

U.S. ARMY

COMMAND INFORMATION FACT SHEET

PUBLISHED FOR USE IN COMMAND INFORMATION PROGRAMS. THIS FACT SHEET CONTAINS MATERIAL OF INTEREST TO A LARGE NUMBER OF ACTIVE ARMY PERSONNEL.

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO VIETNAM

This fact sheet contains information, in question and answer form, designed to assist US Army personnel in making personal plans for travel to an assignment within the Republic of South Vietnam. This information has been assembled by Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, and represents questions most frequently asked by newcomers to the area. Information Officers are urged to coordinate with local command agencies responsible for overseas orientations to insure that this material is available to them. It is recommended that, where possible, the fact sheet be locally reproduced for provision to personnel on orders for Vietnam.

Clothing -- Baggage

Q. What kind and how many uniforms should I take to Vietnam?

A. Male personnel are required to arrive in Vietnam wearing khaki short-sleeved shirt and trousers. Enlisted personnel deploying to Vietnam as individual replacements will have in their possession the following items of clothing: two summer khaki uniforms, one fatigue uniform, one pair of leather combat boots, and one pair of low quarter shoes. The Army green uniform, overcoat, and raincoat are withdrawn at port of embarkation CONUS. (Specific clothing allowances for male enlisted personnel being deployed to Vietnam are shown in Appendix IV, AR 700-8400-1; allowances for female enlisted personnel are shown in Appendix V, AR 700-8400-1).

Q. Am I permitted to take civilian clothes? If so, what type and in what quantity?

A. Light-weight wash and wear civilian suits and/or wash and wear slacks with conservative wash and wear sport shirts are recommended. All clothing should be washable, as the quality of dry cleaning work is poor.

/ M O R E /



Prepared for the OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

by the U.S. ARMY COMMAND INFORMATION UNIT • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

CLOTHING FOR OFFICER PERSONNEL DEPLOYING TO VIETNAM
IAW DA MESSAGE 898336, DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1969

Mandatory Clothing Items

Belt, trousers, cotton	1 ea
Buckles, belt, brass	1 ea
Cap, garrison, AG344	1 ea
Cap, utility, OG106	1 ea
Coat, mans WRS (Field Jacket)	1 ea
Shirt, khaki, cotton, short sleeve	2 ea
Shoes, dress black	1 pr
Socks, cotton, black	3 pr
Trousers, khaki, cotton	2 pr

Additional Mandatory
Clothing Items for Aviators
and Flight Crew Members

Boots, combat, leather	2 pr
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Optional Clothing Items

Raincoat (AG274 or Taupe 179)	1 ea
Civilian casual wear (wash & wear type recommended)	2 sets
*AG344 uniform complete with poplin or SH 446 shirt and tie	1 ea

*although this uniform is not worn in RVN, officers returning to CONUS on rotation, TDY, or emergency leave require the uniform to qualify for the reduced commercial transportation fares.

The following organizational clothing items are issued to all officers and warrant officers upon arrival in RVN. Officers and warrant officers who process through a personnel processing Center enroute to Vietnam may be issued these items at the personnel processing centers.

Boots, combat tropical	2 pr
Coat, mans, combat tropical	5 ea
Handkerchief, OG109	5 ea
Drawers, mans, OG109	5 ea
Socks, cushion sole OG408	5 pr
Towel, OG109	3 ea
Trousers, mans, combat tropical	5 ea
Undershirt, mans, OG109	5 ea

Q. How long will it take my hold baggage to get to Vietnam?

A. It will take 30 days or more for your hold baggage to arrive in Vietnam.

Money

Q. How much US currency should I have in my possession when I arrive in Vietnam?

A. You should arrive in Vietnam with sufficient funds to defray expenses until you receive your first pay in Vietnam (\$75.00 is the recommended minimum amount).

Q. Am I required to convert all US currency into military script and piasters? If so, where and when do I accomplish this?

A. When you arrive in Vietnam you must immediately convert all your US currency and dollar instruments into MPC's. You may exchange your money at the replacement center or at the finance office that services your unit. Finance offices, clubs and messes, the USO, and American Embassy will exchange MPC's for piasters.

Q. What means of saving some of my money are available?

A. You can participate in the US Savings Deposit Program, which pays ten percent interest on your deposits, and you can do it by payroll deduction as well as by cash deposit of current unallotted pay and allowances. You can also earn five percent quarterly on deposits in your checking account with one of the military banking facilities operating in Vietnam, provided your account balance does not go below \$100.00 during the quarter. Additionally, you can establish allotments for the purchase of US Savings Bonds and Notes (Freedom Shares), or send money by class E allotment to your CONUS bank or your family.

