

# I. General Biographical Information

## A. Personal :

1. Name: Nam Van Nguyen.
2. Date of Birth: September 25, 1934.
3. Birth place: Saigon, Vietnam
4. Citizenship: U.S. Citizen.
5. Education: a. Petrus Ky Secondary School and Vietnam Hoc Duong  
Baccalaureate Part I & II, Saigon, Vietnam  
b. Saigon Faculty of Law: 2 years with 2 Certificates.  
c. Saint Phillip College, San Antonio, Texas: one year, Business  
Administration, (1976).

## B. Military Education:

1. Thu Duc Officer Academy (Army): Graduated, Magna Cum Laude, (1954).
2. Center of Officer Instruction No.1, Vung-Tau: Graduated with Honor.
3. Fort Benning, Georgia: Graduate Degree in Infantry Combat Course & Military  
Supply and Transportation Vehicles (1957).
4. Cay Mai Intelligent School, Saigon: Graduated, Summa Cum Laude (1959).
5. Airborne Training Center: Graduated, Parachute Course in Vietnam (1959).
6. US Army Pacific (USARPAC), Okinawa, Japan: Graduated with Honor,  
Counter Intelligent and Strategic Intelligent, (1960).
7. Thi Nghe Training Center: Graduated, Strategic Hamlet Course (1962).
8. Political Warfare Course, Taiwan: Graduated (1966).
9. School of High Commander and Staff, Dalat: Graduated with Honor (1972).
10. Miscellaneous: Completed many Supplement Courses in Intelligent & Political  
Warfare.

## C. Military Ranking:

The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (South Vietnam):

1. Second Lieutenant (1954).
2. First Lieutenant (1956).
3. Captain (1958-1959).
4. Major (1962-1963).
5. Lieutenant Colonel (1967-1968).
5. Colonel (1974-1975).

#### **D. Military Career:**

- \* Quang Trung Military Training Center, Vietnam (1954-1957).
  1. Instructor: Leadership and Command Course.
  2. Company Commander: Demonstration and Honor Company.
  3. Battalion Commander: Demonstration and Security Battalion.
  
- \* Sixteen (16) Light Infantry Division/ in I Corps Army (1957-1958):  
Company Commander: Eighty one millimeter (81mm) Mortar Company and G3/47 Regiment.
  
- \* One hundred thirty fifth (135<sup>th</sup>) Regional Regiment:  
Chief of Staff of this Security Regiment of the Capital of Saigon-Cholon-Giadinh Region: in charge of Ammunition Depot, Gas Depot, Airport, Seaport, Bridges etc., Governmental VIP's, General Officers living in the region.
  
- \* G2/ General Joint Staff of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces:  
Group leader: Strategic Intelligent of 3 Countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos.
  
- \* Twenty Second (22<sup>nd</sup>) Infantry Division of II Corps Army:
  1. 22<sup>nd</sup> Division/G2.
  2. Battalion Commander: 1<sup>ST</sup> Battalion of 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment/22<sup>nd</sup> Division.
  3. Regiment Deputy: 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment.
  4. Special Zone Commander: 40<sup>th</sup> Special Tactic Zone.
  
- \* Psychological Warfare Department/ Ministry of Defense:
  1. Chief: Special Mission Intelligent Services with Company Commander  
Special Company Task Force.
  2. Commander in Chief: Psychological Warfare Coordinator Center.
  
- \* General Political Warfare Division:
  1. Commander in Chief: All Nation POW, "Prisoner of War"(50,000 Prisoners).
  2. Member of Peace Talk Delegation to Paris (POW Specialist).
  3. Military Attached in Cambodia: Repatriate over 40,000 Vietnam Citizens.
  4. Director: Teaching Delegation of Joint Ministry of Defense and of Civil Affaires ( Teaching high ranking Political and Administration Cadres).
  5. Commander in Chief: Special Tactic Zone in Vung Tau.



