DIMOC welcomes 1975 Cambodia imagery

by Keith Faust
DoD VI Records Center

The Defense Imagery Management Operations Center (DIMOC) Visual Information (VI) Records Center, through outreach efforts to obtain physical imagery, has uncovered rare imagery of U.S. Ambassador John Gunther Dean departing Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as that country’s government fell to rebel forces in early 1975.

Phnom Penh was surrounded by followers of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, commonly known as the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge ruled Cambodia with an iron fist from 1975 to early 1979.

Dean and other evacuees boarded several U.S. Marine Corps CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopters during a non-combatant evacuation operation led by the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit on April 12, 1975.

Operation Eagle Pull successfully extracted 146 U.S. nationals and 444 Cambodians. The evacuation was planned for two years and completed with no loss of life.

The historical imagery may have been lost forever if not for the efforts of VI Records Center personnel who receive, digitize and archive Department of Defense (DoD) Visual Information (VI) for eventual transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration.

The 35 mm negatives were obtained as a result of a gift of deed from Andy Bolinger, who served as a Marine Corps air crewman during the operation. A gift of deed is a formal and legal agreement between the donor and the repository transferring ownership of and legal rights to the donated materials.

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Bolinger, who retired from the Army National Guard in 2012, wasn’t a designated photographer, but carried a camera with him on many flights. “Everywhere I went was historical stuff,” Bolinger said, recalling events in Southeast Asia.

“Obtaining historically significant imagery like the images provided by Mr. Bolinger doesn’t happen every day,” said VI Records Center Director Dan Abrams.

DIMOC is in the third year of a digitization and storage contract worth more than $5 million. The contract provides DoD customers and stakeholders the most cost-efficient means to perform timely, high-quality mass digitization of at-risk media.

DIMOC actively solicits physical imagery from throughout the DoD in order to preserve the DoD’s visual history. Digitized permanent records are made available for download by DoD personnel and organizations through www.dimoc.mil.

DoD organizations submitting physical imagery will coordinate with DIMOC on preparation efforts and shipping, and DIMOC will handle the rest. Examples of physical and legacy imagery include prints, slides, videotapes, films, negatives and digital imagery on hard drives.

The VI Records Center, located in Riverside, California, is the central DoD VI archive, holding the third-largest imagery collection in the U.S. government with more than 1.1 million physical media assets. DoD organizations can contact DIMOC to digitize physical VI material in their possession.

“We encourage anyone with access to material like this to contact us so we can preserve it for the ages,” Abrams said.

Much of the physical imagery at the DoD organizational level is being held in non-climate controlled conditions, at risk of deterioration.

“We encourage anyone with access to material like this to contact us so we can preserve it for the ages,” Abrams said.

DoD personnel aware of physical imagery should go to http://www.dimoc.mil/quick/physicalimagery.html for more information on transferring the assets to DIMOC.

U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia John Gunther Dean, center, and others fly aboard a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter during operation Eagle Pull in Cambodia April 12, 1975. Eagle Pull evacuated Americans and civilians from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

A U.S. Marine runs to secure the perimeter at Landing Zone Hotel during operation Eagle Pull in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, April 12, 1975. (U.S. Marine Corps photo)

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DIMOC partners with Army Corps of Engineers on physical imagery

It started with a casual chat. Brandon Spragins, a visual information specialist with the Defense Imagery Management Operations Center, was catching up with his friend and former colleague Alfredo Barraza one night in late 2016.

The conversation turned to Spragins’s duties with DIMOC, and Barraza thought of something his office needed help with.

Barraza, a visual information specialist with the Baltimore regional office of the Army Corps of Engineers, was looking for options to manage his office’s vast collection of prints, slides and other visual imagery dating back nearly 100 years.

With an impending office move, Barraza knew the new facility would not be large enough to house the physical imagery, so he was looking for digitization options that wouldn’t bust his office’s budget.

“They had a requirement that they needed to fulfill, taking physical imagery and transferring it to digital. That’s when I directed him toward Julia Hickey,” said Spragins.

The physical media covered subjects from site surveys to completed projects, and historical events such as the Corps’ assistance in removing the wreckage of Air Florida Flight 90 from the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., in 1982.

DIMOC archivists Julia Hickey and Dennis Martin visited the Baltimore office Jan. 28 to take stock of the holdings and start the process of shipping them to the DoD VI Records Center in Riverside, California, for digitization and archiving. Hickey estimates more than 5,000 items will be transferred to DIMOC this spring.

“The historic value of these images can’t be overstated. The Corps of Engineers has played a huge role in our nation’s infrastructure, and we’re excited to make these images accessible to the American people,” Hickey said.

But it isn’t stopping there. It turns out many regional offices of the Corps are also interested in DIMOC’s imagery management services, and it may result in more than 100,000 images digitized and added to the DoD Digital Visual Information Archive.

