

6 February 1967

M E M O R A N D U M

1. There is no Status of Forces Agreement in effect in Vietnam. Merchant Seamen, technical representatives, Department of the Army civilians and contractor personnel accompanying US Forces in the Republic of Vietnam are subject to the laws, regulations, police authority and jurisdiction of the courts of the Republic of Vietnam and courts convened under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Civilians in RVN are expected to conform to standards of conduct similar to those required of military personnel. The following information which is extracted from current VTSAC Circulars and Daily Bulletins, prescribes standards of conduct for military and civilian personnel in the Vung Tau area.

a. Curfew and off-limits restrictions:

(1) Between 2200 and 0400 hours daily, all Vietnamese places of business, entertainment, public places, private residences and streets are off-limits except that the streets may be used by authorized transportation.

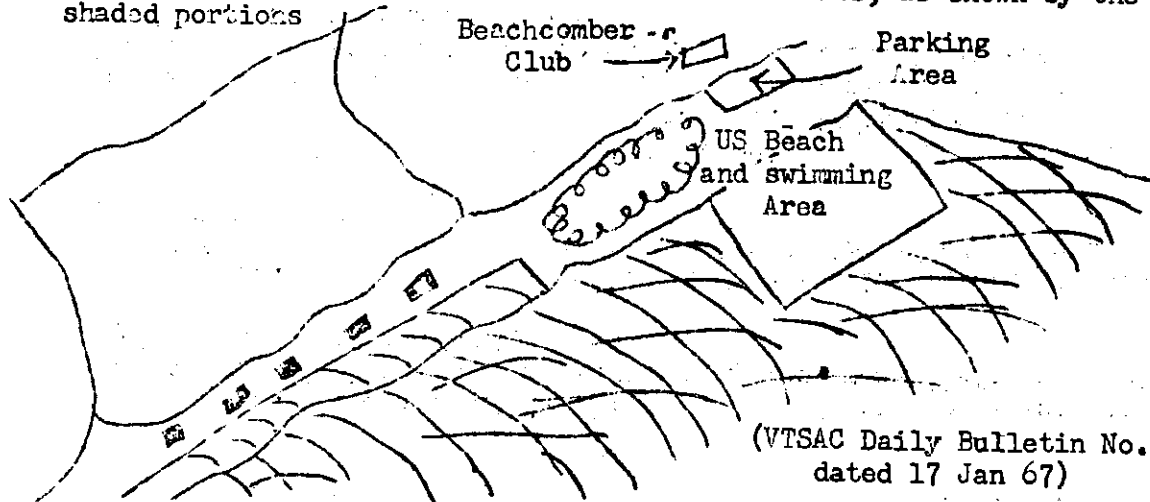
(2) Between 2230 hours and 0400 hours daily all Vietnamese transportation is off-limits.

(3) Two-wheeled vehicles (except horse-drawn) driven by Vietnamese Nationals are off-limits at all times.

(4) Between 2400 and 0400 hours Monday thru Saturday and between 0100 and 0400 hours Sundays and Holidays, a general curfew, established by the Vietnamese Government is in effect. All U. S. personnel will be in their assigned quarters or place of duty during curfew unless excused by competent authority.

(VTSAC Cir 630-20 dated 25 Jan 67 and Change 1 dated 4 Feb 67)

b. All bodies of water in Vietnam are off-limits for recreational swimming unless specifically approved. There is only one authorized swimming area on the Vung Tau peninsula. That is the US supervised beach on Back Beach, shown below as unshaded. All other water and beach areas in the vicinity of Back Beach are off-limits, as shown by the shaded portions



(VTSAC Daily Bulletin No. 17
dated 17 Jan 67)

6 Feb 67

c. Drivers of all vehicles will abide by Vietnamese traffic laws and speed limits (20 MPH in the Vung Tau Area) (Ref: VTSAC Cir. 58-1 dated 16 August 1966)

d. Carrying and possession of weapons is strictly prohibited except in duty and/or travel status. (VTSAC Cir. 350-3 dated 1 Oct 66 and MACV Dir 210-2)

2. US Military and civilian personnel are in Vietnam to assist the Vietnamese in their war against Communism. With this assistance we also assume the responsibility to help curb inflation and civil disobedience, factors which detract from economic and social stability and diminish the results of our productive efforts.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

H. H. Robinson

H. H. ROBINSON
CPT, AGC
Adjutant

23 MAR 67

From: Officer in Charge Military Sea Transportation Service Unit, Vung Tau
To: Masters, MSTS CHartered Vessels, Vung Tau/Cape St. Jacques Anchorage

Subj: Launch service and liberty information

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

2. The liberty launch is a modified LCM-6 operated by the Alaska Barge and Transport Company under the direction of OIC MSTS Unit Vung Tau. It is intended for use primarily of USNS and GAA vessels, and is available to those ships at no cost. MSTS Time Charters, Space Charters and other U.S. Flag ships 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. When the boat arrives the Coxswain will give the Master a form letter to be signed.

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

First run 0730 Depart pilot pier
 0900 Arrive pilot pier
 0930 Depart pilot pier (does not pick-up shore
 leave party)
 1230 Arrival first ship (Pt. Ganh Rai Area).
 1330 Depart pilot pier for swing of ships
 1500 Depart pilot pier for swing of ships
 1630 Arrive pilot pier
 1700 Depart pilot pier for swing of ships
 1800 Arrive pilot pier (SECURE FOR THE NIGHT)

4. The local curfew is from 2200 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 1700 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 river 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. A currency exchange and customs office is only located across the street from the pilot pier. All persons coming ashore on liberty will change all U.S. Dollars to Vietnamese Dong. Military police and Vietnamese are on the streets. Crew members should be warned not to take a chance,

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 of 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. These policemen have the authority to apprehend and detain U.S. civilian merchant seamen.

7. Vung Tau offers several interesting shops, numerous small bars, clubs and restaurants, and some excellent swimming at back beach. The area that is considered secure, includes 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 seamen is most earnestly solicited.

9. Radio checks are made daily with Port Control Saigon on 2/16 KCS at 0800 1400, and 1630 daily, all times are local. Upon first checking into the net Master should give deepest fresh water draft, bunkers on hand and fresh water on hand.

10. While ships are at anchor off Cape St. Jacques their security will be provided for by Harbor Entrance Control's patrol boats. These boats will be on 24 hr. patrol around the harbor. They frequently run without lights at night and Masters' must caution security guards to illuminate approaching boats. Do not shoot at approaching small boats without positive identification. First notify Harbor Entrance Control of any suspicious boat movements in the vicinity of your ship.

James A. Dunn
OIC MSTCU Vung Tau