Q. Can I cash personal checks, money orders and traveler's checks?

A. You can cash traveler's checks and personal checks at clubs, messes, post exchanges and military banking facilities (Chase Manhattan, Bank of America, and American Express) operating in Vietnam. Postal money orders can be cashed at APO's. Savings Bonds may be cashed at the military banking facilities.

Q. Is proficiency pay awarded in Vietnam?

A. Yes. A certain percentage of non-tested personnel are authorized special and proficiency pay. Personnel who were tested in the States will normally receive this pay, if qualified by test score.

Personal Services -- PX's

Q. Will I eat in the mess hall or on the local economy?

A. Military messes, to include BOQ and BEQ facilities, are available throughout Vietnam.

Q. Will I live in tents, barracks, or on the local economy?

A. Billets vary in each area. Screened tropical wooden hutments and squad tents are widely used. In some cases, personnel will live in houses or hotels.

Q. What type of laundry facilities are available?

A. Quartermaster laundry facilities are limited. Most individual laundry takes from two to three days to be completed.

Q. What types of PX services are available?

A. PX facilities in Vietnam are primarily for the individual soldier's needs. Luxury items, such as watches, cameras, radios, TV's, etc., are available at the larger PX's.

Q. What personal items should I bring?

A. Personal items to include cameras, transistor-type radios, cordless electric razors, extra underclothing, light wash and wear trousers, and sports shirts can be used in Vietnam.

Q. Are AER and Red Cross facilities available in Vietnam?

A. Yes, AER facilities are at major troop concentrations, and Red Cross personnel are with units in the field.

Q. Are certain items, such as cigarettes, rationed?

A. Yes, cigarettes and luxury items are rationed.

Curfews

Q. Do certain areas in Vietnam have curfews?

A. Curfews are established in accordance with the military situation and local civilian regulations and policies.

Transportation

Q. What means of transportation are available?

A. Transportation in Vietnam is generally provided by organic military vehicles. In population centers, such as Saigon, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Vung Tau and other cities, commercial transportation -- taxis and similar vehicles -- is available. For long distance travel within Vietnam you'll go by air.

Q. Am I permitted to buy and own a private vehicle? If so, what are the procedures and requirements necessary to obtain one?

A. POWs cannot be transported to Vietnam. POWs are not feasible as the driving hazards are great and, except for Saigon and other population centers, there is nowhere to drive. Application for purchase of motor vehicles must be submitted through command channels to HQ, USAFV, although subordinate commands have the authority to disapprove.

Weapons

Q. Should I bring my personal weapon?

A. No. Individuals who need weapons are issued them. U. S. Armed Forces personnel are prohibited from importing, mailing, carrying, or otherwise introducing in Vietnam, and from purchasing within Vietnam, firearms or other dangerous weapons. This action was found necessary to reduce accidental shootings of our personnel and other incidents involving the improper handling of weapons.

Mail -- Communications

Q. How is the mail service and how long does it take to receive letters and packages?

A. Normal time for mail to go to and from the United States and Vietnam is 1 to 2 days depending on your temporary location. Parcels shipped surface mail take 40 to 60 days. Parcels can be sent air mail by paying a 100% fee.

Q. Are express telephone calls available?

A. Commercial overseas telephone calls can be placed from the USO building in Saigon. Messages of a personal nature may also be sent by troops to the United States using MARS facilities. There are several MARS installations in Vietnam.

Q. Can I purchase money orders in Vietnam to mail home?

A. Facilities for the purchase of postal money orders are located throughout Vietnam.

Length of Tour

Q. What is the length of the present tour?

A. The normal foreign service tour in Vietnam is now 12 months. Extension and curtailment policies are in effect in this as in every other oversea command.

Q. If I so desire, may I extend my tour in Vietnam and what is the maximum tour permitted?

A. Tour lengths for enlisted personnel may be extended on a voluntary basis for periods other than multiples of six months provided the prescribed maximum tour lengths are not exceeded. Therefore, with a voluntary extension, the maximum tour length in Vietnam is currently 24 months.

Legal

Q. Do I have diplomatic immunity while stationed in Vietnam?

A. By special agreement between our two countries, United States military personnel in Vietnam are immune from arrest and prosecution by Vietnamese authorities. However, the US authorities in Vietnam may waive that immunity in a particular case. All military personnel are required to obey the laws of RVN, and are, of course, subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Q. What is the maximum period that I can defer filing my federal income tax return and state tax return?

