



▣ **ABOUT THE MOVIE** ▣ (subtitled version)

TITLE	Good Morning Vietnam
DIRECTOR	Barry Levinson
YEAR AND COUNTRY	1987 USA
GENRE	Humorous, but dramatic war film
ACTORS	Robin Williams (Adrian Cronauer), Forest Whitaker (Ed Garlick)

PLOT

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, Airman Adrian Cronauer is sent to Saigon where, in a short time, he becomes the disk jockey most loved by the American troops with his radio program “Good Morning, Vietnam”. However, his anti-conformism gets him into trouble with his direct superiors. Although he is defended by General Taylor, in the long run Cronauer is accused of collusion with the Viet Cong and he is forced to return to America.

Based on a true story, this film shows the effect of that war on the troops, officers and civilian population. Adrian’s humor is set against a background of tragedy, betrayal and death as everyone involved fights to maintain their sanity in an insane situation.

LANGUAGE

The language is that of military men, highly profane, slangy and vulgar, full of sexual allusions. There are many US military terms and acronyms and the colorful language is a way of releasing tension in the anxiety producing situation of an undeclared war. In fact, much is made of the difference between a “police action” – which was what the American intervention was called at the beginning to try and disguise its extent to the US public, - and a “war”. A similar misuse of language has taken place in Iraq...

The army’s use of acronyms is made fun of in a memorable scene between Adrian and his commanding officer.

The accents are from all over America, except, of course, for those of the Vietnamese learning English.

VOCABULARY

“It’s Hanoi Hannah, she’s been on everything but the Titanic”: she had sex with everybody	Gooks, spooks, Charlie: Vietnamese/VietCong
“Your ass is grass and I’m a lawn mower”: You’re in trouble and I’ll punish you severely	Groovy: stylish; to groove: get high
At ease!: Don’t stand at attention!	I can’t get to first base with her: succeed with her
Brain-dead rednecks: stupid farmers	It’s Mardi Gras and I’m on the main float: I’m very noticeable
Brawl (n, v): fight	KP: Kitchen Police: assigned to do kitchen chores
By the book: according to the rules	Muff (n, v): double meaning: 1) particular kind of handbag; 2) female genitals v: to mess up
Court-martial (n,v): to try in a military court.	On the QT: quiet (secretly)
Dear Abby: a famous problem solver people wrote to in the newspapers (like Susanna Agnelli!)	Slip me some skin: greet open-handedly
Dick around: waste time, goof off	Tallest hog in the trough: the highest-ranking officer.
Dick, peter, cock: penis	Top brass: the highest-ranking officers
Escalate: intensify	VC: Viet Cong
From the devil to the DMZ (demilitarized zone): From the frying pan into the fire, from bad to worse	Your fly’s open: your pants are unzipped or unbuttoned