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ALIVE WHEN ITS
CULTURE IS ALIVE.**

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IN THE
INDOMITABLE
VIETNAMESE MIND.**

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about Vietnamese-
America.**

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Vietnamese or Vietnamese
-American culture.**

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SAIGON ARTS, CULTURE & EDUCATION INSTITUTE



To Research, Document & Promote Vietnamese-American Culture

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The 2019 SACEI Person of the Year



REAR ADMIRAL HUÂN TỪ NGUYỄN

2019 SACEI PERSON OF THE YEAR

MS Electrical Engineering Southern Methodist,
MS Engineering (Manufacturing) Purdue University
MS Information Technology and Software Engineering (Highest Distinction) Carnegie Mellon University (2008)
Director NAVSEA Reserve Programs Community Manager
Deputy Commander for Cyber Engineering at the Navy Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) on the Washington Navy Yard (2019).

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Captain Huan T. Nguyen

Director, NAVSEA Reserve Programs Community Manager

CAPT Nguyen current assignment is XO NAVSEA Enlisted and Director, Reserve Program for Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA). He oversees the administrative and operational support of more than 2,000 officers and enlisted NAVSEA reserve personnel. He is also the Community Manager for Reserve ED responsible for the recruiting, training, career development and officer assignment of the US Navy Reserve Engineering Duty Officer. CAPT Nguyen received his commission into the Engineering Duty Officer program in 1993. He graduated from Oklahoma State in 1981 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. He also received an MS in Electrical Engineering from Southern

Methodist, MS in Engineering (Manufacturing) from Purdue University and MS in Information Technology and Software Engineering (Highest Distinction) from Carnegie Mellon University in 2008. He completed Executive Leadership training at Cornell University in 2011.

He has served multiple XO and CO tours with various reserve units at NAVSEA, PACFLT, ONR. His assignments included SUPSHIP Jacksonville, SPAWAR, Ship Repair Facility Yokosuka, Office of Naval Research and Naval Sea Systems Command. His active duty assignments include Department Head at SRF Yokosuka, XO at the Joint CREW Field Office in Baghdad supporting Task Force Troy/18th Airborne Corps and Vth Corps, Chief Engineer for Task Force Paladin & Combined Explosive/Exploitation Cell (CEXC) in Afghanistan, OPNAV N6 and currently at NAVSEA since 2013.

Prior to his recall to active duty, CAPT Nguyen was the Senior Technical Advisor/Director of Business Development on CREW systems at ITT/Exelis. Before that, he was a Senior Vice President for Bank of America, responsible for Information technology and cybersecurity for Global Trading Infrastructure.

CAPT Nguyen's awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2), Joint Meritorious Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

Huan Nguyen Becomes First Vietnamese U.S. Navy Rear Admiral

<https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Media/News/SavedNewsModule/Article/1986946/huan-nguyen-becomes-first-vietnamese-us-navy-rear-admiral/>

WASHINGTON – Huan Nguyen became the first Vietnamese-American promoted to the rank of rear admiral during a ceremony held at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 10.

Rear Adm. Huan Nguyen, age 60, will serve as the Deputy Commander for Cyber Engineering at the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) on the Washington Navy Yard. NAVSEA commander, Vice Adm. Tom Moore, served as the presiding officer. "Today we will welcome the first Vietnamese-born U.S. Navy officer to achieve flag rank, and that is a significant event," said Moore.

Nguyen after being promoted addressed the audience.

"It is a great honor to attain the rank of admiral. I am tremendously humbled to become the first Vietnamese American to wear the flag's rank in the U.S. Navy. The honor actually belongs to the Vietnamese American community, which instilled in us a sense of patriotism, duty, honor, courage and commitment to our adopted country, the United States of America," said Nguyen. "This is our America. A country built on service, kindness and generosity...opportunity...the freedom to hope and dream. These values are what inspired me to serve. And what a great honor and privilege it is to serve our Navy...to serve our country...to support and defend our Constitution."

Nguyen was born in Hue Vietnam, the son of an armor officer in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. During the 1968 Tet Offensive, Nguyen's mother and father, along with his five brothers and sister were killed by Viet Cong Communist guerillas in their family home outside Saigon. Nine-year-old Nguyen was shot in the arm and thigh, with another bullet piercing his

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1st VNese U.S. Navy Rear Admiral...

skull. He stayed with his mother for two hours, until she bled out and died. Amazingly, Nguyen survived and escaped after dark.

