clark: Basically the, and we were called the Public Safety Department an augment of the AID [Agency for International Development] which is part of the U.S. State Department...

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: ...no we didn't have any kind of training manual and there was no consistency between what one advisor might do in Province A to what another advisor might be doing in Province B it was just totally up to you to try and meet the needs of the particular police force that you were advising and so there were, there were no training manuals at all and like Mr. Cuong said the police were so busy with interdiction which was their main, very main objective, was to pre, was to interdiction of materials and people...

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...that was the primary objective.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: The American military because they were allowed to be off base there were bars everywhere, there were houses of prostitution, the military men could sleep off base and not go home because you're dealing primarily not with a professional army, you're dealing with a lot of draftees, most could care less, most wanted to get there and get the hell

out, so you didn't have a professional army like you do today.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

Mr. Clark: So he had a lot of problems with the U.S. military, specifically in the area of drugs.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

Mr. Clark: Big time.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: No.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: Incident

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Now what does, what did you all talk about on a day-to-day basis? Number 15.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: So it was also Mr. Clark was getting another family and it was going kind of above and beyond that, getting to have a personal relationship was critical too.

Mr. Clark: Oh it's essential.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: You know we, we didn't sit down every day and go over something, I didn't try to micro-manage the Vietnamese Police because they were far smarter than me in what they were doing in the environment they were doing it.

INTERVIEWER: I see.

Mr. Clark: So a lot of times being an advisor could be pretty boring except you know there was a lot of scenery to see and things to do but Mr. Cuong ran a good shop.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: We for example, you might have a police advisor in a Quảng Duo Province which was so far from anywhere,

there wasn't anything to advise I mean it was just an advisor would just be stuck in a rat hole I mean it was just a horrible place to be because there really wasn't anything to do, no place to go, you couldn't drive outside the city because there were a lot of NVA [North Vietnamese Army] and Viet Cong in the area so you were pretty well...

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: ...stuck. If you had to do policing

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: Two Corps was the place to do it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: Believe me.

INTERVIEWER: I want to shift a little bit now to post engagement, end of Page Four, so how did the experience for both of you end? Mr. Clark how did the end, how did that...

Mr. Clark: Well I think before Mr. Cuong left, I was promoted

to Regional Operations Officer where I had supervision of 13 other Public Safety officers and so I was busy doing that job and that took me more on the role of supervision making sure those guys were doing their job than actually advising and in my estimation we, we had very poor advisors, most of them were in Vietnam because they had some other problem, either they were alcoholics, they had domestic problems, or they just wanted to make the money.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

Mr. Clark: But they weren't really and truly interested in doing what was best for the South Vietnamese Government and what was in the best interest of the United States Government.

INTERVIEWER: Now how long were you actually an advisor to?

Mr. Clark: To Chief Cuong?

INTERVIEWER: Yes sir.

Mr. Clark: About 11 months

INTERVIEWER: 11 months

Mr. Clark: I think.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

Mr. Clark: And, and I turned really sour on the Vietnamese War I went from a hawk to, to a real dove.

INTERVIEWER: Why is that?

Mr. Clark: Well I saw what was happening I saw we were getting nowhere; I saw all of the Americans being killed. I'll give you a picture. I always pictured a Viet Cong soldier and, I use Viet Cong and not a communist because not all the people who fought against the South Vietnamese Government were not communists. I tend to think most of them were nationalists, they just wanted their country back and I don't think they understood the ramifications of a democracy or a communist country, they just wanted their country back once after all the domination of the French and everybody else, they wanted that country back and I always have this idea that this little Viet Cong soldier sitting up on the hillside with a bag of rice and 10 or 12 rounds of

ammunition and his rubber shoes watching what's going on and the ARVN [Army of the Republic of Vietnam, or South Vietnam] soldiers driving by in a duce and a half with 10 kids in it you know going hell bent for election somewhere it was just a, a different thing. Or seeing a Vietnamese General fly into a beautiful villa and all the kids all pile out or five or six helicopters fly into an area and they all get out and they got everything in the world they had been shopping for and all that stuff I just don't think they had the dedication...

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: ...that the nationalists people had, I don't think they had the dedication and the government they had they left the military fight the war.

