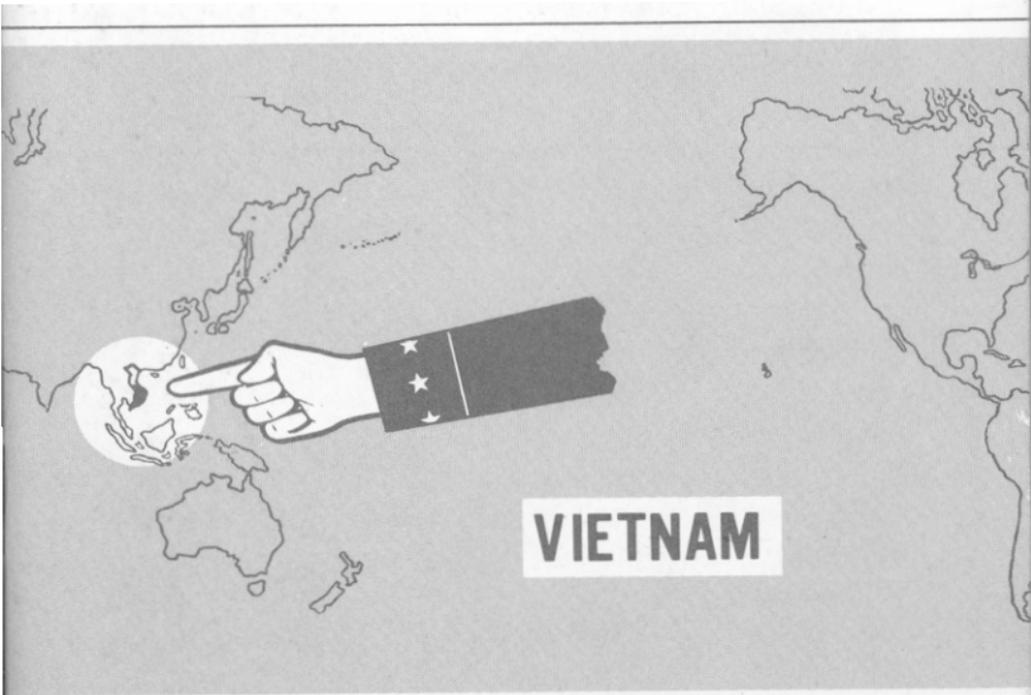


Helpful Hints

for Personnel Ordered to
THE REPUBLIC OF



HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



PREFACE

The information in this pamphlet has been assembled to assist you in making personal plans for your travel to and assignment in the Republic of Vietnam. The Army hopes that you will benefit from advance information about what to expect, how to adjust, and how to make your tour valuable to yourself and to the Army. At times, you may have to recognize and accept customs which are different from your own social concepts and belief. By so doing, you will, however, earn the respect of the Vietnamese people, develop a close bond of understanding and good will with them, and enhance the image which they hold of the American people. Furthermore, you will find that your assignment to this embattled nation of Southeast Asia will be interesting and rewarding.

**THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

PAMPHLET

No. 608-16

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 25 August 1970

**HELPFUL HINTS FOR PERSONNEL
ORDERED TO REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION TO THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN)

1. Geography

a. The Republic of Vietnam (RVN) is located in the eastern and southern parts of the Indochinese Peninsula in Southeast Asia. Its eastern coastline borders the South China Sea; the southwest coastal area overlooks the Gulf of Thailand. It covers about 66,280 square miles.

b. The RVN is an agricultural country where most of the people are farmers and rice is the principal product. Through the assistance of the United States and other free-world nations, however, progress is being made in the development of industrial enterprises.

2. Climate

a. The climate is tropical. The weather is similar to the hot, muggy summer weather in the extreme southern part of the United States. The temperature is in the 80's and 90's throughout the year, and humidity ranges between 70 and 90 percent.

b. The climate throughout the country is influenced by the monsoons—the word “monsoon” means “wind flow.” The monsoon seasons cause climatic conditions in various parts of the country and are characterized by heavy rainfall. These parts can be roughly divided into

three regions: (1) the northeast coastlands, from Nha Trang northward, have their rainy season from September through December; (2) the lowland and delta regions, which include all areas from the general vicinity of Saigon southward, have their rainy season from mid-May through mid-October; and (3) the interior highland regions, which include all portions of the Annam Mountain Rang beginning approximately 80 miles northeast of Saigon and extending northward all the way into North Vietnam, also have their rainy season during May through October.

3. The People

The population of the RVN is approximately 16,000,000. Compared with most Asian nations the RVN is relatively uncrowded, averaging 240 people to the square mile. In addition to native Vietnamese, the population includes approximately 1,000,000 Chinese, 500,000 Cambodians, and a few thousand each of Indians, Pakistanis, and French. Saigon, situated 45 miles from the South China Sea, is the capital as well as a busy commercial port and the largest city in the RVN, with about 1,500,000 people, not including the more than 700,000 inhabitants of the adjacent city of Cholon. Cholon is an industrial center and contains the largest concentration of overseas Chinese in the country.