## II. Medals and Awards

- \* National Order Officer, Fourth Class, Ribbon with Rosette
- \* Army Distinguished Service Order
- \* 1 Gallantry Cross with Palm Device
- \* 4 Gallantry Cross with Gold Star
- \* 4 Gallantry Cross with Silver Star
- \* 3 Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star
- \* 2 Wound Medals
- \* Training Service Medal – First Class
- \* Staff Service Medal
- \* Civil Action Medal – First Class
- \* Chuong My Medal – Second Class
- \* Psychological Warfare Medal – First Class
- \* Campaign Service Medal (oversea)
- \* Leadership Medal
- \* Croix de Guerre Medal with Gold Star (in Cambodia)
- \* Military Service Medal

## III. Special Tasks

### 1. Psychological Warfare:

In the years of 1962 to 1967, I came to work as Commander in Chief in the Psychological Warfare Department under the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Vietnam. I also assumed the function of Company Commander of the Special Company Task Force. This was an essential function of the country, utilizing psychology and intelligent to attack the enemy by means of media: Radio, Newspapers, Flyers (black and gray flyers...) in both South and North Vietnam. The job yielded great success, by which many tens of thousands of enemy soldiers stopped fighting so that they were either captured or surrendered to the South Vietnamese Armed Forces.

In 1967, when the North Vietnamese utilized more and more of the Ho Chi Minh Trail to send more troops and supplies to the South via two ways: one to Khe Sanh and the other to Laos, I quickly organized the **Psychological Coordination Center** in response to the need of more intelligent to track enemy troop movement and activities throughout the entire 4



War Zones of South Vietnam. I was the Commander in Chief of this Center, which was very effective against the enemy, until I took a different job and transferred the function to my assistant, Lieutenant Colonel Giai Quang Pham. The Lt. Col. Pham worked there until the end of the war, April 30, 1975. He then became a POW of the Communists. He was placed in a Concentration Camp for 7 years. Lt. Col. Pham is now living in Houston, Texas.

## 2. Prisoner of War Task Force:

As the war kept on going, more and more enemy POW's were captured by our troops. At one point, the Republic of Vietnam had over 50,000 POW's in total. With this massive numbers of people, riots in many prisons occurred almost daily. The Military Police could only handle the outside periphery of the prisons and not the inside. When the situation got bloody and many people died in the inside, I got the task to pacify these riot makers.

I became the Commander in Chief of the entire prison system of the country, over taking the Task of watching about 50,000 POW's. Applying the principle of Geneva's Convention to treat human life with respect and utilizing basic human psychology, within 3 months from the time I took over the Task Force, I succeeded in pacifying the riot makers and returned laws and orders to all prisons. The prisoners became more and more cooperative and productive. They also became happier in a work and play environment.

I organized sport teams in the prisons so the prisoners could participate in a variety of Tournaments, including soccers, tennis, ping pong, etc... The success was so great that the North Vietnamese and the International Media, who had been complaining, stopped their complaints all together... And Mr. Ross Perot, as well as the 100 wives of the American POW's in North Vietnam were our witnesses!

I vividly remember the Christmas of 1969, when the billionaire Ross Perot and the 100 wives of our American POW's in North Vietnam arrived to visit our prison system. I greeted them, then divided them into 5 groups. Four groups of the wives were guided by the local Prison Authorities to visit the prisons in the 4 War Zones in the mainland. The 5<sup>th</sup> group, that had Mr. Ross Perot, was greeted by me to visit the largest prison, with 25,000 POW's, in the Island of Phu Quoc. We came to Phu Quoc with Christmas presents for the prisoners. (And Mr. Ross Perot also had given more presents to the International Red Cross to bring to North Vietnam for our POW's there).

We earned praises from the Mr. Perot and the wives during and after their visits. Mr. Perot, in his own words: "*I have never seen any prison in the countries that I have visited that was more organized, disciplined, and the prisoners being treated more humane than the ones I have seen here (Vietnam), today*".



After dinner, when Mr. Perot shook my hand to bid good bye, he said: *"Nam (Colonel), on behalf of the wives of the US Prisoners and of myself, I want to sincerely thank you and your team for your superb treatment of our delegation. Your organization of the prison system in South Vietnam is exemplary and is commendable! You are a talented and an excellent officer of the Republic of Vietnam. You deserve my greatest admiration and gratitude. If you ever have a chance to visit the United States, please give me a call any time. I will be more than happy to greet you and to help you in whichever way I can!.."*

Upon arrival to the US, Mr. Ross Perot sent me a letter to thank me with similar language. I mailed that letter to my brother, Dr. Bay Van Nguyen, who at that time was attending schools in Texas, to become a Physician and Scientist (Ph.D., M.D.). My brother, contacted Mr. Perot, who acknowledged the pleasant encounter with me in Vietnam. Also, he reconfirmed his help should my brother needed anything.

It has been 30 years now, we hope that some day we will meet Mr. Perot and will try to rekindle the sweet memories of the distant past that once brought us together on the other side of the Pacific Ocean!...

