

OUT-TAKES FROM VIETNAM

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MOVIE: LESSON PLANS AND MATERIALS

The Movie

The Tuskegee Airmen displayed amazing courage and dignity in the face of many obstacles. During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen escorted and protected B-17 and B-24 Aircraft on 200 bombing missions. Thanks to the heroic efforts and flying skills of the Tuskegee Airmen, not a single bomber was lost to enemy aircraft during those missions. No other WWII fighter group's performance matched this record.

The Curriculum

There are five lesson plans, six handouts, one quiz, one power point are created to accompany the movie, Out-Takes from Vietnam. The lessons have been written to include national teaching standards from the areas of United States' history and political science. Our lesson plans and materials also fit very nicely into sociology or race studies, as well as a geography classroom.

Throughout the lesson plans, you will find that we have purposely integrated cognitive, skill and affective objectives. Because we believe that students should take an active part in learning history, critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the lesson plan series. The procedures in the lesson plan give the history educator suggestions on how to mix both traditional (content-centered) and progressive (student-centered) teaching methodologies.

Numerous Ways to Incorporate This Curriculum into your Classroom

The materials have been created to use as one unit or as stand-alone lessons. The power point presentation, for example, is created with full knowledge that slides will be deleted and added based upon an individual instructor's needs. It is our hope that each educator will easily be able to pick and choose which activities are most appropriate for their classroom.

Movie Outline

Part 1 –

I. Introduction

- a. Archive
 - i. Filled with films and photographs
- b. North Vietnam run by Communist government
 - i. Conflict with South Vietnam
 - 1. 1959-1975
- c. South Vietnam supported by the United States
 - i. When fighting was at its worst – half a million American troops were involved
 - 1. Over 58,000 American troops were killed
 - ii. At first the American public generally supported the war
 - 1. Many people learned about the conflict from television
 - a. Heard many of the bad things, rarely the good

II. American arrival

- a. Vietnam was lacking modern conveniences and health care
 - i. Primitive farming methods
- b. Efforts to help civilians were carried out during the war
 - i. Originally not part of the mission – evolved into part of it
- c. Betty Tisdale – American volunteer
 - i. HALO – Helping and Loving Orphans
 - ii. Worked to support the children at an orphanage in An Lac
 - iii. Many troops would help out –
 - 1. Often after a full night of combat
 - 2. Lewis Hillard
 - a. Men would give their money on payday to orphanage
 - 3. Dr. Carl Bertecchi
 - a. Found 3 nuns caring for a hundred sickly orphans
 - b. No vitamins, just rice
- d. Once troops would secure a village, they would provide for its needs
 - i. “Vietnamese-ation”, “passification”
 - ii. Humanitarian
 - 1. American people to Vietnamese people
 - a. In the beginning very loosely organized by marine and army units/individuals
 - b. 1967 with South Vietnamese government - CORDS
 - i. Consolidated in order to provide food, sanitary needs, building of refugee camps
 - c. Aimed to relieve the pressure on the people from the North Vietnamese and the Viet-Cong
 - 1. “Winning the hearts and the minds of the people”
 - ii. Were there as liberators

III. "Dust-offs"

- a. Helicopter missions that evacuated wounded troops from battle
 - i. American soldiers were top priority
 - 1. Providing medical care and training to Vietnamese became huge humanitarian effort
 - 2. Treated many civilians
 - b. Dust-offs greatly reduces casualties
 - c. Vietnamese not used to seeing doctors
 - i. Air mobile clinic
 - 1. Saw as many civilian patients as they could
 - d. Dust offs were extremely dangerous
 - i. Over 200 rescue helicopters were shot down
 - 1. Major Charles Kelly
 - a. Ordered to leave
 - i. "When I have your wounded..."
 - ii. Was killed in action
 - 2. Michael Novosel Sr.
 - a. Served in WWII and Korea, volunteers for Vietnam
 - i. Joined by his son
 - b. On mission to rescue pinned-down South Vietnamese troops
 - i. "Impossible situation"
 - 1. Were in the middle of a cross-fire from three different directions
 - ii. Would treat soldiers on the return flight to camp
 - 1. Helicopter hit on return trip
 - 2. Saved 29 lives
 - c. Received the Medal of Honor
- e. Father Vincent Capodanno – The Grunt Padre
 - i. Missionary – Navy Chaplain
 - 1. Asked to be sent to Vietnam
 - 2. Officers tried to keep Chaplain away from fighting
 - ii. Ran into battle to comfort wounded men
 - 1. Used his own body as a shield
 - a. Blessed a medic in the field as he was shot
 - i. 27 bullet holes into his back
 - b. Never carried a weapon
 - iii. First marine ever considered for sainthood

Part 2 –

I. Pressure from Home

- a. Troops began pulling out of Vietnam in large numbers by the 1970s
 - i. North Vietnamese troops moved to capture the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon
- b. Operation Babylift
 - i. American government made effort to evacuate more than 2,600 orphans

- ii. First military plane crashes
 - 1. Half of the passengers were saved
 - iii. One of the most significant humanitarian efforts of the 20th century
 - 1. Began the wave of international adoptions prevalent today
- II. April 1975 –
 - a. Chaos sets in
 - i. Thousands of refugees try to flee the country by land and sea
 - 1. April 4th-28th
 - a. Air force cargo planes lift over 50,000 people out of the country
 - ii. Saigon falls to the Communist
 - 1. The only way out it through helicopter
 - iii. Ft. Indiantown Gap – Annville, PA
- III. Years following
 - a. Many fled on rickety boats
 - i. Open attacked by pirates
 - ii. Some saved by Navy
 - b. Many soldiers return to continue humanitarian efforts
- IV. Present day
 - a. Anthony Accamando
 - i. Friends of Danang
 - 1. Veterans build schools and medical clinics
 - 2. Working to build a bridge to connect two poor villages
 - b. Operation Smile
 - i. Kathleen Fennell
 - c. Howard Golden
 - i. Mobility – wheelchairs for Vietnamese children and adults
 - ii. Sat down to talk with Viet Cong soldier
 - d. Betty Tisdale
 - i. HALO
 - ii. Helping families that live in garbage dumps
 - e. Dr. Carl Bertecchi
 - i. Bach Mai Hospital Project
 - 1. Brings Vietnamese doctors to Denver to train
 - 2. They then return to Vietnam to teach others
 - f. There is no memorial to American humanitarianism on the battlefields