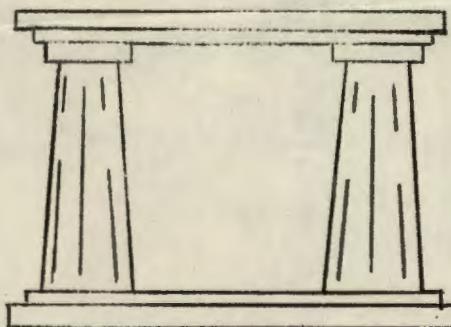


WELCOME TO

Vietnam



2^D AIR DIVISION



MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH H. MOORE

HELPFUL HINTS

1. People-to-people: Vietnamese are extremely courteous and polite. Most of them realize the average Westerner does not understand their customs and they make allowances for it. Yet they appreciate a genuine interest on the part of a visitor to learn their way of life. Good manners are the same the world over and universally appreciated. A smile and a nod of greeting means the same thing here in Vietnam as it does in the United States. A simple "Thank You", is very easy to express without uttering a word, yet the gesture speaks volumes of good will. It boils down to sincerity and common sense. Those who display these qualifications leave behind a good impression of themselves and their country.
2. Tipping: Tips are not a general practice in Vietnam. Most good restaurants are on a "Service compris" or service included basis. Thus a 10% service charge is added to your bill. Sidewalk cafes and bars do not include a service charge. In all establishments, you may tip if you desire, but 5% is considered adequate in all but special circumstances.
3. Public Transportation: Taxis and pedicabs are the most used forms of local transportation. Taxis are available day and night at extremely reasonable rates. Fares, in daytime, begin at 2.50\$VN. 6\$VN is the minimum fare. After 2200, rates increase by 50% after midnight, pay double. Be sure to see that the meter reads 2.50\$VN at the beginning of your ride. Pedicabs are a lot of fun, but it is a good idea to stay out of congested areas during rush hours. Fares should be settled before starting off. A typical pedicab driver charges 40\$VN per hour. Motor cycles are not recommended for those with high blood pressure, weak stomachs, or heart ailments. Busses are confusing for those not familiar with Saigon and the bus routes. Before embarkation in public transportation, you should be aware that most cab and cyclo drivers understand neither French nor English, many do not know street names. It is recommended that the prospective passenger get a general idea of where they wish to go. Write the address on a slip of paper to give the driver or have someone who speaks Vietnamese to explain it for you.
4. Sanitation: **Dysentery** is a common complaint of Americans and Europeans in South Vietnam. Following is a few simple rules that will keep you free of this ailment:
 - a. Do not drink tap water. All hotels and BOQ's-BEQ's provide potable water in bottles. Restaurants and bars listed under page 3 & 4 serve potable water.
 - b. All bottled beverages for sale in Saigon are potable. This includes SEGI and Ba Muoi Ba (Biere 33).
 - c. As a rule, uncooked fresh vegetables are not safe. However, BOQ's, BEQ's serve imported fresh vegetables.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

Currency regulations in Vietnam are extremely complex. Each Vistor therefore, should read the following carefully,

1. No individual is permitted to engage in currency exchange transactions except at those places listed in paragraph 4. Vietnamese citizens are not permitted to possess dollars. Occasionally, you may be approached by unscrupulous individuals in the street or in stores to exchange your dollars. Such transactions ultimately aid in the Communist terrorist efforts here and in neighboring countries and are disloyal to both U.S. and the free Republic of Vietnam. The Commander MACV will not tolerate illegal transactions, nor will the government of Vietnam.
2. To facilitate exchange of piasters to dollars upon departure, it is recommended that the following be observed:
 - a. Buy piasters only in small amounts during your visit.
 - b. Pay your hotel bill with excess piasters.
 - c. Exchange of piasters to green backs should be made during normal working hours (0700 - 1200 hrs and 1500 - 1800 hrs). On Saturdays and Sundays change your piasters to dollars preceeding commercial flights.
3. U.S. Personnel stationed in Saigon are limited to \$100.00 per month in U.S. Currency. Because of the possibility of hardship and the fact that certain U.S. agencies deal only in cash, it is requested that visitors do not ask personnel to exchange piasters for dollars. Your Project Officer of the Protocol Office will be happy to help facilitate legal exchange prior to your departure. However, because of U.S. Government and local regulations MACV personnel cannot assume responsibility for such exchange.
4. Dollar Exchange: Dollars may be exchanged for piasters at the Accounting and Finance Office, this station, U.S. Embassy from 0800 to 1100 hours daily and at the MAAG Disbursing Office from 0745 to 1100 hours and 1415 to 1845 hours on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Morning and in the same afternoons, The Brink BOQ offers a limited piaster exchange of \$25.00 at the cashiers desk.
5. Personal checks may be cashed at the U.S. Embassy for piasters if the check is \$25.00 or more. MAAG Disbursing is not permitted to accept personal checks however, travellers checks are acceptable. An individual may receive only \$5.00 a day or \$100.00 a month in U.S. Dollars. All additional money must be taken in Piasters or check.
6. U.S. Government agencies are prohibited to exchange paisters to U.S. money.
7. Disbursing Office and Personnel Section, American Embassy, are located at No 4 Thong Nhut Norodom Compound.

