

# General John Ruggles Military Assistance Advisory Group Vietnam photographs

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circa 1960-1962



## Title Statement

General John Ruggles Military Assistance Advisory Group Vietnam photographs  
Guide to the General John Ruggles Military Assistance Advisory Group Vietnam photographs C0332

**Subtitle:** General John Ruggles Military Assistance Advisory Group Vietnam photographs

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## Profile Description

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**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0332

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/523

**Unit Date**

circa 1960-1962

**Language**

English .

**Abstract**

Content Warning: Some photographs show a deceased Vietnamese Ranger taken immediately after a violent attack which some may find upsetting to view. Photographs, including two photo albums, pertaining to the career of General John Ruggles in Vietnam.

**Creator**

Ruggles, John F., 1908-1999

**Extent**

.5 Linear Feet 1 box, 1 oversized folder

**Physical Location**

R 72, C 2, S 5 R 71, C 2, S 6 (Oversized folder only)

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

**Acquisition Information**

Donated by John and Marilyn Ruggles in September 2020. Additional materials donated by Marilyn Ruggles in February/March and June 2021.

**Processing Information**

Processed by Elizabeth Beckman in January 2021. EAD markup by Elizabeth Beckman in January 2021. Additional processing completed and finding aid updated by Meghan Glasbrenner in September 2024.

**Preferred Citation**

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## Biographical and Historical Information

Prior to its direct military involvement in the conflict between North and South Vietnam beginning the mid-1960s, the United States sent military advisors to assist the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) as part of its broader foreign policy of containing communism around the world. The US government first sent a Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) to Vietnam (then known as Indochina) to assist the French in maintaining colonial rule against the Viet Minh in the early 1950s. Once the French left Vietnam, US MAAG-Vietnam continued to advise the new South Vietnamese military. MAAG Vietnam was succeeded by Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) in 1964 (Gale, "U.S. Military Advisory Effort in Vietnam: Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, 1950-1964").

Major General John F. Ruggles (1908-1999), a graduate of West Point and a career military officer who served with the 22nd Infantry Regiment in Europe during the Second World War, was the Deputy Chief of the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) in Vietnam from 1959-1961 (1-22infantry.org, "John F. Ruggles").

## Scope and Content

Content Warning: Some photographs show a deceased Vietnamese Ranger taken immediately after a violent attack which some may find upsetting to view.

Photographs, including two photo albums, pertaining to the career of General John Ruggles in Vietnam circa 1960-1962. The first scrapbook commemorates General Ruggles' farewell visit to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam's II Corps headquarters in Pleiku, Vietnam and contains photos of Ruggles interacting with Vietnamese officers and soldiers. The second scrapbook, presented to General Ruggles by Colonel Dang-Van-Son, the Commanding Officer of the Vietnam NCO Academy at Nha Trang, largely contains photos of Vietnamese Non-Commissioned Officers in training, as well as a visit by General Ruggles.

The remaining photographs show General Ruggles interacting with Vietnamese officers and soldiers as well as photos of Vietnamese civilians, MAAG officers, and South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and Lieutenant General Samuel Williams. Many photographs have handwritten inscriptions on the back, some on attached sticky notes. The collection also includes a single letter written to Ruggles, a certificate, and a list of Vietnamese contacts.

## Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center also holds the [Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Team 58 photograph collection](#).

## Keywords

Nha Trang (Vietnam)  
Photographs  
Pleiku (Vietnam)  
Scrapbooks  
Vietnam  
Vietnam War, 1961-1975  
Johnson, Lady Bird, 1912-2007  
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973  
United States. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam  
Vietnam (Republic). Quân lực

## Bibliography

1-22infantry.org, "John Frank Ruggles," <https://1-22infantry.org/commanders/rugglespers.htm>, accessed January 14, 2021.

Gale, "U.S. Military Advisory Effort in Vietnam: Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, 1950-1964", Archives Unbound, [https://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/gale-us-en/primary-sources/archives-unbound/primary-sources\\_archives-unbound\\_u.s.-military-advisory-effort-in-vietnam\\_military-assistance-advisory-group-vietnam-1950-1964.pdf](https://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/gale-us-en/primary-sources/archives-unbound/primary-sources_archives-unbound_u.s.-military-advisory-effort-in-vietnam_military-assistance-advisory-group-vietnam-1950-1964.pdf) (accessed January 14, 2021).

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by format.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### **"Farewell Visit of Gen. Ruggles" scrapbook**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/135049

**Unit Date** June 15, 1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (object)

### **Scrapbook presented to General Ruggles by Colonel Dang-Van-Son of the Vietnam NCO Academy**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/135050

**Unit Date** June 19, 1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (object)

**Photographs of General John F. Ruggles with Vietnamese officers and soldiers, photographs of Vietnamese civilians**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/135051

**Unit Date** circa 1960-1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Photograph of Gen. John F. Ruggles with Vietnamese officers, photograph of President Ngo Dinh Diem and Lieutenant General Samuel Williams, and group portraits of MAAG officers**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/135052

**Unit Date** 1960

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

**Photographs of General John Ruggles with Vietnamese and American military officers (1 of 2)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193350

**Unit Date** circa 1960-1962

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

**Photographs of General John Ruggles with Vietnamese and American military officers (2 of 2)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193351

**Unit Date** circa 1960-1962

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)

**Photographs documenting a "Coup" near General Ruggles' house in Saigon, Vietnam**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193352

**Unit Date** circa 1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 5 (folder)

**Scope and Contents**

Content Warning: Some photographs show a deceased Vietnamese Ranger taken immediately after a violent attack which some may find upsetting to view.

**Photographs of Vice President Lyndon B. and Lady Bird Johnson during visit to Vietnam**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193353

**Unit Date** May 1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 6 (folder)

**Photographs of President Diem and Gen. "Hanging Sam" Williams during a ceremony and two postcards of the border between Vietnam and China**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193354

**Unit Date** circa 1960

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 7 (folder)

**Letter to Gen. Ruggles from Major Nguyen-Huy-Loi with newspaper clipping and two photographs**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193355

**Unit Date** October 18, 1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 8 (folder)

**Scope and Contents**

Content Warning: One photograph shows a deceased Vietnamese Ranger taken immediately after a violent attack which some may find upsetting to view.

**"Vietnam Friends", typed list of names and military rank or roles**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193356

**Unit Date** circa 1960-1961

**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)

**Container** 9 (folder)

**Photograph of General Ruggles with Vietnamese soldiers and certificate of thanks from Vietnam Veterans Association**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/193357

**Unit Date** circa 1961

**Mixed Materials** 2 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

**Scope and Contents**

Certificate is in Vietnamese