Nguyen was taken in by his uncle, a Colonel in the Republic of Vietnam Air Force. In 1975, at age 16, they fled Vietnam, seeking refuge in the United States following the fall of Saigon.

Transported through Guam, U.S. Navy and Marine Corps personnel took care of Nguyen and his family. The U.S. 7th Fleet helped to evacuate thousands of Vietnamese refugees and transport them to safety in Guam. Seeing the U.S. Navy take care of his family would later inspire Nguyen to serve in the Navy.

"I was one of those refugees, apprehensive about an uncertain future, yet feeling extremely grateful that I was here at all. The images that I remember vividly when I arrived at Camp Asan, Guam, now Asan Beach Park, were of American sailors and Marines toiling in the hot sun, setting up tents and chow hall, distributing water and hot food, helping and caring for the people with dignity and respect. I thought to myself how lucky I am to be in a place like America. Those sailors inspired me to later serve in the United States Navy," said Nguyen.

Later that year, U.S. Air Force Colonel Ed Veiluva and his wife Dorothy sponsored his uncle's family, allowing them to officially come to the United States as political refugees. Nguyen moved with his uncle's family to Midwest City, Oklahoma, just outside of Tinker Air Force Base.

Nguyen graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1981. He holds Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Southern Methodist University, Engineering (Manufacturing Concentration) from Purdue University, and Information Technology with Highest Distinction from Carnegie Mellon University. He received a Navy direct commission through the Reserve Engineering Duty Officer program in 1993.

"America is the beacon of hope for all of us. There is no other place in the world where a person can go for such opportunity," said Nguyen.

Nguyen's operational tours include a number of waterfront maintenance assignments: Ship Repair Facility Yokosuka as testing officer on USS Kitty Hawk availability; Officer in Charge, Ship Repair Facility, Detachment 113. Later, he served as Executive Officer/Chief Engineer at the Joint Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (CREW) Field Office in Baghdad supporting Task Force Troy/18th Airborne Corps and V Corps, CREW Engineer at Task Force Paladin and Combined Explosive/Exploitation Cell (CEXC) in Afghanistan.

Staff assignments included duties as Deputy Chief Information Officer, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) from 2017-2019, Director Military Programs, Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and Executive Officer, NAVSEA Enlisted Personnel from 2013 - 2017. He also served as Community Manager, Engineering Duty Officer (Reserve Component). Reserve assignments include multiple command tours with various units at NAVSEA, Pacific Fleet (PACFLT), and Office of Naval Research.

Nguyen's personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards).

Admiral Huan Nguyen's Circle of Life

<http://littlesaigoninside.blogspot.com/2019/06/the-circle-life-of-navy-captain-huan.html>

At 16, Nguyen arrived in Guam as refugee right after the Fall of Saigon in 1975. Seven years before, he was badly injured during the attack by the communist rebels during the surprise Tet Offensive. Some of the rebels pretended to be civilians and infiltrated key areas in Saigon. Nguyen's family was captured at their home in the early morning of the fight. The rebels targeted his family because his dad, Lt. Colonel Tuan Nguyen, was the head of an armored division protecting the city. His parents along with his 5 siblings and his 80 years old grandma were executed. He was the only one in his family survived the brutality despite being shot in the arm and leg and afterward by one of the rebels in the head execution style. He was clinging to his mother's lifeless body when he was found.

A few days later, the communist rebel leader responsible for the killings, Lem Nguyen, was captured. Hearing the cowardly and heartless massacre committed by Lem Nguyen, then Brigadier General Loan Nguyen, pulled out his revolver and summary executed Lem Nguyen at point blank. The image was captured by Eddie Adams and seared into the American public opinion. The story of why Lem Nguyen met his death was never mentioned and the American press quickly condemned the action of

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Admiral Huan Nguyen.....

Brigadier General Loan Nguyen as barbaric. The photo became an icon of the brutality of an unwinnable war and helped galvanized the anti-war movement.



Eddie Adams won the Pulitzer Prize for the photo. However, Adams believed he had destroyed Loan's life. He wrote years later, "Two people died in that photograph, the recipient of the bullet and General Nguyen Ngoc Loan. The general killed the Viet Cong; I killed the general with my camera." When Loan Nguyen died, Adams praised him as hero of a just cause.

Came to America as an orphan, Huan Tu Nguyen, determined to make the best of his life and followed his dad's military career. And soon, barring any unexpected circumstances, he will become the first Vietnamese-American to be a rear admiral. He will join 3 other Vietnamese-Americans to hold the general rank in the US armed forces.

