

I'll have to assume that being married to the same women for 36 yrs contributed to the grey beard. I met a family in Dalat that works at the weave shop, I'll visit them again in March.

The family in BMT have a sister that lives close to me in NC. They contacted them in Sept to tell them I would be coming in Nov I stayed in BMT for 3 days where this family showed me the sites in the area. The man and his wife are Gov. workers that have a TV show that translates the Vietnamese news to the Minority Tribes dialect in the central highlands. The mans father escaped to the US back in 1976. The son and father doesn't talk anymore because he works for the VN gov. The father still holds a grudge against the NVA/VC.

The reason I didn't complete my trip was complicated. During my trip up Hwy 14 from BMT to Pleiku, I stopped off in a village to see another family that have children that lives in Raleigh. The Raleigh family had given me about 100 pics to give to their family in Vietnam. I located the family as they were expecting me. After about 1 hr of drinking tea the VN village police came to pay me a visit. Because the area between BMT and Pleiku is filled with the hill people (minority) that fought w/ the US. The hill people are watch because some have not accepted the ways of the new gov. Anytime a foreigner stops for a period of time the local police wants to know why. After I returned to NC I found out that the family in NC is involved with the Human Rights group that has spoken out against the police in that area. I was questioned for about an hour, my bags searched to see if I had any Human Rights material. After an hr I was able to continue to Pleiku, I was to fly to DaNang but I found out that the Pleiku airport doesn't fly to DaNang, or Hue, so I flew back to Saigon.

The TV reporter contacted the Village police that questioned me, after a long conversation where he assured the police that I was no problem for them he offered me his apology. He would like to meet me in BMT when I return to buy me a beer. So the reporter and his family, the policemen, and will have a beer and dinner on Mar 06 in BMT.

The reporter even though he is a minority is in good standing with the Gov, he has worked at the station for over 15 yrs.

You don't see any old US.ARVN military equipent anywhere. It looks like that they erased all thoughts of the past. Downtown Saigon, Dalat, Phan Rang, BMT, Pleiku all looks like modern cities. Of course when you leave the towns it looks like the same as in the 60's. I rode the local bus for most of my trip and was able to see the country side.

I experienced no hostilities, It seems like all tourist are welcome.

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