7. Exchange of dollars to piasters must be performed by those legally entitled to make this exchange. These agencies are confined to Tan Son Nhut, the Caravelle, Continental and Majestic Hotels, Banks and U.S. Government agencies. There is no appreciable variation in the rates at these places.

8. The following table is calculated at 72.765 \$VN to \$1.00 U.S. which is the rate at which U.S. agencies pay, subject to change.

EXCHANGE RATE 72.765

U.S. \$ TO VN

\$1.----73P
\$5.----364P
\$10.----728P
\$20.---1455P
\$25.---1819P
\$30.---2153P
\$40.---2912P
\$50.---3644P
\$100.---7276P

VN TO U.S. \$

1P	-----	1.44
100P	-----	\$1.39
500P	-----	\$6.97
1000P	-----	\$13.93
2000P	-----	\$27.86
3000P	-----	\$41.80
4000P	-----	\$55.73
5000P	-----	\$69.66
10,000P	---	\$139.32

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

RESTAURANTS:

1. CARUSO: 125 Ton That Thiep Street. Italian and French Food at a reasonable price in a pleasant atmosphere.
2. CARAVELLE HOTEL: 23 Place Lam Son at the Tu Do Street. Excellent French cuisine in an elegant atmosphere. Panoramic view of Saigon makes extra expense worthwhile. Three Cocktail Lounges are located on the 1st floor and roof.
3. GUILLAUME TELL: Located in the Khanh Hoi Dock area, at 32-34 Trinh Minh. The food is very good with reasonable prices.
4. LA CIGALE: 18 Dinh Tien Hoang. Provencal food, this restaurant is regarded by some as having the best food in Saigon, moderately expensive.
5. L'ADMIRAL: 39 Thai Lap Thanh Street. Directly off Tu Do Street in the center of Saigon, has good food.
6. LA PAPRIKA: 136Bis, Yen Do Street. Features Spanish Cuisine. To enter one must travel behind an apartment house and up an interior stairway. Rooftop friendly atmosphere makes it worthwhile.
7. TOUR D'ARGENT: Ben Bach Dang near the Majestic Hotel Vietnamese food which must be flavored with the pungent "nuoc mam" sauce.

8. GHEONG NAM: Opposite Brink BOQ on the corner of Hai Ba Trung Street and Lam Son Square, "Cheap Charlies" offers French and Chinese food at extremely reasonable prices (i.e., Chateaubriand, salad, vegetables, wine and coffee for U.S. \$2.00).

9. MAJESTIC HOTEL: 1 TU DO Street, standard hotel fare, but inexpensive. Open Air Bar on 1st floor - Cocktail Lounge on 5th floor.

10. ARC-EN-CIEL: 52 Tan Da Street, Cholon, features excellent chinese food. Recommend party of 5 or more to get variety.

BARS:

1. LA PAGODE: Tu Do Street and Le Thanh Ton Street. Open Air and extremely pleasant.

2. A LA CANNE A SUCRE: In the Passage Eden Tu Do Street, adjacent to the Eden Theatre, this is a "petite boite". Air Conditioned with good recorded music.

3. CAPRICCIO: 6-4 Nghiep Huan is better than most.

4. MAYFAIR: 40 Gia Long Street, very attrative decor, slightly expensive.

ENTERTAINMENT:

1. TODO: This is a very lively spot on Tu Do Street. Very interesting.

2. AU BACCARA: Tran Quy Cap Street. Excellent orchestra and good atmosphere.

3. MA CABANE: Nguyen Du Street at the corner of Troung Cong Tinh St. Good Show; good band; expensive.

4. VAN CANH: Le Loi Boulevard and Tran Hung Doa Boulevard has lively entertainment. Moderate prices.

5. ANH VU: Bui Vien Street; Vietnamese singers and entertainers.

NEWS PAPERS & PERIODICALS

1. Saigon Post: Daily English Language newspaper, except Sunday, edited entirely by Vietnamese is published in late morning. Contains a large quantity of international wire service news and some Vietnamese features; 10\$VN.

2. Times and Newsweek: Air shipped to Saigon, these magazines are usually on sale by Saturday morning. 20\$VN each.

3. Stars and Stripes: Daily military, published in Japan, delivered usually two days later. On sale at all BOQ's for 10¢ per copy, Sunday 15¢.