### 3. Peace Talk in Paris, France:

The success of the organization of the Prison System in Vietnam, made my name known all over the world. When the Paris Peace Talk came to a stage where POW's on both sides were to be exchanged, I was sent to Paris by President Nguyen Van Thieu to take charge in such exchange.

I arrived Paris in November 1969 and stayed until 1970 to accomplish the task of proving to the North Vietnamese negotiators that many of their soldiers from the North did infiltrate to the South, the fact that was always denied by the North Vietnamese Communists; but they could no longer deny it when I presented my voluminous documents captured from their troops!...

### 4. The task of Repatriate 40,000 Vietnam Citizens from Cambodia:

In 1970-1972, the Khmer Rouge (Red Khmer) killed millions of people in what so called the Killing Fields. Among the ones who were searched and killed were the ethnic Vietnamese. The Khmer Rouge plunged a campaign called "Cap Duon" (beheaded) in which, when a Vietnamese was found, he/she would immediately get beheaded by the captors and the corpse was dumped into a river. I was sent to Cambodia by President Thieu to work on the repatriation of the 40,000 Vietnamese, there.



I arrived Phnom Penh in 1970 as a Military Attached with an urgent mission, to assist the Vietnamese Ambassador to Cambodia to work tirelessly with the government of Mr. Lon Nol, from 1970 to 1972. Finally, I could get 40,000 Vietnamese safely moved back to Vietnam.

## **IV. My life in the United States:**

### **1. My American Journey:**

The twist of fate happened on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975, when the North Vietnamese, taking advantage of the low moral that occurred when the United States decided to leave Vietnam, pushed hard to the South and captured Saigon, in violation of the Paris Accord. Many Vietnamese military officers had to leave Vietnam, for fear of reprisal by the Communists. I, in my combat uniform as a Colonel, had to leave my beloved country empty handedly!

After several months in Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, I came to settle down in San Antonio, where my brother, Dr. Bay Van Nguyen, was going to the Medical School to become a Doctor.

### **2. From 1975-1978:**

I worked as a manual car washer (washing car by hands), pumping gas at a gas station, assisting a mechanic to repair cars, while attending school at St. Phillip College for one year in the field of Business Administration. Later, I got a license in Real Estates and worked as a real estate agent, there, for 2 years.

### **3. From 1978-1980:**

I moved to Seabrook, Texas, working as a fisherman in the Galveston Bay. There, I became the President of the Vietnamese Fisherman Association in Texas.

### **4. From 1980-1981:**

I lead the fight against the KKK, who threaten the lives of the Vietnamese Fishermen with their racial discrimination (gun shots, boat burning, etc..). Although we won the fight at the Federal Court, we found ways to live in harmony with our discriminators by pointing out to them the common goals and bonds of the 2 groups. No more violence necessary. The white fishermen and their KKK friends have been our good neighbors since that time (1981).



5. From 1982-1983:

- \* Founder and Co-president of the Vietnamese Veteran Association in Houston, Texas, and its Vicinity with 5,000 members.
- \* President of the Coalition of Associations in Houston.
- \* Owner and Editor in Chief of the United Times, the first Vietnamese Magazine in Houston, serving as the mediator of the Vietnamese Community and the Houston leadership.

6. From 1983-1990:

- \* Chairman of the Board of Founders and President (3 terms) of the Vietnamese Community of Houston and Vicinity.

7. From 1985-1986:

- \* Lead the fight against "Circle K", a convenient store chain, which discriminated against the Vietnamese workers by firing 230 of them within a 3 month period. The end result was a win over the Circle K, which had to rehire the workers and compensated heavily for their loss of wages and time.

8. From 1991-Present:

- \* Participation in Community Activities, giving advice, helping many organizations to solve their problems and working in charity and social affairs.

**An Unauthorized Biography**



**Billionaire Ross Perot**

**TODD MASON**



This picture took in 1968 after Saigon Tét offensive, at that time Lt. Col. Nam Nguyen Commander in Chief of National POW's more than 50,000 Communist prisoners. Mr. Ross Perot flew to Vietnam with 100 ladies wife of U.S. Pilot POW's in North Vietnam, See article # 2, Bill. Ross Perot worked with Lt. Col Nam Nguyen.

\* Les Alberthal became a part of the company legends just before Perot flew to Vietnam in 1969 to attempt to deliver Christmas presents to the POWs. He had the task of loading 35 tons of food and medicine into a Braniff 707. The Flying Tigers staff in Los Angeles thought it was impossible to complete the job in the time that Alberthal was given. The warehouse manager told him, Don't sweat it. You send this Perot fellow to me and I'll make him understand. No, Alberthal answered, I'm afraid it's you who doesn't understand. Alberthal's wife flew in to help. The plane got off on time.