A. Federal income tax returns are not required to be filed until 180 days after leaving Vietnam. When filing your return show the inclusive dates of Vietnam service. You should determine from your home state the rules on filing state income tax returns.

Leaves

Q. What is the policy on emergency leave in Vietnam?

A. An emergency leave is authorized upon the receipt of a confirmed report of the specific situation requiring the presence of the service member. Normally, 30 days are authorized. Travel time within the country of destination is chargeable leave.

Q. Are leaves allowed in Vietnam?

A. Yes, in-country leave is authorized for no longer than 7 days. One such leave, in addition to R&R, is authorized per 12-month period. Leave to the United States is authorized for compassionate reasons (in addition to emergency leave) for 30 days. Space available transportation is authorized, but the individual must be able to pay his way on commercial flight if required. Leave starts upon departure from duty station and terminates upon return. Individuals extending in Vietnam for an additional six months are authorized 30 days leave before beginning their additional tour.

Q. What is the general policy on rest and recreation leaves?

A. Military personnel in Vietnam may utilize the R&R program to Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Penang, Singapore, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo. One five-day R&R leave is authorized for every 12 months served in Vietnam. There are three in-country R&R areas where individuals may go for a three-day pass.

Churches -- Schooling

Q. Are religious services available for all denominations?

A. Religious coverage is on the area concept. This means that all units, whether assigned a chaplain or not, will have religious services. Services for major faiths are held. AFRS (Armed Forces Radio Service) also broadcasts devotional programs.

Q. Is it possible to continue individual schooling, such as taking correspondence courses?

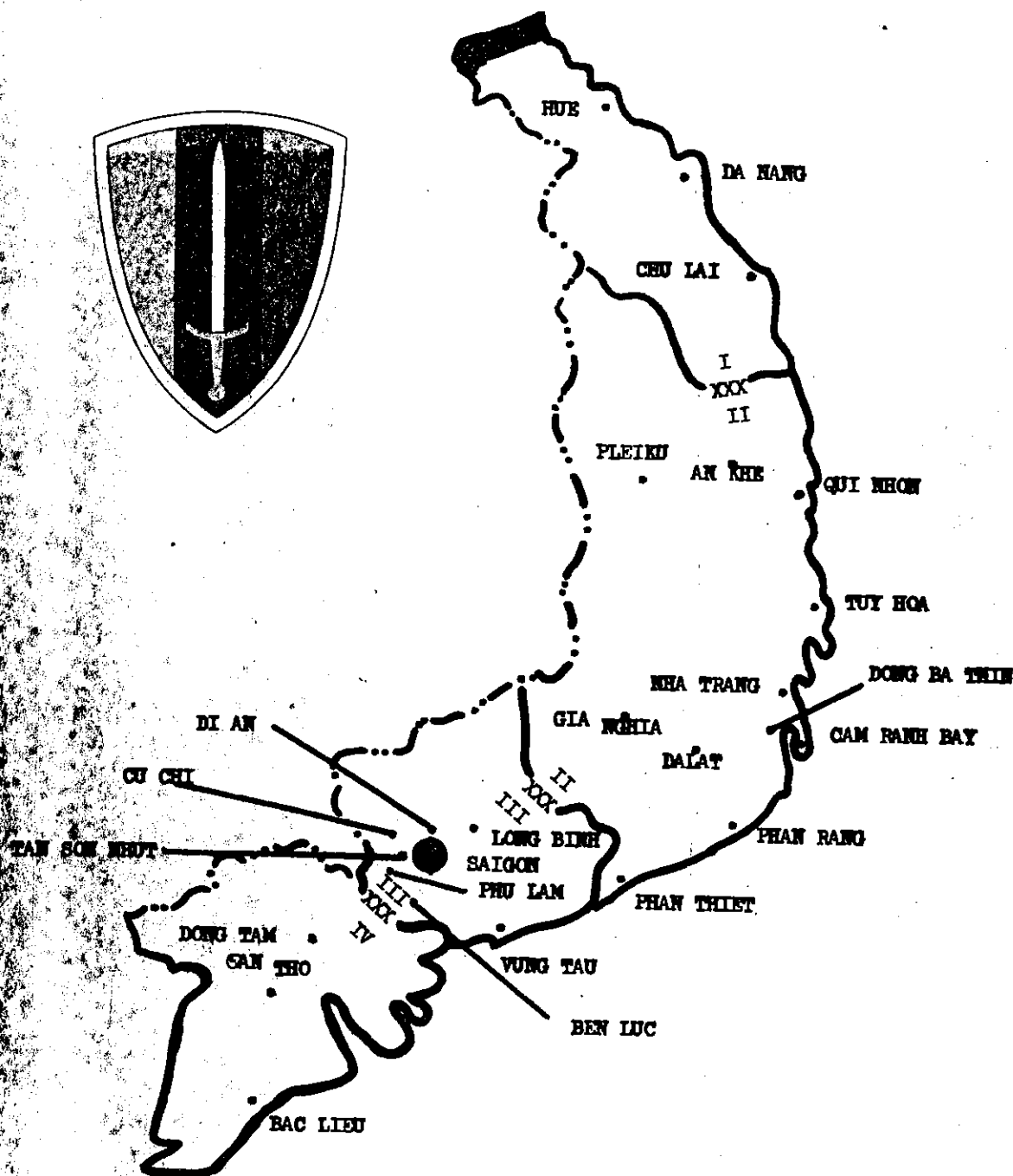
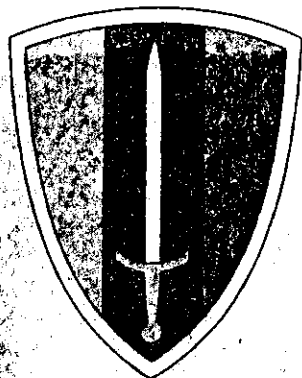
A. Many courses of instruction for all levels of education are available through USAFI. In addition, more than 6000 correspondence courses are available from the extension division of 44 leading schools. In the Saigon, Long Binh area, a limited number of college courses are available through the University of Maryland.