MOTION PICTURE THEATERS:

Most local theaters are clean and air-conditioned. Films are generally French speaking with Vietnamese sub-titles.

BOWLING:

There is an American Bowling Alley on Nguyen Du Street. Six Lanes with open bowling every afternoon. Alley opens at 0900 hours. Cost is 25¢ per lane with 10¢ for shoes.

ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS:

1. Exhibitions Hall: 165 Tu Do Street - periodic exhibitions of paintings, sculpture and lacquer by Vietnamese artists.

2. Vietnamese Handicraft Center: 86 Tu Do Street - Lacquers, pottery, and other artifacts. Fixed prices and a good place to start any shopping tour to get a "line" on local prices.

3. Thanh Le: 40 Tu Do Street and across from the Caravelle Hotel. Fixed prices for excellently designed lacquerware of the highest quality. Worth browsing through.

4. Galerie Hoang Ly: 62 Nguyen Hue Boulevard - paintings by modern Vietnamese artists at prices somewhat less than in the Exhibition Hall. Mme Nhi talks with authority on Vietnamese Art.

5. National Museum: Nguyen Binh Khiem Street - Famous for the Sunday Morning promenade of "les Saigonaises". There is a beautiful pagoda set in a lilly pond. Also a good exhibition of indigenous animals.

6. Temple of Marshal Le Van Duyet: In Gia Ding - this is a type of Buddhist temple. There is a legend that those who desire to live in Saigon must go there. Open to non-believers.

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE SAIGON/CHOLON AREA

MILITARY CHAPEL SERVICES

PROTESTANT: Divine Services at 0900, 1100 and 2000 hrs in the USIS Auditorium 6 Le Loi

Sunday School: 0930 - Sunday - HEDSUPPACT Compan
Choir Practice: 1930 - Thursday - USIS Auditorium

JEWISH: Services - 2000 - Friday - Rex Chapel - Room 322 - Rex BOQ.

LATTER DAY SAINTS: Services - Sunday American Community School

Priesthood: 0930 - Sunday School - 1045

Primary: 1530 - Monday - 106 "D" Ngo Dinh Kohi

CIVILIAN CHURCH SERVICES

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHAPEL (Roman Catholic) - 42 Tu Loung. English speaking Catholic Church, Rev. Robert Crawford, C.M. Pastor, Phone 60029. Sunday Masses: 0630, 0730, 0900, 1000, 1100 and 1830. Daily Masses: 0630, 0730, 0900, 1000, 1100 and 1830, Confessions Saturday before Mass. Choir rehearsal, 1930 on Monday. Discussion Club - 2000 - Tuesday - The Rectory.

INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH (Christian & Missionary Alliance)

Sunday School	0930	Sunday - American Community School
General Worship	1100	Sunday - Capitol Kinh Do Theater
Bible Study	2000	Tuesday - 230-A Pasteur

SAIGON BAPTIST CHAPEL (Southern Baptist) 217 Cong Ly

Sunday Worship services: 1100
Choir Practice: 1900 - Thursday
Bible Study: 2000 - Thursday

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S (Anglican Episcopal Congregation): The French Reformed Church: Thoung Nhut and Mac Dinh Chi. Holy Communion 0800. Morning Prayer and Sermon - 100. Choir Practice - 1815 - Friday.

CHURCH OF CHRIST: 13 Ky Dong. Bible Study and Worship service Sunday in Both English and Vietnamese - 1000 Sunday.

TAN SON NHUT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

PROTESTANT CHAPEL: All activities and services are held in the Theater/Chapel, except the Bible Study Discussion Group.

SUNDAY: 0900 hrs - Episcopal Worship Service.
1000 hrs - Bible Study
1100 hrs - General Protestant Worship Service
Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

WEDNESDAY: 1830 hrs - Choir Rehearsal
1930 hrs - Bible Study Discussion Group - Chaplain's Office

CATHOLIC CHAPEL (VNAF): Sunday Masses: 1150 hrs every day except Saturday.
Alter Boy Practice: 1930 - Tuesday - VNAF Chapel.
Religious Discussion Group: 1920 - VNAF Chapel.

FACILITIES

1. Exchange and Commissary:

a. These facilities, operated by Headquarters Support Activities Saigon (HSAS) at 117 Phan Dinh Phung Street, are open Monday thru Saturday.

Mon, Wed and Fri 1300 hours to 1900 hours.

Tues, Thur and Sat 0900 hours to 1700 hours.

b. Personal Checks may be used to purchase items but must be made out for the exact amount of the purchase.

c. Positive identification is necessary.

d. A sub-exchange is located on Tan Son Nhut one block north of the Cantonement Area. Hours of operation are:

Mon, Wed and Fri 1100 hours to 1900 hours.

Tues, Thur and Sat 0900 hours to 1700 hours.

Sun 1300 hours to 1700 hours.

