P3430 PHANTOM SOLDIERS  (USA, 198-?)

**Credits:** director, Irvin Johnson; writers, Rod Davies, Jim Gaines.

**Cast:** Max Thayer, Jack Yates, Corwyn Sperry, Jim Gaines.

**Summary:** War film set in South Vietnam in the 1960s. A group of ‘phantom’ soldiers dressed in black uniforms and wearing gas masks massacres the inhabitants of a Vietnamese village, using nerve gas to kill the last survivors. The massacre is discovered by Green Beret Captain Michael Custer (Sperry) and his team. On a later patrol, Capt. Custer and his men spot the phantom soldiers and pursue them, only to be ambushed and captured. Back in the U.S., Texas sheriff Dan Custer (Thayer) decides to find out what happened to his brother. Impersonating a friend of his who is a Colonel in the Army, sheriff Custer goes to Vietnam. After a few intermediate adventures, Dan Custer finds the phantom soldier’s camp. Though they appear to be Americans, Custer overhears one of them cursing in Russian. The phantom soldiers, it turns out, are a Russian unit whose mission is to make the Americans look bad in the eyes of the world. The sheriff finds and liberates his brother and destroys the phantom soldier’s base. His closing line: “Nobody’s above the law. Nobody.”

Williams, Tony. “Phantom soldiers” in Viet Nam war films II (edited by Jean-Jacques Malo and Tony Williams) [GB]  

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