

APPENDIX

Time

Vietnam is 13 hours ahead of our Eastern Standard time. For example, when it is 12 noon, EST, in New York or Washington, D. C., it is one a.m. the next day in Vietnam. Also, when it is midnight in New York or Washington, it is one p.m. the same day in Vietnam.

Money

South Vietnam's unit of money is the *piaster* or *dong*. Notes are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 piasters or dong.

U.S. military and civilian personnel serving in Vietnam are paid in Military Payment Certificates (MPC's), issued in the same denominations as U.S. currency. The MPC's, also called "scrip", can only be used in official facilities, such as exchanges, commissaries, clubs, and messes.

Piasters may be purchased at official exchange points at the rate of 118 piasters for 1 dollar.

Weights and Measures

The international metric system of weights and measures is used throughout Vietnam. Gasoline and other liquids are sold by the liter (1.0567 liquid quarts); cloth by the meter (39 inches); food and other weighed items by the kilogram (2.2 pounds). Distance is measured by the kilometer (0.62 mile); speed in kilometers per hour (25 k.p.h. equals 15 m.p.h.).

Distance and Speed Conversion

Kilometers.....	1	2	3	4	5	10	25	50	100	500
Miles.....	.6	1.2	1.8	2.5	3	6	15	31	62	311

Gasoline Conversion

Liters.....	3.8	7.6	11.4	15.1	18.9	37.9	56.8	76.8
Gallons.....	1	2	3	4	4	10	15	20

SUGGESTED READING

Armed Forces and Education, *Aggression From the North: The Record of North Vietnam's Campaign to Conquer South Vietnam* (DoD GEN-14).

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The Struggle in South Vietnam: 'Liberation' or Conquest? (DoD GEN-19).

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VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE GUIDE

Some 27,000,000 people speak Vietnamese as their first language. The great majority of them live in Viet-Nam. Others are in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, France, and New Caledonia.

Vietnamese was first written in Chinese characters, then in the late thirteenth century, in a modified form called *chú nôm*. In the early 1600's, Portuguese and Italian Jesuit missionaries devised a system of writing Vietnamese with the Latin alphabet. Chinese characters and *chú nôm* continued in use through the early part of this century but were officially replaced in 1920 by Latin script. This is called *quốc ngữ* and consists of 12 vowel and 27 consonant forms.

The simple vowels are: a, e, i, o, u, and y. Modifications of these vowels add six more to the alphabet. The modifications are indicated by diacritical marks, like this: á, â, ê, ô, ó, ú. These diacritical marks are part of the letter and have nothing to do with word accent or tone quality.

The vowels are pronounced:

a—"ah" (long) as in pod

ă—"ah" (short) as in pot

â—"uh" as in but

e—"aa" as in pat
ê—"eh" as in pet
i/y—"ee" as in Pete
o—"aw" as in law
ô—"owe" as in low
ô—"uh" as in bud
u—"oo" as in coo
ũ—"u" as in "ugh"

Of the consonants, only the "d" has two forms. "D" with a line or bar drawn through it (Đ or đ) is pronounced like the English "d." The one without a line or bar is pronounced like our "z" in the north, and like a "y" in central and southern Viet-Nam. The president's name, properly written, has both "d's"—Ngô đình Diêm. The first is pronounced like our "d"; the second like a "z" or a "y" depending on which part of the country the speaker comes from.

Speaking Vietnamese

There is considerable difference between the way Vietnamese is spoken in various parts of the country. If you learn the southern accent, you may be able to understand people from the north but not necessarily those

from central Viet-Nam. Vietnamese in the central provinces of Thanh Hoa and Nghe An have an accent that even their fellow countrymen from other districts find difficult to understand. Hue, too, has its own geographically limited but highly specialized accent.