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: We would have won that war and in 1971 we had won that war and we got out-smarted at the negotiating table because we were tired of the war so we capitulated and the North Vietnamese set back until all the Americans were gone and we took back all the support we had been giving the South Vietnamese, they didn't have a chance.

INTERVIEWER: Well I guess, guess with that you think in looking back on those 11 months do you think you may, what kind of, you think you made a difference, you know probably for the 11 months you did but from what perspective as far as make a difference do you?

Mr. Clark: I think it made a real difference in the interim, not in the out-come that there was a real difference there making life better for people, giving the Vietnamese Government a chance. Why we didn't withdraw and leave fifty thousand troops there like we did in, in South Korea...

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: ...and create a true democracy.

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: Versus just pulling the plug and running.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. Sir as he shares similar, similar thoughts on the Number One, Page Four at the bottom, from his experience how did it end?

Mr. Clark: Page Four

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Page Four.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Yeah, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Page Four at the bottom.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: The last page, if he could change anything what would that be.

Mr. Clark: Just to interject something...

INTERVIEWER: Sure.

Mr. Clark: ...we talked about building a democracy in South Vietnam and the government you know I think they sold a bill of goods to the American public that we had a democracy in Vietnam but every village chief, every district chief, every provincial chief, none of them were elected, they were all

military people.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: So it was not a democracy.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: Maybe it should be...

[End of Part 4 Time 0:16:31]

[Beginning of Part 5]

Mr. Clark: ...if you could have to change anything.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: No not when I was there.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: It was a...

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: Mr., Mr. Clark we know that we have advisors now and you can...

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: I'll, I'll come back to that, I'll come back to that. We have advisors in Afghanistan now, had many in Iraq, what advice, you know as you look back on your experience in Vietnam as an advisor, would you give to those doing that job now?

Mr. Clark: Well I think they should, they should spend more time learning the culture. Boy that's a tough one because more time learning the culture, I don't know that in Afghanistan it's possible to spend as much time out in the field learning more about the people, them learning more about America, learning more to like us. I don't know if those, those are possible if that could ever happen. You know from what I hear these kids until they are about six or seven years old they really like you, but when they get to be eight or nine years old they're throwing rocks at you.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: So I just don't know. I'm afraid in Afghanistan we're gonna go the same way as we've been in Vietnam, we're gonna pour hundreds of billions of dollars into that country in infrastructure and training and logistics and everything and then we're gonna leave. We're going to negotiate that country right back where it was 50 years ago.

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: Because you're dealing with a bunch of ethnic people, different perspectives, hating each other. Vietnam at least the people were all pretty united. Regardless of which side, they were united in what they were trying to do.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

Mr. Clark: And that's not something in Afghanistan, I don't know how you deal with that...

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

Mr. Clark: ...such a diverse population.

INTERVIEWER: Your salient points about understanding culture, establishing a personal relationship is as critical to your success any other aspects that you deemed where there to help you succeed during your time there as an advisor?

Mr. Clark: Well, you know I was lucky to have him for a counterpart I, I know of other advisors had counterparts that they didn't even speak to each other, for whatever reason and the relationship is so important, that you build a relationship.

INTERVIEWER: Humm.

Mr. Clark: Very, very, very important not just a professional business relationship but a very personal relationship.

INTERVIEWER: Sure. Last question, Number Seven, how, how did that impact his view of the United States having advisors?

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: What page is that on?

INTERVIEWER: Page Five, sir.

Mr. Clark: Page Five

INTERVIEWER: Last question.

Mr. Clark: Last question.

INTERVIEWER: I know he didn't answer but

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

Mr. Clark: No right here.

INTERVIEWER: Number Seven.

Mr. Clark: Number Seven.

South Vietnamese Police Officer: Unable to understand.

INTERVIEWER: To Question Number Four last question for you, you two did stay in touch, you want to share some of

that experience you mentioned it I think in your opening remarks about the Philippines.

Mr. Clark: Well when Saigon fell in 1975 you know I mean I immediately realized it was falling and I tried to get in touch with him but I couldn't.

[End of Video Part 5 Time 0:07:11]