“We look forward to a fruitful, mutually beneficial relationship with the Corps,” Hickey said.

Does your unit or organization have physical imagery management needs? Find out more at http://www.dimoc.mil/quick/physicalImagery.html.
DIMOC-JCCC supports Inauguration

Joint Combat Camera Center, DIMOC

More than 70 active duty, reserve and National Guard visual information (VI) professionals assigned to Joint Task Force - National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) provided still and motion media coverage during the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States on Jan. 20, 2017.

Weeks before the event, the Joint Combat Camera Center (JCCC) coordinated with JTF-NCR to ensure timely ingestion, distribution and archiving of the imagery through the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS). The JCCC created the JTF-NCR 58th Presidential Inauguration feature page in DVIDS as a one-stop shop for media outlets to access and use the imagery.

The JTF-NCR leadership asked the JCCC to help develop a plan outlining essential imagery management procedures into one document.

Thomas Ruyle, the Defense Imagery Operations Management Center lead writer, created a document to help organize the captioning and metadata process, ensuring all essential keywords were implemented for archival purposes. JCCC planning officer Wally Reeves created a VI imagery accessioning plan to standardize the image management process.

Ruyle and Reeves conducted a captioning, metadata and accessioning class for JTF-NCR personnel Jan. 10 at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. The training proved crucial, as questions from JTF personnel resulted in some last-minute improvements to the overall plan.

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Joy Josephson, the senior enlisted adviser to JTF-NCR, said, “The training also assisted in speeding our distribution process up significantly. Our folks were able to quickly caption their material because we had laid the foundation long in advance of I-Day. It was brilliant, and I highly recommend it for all events that demand a quick turn on product:”

One vital aspect of the accessioning plan considered the possibility of reduced bandwidth and connectivity due to large crowds, slowing the transmission of imagery. As it turned out, that was exactly the case. However, the JCCC had established a contingency procedure.

The JCCC’s Ashley Webster traveled to Fort McNair with a hard drive Jan. 21 to collect all imagery that was not uploaded to DVIDS the day of the event. Webster was able to ensure all imagery from the event was retained properly.

More than 3,500 still and motion images were accessioned from the event. The feature page on DVIDS received over 40,000 views, 9,000 distributions and 6,000 downloads.

Tom Budzyna, a media operations planner with DMA’s Joint Operations Center, noted JCCC’s role in successfully documenting the inauguration.

“There’s a great connection between the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution, DIMOC and the JCCC, and the entire defense community should exploit it more often,” Budzyna said.

For more information on how the JCCC can assist your unit with an upcoming operation or exercise, email jccc@mail.mil or call 301-222-6273.
DIMOC launches new Facebook Page

by Thomas M. Ruyle, DIMOC

What’s not to like?
The Defense Imagery Management Operations Center established its official online presence with a new Facebook page March 9.

The new page, found at www.facebook.com/DoD.Imagery, reflects DIMOC’s commitment to assisting members of the Department of Defense with their Visual Information needs.

“It’s time. We need to be out there. We need to be able to communicate with the VI, Combat Camera and Public Affairs communities,” said DIMOC Director Barbara Burfeind. "It’s going to be a big part of who we are."

The Defense Imagery page will keep the DoD community informed of new processes, trending topics, customer service capabilities, DIMOC’s range of services offered, galleries of great DoD visual imagery, policy updates and much more.

Drop by, share with us, like and follow us, and join the discussion!

Bruce Colkitt honored with Leadership Award

Bruce Colkitt, the head of the Visual Communications Department at the Defense Information School, has been named the recipient of the Navy’s Russ Egnor Leadership Excellence Award for 2017.

The award honors overall excellence in Navy journalism, photography, videography and visual arts in the Navy public affairs and visual information communities.

It is named for retired Senior Chief Journalist Russell D. Egnor, who gave more than 40 years of active, reserve and civilian service to the Navy. He later headed the Navy’s News Photo Division as it transitioned to the digital age. Egnor died June 17, 1997, in Fairfax, Virginia.

DoD Visual Information Style guide

Reminder

The DoD Visual Information Style Guide is now available online! Get the word out, especially to the Public Affairs, Combat Camera and VI communities at:

https://static.dvidshub.net/training/DoD_Captioning_Style_Guide.pdf

VI Policy Q&A

QUESTION: “Why aren’t Weapons Systems Imagery considered a part of Combat Camera (COMCAM)?”

ANSWER: As established in joint doctrine, COMCAM is “Specially-trained expeditionary forces from Service-designated units capable of providing high-quality directed visual information during military operations (JP 3-61).” Therefore, only forces from Service-designated COMCAM units can be COMCAM. Weapons Systems Imagery falls under JP 2-03 “Geospatial Intelligence in Joint Operations,” and is in fact not Visual Information at all; it is “imagery.” As established in JP 3-61, this “imagery” only becomes VI (and is assigned a VIRIN) when it is proposed for public release (doctrinally called “derivative VI”).
DoD Visual Information Style Guide Updates

The Defense Visual Information Steering Committee voted unanimously Feb. 21 to change the name of the DoD Captioning Style Guide to the DoD Visual Information Style Guide. Thomas Ruyle, the Lead Writer-Editor at the Defense Imagery Management Operations Center and primary manager of the guide, said the name change was overdue.