The sounds of many Vietnamese letters and letter combinations are familiar to English speaking people but a few others are quite difficult to learn, especially the initial "ng" and the vowel "u." To learn to make the "ng" sound, repeat our word "sing" several times, gradually dropping first the "s" and then the "si." To learn to pronounce the Vietnamese "u," say "you" and then broaden the lips as though about to smile, but without moving the position of the tongue.

An advantage of Vietnamese is that once you have learned the sound indicated by a given combination of letters, you know it wherever it appears.

Words beginning with "t" and "th" are pronounced alike except that there is an aspirated (or h) sound after the "t" in the "th." The same is true of words spelled with an initial "c" or "k" as compared with the aspirated "ch" or "kh." The importance of knowing how to make this small but tricky distinction is plain when you

understand how greatly it changes the meaning of a word. *Tam* means three: *tham*, greedy. *Cam* is orange: *kham*, to suffer.

An "s" and "x" are both pronounced like the "s" in "soap" in northern dialect. But with a southern accent the "s" becomes "sh" as in "shot."

"Nh" is pronounced like the "ny" in "banyan."

Tones Change Meaning

Vietnamese is a monosyllabic language. Each syllable expresses a distinct idea and therefore is a word in itself. Often two or more syllables are joined to form new words, as in place names like Sai-gon and Ha-noi.

Vietnamese is also tonal. In other words, the tone or level of your voice changes the meaning of a word. The word *ma*, for instance, has many different meanings depending on how you say it, and symbols are used to show the differences.

Word	Symbol	Tone	Meaning
ma	none	level or middle	ghost; to rub
má	´	high	mother; cheek
mà	`	low	but; that; which
mã	˘	waving or rising	clever; tomb

ma [~]	~	interrupted	house; appearance
ma		heavy	rice seedling

The northern dialect has these six tones. The southern combines the waving and interrupted tones by pronouncing them in the same way and thus has only five tones. With one exception, tone symbols are placed above the principal vowel of the syllable. The heavy symbol (.) is placed under the principal vowel.

Here's how to use the different tones when talking:

Level tone is a monotone in the middle of the normal speaking range.

The high or high-rising tone starts above level tone and rises sharply.

The low-falling tone starts off in fairly low voice and falls rather slowly to the bottom of the normal range.

The waving or mid-rising tone starts at about level tone, dips very slightly, and then rises slowly.

The interrupted, or high-broken tone starts a bit above normal range, dips a little and then rises abruptly. During the rise the throat is constricted to cause a light, brief interruption of sound.

The heavy or low-dipped tone starts below the middle of the normal speaking range and very abruptly falls.

At this point an additional sound is produced by forcing air through the almost closed vocal cords.

Learn by Listening

You can't learn a foreign language, especially a tonal one like Vietnamese, from books alone. You learn it by listening to the way people around you talk and by speaking it yourself. Get a Vietnamese friend or someone else who knows the language well to give you lessons. Getting a good working command of Vietnamese is not easy, but the effort will reward you with a sense of accomplishment and a new feeling of confidence. Too, your ability to speak their language will win the respect of the Vietnamese people with whom you are associated.

USEFUL PHRASES

The word "you" varies in Vietnamese depending on the speaker and the person spoken to. The form used throughout this language guide is *ong*, but it means "you" only when addressing a man. Depending on the person you are addressing, you should replace *ong* with one of the following forms:

married woman

bà

unmarried girl	cô
child (either boy or girl);	
girl friend; wife	em
close male friend;	
male servant	anh
female servant	chi

Greetings and Courtesy Phrases

Hello; Goodbye;

Good morning;

Good afternoon;

Goodnight.

How are you?

I'm fine.

I'm glad to meet you.

Please come in and sit
down.

Thank you.

Don't mention it;

It's nothing at all.

Please speak a little more
slowly.

Please say it again.

Chào ông.

Ông mạnh giỏi chớ?

Tôi mạnh như thường.

Tôi hân hạnh được gặp ông.

Mời ông vào ngồi chơi.

Cám ơn ông.

Không có gì.

Xin lỗi ông, tôi không hiểu.