The Vietnam War produced many tragedies, brought down administrations and a country, destroyed lives while created refugees and endless misery. Yet, in the circle of life, the triumph of the human spirits, of good over evil, of hope over despair, is indomitable.



(NY16-Feb.1) DEATH OF A MILITARY FAMILY IN SAIGON SUBURB--South Vietnamese soldiers stand near bodies of a South Vietnamese commander of a training camp and command center and members of his family after the camp was retaken from the Viet Cong in a northern Saigon suburb today. The commander, a colonel, was decapitated by the Viet Cong and his wife and six children were machinegunned. On ground near the corpses are toys and food. At right are sandbags behind which the children hid. (AP Wirephoto via wire from Saigon/see ID wire story/see ENR2mu)1068

Read more about General Nguyen Ngoc Loan and the 1968 Attack on Saigon and the killing of Lt Col. Tuan Nguyen's family.
https://sacei07.org/Newsletter99_2017_01.pdf

Ocean Vuong: 2019 MacArthur Fellow

<https://www.macfound.org/programs/fellows/>

This has been an emotionally intense year for the poet and fiction writer Ocean Vuong.

In June, his first novel, "On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous," written as a Vietnamese immigrant son's letter to his illiterate mother, came out to much fanfare. Not long before publication, Mr. Vuong's own mother learned she had Stage 4 breast cancer.

Then, earlier this month, he was back from his book tour, and looking forward to the steadying routines of teaching at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, when he got a phone call delivering some startling news.

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Ocean Vuong...



"I had to make sure they had the right person, because you don't want to cry and then have them say it was a mistake," he recalled. "But then the tears came."

Mr. Vuong, 30, is one of [26 people chosen as 2019 fellows](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/25/arts/macarthur-foundation-genius-winners.html) of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Known colloquially as the "genius" grant (to the annoyance of the foundation), the fellowship honors "extraordinary originality" and comes with a no-strings-attached grant of \$625,000, to be distributed over five years.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/25/arts/macarthur-foundation-genius-winners.html>

He is the fifth Vietnamese-American to receive the MacArthur Genius Grant. Thong Sanh Huynh (Yale, 1987), My Hang Huynh (Los Alamos National Lab, 2007), An My Le (Bard College, 2012), Viet Thanh Nguyen (USC, 2017).

How to Settle the South China Sea Question Once for All (China Won't Like It) Michael Peck

The United States and the Philippines have been discussing whether the Filipino military should buy the High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), a multiple rocket launcher used by the United States and other nations according to the South China Morning Post.

"If deployed, the long-range, precision-guided rockets fired by the system would be able to strike Chinese man-made islands on reefs in the Spratly chain," the newspaper said. HIMARS is a lighter, more mobile six barreled version of the U.S. Army's M270 multiple rocket launch system (MLRS). It can shoot rockets out to 70 kilometers (43 miles) and GPS guided ballistic missiles out to 300 kilometers (186 miles).

However, funding from the cash-strapped Philippines is a hurdle. "The two sides have been unable to reach a deal because HIMARS could be too expensive for Manila given its tight defense budget," said the newspaper.

Exactly how much does HIMARS cost? Manufacturer Lockheed Martin refused to give cost estimates, instead referring queries to the U.S. Army's Aviation and Missile Command, which did not respond to questions from TNI. The cost of HIMARS is split between the launcher itself and separate contracts for various munitions including guided and unguided rockets, the longer-range Army Technical Missile System (ATACMS) missiles, and weapons under development such as extended-range rockets and the Precision Strike Missile.



The National Interest: September 11, 2019

Since estimates put the cost of a HIMARS guided rocket at \$100,000 to \$200,000 apiece, or and ATACMS at more than \$700,000 apiece. Another clue is that Poland recently signed a \$414 million contract for eighteen launchers plus support and training. With the 219 Philippines defense budget at only \$3.4 billion, a big HIMARS purchase would be a strain.

Yet HIMARS is still a cheaper option than, say, a \$1.4 million Tomahawk cruise missile. And the Philippines had already a taste of HIMARS. The weapon was deployed there by U.S. marines in 2016

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during the joint U.S.-Philippines Balikatan exercises. Collin Koh Swee Lean, a Singaporean defense analyst told the South China Morning Post that “there were two possible locations for the system: Palawan Province in the Philippines and Thitu or Zhongye in Chinese—the largest island held by Manila in the disputed Spratly Chain. From Palawan, HIMARS could launch a missile at its maximum range to hit hit China’s man-made island at Mischief Reef, Koh said. But Thitu island would also be vulnerable to PLA air and missile strikes because it is only 22 kilometers (14 miles) from China-occupied Subi Reef and within striking range of missiles originating from the Paracel Islands and Hainan.”