“The guide has grown to encapsulate a lot more than just writing good captions,” Ruyle said.

In concert with the Visual Information Editorial Board (VIEB), comprising military and civilian representatives of each of the Services, a new edition of the guide is expected in May or June.

Additionally, DIMOC is in the process of building a DoD Visual Information Style Guide mobile app. Ruyle will solicit volunteers to test the app this spring before it is officially fielded. The app is being designed to operate in austere environments, such as aboard ship or in remote locations where cellular signals are not available. “The entire guide will be on your mobile device, and it won’t take up a lot of memory. You’ll be able to use it anywhere you go,” Ruyle said.

Go to DIMOC’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DoD.Imagery for news and updates on the VI Style Guide and mobile app.

Questions, comments or feedback? Email DIMOC at dma.dvi.dimoc@mail.mil.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Ten ways drones are changing your world

From delivering burritos to shuttling emergency medical supplies, these aircraft are destined to have a major impact on our lives. Here’s what they can do. (By Tom Foster, Consumer Reports)

http://www.consumerreports.org/robots-drones/10-ways-drones-are-changing-the-world/

Watch this British Army photographer handle double-duty and rifle in combat.

Being an army photographer means multitasking in the most stressful and dangerous of circumstances: swapping between camera and rifle while taking fire. In this video, British Army photographer Rupert Frere gives us a personal glimpse at what this is actually like in real life.

https://petapixel.com/2016/10/07/watch-army-photographer-switch-camera-rifle-combat/
DINFOS TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Broadcast Management Course
(2 weeks) 12 students
Class 020 - Cancelled

Content Management Course
(4 weeks) 16 students
Class 020 - 3 Apr - 28 Apr 2017
Class 030 – 1 Jun – 29 Jun 2017

Visual Information Management Course
(2 weeks) 24 students
Class 020 – 3 Apr -14 Apr 2017
Class 030 - 11 Sept - 22 Sept 2017

Intermediate Photojournalism Course
(8 weeks) 18 students
Class 030 - 15 May - 19 Jul 2017
Class 040 - 24 Jul - 20 Sept 2017

Digital Multimedia Course
(7 weeks) 24 students
Class 030 – 19 Apr - 8 Jun 2017
Class 040 - 12 July - 30 Aug 2017

Intermediate Videography Course
(3 weeks) 8 students
Class 040 - 27 Mar - 28 Apr 2017
Class 050 1 May - 06 Jun 2017

Advanced Electronic Journalism Course
(4 weeks) 12 students
Class 040 - Cancelled
Class 050 - 20 Sept - 18 Oct 2017

Intermediate Public Affairs Specialist Course
(2 weeks) 24 students
Class 030 - 8 May - 19 May 2017
Class 040 - 17 Jul - 28 Jul 2017

Joint Contingency Public Affairs Course
(2 weeks) 16 students
Class 020 – 10 Jul – 21 Jul 2017

Joint Intermediate Public Affairs Course
(5 weeks) 24 students
Class 010 – 10 Apr – 16 May 2017
Class 020 – 21 Aug – 28 Sep 2017

Advanced Electronic Journalism Course
(4 weeks) 12 students
Class 040 - Cancelled
Class 050 - 20 Sept - 18 Oct 2017

Joint Senior Public Affairs Course
(2 weeks) 16 students
Class 020 – 5 Jun – 16 Jun 2017
Class 030 - 31 Jul - 11 Aug 2017

Public Affairs Qualification Course (PAQC)
(9 weeks) 60 students
Class 040 - 17 Jul - 20 Sept 2017

Combat Camera Leadership Course
(2 weeks) 24 students
Class 010 – 27 Feb - 10 Mar 2017

Additional information available at:
http://www.dinfos.dma.mil/StudentInfo/CourseCatalog.aspx
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

The amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8) transits the Arabian Sea March 5, 2017. The ship was in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations to support maritime security operations to reassure allies and partners, and preserve the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce in the region. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Devin M. Langer)

U.S. Navy Hospitalman Billy Gibson, attached to Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida, performs a prophylaxis teeth cleaning at the Continuing Promise 2017 (CP-17) medical site in Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Shamira Purifoy)

Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Pairoj Prasansai, right, a jungle survival training instructor assigned to the Thai Reconnaissance Battalion, pours cobra blood into the mouth of a U.S. Marine with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during jungle survival training as part of Cobra Gold 2017, at Camp Banchan Krem, Thailand, Feb. 17, 2017. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Markus Castaneda)