Xin ông nói lại.

Do you speak English?

Ông nói tiếng Anh được không?

No I don't.

Tôi nói không được.

Can you understand me?

Ông hiểu tôi được không?

Yes, I can.

Hiểu được.

Questions and Answers

Most of the following phrases represent highly idiomatic southern Vietnamese. You can compile your own list of nouns by asking the first question and getting the names of things you will most often need to know.

What is this?

Cái này là cái gì?

It's a mango.

Cái này là trái xoài.

Which one?

Cái nào?

Either one.

Cái nào cũng được.

Who's there?

Ai đó?

It's me.

Tôi đây.

It's only me.

Chỉ có một mình tôi.

What does it mean?

Nghĩa là gì?

It has no meaning at all.

Không có nghĩa gì hết.

What kind of person is he?

Ông ấy là người thế nào?

He's a good man.

Ông ấy là người tốt.

How do you work it?

How do you do it?

Any way.

This way.

What else?

All finished; nothing else.

Who else?

You too.

What for?

Isn't that so?

That's right.

So I've heard.

Maybe.

I think so.

I guess so.

What's the matter?

Nothing at all.

I changed my mind.

I want to ask you a favor.

Dinner's ready.

You called the wrong

number.

What's new?

Làm thế nào?

Thế nào cũng được.

Thế này.

Còn gì nữa?

Hết rồi.

Còn ai nữa?

Cũng có ông nữa.

Để làm gì?

Có phải không ông?

Phải.

Tôi có nghe nói như vậy.

Có lẽ.

Tôi nghĩ như vậy.

Tôi đoán như thế.

Chuyện gì vậy?

Không có chuyện gì hết.

Tôi đã đổi ý rồi.

Tôi muốn phiền ông.

Cơm dọn rồi.

Ông gọi làm số.

Có gì lạ không?

Nothing's new?
Who told you?
You yourself did.

Không có gì lạ.
Ai nói với ông?
Chính ông nói.

Miscellaneous Phrases

Let's go.
Go away!
Hurry up!
I'm just looking.
That's fine;
That's enough;
I'll take it;
Agreed.

Đi thi đi.
Đi đi.
Mau lên.
Tôi xem chơi.

Được rồi.

Quantity and Degree

How much is it?
Not much.
Only five *dong*.
Five *dong* is too expensive.
I'll give you three *dong*
for it.
They sell all kinds of fruit
here.

Bao nhiêu tiền?
Không bao nhiêu.
Năm đồng thôi.
Năm đồng mất làm ông ạ.
Tôi trả ba đồng thôi.
Ở đây có bán đủ thứ trái cây.

I don't like to eat fruit
at all.

Tôi đâu có thích ăn trái
cây cà.

Time

What time is it?

It's four o'clock.

When did that happen?

Half a month ago.

August of last year.

When are you going?

In a while.

In a short while.

Soon.

Right now.

Which time?

Last time.

The first time.

Next time.

Do you go there often?

From time to time.

Every afternoon.

Whenever I can.

How long ago?

Mấy giờ rồi ông?

Bán giờ rồi.

Việc ấy xảy ra hồi nào?

Cách đây nửa tháng.

Trong tháng tám năm rồi.

Chừng nào ông đi?

Một lát nữa.

Không bao lâu nữa.

Ít ngay nữa.

Bây giờ đây.

Lần nào?

Lần chót.

Lần đầu tiên.

Lần tới.

Ông đi đến đó thường không?

Thỉnh thoảng thôi.

Mỗi buổi chiều.

Lúc nào có dịp.

Được bao lâu rồi?

A long time ago.
A while ago.
Too long a time.
The other day.

Đã lâu rồi.
Hồi nãy.
Lâu quá.
Hôm nọ.

Location

Where do you live?
I live in Da Nang.
Where did you just come from?
I came from Saigon.
Where do you come from?
I come from America.
Where are you going?
I'm going to the movies.
I'm going home.
Where have you been?
I'm on my way back from
the market.
Where is it?
Upstairs.
Downstairs.
Inside the house.