Immunizations

Q. What immunizations are required during the tour here?

A. A record of having completed basic series of oral polio; annual influenza when scheduled if not received within the previous nine months; typhus reimmunization within one year when directed by area commanders; plague and cholera within six months; smallpox within one year; typhoid within three years; tetanus-diphtheria within six years; and yellow fever within 10 years.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM



FLAG

The flag of RVN consists of three horizontal red stripes on a yellow background. The three stripes represent the three regions of Vietnam: North, Central and the South, reunited in the national community. Central and South Vietnam currently lie within the boundaries of RVN; North Vietnam is controlled by the Communist regime in Hanoi. The color red, a vibrant color, is a symbol of success. Yellow is the traditional color of the ancestral land symbolizing golden rice grain and the metal, gold, considered to be the most precious by humanity.

AUTHORIZED NEWSPAPERS AND THE STARS AND STRIPES

Both MACV and USARV and most major commands have command newspapers. The MACV Observer covers civic actions efforts and the Free World Forces activities. It is distributed at the ratio of one copy per five men. The Army Reporter, USARV, covers material pertaining to the US Army's actions and operations. Printed each week in 90,000 copies (in Tokyo), one copy serves approximately 3.5 men. The Pacific Edition of the Stars and Stripes is printed daily in Tokyo, and arrives in South Vietnam every morning. By late afternoon or early evening the more than 100,000 copies are in the hands of US troops and the Free World Forces. It is free to the men, and is distributed at the ratio of one copy per five individuals.

BRIEFINGS

Each individual receives his first in-country briefing at the replacement battalions. Upon arrival at his unit, he will receive another briefing pertaining to the mission of his unit and the area where he is working. There is a monthly USARV Command Orientation for all assigned officers and sergeants-major given by the G sections, CORDS, and Aviation.

Religious groupings are as important as ethnic divisions. The majority of the population follows some form of Buddhism, usually blended with or modified by other codes of belief such as Confucianism, Taoism, and ancestor and spirit worship. Roman Catholics form the largest and strongest religious minority, amounting to about 10% of the population; this is the highest proportion of Catholics in any Asian country except the Philippines. There are also two important religious sects which have developed within Vietnam itself within the past 30 to 40 years. The largest of these is the Cao Dai, which blends elements of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Catholicism; the Cao Dai is strongest in Tay Ninh Province. The second native Vietnamese religious sect is the Hoa Hao, an off-shoot of Buddhism, whose followers are concentrated in An Giant Province in the Mekong Delta.

In addition to ethnic and religious divisions, the population of South Vietnam is also divided along lines of geographic origin. The sharpest regional differences exist between the native southerners and the approximately 1 million refugees from North Vietnam who fled south after the establishment of the Communist regime in Hanoi in 1954. These regional differences are based on different dialects, attitudes, and ways of life; they exist not only between the northern refugees and the southerners, but also to some extent between the southerners and the residents of the central part of the country between Saigon and Hue.

