



Vietnam War Battle Scenario - Battle of The Iron Triangle Timeframe is January of 1967, Operation Cedar Falls Saturday and Sunday at 1:15 PM

In late 1966, advisors within President Johnson's administration argued that in order for the war to be won in Vietnam a concerted effort was needed to win the "Hearts and Minds" of the rural population of South Vietnam. The plan was developed in three phases; First, to isolate the population from the threat of the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army. Second, to develop programs designed to boost the confidence of the population with the South Vietnamese Government, and third, to spread these plans within the entire countryside developing a more conventional war strategy rather than a guerrilla war favored by the enemy.

At the beginning of 1967 American units along with their ARVN allies, (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) began to implement this strategy making contact with villages whose subsistence was for the most part farming. As to the level of any enemy infiltration within each village was unknown, numerous visits to villages within South Vietnam were all part of the strategy. As relationships formed, medical care was provided and simple improvements to irrigation and harvest methods relayed to earn the villagers trust.

The Vietnam scenario at A Walk in Their Boots 2017 depicts GI's engaging with villagers in an attempt to boost the confidence of the population by bringing much needed medical care to the village. The GI's are also looking for any signs of the Vietcong or North Vietnamese Army. Beyond the farm is a nearby cave that overlooks the hamlet. The villagers, now used to the interaction with the Americans, carry on with their daily tasks as an American officer, his radioman and a soldier approach. With their interpreter killed, communication is difficult, yet the villagers point towards a mine hidden in an ancient ox cart path outside the village. Using their radio, the soldiers alert an approaching convoy as to the danger. One of the farmers, the "LT", and the GI's head off towards the convoy to direct the mines discovery.

Now alerted to the threat of the mine, a GI with a mine sweeper finds the device and removes it from the path. Not knowing if more mines are still in the way, he sweeps for more mines at the direction of the Lieutenant. It's slow going, but a necessary precaution.

What happens next? Does the convoy carrying medical supply's make it to the village? Are the villagers themselves friend or foe, and what is in that cave?

Find out for yourself at A Walk in Their Boots 2017 at the Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site in Johnson City Tennessee, November 4th and 5th as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and pay tribute to all those that served in America's longest 20th century war.