Ông ở đâu?
Tôi ở Đà Nẵng.
Ông ở đâu tôi?
Tôi ở Saigon ra.
Ông là người ở đâu?
Tôi là người Mỹ.
Ông đi đâu?
Tôi đi coi hát bóng.
Tôi về nhà.
Ông đi đâu về?
Tôi đi chợ về.
Ở đâu?
Ở trên lầu.
Ở dưới nhà.
Ở trong nhà.

Outside.
Over this way.
Over that way.
Way over there.

Ở ngoài.
Ở đây.
Ở đó.
Ở kia.

Military

general
lieutenant general
brigadier general or
major general
colonel
lieutenant colonel
major
captain
1st lieutenant
2nd lieutenant
soldier
sailor
airman

đại tướng
trung tướng

thiếu tướng
đại tá
trung tá
thiếu tá
đại úy
trung úy
thiếu úy
người lính
thuyền thủ
lính không quân

Days of the Week

Monday
Tuesday

Thứ hai
Thứ ba

Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday
today
tomorrow
yesterday

Thứ tư
Thứ năm
Thứ sáu
Thứ bảy
Chủ nhật
hôm nay
ngày mai
hôm qua

Numbers

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
20
25
100

một
hai
ba
bốn
năm
sáu
bảy
tám
chín
mười
hai mươi
hai mươi lăm
một trăm

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Washington

5 April 1966

A POCKET GUIDE TO VIETNAM (DoD PG-21A)—This official Department of Defense publication is for the use of personnel in the military Services.



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Distribution:

Army:

Active Army:

Instls (5)

CINFO, ATTN: Command Information Div. (50)

NG: None.

USAR: None.

Air Force: S (as AFPs 34 series)

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Do be courteous, respectful, and friendly;

Don't be overly familiar with the Vietnamese.

Do learn and respect Vietnamese customs;

Don't forget you are the foreigner.

Do be patient with the Vietnamese attitude toward time;

Don't expect absolute punctuality.

Do appreciate what the South Vietnamese have endured;

Don't give the impression the U. S. is running the war.

Do learn some useful Vietnamese phrases;

Don't expect all Vietnamese to understand English.

Do be helpful when you can;

Don't insist on the Vietnamese doing things your way.

Do learn what the South Vietnamese have to teach;

Don't think Americans know everything.

NAVY UNIFORMS OF VIETNAM

OFFICERS



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER



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ADMIRAL
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ADMIRAL



VICE
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REAR
ADMIRAL



COMMODORE



CAPTAIN



COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER



LIEUTENANT



LIEUTENANT
JUNIOR
GRADE



ENSIGN



ASPIRANT

OTHER NAVY RANKS



PETTY OFFICER
FIRST CLASS



WARRANT
OFFICER



CHIEF WARRANT
OFFICER



PETTY OFFICER
FIRST CLASS



PETTY OFFICER
SECOND CLASS



LEADING SEAMAN



SPECIALIST



LEADING SEAMAN



ABLE SEAMAN



SEAMAN

AIR FORCE UNIFORMS OF VIETNAM

OFFICERS



CAPTAIN



CAP INSIGNIA



PILOT'S WINGS



LIEUTENANT
GENERAL



MAJOR
GENERAL



BRIGADIER
GENERAL



SUB-BRIGADIER
GENERAL



COLONEL



LIEUTENANT
COLONEL



MAJOR



CAPTAIN



LIEUTENANT



SECOND
LIEUTENANT



ASPIRANT



AIR
CADET

OTHER AIR FORCE RANKS



SERGEANT



MASTER
SERGEANT



SERGEANT
FIRST CLASS



SERGEANT



CORPORAL
FIRST CLASS



CORPORAL



AIRMAN
FIRST CLASS



AIRMAN
SECOND CLASS