The social system of Vietnam revolves around the family and the village. These claim first allegiance. Members of a family, for instance, have an absolute obligation--to be violated only at the risk of serious dishonor--to care for their relatives and to prevent any of them from being in want. The traditional family unit includes not only the living, but also the dead members and the members not yet born. In keeping with the Confucian tradition, older people with their accumulation of a lifetime of experience are the wisest members of society and therefore are accorded the highest standing.

The traditional position of women is totally subordinate to men, and their social life is limited. At the same time, wives often exercise a great deal of influence in the family, particularly in connection with financial affairs and in selecting marriage partners for their sons and daughters. People of upper-class families, as well as people living in villages removed from big city and Western influences, continue to follow time-honored traditions and customs. Among other segments of the population, the customs have been considerably modified. Women are assuming a new and important position in the life of the nation, and young men and women are beginning to choose their own marriage partners.

The Vietnamese have always felt that a deep division exists between manual and intellectual labor. Traditional Vietnamese such as government officials, doctors, teachers, and so on, who have achieved positions as a result of long and patient study, avoid using their hands for tasks they feel they have outgrown. It would be unusual, for example, to see such a person washing his car, helping his wife clear the table, or working in his garden.

Even among the most sophisticated Vietnamese, manners have not become lax or social customs unrestrained. Manners are conditioned by age-old religious teachings and are deeply ingrained in the life of the people. Public display of emotion is almost always in bad taste. Displays of affection are confined to the privacy of the home, and even there not practiced before guests. Raising the voice, shouting, or gesturing wildly are most impolite. In social relations, hinting and indirection are preferable to making outright statements or requests. It is best to avoid launching too quickly into a new topic, or disagreeing too vehemently. In all things, moderation and the general practice of good manners and courtesy are particularly important. You will fulfill your duty as a representative of the US best by remembering at all times that you are in a land where dignity, restraint, and politeness are highly regarded by the people.

SAIGON

Saigon, the capital and largest city in RVN, is located on the west bank of the Saigon River, about 50 miles inland from the South China Sea. It is an important commercial port. The population, which was about 400,000 before World War II, has now increased to an estimated 2,500,000 including the twin city of Cholon. Overcrowding of the city has resulted in traffic-swollen streets, an atmosphere of constant activity and an extreme housing shortage. Despite the great increase in population and business activity, Saigon retains most of its former beauty. Public gardens and the many streets bordered with large shade trees appeal to the visitor. Because of French architectural and cultural influence, Saigon has been called the "Paris of the Orient."

PHONE CALLS TO THE UNITED STATES

Phone calls to the US may be made at the USO building in Saigon and from the Service Club of the 90th Replacement Battalion, Long Binh. Military Affiliate Radio Service (MARS) facilities available throughout Vietnam afford personal message and telephone patch service to the US.

MAIL

Normal time for air mail to and from the US and Vietnam is four to seven days, depending on your in-country location. Letters and personal tapes are dispatched postage-free to the US. Letters to foreign countries are also postage-free. Parcels shipped by surface mail take 30 to 45 days. Parcels weighing five pounds or less are sent air mail at surface mail rates. US military personnel may send gifts of foreign manufacture out-of-country tax and duty free, providing the value does not exceed 50 dollars. This applies only to goods purchased through authorized agencies of the Armed Forces. The APO for your return address is 96375.

AER AND RED CROSS

AER and Red Cross facilities are found at major troop concentrations and Red Cross personnel are with units in the field.

VIETNAM - THE COUNTRY

The Republic of Vietnam extends in crescent shape along the southeastern face of the Indochinese Peninsula. From its 45-mile long border with North Vietnam at the 17th parallel, southward to the tip of the Mekong Delta below the 9th parallel, the country occupies an area somewhat less than half the size of California. It has a seacoast of 1,500 miles on the South China Sea and the Gulf of Siam. Its western borders with Cambodia and Laos trace some 900 miles through delta, jungle, plain, and mountains.

The northern two-thirds of the Republic is dominated by the Southern Mountain Plateau of the Annamite Chain. The peaks of this mountain chain lie generally between 2,000 and 7,000 feet, but some peaks are in excess of 8,000 feet, comparable in height and ruggedness to many parts of the Alps and the Rocky Mountains. This chain extends from the border with North Vietnam southward to a line about 60 miles northeast of Saigon. Throughout its length, the chain throws out spurs to the sea, dividing the coastal plain into sections. Between these spurs, deltas have formed around the short rivers which run down from the mountains.

