

**DCCAM'S PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT:  
Field trip's note in Chumkiri district, Kampot province  
June 7 through 9, 2011  
By Long Dany**

From June 7 to 9, 2011, PA team (Vanthan Peoudara, Long Dany and Sok Vannak) visited Chum Kiri district, Kampot province. The team investigated and interviewed six Khmer Rouge naval soldiers from Division 164. Below is a summary of the interviews.

The first interview was conducted with Yem Sam-on. Sam-on is a 62-year-old male who lives in Pornng Teok village, Sre Cheng commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. Sam-on was born in Korl Korm village, Nheng Nhang commune, Tram Kak district, Takeo province. Sam-on's father's name is Yem Nhet; and his mother's name is No Khat. Sam-on has one sister and 6 brothers. Sam-on's wife's name is Khat Sov, and she is 56 years old. Sam-on has two daughters and three sons.

Sam-on is the fourth child in his family and his education ended with the completion of grade 7 (old system). Sam-on dropped out of school in 1964 and became a Buddhist monk in the Ka-ek pagoda until 1970. Sam-on married Khat Sov in 1970 and his family moved to Pornng Teok village.

In late 1970, Sam-on volunteered to join the KR revolution, and he served as the secretary of the Sre Cheng commune. In 1971, Sam-on quit his position and returned to his family.

In 1973, Sam-on joined the revolution again and served as a soldier. After several months, he was moved to work in a commercial unit in Torn Hann, Kampong Trach district near the Vietnam border. It was at this time that his unit bought kitchen materials, such as dishes, plates, pots, and glasses, for the people who lived in liberated Zones (KR Zones).

In early 1975, Sam-on became a soldier in Region 35, and his unit was sent to fight against Lon Nol in Phnom Penh. Soon after the KR liberated the capital in April 1975, his unit was sent to Kang Keng airport in Kampong Som. His company was assigned to fix the railroad between the provincial towns of Trapeang La-poeu and Kampot.

In June 1975, Sam-on was sent back to Kampong Som. Sam-on stayed at O-Chheu Teal beach. He received swimming training for two months, and upon completion his battalion was sent to patrol Rong Sanlem Island. Once there, Sam-on contracted malaria. He received treatment at Kampong Som hospital.

In July 1976, Sam-on was selected to study ship maintenance in Shanghai, China. Ieng Sary took the team to China and told them to study hard. After studying the Chinese language for six months, Sam-on began the ship maintenance program at the 405 factory in Shanghai.

Sam-on returned to the Cambodian–Thai border in 1981. Sam-on joined the 2nd Division, under chief officer Tim Seng. The division operated between Koh Kong and Thma Da, Veal Veng (Pursat province).

The second interview was conducted with Hang Oeun, a 66-year-old male who lives in Damnak Chheu Kram village, Snay Anhchit commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. Oeun was born in Damnak Chheu Kram village. Oeun's first wife's name is Rin. In 1979, Vietnamese soldiers killed Oeun's first wife and a daughter. In 1981, Oeun remarried. Oeun and his second wife Nhanh Nang have two daughters and three sons.

Oeun's father's name is Nop and her mother's name is Chhav. Oeun has 9 siblings. Oeun is eighth child in his family. Oeun went to school for only one year, quitting in 1963. He practiced as a Buddhist monk in Thmey Pagoda (Damnak Chheu Kram village) until 1970.

Oeun volunteered to serve as a KR soldier in March, 1970. Kang Chap and Sam Bit recruited Oeun during a visit to his village. In 1972, Oeun was promoted to Platoon Chief of the Region 35 military unit.

In April 1975, Oeun was promoted to Company Chief in the Military Unit. His unit was responsible for patrolling Touk Meas, Kampong Trach, Kampot provincial town and Kep. Oeun remained in this Military Unit until Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in January 1979.

