

Mike Eberhardt: 50 years ago, Oct. 7, 1970, MAT team IV-5, in Kien Hoa province, Ham Long district was ambushed while on a mission in the area under Viet Cong control. Two members of the team, Lt. Jon Jacobson and Sgt. Mac McLaurin, along with our interpreter "Fang," died. Mac did make it to the hospital in Ben Hoa but died the following day. I survived the blast and was able to call the district team who called a medivac. The RF CO was also killed. Six weeks later **Maj. Coddington**, my replacement team leader and a replacement Sgt. were killed when two 15 year old boys blew a claymore on their jeep which was stopped before crossing a single lane bridge over a canal on the road to Ben Tre. I have been able to meet Jon's family and spend time with them over the past couple of years. We gathered on ZOOM on the 7th to commemorate Jon's death. Vietnam was years ago but we continue to live with the impact that conflict had on our lives. Seldom are we referred to as "heros" but those of us who lived through those years understand what it meant of have "brothers-in-arms."