

Please Forward [REDACTED]

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 83RD ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96291

Dear TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As of SEPT 14, 1968, after serving in the "Garden Spot of Southeast Asia" for the past 12 months, GENERAL JUNE will be returning to the U. S. A.

This, as we are well aware, will be an anxious moment for you as it will be for him. However, we feel it is our duty, being totally responsible for his absence, to warn you of certain changes in his mannerism and behavior that are likely to make those moments more anxious than you might normally expect.

Therefore, we forward in the interest of all concerned some do's and don'ts that should be strictly observed.

1. Prepare yourself for the initial shock of that first meeting because the man in your mist may bear a striking physical resemblance to the man you waved good-bye to long ago, he will appear out of place, nervous, and prone to look at everyone with suspicion. You may if you're carrying a handbag or sack, have to empty the contents of same out onto the ground for routine inspection. Avoid crowds and if you should celebrate the homecoming with a drink or two, don't ask him if he prefers to sit at the table in the rear of the bar with his back to the wall. Also, when the waitress takes your order, it would be wise for you to do all of the talking as he may make some embarrassing comment such as "Get Lost, I don't buy you any drinks".
2. Explain to him the taxi fares are slightly higher in the States than Vietnam because when he reads the meter he may slug the driver. Don't be shocked, this is standard procedure in Vietnam. If he tells the driver "THOI" he isn't talking baby talk. Don't question him, just politely tell the driver to stop. If he says "DEE DEE", he really doesn't want to go to the bathroom, take it in stride and ask the driver if he would kindly go a little faster. If he rolls down the window and starts flapping his arm, explain to him that the taxi has turn signals.
3. For the first few weeks, or until you are sure an adjustment has been made, don't ask him to go to the store and buy hair spray for you, other items that should be left off the shopping list are, DOVE SOAP, TIDE SOAP, BLEACH, SEARCH, CIGARETTES, and HERSHEY BARS. No cosmetics at all, also you may find that on his first few trips to the store he may fumble around looking for his PX card.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. His eating habits may be somewhat changed. He will probably want his steak well done and maybe shove the milk aside and ask for beer. If he gets into your kitchen while you're fixing supper think nothing of it, he just wants to make sure that you have your shoes on. And secondly, to see that you're not fixing rice. Incidentally, the word "RICE" should be avoided for quite some time and at no time during his first year back home should you suggest eating in a Chinese restaurant. Hide the soy sauce and insist that he sit on a chair while eating rather than squat on the floor.

5. HOLD HIS HAND WHEN CROSSING THE STREET!! This may seem absurd at first but after watching him crossing the street alone one time, you're nerves will never be the same again. He will expect all drivers to avoid him and while making no attempt to dodge them. The sight of a motor scooter or motor bike will infuriate him.

6. DO NOT SERVE ICED TEA AT ANY TIME!!!!

7. When he pays the bill in a bar or restaurant he will act nervous and check everyone in the room before he hands the waiter a five dollar bill. The only thing you can do to combat this peculiar behavior is to assure him that there are no C.I.D. agents present. He may ask the waiter what the rate is, if he does, tell him, "One Fifty for One" and forget the incident.

8. He will stare at women and probably mumble something about "roun-eyes". There is nothing personal in this behavior, be understanding it's been a long time.

9. He may spend much time in the bathroom flushing the toilet, think nothing of it. He just wants to watch it work. Also, he may desire to take many baths in hot boiling water.

10. Don't let him order any drinks for you, unless you happen to like Kool-Aid, watered down Cream de Menthe, or a very small glass of coke.

11. If you want to have some fun with him, say, "I love you too much", "Be nice GI", or "You're number one", don't over do it, he may go berserk.

12. A loud clap or thunder may have one of two effects on him. He may dive under the bed and yell "VC" or, if he recognized the sound he may grumble "those ~~##/0/&3/0#08/0#00/#00/#00/0~~ monsöcns are back again.

13. Above all remember that he has been in man's closest answer to "HELL ON EARTH" for months. Pamper him and help him forget those months as you and only you know.

Yours truly,

*Uncle Sam*  
UNCLE SAM

please Forward 