Perot turned the spotlight on the American Red Cross after the North Vietnamese told Perot that they would accept the gifts only if they were mailed from Russia in two-kilogram boxes. Perot asked the Red Cross officials on the plane to assemble volunteers in Anchorage, Alaska, to repack the supplies. Says retired Red Cross director Enso Bighinatti, "We rolled up in this blinding snowstorm. The hangar doors opened and there were a thousand people in there waiting for us."<sup>24</sup>

Boy Scouts, church members, and military men pitched in to repack the plane in a single day. Retired Dallas Red Cross worker, Ralph Shannon, remembers an engineer sitting on a table and leading hundreds of volunteers through the steps of folding a cardboard box. "I have been working with volunteer efforts my whole career," Shannon says. "That was one of the best efforts I have ever seen."<sup>25</sup> Perot's supreme confidence is contagious. Anything is possible.

Even reforming GM was possible in Perot's mind. He did not reject General Motor's overtures out of hand when Salomon Brothers Chairman, John Gutfreund, flew to Dallas in February 1984 to discuss a merger of the companies. The Salomon bankers and a small group of General Motors financiers conceived this wild idea in New York's Plaza Hotel in early 1984. It was codenamed "Project Plaza" to keep the identity

132 Chapter Eight

of EDS secret. Since Perot still owned 45 percent of the stock, a decisive no would have sent Gutfreund and Project Plaza packing.

Perot and Meyerson flew to Detroit some weeks later. Roger Smith ushered them into a waiting helicopter to show them GM's massive facilities around Detroit. Perot looked down on dozens of parking lots, each packed with the cars of ordinary American working men. The discussions continued at EDS in Dallas, but Perot was already hearing cannon fire and breathing the heady scent of cordite.

Supposedly the decision to sell to GM belonged to all 28 EDS officers and directors. Perot called them together and asked what they thought. They raised objections. "Most of us did not want to sell," says Alberthal. "We didn't see any net benefit." Fernandes pointed out the obvious risks. How many

senior executives of companies acquired by EDS were still on the board? None. "Ross was intent on selling," Alberthal says. It was obvious that's what he wanted to do. Owning the percentage of the company he did, that's what happened."<sup>26</sup>

Five years later, some EDS executives think Perot had a hidden agenda. They note that Salomon had prepared a strategy paper for the company in 1980 identifying the sale of EDS to a corporate giant like IBM or AT&T, as one means of delivering results for EDS shareholders. They noted that Fernandes joined the EDS board in 1982 and left it after the merger two years later. Fernandes's Lazard Freres advised EDS during the acquisition. Was it a coincidence? Alberthal continues: "It is my understanding that there were discussions among Ross, Mort and [Bill] Gayden that we . . . wouldn't be able to grow [in sales] at rates we had been growing. I've got enough feedback to know that that was where the concept of selling was hatched. I don't know what was said."<sup>27</sup>

The money was important, but it wasn't Perot's only motivation. He knew the risk he was running. In his discussions with Smith, he went over all the potential problems. He thought he could write an airtight merger agreement to handle them. Even his own family was urging him not to sell. He probably

The Crusades

would have listened if there was nothing on the table but money.

It was the other facets of the deal that swayed him. EDS would grow instantly by \$3 billion and thousands upon thousands of employees. Meyerson had been scouting corporations in America for just such a customer as GM. EDS wanted to show big corporations the advantages of integrating their computer systems into a single, global network. "Systems integration could become a lucrative, new field for EDS—and fat stockpiles for Perot's Eagles.

The Vietnam veteran crop of EDS officers never made the huge stock profits that their predecessors earned. GM itself would open up hundreds of new opportunities for the Eagles. Then there were all those cars in GM parking lots. He could help Smith turn GM around. He could help American industry beat the Japanese. Perot sought out the skeptical Fernandes after the meeting to tell him why the GM-EDS deal would be different. Doncha see?

Meyerson gathered the EDS management team in Dallas on Saturday, June 30, 1984. No one told duPont war stories. Perot was not second-guessed at EDS. When he pointed with his sword, his Eagles charged, confident in him and themselves. Meyerson went around the room: Heller would go to Detroit—Meler too; Fernandes and Alberthal would stay. Those chosen were thrilled at their new assignment. They gave themselves a name. They were "The First Wave."