

Vietnam Terms

ARVN: South Vietnamese Army (Anti-Communist—helping the US and allies)

AWOL: (pronounced a-wall): Absent without leave—a deserter.

Charlie: Slang for VC

CO: Conscientious Objector, someone who files with the government that he/she cannot be drafted on the grounds that he is philosophically against all war.

Domino Effect: U.S. belief that if one country in a region fell to communism, the surrounding countries would as well. By the time the US enters into Vietnam, China and ½ of Korea had “fallen” into communism (both under the Truman administration).

Ho Chi Minh Trail: A supply-line trail that ran from North Vietnam, through Laos and Cambodia into South Vietnam. Nixon eventually sends troops/aircraft into these countries to try and stop supplies.

JFK: President John F. Kennedy

KIA: Killed in Action

LBJ: President Lyndon Baines Johnson

LZ: Landing Zone

MIA: Missing in Action

NVA: North Vietnamese Army (Ho Chi Minh’s Communist army)

PFC: Private First Class—“grunt” usually someone fighting on the ground.

POW: prisoner of war

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure

VC: Vietcong, South Vietnamese communists fighting against the ARVN and supported by the NVA.

RTO : Radio Transmission Operator