

Other key studies are:

Doyle—VOICES FROM CAPTIVITY,

Gruner—PRISONERS OF CULTURE,

Rowan—THEY WOULDN'T LET US
DIE,

Terry—BLOODS, and

Schemmer—THE RAID, the definitive
book on the Son Tay Commando Raid
in 1970.

Some major individual accounts of
captivity are:

Alvarez—CHAINED EAGLE

Bailey—SOLITARY SURVIVOR

Blakey—PRISONER AT WAR

Brace—A CODE TO KEEP

Chesley—SEVEN YEARS IN HANOI

Coffee—BEYOND SURVIVAL

Day—RETURN WITH HONOR

Dengler—ESCAPE FROM LAOS

Denton—WHEN HELL WAS IN
SESSION

Dramesi—CODE OF HONOR

Gaither—WITH GOD IN A P.O.W.
CAMP

Guarino—A POW'S STORY

Johnson—CAPTIVE WARRIORS

McDaniel, E.—BEFORE HONOR

McDaniel, N.—YET ANOTHER VOICE

Mulligan—THE HANOI COMMITMENT

Plumb—I'M NO HERO

Purcell—LOVE AND DUTY

Risner—THE PASSING OF THE NIGHT

Rowe—FIVE YEARS TO FREEDOM

Rutledge—IN THE PRESENCE OF MINE
ENEMIES

Wagaman—CIVILIAN POW

Wolfkill—REPORTED TO BE ALIVE

HONOR BOUND

AMERICAN

POWs

IN

SOUTHEAST

ASIA

1961 - 1973

AN AIR FORCE ACADEMY
LIBRARY EXHIBITION

HONOR BOUND

This collection features display boards tracing the history of American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, framed photographs of the POWs during and after captivity, and memorabilia of the POW experience itself.

It includes two cases containing photographs of USAF Academy graduates taken from their class yearbooks and matched with later photographs, most taken after repatriation.

It also includes a large case of material that shows two sides of the home front battle: the anti-war movement and support for the POWs and MIAs.

Interspersed through the display are several manikins. The manikins are clothed in U.S. uniforms worn before capture and prison garb brought out of Vietnam by returning POWs.

Last, it includes a set of 12 framed boards containing memorial bracelets from the late 1960s and early 1970s that were worn by many Americans supporting the POW-MIA cause.

The display begins with a large reproduction of a solitary POW seated on a wooden slab. This reproduction is taken from a photograph of part of an exhibit that stood in the rotunda of the U. S. Capitol from 1970 through 1971, the purpose of which was to call attention to the plight of the POWs and MIAs.

The POW figure is a wax carving, depicting the condition of POWs in North Vietnam during the dark years before 1971. Many of the returning POWs have attested to its realism, including several returnees, each of whom suggested that the wax figure was actually himself.

The plight of POWs in South Vietnam was also depicted in the U.S. Capitol exhibit. A photograph of a bamboo cage represented the conditions for Viet Cong, Pathet Lao, and Khmer Rouge prisoners. A copy of this photograph is located in the Panels section of the HONOR BOUND display—specifically Panel 5—beginning directly behind the U.S and POW-MIA flags.

PANELS and CASES

There are 20 Panels in the display. Panels 1-10 face the circulation desk, beginning near the Terrazzo and running east toward the row of POW-MIA bracelets. Panels 11-20 are on the backs of Panels 10-1, running west from the bracelets toward the Terrazzo and the Chapel.

PANELS 1-10 EASTBOUND

Panel 1, **HONOR BOUND**, provides an overview of the POW experience in Southeast Asia with some statistical comparisons to previous wars.

Panel 2, **DOMINO**, recounts the events leading to U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia.

Panels 3 and 4 describe POWs and events in **LAOS** from 1961 to 1966.

Panel 5 describes POWs and events in **SOUTH VIETNAM** from 1961 to 1965.

Panels 6-9 describe the 1964-1966 POW situation in **NORTH VIETNAM**, including establishing a **CHAIN OF COMMAND** and **COMMUNICATION** links.

Panel 10, **HUMANE AND LENIENT TREATMENT**, reports the torturous and exploitative treatment of POWs.

PANELS 11-20 WESTBOUND

Panels 11-14 describe torture for exploitation, resistance, and other POW events from 1965-1968 in **NORTH VIETNAM**.

Panel 15 describes POWs and events in **SOUTH VIETNAM** from 1965 to 1968.

Panels 16 and 17 describe POWs and events in **LAOS** from 1965-1973.

Panels 18 and 19 describe the changing treatment experienced by **NORTH VIETNAM** POWs from 1967-1972, highlighted by harsh treatment before Ho Chi Minh's death in 1969 and milder—relatively—treatment after 1969.

Panel 20, **RETURN WITH HONOR**, summarizes the POW experience.

CASES 1-8

Cases 1-8 are interspersed alongside the display's Panels. The Cases contain artifacts ranging from pre-capture flight suits and post-capture tin cups issued by their captors to a deck of Vietnamese-made playing cards and "homemade" tobacco pipes and toothpicks.

CASES 9-10

To the left as you leave Panel 20 are two Cases arranged in an L-shape. These cases contain some key documents pertaining to the Southeast Asia POW experience.

HOMECOMING WALL

Ahead and to the right as you leave Case 10 is a four foot high wall. This wall contains framed photographs and sketches from early 1973 depicting returning POWs during Homecoming. The wall runs from west to east ending with a large 3-dimension map of Southeast Asia.

BRACELET BOOKCASES

To the left of the 3-D map are 12 framed sets of POW-MIA bracelets. They run right to left from 1972 to 1963.

UPRIGHT CASE

Toward the Terrazzo as you leave the bracelets is an upright case containing memorabilia from the anti-war movement—south side—and POW-MIA support—north side.

CASES 11-12

Continuing west toward the Terrazzo, are 2 Cases containing photographs of the 32 USAF Academy graduates who were POWs during the Vietnam War.

SUGGESTED READING

Two basic sources for the POW story are HONOR BOUND, by Rochester and Kiley (Naval Institute Press) and P.O.W., by John Hubbell (Reader's Digest Press).

The best visualization of a POW's life in Hanoi's prisons is PRISONER OF WAR, an unforgettable set of pen and ink sketches with commentary by John M. McGrath (Naval Institute Press).

For an alternating husband and wife account of the experience, see IN LOVE AND WAR, by Jim and Sybil Stockdale (Naval Institute Press).

The best survey of life in North Vietnamese prisons is the Air War College's VIETNAM POW CAMP HISTORIES AND STUDIES, edited by A.J. Myers and written by former POWs.

The best study of Pentagon POW planning and policy is THE LONG ROAD HOME, by Vernon E. Davis (Office of the Secretary of Defense Historian).

The best film is RETURN WITH HONOR, directed by Frieda Lee Mock and Terry Sanders, now available on home video as well.