Close holidays. (Vietnamese and American holidays).

2. Barber Shop:

a. A Base Barber Shop is located adjacent to the Mess Hall in the Cantonement Area. Also at the MAAG Compound and the Brink BOQ.

b. There are numerous civilian shops that operate competitively, and are extremely reasonable.

3. Post Office Services:

a. Stamps, Money Orders and related financial services are available in three separate locations within the Saigon area:

(1) Commissary Compound: Monday thru Friday: Money Orders and Registry - 0800-1230, 1400- 1530. Stamps & Packages 0830-1600. Saturday: 0830-1130.

(2) MAAG Compound: All financial services - Monday thru Friday: 0830-1200 & 1400-1600. Saturday: 0830-1130.

(3) Saigon Air Mail Terminal: Monday thru Friday; Money Orders and Registry - 0830-1500. Monday thru Friday; Stamps and Parcel Post: 0830-1600. Saturday: 0830-1200.

b. All Post Office facilities are closed on Sundays and holidays.

4. Clothing Sales Store:

a. A Clothing Sales Store to meet the needs of U.S. Military Personnel in Vietnam is located at the HSAS compound, 100 Hung Vuong Street, Cholon. Store hours are as follows:

Mon, Wed and Fri 1200 hours to 1900 hours

Tues and Thur 1000 hours to 1500 hours.

Sat 1200 hours to 1500 hours.

5. Dispensary: The Base Dispensary is located directly behind the 33rd Tactical Group Personnel Office. Phone 2260.

a. The Base Dispensary is located directly behind the 33rd Tactical Group Personnel Office. Phone 2260.

b. The HSAS Station Hospital and Out-Patient Clinic is located at 148 Tran Hung Dao Street (Metropole Hotel). Regular clinic hours are 0730 hours to 0930 hours, emergencies at any time.

c. For emergencies, call the HSAS Station Hospital at 70042 (Military Est) or 21859 (Commercial) or the 33rd USAF Dispensary (Tan Son Nhut) at 30001, Ext 2333.

6. Telephones:

a. To call Tan Son Nhut from P.T.T. dial 20011 thru 10015, 25477 or 25478, ask the operator for 33rd and number desired.

b. Overseas calls (personal). Personal calls are made to the ConUS and Hawaii from the main P.T.T. Building in downtown Saigon. For further information call 23822 or 21491.

7. Messing:

a. The Base Mess Hall is located in the Cantonment Area.

	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>DINNER</u>	<u>SUPPER</u>	<u>MIDNIGHT MEAL</u>
Flight Crews	0430-0500			
Early	0530-0545	1030-1040	1600-1610	2300-0030
Regular	0600-0730	1100-1300	1630-1830	
Sundays & Holidays	0600-0800	1100-1300	1600-1730	2300-0030

b. The Brink, Five Oceans and Rex are all BOQ's and are open messes. Officer and Civilian of equivalent rank are welcome as guests. Meal hours and prices are as follows:

	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>LUNCHEON</u>	<u>DINNER</u>
Weekdays	0600-0800	1200-1330	1730-2000
Sunday	0600-1030	1200-1400	1800-2030
Prices	\$.50	\$1.00	\$1.00 \$2.00 (Special Dinner Sundays)

c. The Plaza, Hung Doa, Ky Son and Town House BEQ's are open messes. All enlisted personnel are welcomed as guest. Meal hours and prices are as follows:

	<u>BREAKFAST</u>	<u>LUNCHEON</u>	<u>DINNER</u>
Weekdays	0530-0800	1200-1330	1630-1900
Sundays	0600-1000	1200-1400	1800-1900
Prices	\$.50	\$1.00	\$1.00 \$2.00 (Special Dinner Sundays)

8. PERSONAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS: Travel within the city limits of Saigon is generally unrestricted with the exception of the outskirts which are not in the maximum security areas. Due to the internal situation in Vietnam, travel out-side of the city limits of Saigon/Cholon is PROHIBITED except under military supervision.

BILLETING INFORMATION SHEET

25 May 1964

ALL personnel arriving at Tan Son Nhut will check with the Base Billeting Office at Tent #26, Tent City. It is located near the AOC and the phone number is 2887.

AIRMENS QUARTERS

1. All airmen, transient or permanent will live on the base either in Tent City, Cantonment Area or the New Housing Area and will be assigned these quarters at the Billeting Office. Transients will normally be billeted in tents adjacent to the billeting office.
2. One exception - Airmen whose duties require them to work in Saigon/Cholon such as Purchasing & Contracting and III ASOC will be billeted in Navy BEQ's in town. For further information on this subject see the billeting NCO at Tent #26 or call 2887.

OFFICERS BILLETING

Ltr, BDM, 13 May 1964, subject: "Quarter for Incoming Officers". All incoming officers read this letter.