

## SUMMARY

MAC-V 3-15-67(A) DONG TAN BASE BUILDING 13-14 DEC 1967

At a location on the My Tho River 50 miles south of Saigon in the Vietnamese delta region, Commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam General William C. Westmoreland, personally chose the spot for the third brigade of the 9th Infantry Division's base camp. He called it Dong Tan for the Vietnamese word United Heart.

At the time of the selection, in the winter of 1966, the land adjacent to the My Tho River was rice paddies, under water. In order to provide a base camp the dredgers were floated up the My Tho river from Vung Tau. The Jamaica Bay was the first one to arrive and the New Jersey soon followed to the selected site about five miles west of the town of My Tho. Actual up lifting of the site from rice paddies started in Oct. 1966. The entire area had to be up lifted at least 5 feet and in most cases 10 feet, to be above flood stage. In January of 1967 the NC cut off a mine on the Jamaica Bay sending it to the bottom of the My Tho River.

In their quest for sand the dredgers search the bottom of the river in the immediate area and soj about pumping the muck from the river's bottom, to a sectioned off area of the base camp. Bulldozers in the mean time have prepared man made levees of earth from 5 feet to 10 feet high. As the dredger's pumps force the muck into the walled in area, the water will drain back into the river leaving the sediment to raise the soil level up.

First elements of the 3rd Brigade moved into the Dong Tan base camp in Dec. 1966 and became operational in Jan. 1967. For over a year the base camp has been expanding and the dredgers continue to search for sandy sections on the My Tho River's bottom.

Since the first troops arrived in Dong Tan, many changes have taken place, among them the third brigade moved out and the second AB has taken over, in May of 1967. U.S. Naval units have set up base camp too, in portions of the Dong Tan base camp. At present, the Dong Tan Base Camp is nearly completely up lifted. Presently it has 600 acres uplifted or is in the final stages of being uplifted, using thousands of cubic yards of river deposits.

Dong Tan has many firsts to its credit among them: the 1st major U.S. base in the delta, the first to use 105mm howitzers on barges which can be floated into a battle zone, to provide artillery support; one of two MASH Hospitals (MEDICAL AIR-CRAFT SELF-CONTAINED PORTABLE) in country; the first delta base camp for a riverine force; and of course the first base camp to be uplifted from rice paddies.

Today Dong Tan nearly completed in construction phase, has a riverine force which both services help in. The navy boats transport the army troops up the rivers and canals of the delta region and drop them off for search and destroy or assaults missions ranging from two to four days. A 1500ft air strip is completed with inlets berths to land. Many two story wooden barracks and various metal office buildings are still being constructed.

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13-14 DEC 1967  
3-12-67(A)

DONG TAN  
BASE BUILDING

HOME

DONG TAN DELTA REGION RVN

Lt. WISCONSIN

SP5 FOULKE  
SP4 MOLINAR

SP4 HASK

FILM

RL-70

# 591 and 313

ROLL # 565172726

50072

EDO 7255

EDO 7255

- ROLL 1      1. 1. WILD HS. Water and mud gushing out of pipe from the dredgers in the My Tho river about a mile away.
2. 1. WILD HS. Vietnamese Child walking around in the muddy water.
3. 1. WILD CU. Water coming out of the pipe from the dredger.
4. 1. WILD HS. Water coming out of pipe and flowing into a walled in section to be uplifted.
5. 1. WILD LS. Bulldozer building levee.
6. 1. WILD CU. Bulldozer building levee to prepare to flood a section.
7. 1. WILD HS. Bulldozer pushing mud into a levee.
8. 1. WILD CU. Korean bulldozer driver at controls of dozer.
9. 1. WILD LS. Mud shooting up in the air behind the levee.
10. 1. WILD HS. SIGN 2nd REG 9th INF RVN, HQs.
11. 1. WILD HS. Water truck traveling on dirt road on Dong Tan base camp.
12. 1. WILD HS. SIGN Dong Tan Fleet Landing with several Riverine boats in background.
- ROLL 2      1. 1. WILD LS. The dredge New Jersey, pumping mud from the bottom of the river for the Dong Tan Base camp.
2. 1. WILD LS. The main pump on the dredge New Jersey.
3. 1. WILD LS. Pan shot of the pipeline extending from the New Jersey to the shore.
4. 1. WILD CU. The ships name plate.
5. 1. WILD LS. The pipeline landing from ship to shore.
6. 1. WILD LS. The pipeline on board the New Jersey.
7. 1. WILD HS. The main pump of the ship.
8. 1. WILD HS. The main pump of the ship.
9. 1. WILD LS. The dredge New Jersey.
10. 1. WILD CU. The 3rd Surgical hospital sign.

ROLL 3	Cine.	1.	WILD	14. Pan shot of the KMT buildings in the pro-American hospital.
				15. Air holes extending into the KMT buildings.
				16. An open KMT building.
				17. Pan shot of soldier's feet as he walks through dust.
ROLL 3	Cine.	1.	WILD	18. Pan shot of soldier's feet.
				19. KMT dredger New Jersey in the Ry Ho River off Long Tan.
				20. Korean dredger in Ry Ho River with Long Tan Rice Camp in background.
				21. Korean dredger in the Ry Ho River pumping sand. Both dredgers Korean dredger in foreground and the New Jersey down river in the background.
				22. KMT making a U turn showing the New Jersey dredger still doing job.
				23. Perimeter of the Long Tan Rice Camp with rice paddies near the portion being uprooted.
				24. Rice stalk coming out of the pipe and sloping over the walled in area.
				25. Water draining off the uprooted area.
				26. Rice stalk coming out of the pipe from the dredger.
				27. Building and living quarters for the men of Long Tan Rice Camp.
ROLL 4	Cine.	1.	SILVER	28. Bank of Dong Tan along the perimeter with water buffalo in background.
				29. Rice field inside the walled in section to the rice paddies out side the perimeter and water buffalo grazing.
				30. Rice stalks coming out of the pipe in section being uprooted with building of Dong Tan in the background.
				31. Korean worker for KMT-D&D Corp.,
				32. Foreign Inst. I. wife of Alverand, Calif pilot of the hovercraft.
				33. Caribbean aircraft landing at Long Tan base with Robert Schlesinger of Boise, Idaho.
				34. Men getting off and other men getting on the Caribbean airplane at Long Tan.

ROLL 4	2*	1*	SILVER	CV.	Sign welcome to Long Tan River Station base.
ROLL 25	1*	1*	WILD	15.	Riverine pulling into dock basin
	2*	1*	WILD	16.	Riverine pulling into docks
	2*	1*	WILD	17.	Fun shot of water sporting from engine to the bow of the riverine
	1*	1*	WILD	18.	Riverine moving into dock to stop
	2*	1*	WILD	19.	Man on Riverine tying the boat to the dock.
	6*	1*	WILD	CV.	The ship's name
	7*	1*	WILD	14.	Deck & area where the Riverines are kept
	8*	1*	WILD	CV.	Deck area sign
	9*	1*	WILD	CV.	Building being put up at Long Tan
	10*	1*	WILD	16.	Fun putting up the building
	11*	1*	WILD	CV.	Construction men pounding while
	12*	1*	WILD	CV.	Men putting up a section of a building
	13*	1*	WILD	10.	Building being built at Long Tan
	14*	1*	WILD	14.	The King's Hovercraft, recently brought back to Long Tan. Edit shot and shot # 15 are not to be released as this information on the Hovercraft is still classified.
	15*	1*	WILD	CV.	Very personnel standing on the hovercraft