

Former refugee to return to Vietnam as US Navy officer

昔日越南難民率美軍艦衣錦還鄉



It will be Le's first visit back to Vietnam since he was five years old — when his family joined the wave of **refugees** fleeing after the fall of Saigon.

Le called the visit “a symbol of the friendship between our two nations.”

The first Vietnamese-American to command a US naval ship, Le in April took over the **helm** of the USS Lassen, which is part of the US 7th Fleet based in Yokosuka, Japan. (AFP)

美國海軍宣佈，一位幼年逃離越南時，被美國船隻救起的美國軍官，不久後將以美軍驅逐艦艦長的身份訪問越南。

美國海軍在其網站上表示，海軍中校黎宏巴（音譯）出生於越南順化市，一九七五年越戰進入尾聲之際，他和他的家人在海上漂流時被一艘美國海軍艦艇救起。

他們家在維吉尼亞州安頓下來，他後來也取得美國公民身份，一九九二年畢業於美國海軍官校，隨後便平步青雲。

海軍表示，他預計於十一月隨導彈驅逐艦「拉森號」重返越南，進行友好訪問。

黎在海軍發佈的新聞中說：「對我個人而言，這將是個難以置信的經驗，自小離開越南後，這是我第一次重回出生地。」

他說：「我對越南的記憶很少，但對越南的文化和人民，我仍心嚮往之。」

這是黎自五歲之後第一次回到越南——當時西貢淪陷，他的家人淪為難民逃難。

黎稱這次訪問是「美越兩國友好的象徵」。

今年四月接掌美軍艦拉森號的黎，是首位統率美國海軍戰艦的越南裔美國人；拉森號隸屬於駐守日本橫須賀的美國第七艦隊。（法新社／翻譯：袁星塵）

In this image obtained from the US Navy, Commander Hung Ba Le, right, assumes command of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Lassen on April 23, 2009, relieving Commander Anthony Simmons during a change of command ceremony at Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan. PHOTO: AFP

美國海軍提供的這張照片中，今年四月二十三日在日本橫須賀海軍基地的交接典禮上，海軍中校黎宏巴（音譯：右者）接替安東尼·西蒙斯中校，擔任柏克級導彈驅逐艦「拉森號」艦長。照片：法新社

A US military officer who fled Vietnam as a boy and was picked up by an American ship will soon visit the country in command of a destroyer, the US Navy has announced.

Born in the Vietnamese city of Hue, Commander Hung Ba Le and his family were picked up at sea in 1975 by a US naval ship in the clos-

ing days of the Vietnam war, the Navy said on its Web site.

His family settled in Virginia and he later became a US citizen, graduating in 1992 from the US Naval Academy, before embarking on his **climb up the career ladder**.

He is due to return to Vietnam in November with his ship, the guided missile destroyer USS

Lassen, on a **goodwill** visit, the Navy said.

“This will be an incredible experience for me personally, to return to the land of my birth for the first time since I was a child,” Le said in the Navy’s report.

“My memories of Vietnam are very few, yet I still feel very drawn to it, to its culture, and to its people,” he said.

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. goodwill /'gʊd,wɪl/ n.

善意 (shan4 yi4)

例：The president announced his intention to go on a goodwill visit to the Middle East in the fall.

(總統宣佈，他計畫今年秋天到中東進行友好訪問。)

2. refugee /,rɛfjuˈdʒi/ n.

難民 (nan4 min2)

例：According to some estimates, there could be as many as 62,000,000 refugees scattered around the world.

(據估計，全球難民人數可能多達六千兩百萬。)

3. helm /helm/ n.

領導地位 (ling2 dao3 di4 wei4)

例：The company’s performance has increased considerably since our new president took over at the helm.

(自從新總裁走馬上任後，公司業績就顯著提升。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

climb the career ladder 平步青雲

Somebody who **climbs the career ladder** rises through the ranks of a company or profession. There are other career-related expressions that invoke a metaphorical ladder to represent seniority.

Examples: “If you’re planning to **climb the career ladder**, it’ll require a lot of hard work and a bit of luck,” or “Almost 30 years ago, Pete joined this company on the **bottom rung of the ladder**, and now he’s in line to be the next CEO.”

若說某人「climb the career ladder」，就表示他們在某公司或某行業的地位扶搖直上。還有一些和職業生涯相關的片語，也都用「ladder」這個字來隱喻年資。

例如：「若想平步青雲，你需要付出很多努力，外加一點好運」，或是「約莫三十年前，彼特還是這公司最基層的員工，但現在他是公司下任執行長的熱門人選」。