

March 1965

INFORMATION BROCHURE
37TH AIR BASE GROUP
NHATRANG SOUTH VIETNAM



WELCOME

We wish to welcome you to Nha Trang, South Vietnam -- home of the 37th Air Base Group commanded by Colonel Robert J. Jones.

The 37th Air Base Group is an integral part of the Pacific Air Forces, commanded by General Hunter Harris and reports directly to 2d Air Division commanded by Major General J.H. Moore.

Since it is only natural for you to start thinking of your new assignment, and the preparations you should make prior to departing the United States, this pamphlet is designed to answer some of your more pertinent questions.

SOUTH VIETNAM:

The terrain of South Vietnam may be divided into three main geographic features: the flat Mekong River Delta of the extreme south, the rugged Hoanh-Son Cordillera (Chaine Annamitique) range of the mountains running northward and west of the coastal plain, and the narrow elongated coastal plain stretching along almost the length of the country.

The Mekong River Delta is characterized by flat, poorly drained, highly dissected surface crisscrossed by tributaries of the Mekong and Bassac Rivers, and an intricate network of canals and smaller streams. The elevation of the delta rarely exceeds 20 feet above sea level.

The Hoanh-Son Cordillera generally is made up of forest covered granite and schists, with peaks rising 5,000 to 6,000 feet. The highest point on the range is 8,443 feet and is located west of Quang Ngai.

The coastal plain, generally is less than 25 miles wide, and is washed by the waters of the South China Sea. The surface is generally level, densely populated, and intensely cultivated.

NHA TRANG, SOUTH VIETNAM

Nha Trang is sometimes referred to as the "French Riviera of Southeast Asia" it is located halfway along the South Vietnamese coast and the town of Nha Trang is adjacent to Long-Van Air Base where many of the 37th Air Base Group facilities are located. A broad beach of fine white sand stretches for two-and-one-half miles along the seacoast and the area is surrounded by a mountain chain. The water is ideal for skin diving, swimming, and a motor launch trip out into the bay will take you to any of many small islands. In addition, sports such as tennis, softball, fishing, motor boating, water skiing, etc., are available in the immediate area.

WEATHER

The two prevailing wind directions, northeast and southwest, determine the two main weather seasons in South Vietnam defined as the Northeast Monsoon and the Southwest Monsoon. These two main weather seasons can further be delineated into five weather periods.

Northeast Monsoon (January, February, and March): This is the second phase of the Northeast Monsoon in which the amount of rainfall decreases from the maximum in November and December to heavy shower activity then to light continuous rain to occasional showers.

Spring Transition (April): This is the best weather season of the year for the entire country. Fair and dry conditions and light and variable winds persist throughout most of the country.

Southwest Monsoon (May, June, July and August): This is the season of heavy shower and thunderstorm activity to the west and south of the central ridgeline. East of the ridgeline along the coast, it is fair and dry.

Fall Transition (September, October): Period of heavy rainfall considering the entire country. Southwesterly flow continues to cause rainshowers west of the ridgeline, while typhoons and tropical storms passing through the Gulf of Tonkin from the southeast, bring rains to the east coast.

Northeast Monsoon I (November, December): The wind flow is northeasterly. Low stratus and rain cover the area east of the ridgeline while scattered clouds and dry weather prevail west and south of the ridgeline.

DUTY ASSIGNMENT

Your duty assignment, during your tour with the 37th Air Base Group, will be basically the same as the one at your last duty station. However, expect long hours and hard work both in and outside your AFSC. As you know, the situation in South Vietnam is vital to our national interests. Personnel assigned to the 37th Air Base Group are contributing their share to the Air Force mission in this area. During your tour with us I feel sure that you will acquire experiences which will be of future benefit to you and your Air Force career.

FINANCES:

It is strongly recommend that your financial affairs be in order prior to departing your stateside assignment. Make sure all your MFOs, such as termination of quarters, allotments, etc., are posted to your pay records before you depart your base. Also insure that your savings are going to the bank and that your wife is receiving an allotment for her and your children's needs. Here in South Vietnam you are authorized to draw a maximum of \$200.00 per month. If your pay is over that amount you will receive two checks -- one for "green" and the other for balance of pay due. Since the check for balance of pay due is not cashable in Vietnam and would be sent home anyway, an allotment to a bank or to the wife is strongly recommended.

UNIFORMS:

It is not mandatory or necessary for you to bring any winter uniforms. Probably the only time you will wear your light weight summer blues will be enroute. Three (3) to five (5) sets of 1505s or 505s and three (3) to six (6) sets of fatigues are recommended. Your job normally will dictate the duty uniform, and fatigues are permissible as office wear.

Because of climate, fatigue uniforms should have short sleeves for personal comfort. NOTE: Alterations on the fatigue uniform can be accomplished in Nha Trang at a considerable saving.

EXCHANGE FACILITIES:

There are limited exchange facilities in the immediate area, however, a person should plan to bring soap, shaving cream, after shave lotion and like items -- enough for a two week period. At present there is no clothing sales store at the Long-Van Air Base complex, therefore, additional shorts, tee shirts and socks are must items.

BILLETING:

At the present time personnel of the 37th Air Base Group and tenant units are billeted on the Long-Van Air Base complex or in contract hotels in the area. The housing in the cantonment area in the Long-Van complex is modern with hot and cold running water along with a library, NCO/Airmen Club, outdoor theater, post office, chapel and dining halls.

The contract hotels are permanent masonry structures with tile floors and bath. The majority of the rooms house two persons, however, three or more may occupy a room in a hotel -- depending on the size of the room and the number of personnel arriving in the area. An additional cantonment (temporary structures) area is programmed on base in the near future.

DOMESTIC HELP:

The living facilities are cared for by house boys. They do your laundry, make your bed, shine your shoes, and wait on you in the dining hall. These services are not free of course.

Laundry will cost you an average of 300 piasters (about \$4.00) a month and your other domestic chores will come to approximately 10 piasters (about \$0.13) a day.

I hope this pamphlet aids you in determining arrangements in the CONUS prior to coming to Vietnam. If you have any question on particulars that are not covered in this pamphlet, please don't hesitate to write.