The third interview was conducted with Chiev Choeun, a 60-year-old male who lives in Daun Ov village, Snay Anhchit commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. Choeun was born in this village. Choeun's father's name is Nhem Chiev and his mother's Ros Luon. Chuon has six sisters and two brothers. Choeun has four children with his first wife, Chhim Ith and seven children with his second wife, Khuon Poeu.

Chuon went to Wat Angchak Primary School when he was young. In 1970, Chuon dropped out of grade 7. At this time, Chuon received the assignment to teach children in his village by the Daun Ov village chief.

In 1971, Chuon decided to become a soldier after a disagreement with the village's chief. The disagreement arose when the village chief requested that the students perform art every night. Chuon was concerned that the students' daytime studies were suffering.

Chuon began in the KR as a member of the secret police in Sre Cheng commune. Soon thereafter, he was sent to Kampot Region. He worked as a messenger for a Battalion 51 chief. The battalion operated in the Kampot region, and it was headquartered in Ta Eng village near the Sovannsakor pagoda.

In late 1974, Chuon was injured. He received treatment at a hospital for three months. Chuon returned to his unit after leaving the hospital. Chuon's unit was stationed at Phnom Lok near Cambodian-Vietnamese border, when Phnom Penh was liberated in April 1975. His unit was responsible for patrolling rice fields along the border. Chuon was responsible for radio communication and the battalion typewriter.

The fourth interview was conducted with Neak Noeun (aka Chhouk Noeun), a 55-year-old male from O-Romeas Chol village, Trapeang Raing commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot

province. Noeun was born in O-Romeas Chol. Noeun's wife's name is Tit Navy. Noeun has one son and one daughter. Noeun's father's name is Chhouk Neak and his mother's Nuon Khut. Noeun has four brothers and one sister.

Noeun is third child in his family. Noeun was enrolled in the Wat Angchak Primary School in 1966 until grade 8 (old system). In 1971, Noeun was recruited to join the KR revolution by [Ta] Khem and [Ta] Nay in O-Romeas Chol village. Noeun served as a messenger for Pon, the chief of Sre Khnong district. He also worked as a driver, taking Pon to work and meetings with other KR officers in the district and communes. On occasion, Noeun delivered letters to commune offices within the district.

In late 1974, Noeun was selected to become a soldier in the Kampot region. He participated in military training for six months and then joined the 63<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in the 401<sup>st</sup> Regiment. Chey Khan was the chief of the regiment.

In June 1975, Noeun was selected to join the Khmer Rouge's 502<sup>nd</sup> air force division in Phnom Penh. Sou Met, [Ta] Lvey and [Ta] Phal made up the division's committee. In September 1976, Noeun was selected to study as a pilot in China. Noeun studied in Halpin city, Kailong Zhang province near the Soviet Union border. Noeun was in China for five years, and only returned to the Cambodian–Thai border in January 1981. Noeun was placed in an office of senior KR leaders in the Samlot region.

The fifth interview was conducted with Ea Sorn, a 58-year-old male from Trapeang Veng village, Trapeang Raing commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. Sorn was born in Teok Chenh village, Trapeang Raing commune, Chhouk district, Kampot province. Sorn's father's name is Ouk Kuon and his mother's Khieu Nan. Sorn has three sisters and four brothers. Sorn's wife, Em Samit, is 57 years old. Sorn has two daughters and three sons.

Sorn is third child in his family. Sorn education concluded after grade 7 (old system). He attended the Wat Angchak Primary School when he was young. Sorn dropped out of school in 1970 to help his parents in the rice field.

In 1972, Sorn volunteered to serve as a soldier. He was placed in Chhouk's military unit. The unit operated near Kampot provincial town. In September 1973, his unit joined the 1st division of the South West Zone. His division operated between National Road # 3 and #5. Soeung was the chief of the division. In early 1975, Sorn was injured and received hospital treatment until the KR liberated Phnom Penh in April 1975.

After the conclusion of the civil war, Sorn was sent to join the 502<sup>nd</sup> KR air force division, under the leadership of Sou Met. Sorn worked as the division's electrician at the Pochentong airport. Sorn worked at the airport until the Vietnamese entered Cambodia in January 1979.