The climate of the Republic of Vietnam is tropical and monsoonal. There are two seasons: hot and dry and hot and rainy. In the southern Delta, the rain begins late May and continues through September. It is hottest and most humid in April and early May. Along the central coast, the rainy season begins in October and lasts until March. July and August are the hottest and most humid months here. In the highlands of the country, however, the nights are cool regardless of the season.

Climate and the shape of the land have had their inevitable effects on the nation's 15½ million people. The bulk of these people exist by cultivating rice on lands irrigated by gravity or by primitive pumps and sluices. Since two-thirds of the country is mountainous, and 80% is covered with trees or brush (about half of which is high stand tree cover or outright jungle), the overwhelming majority of the population lives in the open lowland plains of the rice-bearing deltas. The vast uplands themselves are largely left to the ethnically alien and primitive mountain tribes. Perhaps about 15% of the people of South Vietnam live in cities; Saigon, the capital, is the largest with about 2,500,000 people; Da Nang runs a distant second with about 110,000.

The majority of the population of South Vietnam is ethnically and culturally Vietnamese. There are, however, significant minorities. There are at least 1 million Chinese (about 700,000 of whom live in the Saigon-Cholon metropolitan area), and a half-million Cambodians or Khmers. In the highlands live the approximately 1 million members of the mountain tribes, the Montagnards, who maintain their elaborate tribal and social structure against heavy odds.

In addition to R&R, personnel are authorized one 7-day leave during their normal tour of duty in Vietnam. Ordinary leave may be taken to Okinawa, Guam, RVN and those places authorized for R&R.

Personnel who extend their tour of duty in Vietnam for six months or longer are authorized a special thirty day leave to a location of their choice. Special leave must be taken in one increment and is not charged against accrued leave. Round trip transportation will be furnished at Government expense to the special leave site selected by the individual.

Emergency leave is authorized upon receipt of a Red Cross confirmed report of a specific emergency which requires your presence in the US or other out-of-country location. Normally, up to 30 days is authorized. Travel time within the country of destination is chargeable as leave.

LEGAL MATTERS

Legal advice and assistance is available to all military personnel and American citizens working with USARV. The USARV Staff Judge Advocate is able to prepare legal documents, including wills and powers of attorney. In addition, a legal assistance officer is available for consultation and reference services.

You need not file a federal income tax return while you are in Vietnam, but you must file within 180 days after leaving RVN. However, you should make prior arrangements with the Internal Revenue Service so that the Government will not be expecting your return at the regular time. You should determine from your home state the rules on filing state income tax returns.

All military personnel stationed in Vietnam are immune from criminal and civil legal action in RVN courts. Nevertheless, all personnel are required to obey the police and laws of RVN, and are, of course, subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

The religious needs of US personnel in Vietnam are fulfilled by US Military Chaplains. The assistance of missionaries and other clergymen are available when required.

Detailed schedules of religious services are posted on bulletin boards and widely publicized in official bulletins and local papers.

MEDICAL CARE

Medical treatment facilities in Vietnam are Excellent.

Required immunizations for Vietnam include smallpox, typhoid, tetanus, influenza, cholera, plague and typhus. During your tour of duty in Vietnam, you will be required to keep these immunizations current. Questions dealing with malaria prophylaxis should be directed to medical personnel at the time of immunization prior to departure for Vietnam. You will be required to take one chloroquine-primaquine tablet within 24 hours of arriving in Vietnam, and once weekly while in-country.

Any major dental work should be completed prior to departure from COMUS.

HEALTH HAZARDS IN VIETNAM

WATER: Most tap water in Vietnam, including well or spring water, is considered non-potable. Only potable water should be used for drinking purposes, brushing teeth, making ice cubes, final rinse of vegetables, and for other personal use. Locally made ice is not potable. Only ice made by individuals using potable water, and ice procured for the military messes, is considered safe; however, improper handling at either the source or in transit can cause contamination. Use sanitary precautions and remember that water in most local restaurants and hotels is not potable.

FOOD: Infectious hepatitis is a major cause of noneffectiveness in Vietnam. Almost invariably it is contracted by using nonpotable ice in drinks or eating in Vietnamese restaurants; therefore, it is advisable to eat only in military messes. Should it become necessary in the course of official duties, salads and other uncooked foods should be avoided.

HOLD BAGGAGE

Currently, hold baggage shipments, regardless of mode of transportation, are taking in excess of sixty days to arrive in Tan Son Nhut (Saigon). Therefore, it is recommended that either required clothing be shipped in hold baggage at least sixty days before your availability date or that you bring it in hand carried baggage.