The cheaper price tag of HIMARS compared to other weapons does make it attractive. “The idea of purchasing HIMARS systems may be one of the few viable options in response to China’s artificial islands and continuing and increasingly provocative actions in the South China Sea,” says Jay Batongbacal, director of the Philippines-based Institute of Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea.

Yet Batongbacal does not see a sale any time soon. “The Philippines is probably not yet in a position to make a purchase,” he told the *National Interest*. “It is also not likely to arm its own possessions significantly, for fear of Chinese reaction.”

American experts agree. “Absent an abrupt change in foreign policy outlook by President Duterte, it is unlikely the Philippines would acquire HIMARS in the near future,” says Brian Harding, and Asian security expert at the Washington based Center for Strategic and International Studies. “In addition to the price tag, Duterte would likely find HIMARS to be too provocative vis-a-vis China.”

But Harding believes this could change. “Just as Duterte has dramatically reoriented Philippine foreign policy, there could again be an abrupt change with a new president in 2022. A new president could also seek to accelerate the implementation of the U.S.-Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, which could potentially provide an avenue for the United States to deploy systems as HIMARS in the Philippines.”

Indeed, perhaps the more interesting possibility isn’t Philippines-owned rockets, but American-operated-rockets on Philippines soil. “I think observers shouldn’t think about capabilities that the Philippines could acquire on its own,” Harding warns. “EDCA provides a vehicle for the United States to deploy its own platforms on a rotational basis, which could be a way to potentially move high-end capabilities into the region, if agreed to by leaders.”

(Provided by Bill Laurie)

Vietnam Pulls Dreamworks “Abominable”

<https://variety.com/2019/film/news/vietnam-abominable-dreamworks-pearl-south-china-sea-1203369444/>

Vietnam has banned DreamWorks Animation’s new co-produced feature “Abominable” from its cinemas due to a scene involving a map that depicts China’s contested territorial claims in the South China Sea. The move comes as U.S. entertainment firms such as the NBA, Disney and gaming firm Activision Blizzard are under intense fire from U.S. fans, activists and politicians for giving in to Chinese censorship demands.

The map in the animated film shows the “nine-dash line,” a U-shaped boundary unilaterally declared by Beijing that carves out resource-rich maritime regions for itself. Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia all make contesting and overlapping claims.

China and Vietnam have long been at odds over the claims, but tensions have been at a particular high since July, when Beijing sent a vessel to conduct an energy survey in Vietnam-controlled waters.

South China Sea...

“We will revoke [the movie’s license],” Vietnam’s deputy minister of culture, sports and tourism Ta Quang Dong was quoted as saying by a local newspaper. His bureau is responsible for the licensing and censoring of foreign films.

The film is a Sino-U.S. co-production between DreamWorks Animation and the Shanghai-based Pearl Studio. Pearl is now a fully Chinese-owned rebrand of the former Oriental DreamWorks joint venture, which was founded in 2012 to great fanfare as a landmark collaboration between Hollywood and China.

Pearl Studio had not replied to *Variety*’s request for comment at the time of publication.

In July 2016, an independent arbitration tribunal established under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) published a clear and binding ruling on China’s claims regarding the Philippines in the South China Sea. The tribunal said that the nine-dash line claims were mostly incompatible with UNCLOS, and explained that building artificial islands in the sea does not give China territorial claims in the area. China’s response was to call the ruling “a waste of paper.”

Last week, ESPN also faced criticism for using a map that appeared to endorse China’s claims to both the self-governed island of Taiwan and the same disputed South China Sea regions. China has never disavowed the possibility of using force to bring Taiwan to heel, and views the democratic island as a renegade province.

ESPN was already under fire last week. Reports said that its news director had circulated an internal memo forbidding discussion of politics related to the ongoing Hong Kong pro-democracy protests, in the wake of a self-censorship controversy related to the issue that has engulfed the NBA and its China operations.

Disney — which has huge financial interests in the China market, particularly since the opening of its Shanghai Disneyland park in 2017 — owns 80% of ESPN.



CREDIT: Courtesy of DreamWorks Animation LLC