The sixth interview was conducted with Meas Im, a 70-year-old from Po village Sre Samrong commune, Chumkiri district, Kampot province. Im was born in Po village, Sre Khnong commune, Chhouk district, Kampot province. Im's father's name was Meas Ut. Ut died under the Sangkum Reatr Niyum regime. Im's mother, Tit Kin, died in 1979 near the Cambodian–Thai border. Im has six sisters and 3 brothers. Meas Mut is the family's fifth child, while Meas Im is the sixth child in the family.

Im studied until grade 7 (old system) at the Wat Angchak Primary School. Meas Mut also studied in Wat Angchak Primary School before becoming a Buddhist monk at the Sre Khnong Pagoda. Meas Mut eventually continued his studies in Phnom Penh City. Upon completion of his studies, Mut passed secondary school exam and received a certificate. Meas Im quit school after failing the exam for **Stivika** (Pedagogy School for students studying primary school education). Im returned home and worked on his parents rice field for one year. Im next trained as a tailor with a Chinese merchant in Chhouk until 1970.

On March 18, 1970, Im volunteered to join the KR revolution. His parents supported his decision to join the revolution. Im began studying military tactics with the Viet Cong and Khmers experts, who had returned from training exercises in Northern Vietnam. Im believed that his brother Meas Mut volunteered with the KR prior to 1970. As a result, Im rarely saw his brother during the civil war years.

In 1972, Im joined KR Regiment 12, under the leadership of regiment chief Tim Ren. In 1973, Im's regiment was ordered to fight Lon Nol soldiers stationed along National Road # 2 between Siem Reap, Kan Tuot and Ta Khmao. Im believes that KR used this engagement to test their strategy before deciding on the Phnom Penh attack strategy. Im's regiment was next stationed in the Kraing Dei Vay region, in Kampong Speu province.

In 1974, Regiment 12 was ordered to attack Lon Nol soldiers in the Pochentong region. Im along with 10 other soldiers from the regiment stayed in Kraing Dei Vay. The soldiers that stayed behind sewed clothes for the regiment until KR entered in Phnom Penh in April 1975.

After the conclusion of the civil war, Im was sent to work on a rice field in Prek Roluos near Steong Hav. In 1976, deputy chief of division 164 Dem promoted Im to the position of chief mechanic in the division. He was responsible for truck and tractor repair. There were 800 soldiers under his supervision.

Im's unit was next assigned to transport rock from Slap Ta Aon and Kampong Trach to the Steong Hav harbor construction site. Once a day a truck would deliver rock to the harbor. At this time the Chinese government was providing gasoline, engine oil, and other materials for the construction site in Steong Hav.

Meas Mut visited the construction site and met with KR cadres and discussed technical work and the future plans for the construction site. Im was not present at Meas Mut's meeting that discussed the enemies' network and the current political situation in the country.

Im dealt with many problems. For example, his trucks consistently had problems. Drivers were often forced to drive trucks in precarious situations, resulting in breakdowns and the constant need for spare parts. He never reported these mistakes and problems to his superiors. Im believed that the soldiers received only limited truck driving training. For this reason he was more sympathetic for their mistakes and breakdowns.

At this time Meanh was the supervisor for the construction site. The KR planned the construction of a dam to prevent the damage from large sea waves. However, only 700 meters of the dam was constructed before the Vietnamese soldiers entered Cambodia in January 1979. 1

In response to the changing political climate, Im and several soldiers from his unit fled to Sre Ambil. They continued to Thma Bang, Koh Kong province and integrated with the third division near the Cambodian–Thai border between Koh Kong and Thma Da (Pursat). Tim Seng was a chief of the Division.

In 1986, Im was ordered to lead 60 soldiers to operate in areas within Koh Kong province. He operated and looted there until the integration with Cambodian government in 1997. Meas Im was assistant chief of commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military Zone for the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) until his retirement in 2008.

[End]