ARMY FACILITIES

There are several small PX's in the Long Binh Post Area for everyday necessities and two large Exchanges which offer most of the luxury and souvenir items. Commissary and QM clothing sales stores are not in operation at Long Binh Post but are available in Saigon. It is possible to order military clothing from the Clothing Sales Store by mail.

TIME ZONE

Vietnam is in a time zone that has a standard time difference of 16 hours ahead of San Francisco, and 13 hours ahead of New York City. Vietnam is across the International Date Line from the United States.

DUTY HOURS

Normal week-day duty hours at HQ USARV are 0730 - 1930, except that 50% of each staff section may depart at 1830. On Saturday morning 100% of the staff is on duty; from 1230 - 1730 a minimum of 50% must be present. On Sundays and holidays a minimum of 25% of the working force is required to be present from 0730 - 1730.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Currently there are Education Centers available for military personnel in Vietnam located at Saigon, Long Binh, Bear Cat, Di An, An Khe, Cu Chi, Qui Nhon, Cam Ranh Bay, Nha Trang, Vung Tau, and Pleiku.

These centers offer professional educational guidance and counseling, correspondence courses of the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) at the preparatory high school, high school and college level; correspondence courses from 46 USAFI participation colleges and universities; and testing for high school equivalency and first year college equivalency and first year college completion.

The Saigon, Long Binh Post, Cam Ranh Bay, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Vung Tau, and Chu Lai centers are conducting spoken Vietnamese and University of Maryland under-graduate resident courses. University of Maryland enrollment for this term is 596 students. It is anticipated that all the above listed opportunities will expand rapidly in participation.

ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION

Armed Forces Radio Stations (AM & FM) operate 24 hours daily, presenting a variety of programs from top US radio networks as well as complete local music and news programming. The AM station is received on 540 kilocycles on the standard broadcast band in Long Binh and the FM station is heard on 99.9 megacycles.

Stateside television programs are broadcast every day on Channel 11, Saigon. Hours of operation are: Monday thru Friday, 1830 - 0045; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 1230 - 0045.

R&R PROGRAM AND LEAVE

Currently there are ten out-of-country areas to which US military and chartered commercial aircraft transport R&R passengers on a scheduled basis. The areas are Australia, Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Japan, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Penang, Singapore, and Taiwan. Military personnel are authorized one out-of-country R&R trip for the first 12 months in the Republic of Vietnam and an additional one if they extend for 90 days or longer. The length of an R&R trip is normally based upon five nights in the host city. Normally, an individual will have served at least three months in Vietnam before being selected for out-of-country R&R.

An in-country R&R center is located at Vung Tau, where three days of rest and recreation are provided for enlisted personnel, company grade officers, and warrant officers serving with combat units.

SAVINGS PROGRAM

You have an opportunity unequalled anywhere for saving your money while in Vietnam.

In addition to your allotment for purchase of US Savings Bonds and Freedom Shares, you can earn 10% interest, compounded quarterly, in the Savings Deposit Program. Deposits to this program may be made by allotment or by cash deposit.

Also, the Bank of America and the Chase Manhattan Bank operate military banking facilities in Vietnam. You may avoid pay lines by having your pay deposited by your finance officer in a personal checking account established with one of these facilities. Your money will earn 5% interest per annum paid quarterly (calendar quarter) on the basis of minimum balance in your account during the quarter. No interest is paid if your balance is below \$100.00 on any day in the calendar quarter.

Select a savings option that will suit your personal financial situation. If for some reason, none of the savings programs suits your needs, then you may wish to increase your allotments, or let your pay accrue "on the books" and draw just the minimum cash to meet your immediate needs. Contact your personnel or finance officer for details.

PIASTERS

Military personnel in Vietnam may exchange MPC for Vietnamese piasters only at authorized places (finance offices, USO, messes, and clubs). The official rate of exchange is 118 piasters to one US dollar (MPC). There is an active black market operating in the cities for currency exchange. If you are approached by private Vietnamese citizens and asked to change MPC for piasters, you should report such contacts to the proper American military authorities.

One of the most serious problems facing Vietnam is that of inflation. We must do all we can to avoid compounding this problem. The most important thing we can do is avoid spending piasters as much as possible. Patronize the Post Exchange and military messes and clubs. When you do spend piasters, do not throw your money around indiscriminately; do not pay more than a reasonable price for anything. The average Vietnamese citizen is quite poor by our standards. He cannot compete with a free-spending American, and the merchants know this. If we do our best to keep prices down within the range that the local people can afford, we are significantly helping the war effort.

