

Military Sea Transportation Service
Vung Tau, R.V.N.
San Francisco, California
96291

8 December 1966

From: Military Sea Transportation Service Representative, Vung Tau
To: Masters, MSTS Chartered Vessels, Vung Tau (Cap St. Jacques) Anchorage

Subj: Launch service and liberty information

1. This is to announce the operation of a 50 passenger liberty launch serving MSTS vessels at Vung Tau-Cap St. Jacques, and to provide some information on liberty in the area. There are no commercial launches available in Vung Tau-Cap St. Jacques.

2. The liberty launch is a modified LCM-6 operated by the Alaska Barge and Transport Company under the direction of MSTS Rep Vung Tau. It is intended for use primarily by USNS and GAA vessels, and is available to these ships at no cost. MSTS Time Charters and Space Charters will be serviced on a reimbursable basis as capability permits, and only upon receipt by the coxswain of the Master's signed request for launch service. Ships will notify MSTS Rep Vung Tau by radio, after ship has been granted provisional pratique, that the Master wishes the boat to provide service on a reimbursable basis. When the boat arrives the Coxswain will be presented with a signed letter to this effect. The Coxswain will log the number in the ships liberty party each day for purpose of claim settlement.

3. For the present, launch operations are limited to hours of daylight. The following schedule will be maintained:

- * First run 0745 Arrival first ship (Pt. Canh Rai Area)
0900 Arrival Vung Tau pilot pier
- ** 0930 Departure pilot pier with return party (does not pickup shore leave party)
- ** Second Run 1245 Arrival first ship (Pt. Canh Rai Area)
1330 Arrival pilot pier
1400 Departure pilot pier for swing of ship's
1530 Arrival pilot pier
1600 Departure pilot pier for swing of ship's
1730 Arrival pilot pier
1800 Final departure pilot pier with return party and secure for night (does not pick-up shore party on the run)
- (* 0745 run and 1245 run do not start from the pilot pier)
- (** is first return run for shore party to return to ship)

4. The local curfew is from 2400 hours through 0400 hours, during which time no one is permitted to be on the streets. Overnight accommodations in Vung Tau are very limited throughout the week, and those intending to spend the night ashore should make firm reservations early. There is NO return transportation after 1300 launch. Ships holding at Vung Tau for Saigon discharge should be aware that notification of early morning pilot times is normally given on the 1630 radio check the evening prior to the transit.

5. Vung Tau is a small community and resort area which has become a large multi-national military and civilian community. There is a growing shortage of food, housing, water and the area is suffering from accelerated increases in the basic cost of living. The money your crew members put into the local economy will be appreciated by the civil community only as long as each individual exercises judgement and responsibility in spending his money so as to not contribute to the spiraling cost of living. In this connection, the crew should be aware that Vietnamese piastres on the economy. A currency exchange and customs office is located across the street from the pilot pier. All persons coming ashore on liberty will change all U.S. dollars to Vietnamese piastres at this exchange office. Military Police and Vietnamese are on the look-out for people exchanging money on the black market. Crew members should be warned not to take a chance. At U.S. Military bases, clubs and messes, Military Payment Certificates (MPC's) are the only acceptable currency. Ship's Purser's having a letter of introduction from MSTs Rep may obtain supplies of MPC's at the Army Finance Office.
6. Crew members ashore must recognize that they are under the jurisdiction of both U.S. Military Policemen and city policemen of the city of Vung Tau and must obey the lawful orders and instructions issued by them. Upon being informed of an alert, an enemy, attack, or the temporary placing "OFF LIMITS" of Vung Tau crew members should return immediately to the pilot pier where shore to ship transportation will be provided as soon as possible.
7. Vung Tau offers several interesting shops, numerous small bars, clubs and restaurants, and some excellent swimming at back beach. Area considered secure include Vung Tau proper and the Back Beach area. The two Mountains are not patrolled and are out of bounds to those not on official business. Under no circumstances should travel be attempted outside the Vung Tau Area.
8. Those of us on official duty in Vung Tau are endeavoring to assist the Vietnamese in winning their war against the forces of communism, raising the standard of living, stabilizing their economy, and giving them cause to admire and respect the United States and our way of life. You can assist us in accomplishing this mission by insuring that the members of your crew are individually aware of their responsibility, and the position of the United States Government concerning the protection to be afforded United States non-military citizens who violate Vietnamese law. The assistance and cooperation of you and your seaman is most earnestly solicited.
9. Radio checks are made daily with Port Control Saigon on 2716 Kcs at 0800, 1400, and 1630 daily, all times are local. Upon first checking in to the net, Master should give deepest fresh water draft, bunkers on hand and fresh water on hand.

James A. Dunn
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MSTS REP VUNG TAU