BILLETS AND MESS

Billets at Long Binh Post are quite adequate. Each BOQ offers maid service to include light laundry and shining shoes for a billeting fee of 800 piasters (about \$7.00) to majors and below and 900 piasters (about \$8.00) to LTC and above, each month. You may arrange with the maid to have your uniforms laundered or utilize commercial laundry facilities operating in the BOQ area. Quartermaster laundry service is available. The USARV Open Mess operates in the BOQ area and offers light snacks. Officer field ration messes are available as well.

PRIVATE FIREARMS

Military personnel are not authorized to purchase locally or to import privately owned firearms while assigned in RVN, except upon approval of written requests for exception to USARV Reg 210-5, Custody and Control of Firearms and Dangerous Weapons. Requests for exception will be forwarded to the Deputy Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: Provost Marshal, except that personnel assigned to units in the Saigon/Cholon/Tan Son Nhut areas will forward requests to the Commanding General, USAHAC.

Personnel who gain exceptions and personnel who own firearm war trophies and wish to apply for an export license must make application to the CG, USAHAC, at least one month prior to owner's scheduled date of departure from Vietnam. The owner's firearm permit will accompany the request for the firearm export license.

ARRIVAL

There are three aerial ports of entry into RVN. Lieutenant colonels and below, assigned to units in the highlands sector or to the central portion of Vietnam, will normally arrive at Cam Ranh Bay. Those officers assigned to Headquarters, USARV or to units in the Saigon area will normally arrive at Bien Hoa Air Field near Long Binh Post. Colonels will normally arrive at Tan Son Nhut and be met by a sponsor and escorted to the appropriate inprocessing activities. All other officers will be met upon arrival by a USARV representative and transported to the appropriate replacement unit for processing. During replacement processing, officers will receive an in-country orientation and confirmation of their assignments. Generally, officers remain at the replacement activity less than 24 hours.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

Every American in Vietnam is an ambassador. It is up to each individual to conduct himself so as to bring credit upon himself and the United States. In addition, an important aspect of our effort in Vietnam is to win the hearts and minds of the people. To accomplish this, we must treat the Vietnamese people with courtesy and friendliness. We are guests in this country and we must remember to behave accordingly.

SECURITY

It should be obvious to all that US personnel anywhere in Vietnam must observe strict precautionary measures. In a guerilla war such as this one, there is no safe rear area. Terrorists operate even in the streets of Saigon, and they look for easy targets, such as a large group of Americans at a bus stop or an intoxicated individual trying to find his way back to his quarters. Be alert to the possible danger around you; avoid potential trouble or danger areas.

The Vietnamese police are charged with the responsibility of protecting American servicemen. The cooperation of each American is essential if the local police are to carry out their responsibilities.

CLOTHING

The duty uniform for personnel assigned to USARV is the tropical combat uniform. Wear of DMS tropical or standard combat boot is optional. Upon arrival you will be issued the tropical items of wear. The khaki uniform is required to be worn while traveling to or from Vietnam on PCS. Also, depending on the country and season, the khaki uniform may be required while traveling on TDY, R&R, or leave status. Three sets of khaki uniforms and two sets of fatigues are recommended. It is optional to have one set of light weight greens for leave or TDY travel out of the area. A raincoat is a necessity.

The duty uniform for female personnel is the Green Cord uniform or the field uniform, as appropriate. Officers of the Army Nurse Corps wear the white hospital dress only at certain locations. ANC personnel will be individually advised concerning this uniform requirement.

Off-duty dress is usually casual, and sport shirts and slacks are acceptable attire at most social events. Short-sleeved shirts should be generally conservative in color. You should bring a lightweight suit and a few pairs of slacks for leave and R&R purposes. For social events, female military personnel normally wear lightweight washable dresses of the "resort wear" type. All clothing should be washable since dry cleaning is expensive and of poor quality.

PAY PROCEDURES

You should arrive in Vietnam with sufficient funds to cover necessary expenses for the first several weeks. (\$75.00 is the recommended minimum amount.) Traveler's checks, other negotiable instruments, and US currency must be converted to Military Payment Certificate (MPC) within 48 hours after your arrival in-country. You may exchange your money at the replacement center or at the finance office that serves your unit.

All military personnel in Vietnam receive hostile fire pay of \$65.00 per month. Married personnel receive a family separation allowance of \$30.00 per month, unless the family occupies Government quarters while the sponsor is in Vietnam. Enlisted men and warrant officers pay no federal income tax on money earned for service in Vietnam; commissioned officers pay no tax on the first \$500.00 of their monthly salary.