4. History

a. The Vietnamese have one of the world's oldest living civilizations going back hundreds of years before Christ. The kingdom of Nam Viet was conquered by the

Chinese around 111 B.C., and the Chinese controlled the country for about a thousand years despite frequent rebellions. Finally, the Chinese forces were driven out in A.D. 938. For the next 900 years the Vietnamese were relatively independent until the French captured Saigon from them in the middle of the 19th century.

b. During World War II, the Japanese occupied French Indochina, or what is now Cambodia, Laos, North and South Vietnam, which had been controlled by the French for about 80 years. After the war France was unsuccessful in reestablishing its control, and in 1954 with France's withdrawal and the Geneva peace accord, Vietnam was divided into two countries, the Republic of Vietnam in the south and the Communist-ruled North Vietnam.

c. Guerrilla warfare began in 1959 with the infiltration of North Vietnamese into the RVN. President Diem asked for more military assistance than had been given by the US Military Assistance Advisory Group established in 1954 by the United States. In 1962 the US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) was established, and other countries, as well as the United States, offered military and economic aid. The United States has given more and more military and economic aid since that time to offset the increased guerrilla warfare and to help preserve the independence of the RVN. Finally, in 1965 the United States assumed a direct combat role in addition to supplying advisers and other assistance.

SECTION II

HELPFUL HINTS

5. Arrival

Army personnel assigned to the RVN arrive at one of the following ports of entry:

a. *Bien Hoa Air Base*—approximately 15 miles north-east of Saigon. This base is the normal entry point for personnel assigned to III or IV Corps Tactical Zone.

b. *Cam Ranh Bay*—approximately 190 miles north-east of Saigon on the South China Sea coast. This port is the normal entry point for personnel assigned to I or II Corps Tactical Zone.

c. *Tan Son Nhut*—located on the outskirts of Saigon. This base is the normal port of entry for personnel assigned to USMACV.

6. Baggage

a. *Accompanied Baggage*. The present allowance of 66 pounds plus 184 pounds excess baggage authorized for both enlisted men and officers is considered sufficient to bring all required uniforms, summer weight civilian clothing, and comfort items. Personnel traveling by aircraft will be airborne probably in excess of 20 hours and should pack a small handbag which will fit under an aircraft seat with necessary toilet articles,

writing paper, and other items which will make their flight more enjoyable. The only baggage available to you from your check-in time at the air terminal until your arrival will be what you carry as hand baggage.

b. *Unaccompanied Baggage*.

(1) The shipment of unaccompanied baggage to the RVN is presently authorized but is discouraged. Most facilities, whether tents, cantonment areas, or permanent buildings, have limited storage areas. Personnel are urged to bring a minimum of baggage, and this baggage should accompany the traveler.

(2) Army regulations require that a copy of your orders be included in each piece of baggage as, unfortunately, there are many occasions when baggage may be lost or misrouted on shipments to the RVN. If this should happen, you may file a claim for loss. To prepare for this contingency, you should prepare an inventory of your baggage at the time of packing, have the packing and inventory witnessed by a disinterested individual, and carry the inventory with you. The inventory should show the date of purchase of each item and the cost. If it is subsequently necessary to file a claim, a ready record substantiating the extent of loss will then be available. Personnel should also carry with them all records pertaining to shipment of baggage such as receipts for turn-in. In selecting personal property, e.g. cameras, watches, jewelry, binoculars, etc., for shipment, small items of substantial value (\$50 or

more) should be omitted since claims regulations do not permit reimbursement for such property unless shipped by expedited mode.

7. Clothing

a. Uniforms.

(1) Male enlisted personnel, grades E1—E8, traveling by MAC or commercial charter aircraft on PCS to RVN will wear the tropical combat uniform. Sergeants Major and officers may wear either the tropical combat uniform, the khaki uniform, or the Army green uniform. Female personnel should travel in the green cord uniform.

(2) There is no seasonal uniform change within the command, and the prescribed uniform will be worn throughout the year. The normal field uniform, OG 107, or the tropical combat uniform, is the duty uniform for all male personnel assigned to the RVN. The green cord uniform, the white hospital uniform, or the cotton poplin OG 107 lightweight clothing will be worn throughout the year by female personnel as prescribed by the appropriate commander. Off-duty attire for women also will be as prescribed by the local commander and may be the Army beige or lightweight green uniform.

(3) Off duty dress is the tropical combat uniform.

b. Civilian Clothing.

(1) Civilian clothes are authorized only in the immediate company or billeting area and when going to

and from swimming pools or participating in athletic activities. Male personnel should bring a lightweight suit and/or a few pair of slacks for leave and R&R purposes. Because of limited laundering and drycleaning facilities, male personnel should include in their baggage inexpensive wash and wear slacks, drip dry shirts, and Bermuda shorts, preferably the permanent-press type. Female personnel should bring lightweight washable dresses of the "report wear" type, an ample supply of lingerie (preferably cotton), and stockings. All clothing should be washable since drycleaning is expensive and of poor quality. Woolens should not be brought because of the high temperature and humidity.

(2) The Army and Air Force Exchange System maintains stocks of summer weight civilian clothing to meet the needs of male personnel; female clothing, however, is at a premium. Tailors and seamstresses are found in nearly all areas. They are usually good and can duplicate almost any style when provided a picture of what is desired. The exchange system also offers custom tailoring service for both men and women's clothing.

(3) A clothing sales store is located in Cholon. For personnel not assigned to the Saigon areas, a mail order service has been established. An individual authorized to purchase in the sales store can order by mail items not available, and the postage will be paid by the US Government.

(4) Women should consider establishing and maintaining a charge account at a department store in CONUS to assure a source of supply for shoes, clothing, and other personal items.

8. Education

a. Twenty-three Army Education Centers are operated throughout the RVN. The services offered are comparable to those of any other Army Education Center. Each is staffed with qualified personnel and strategically located so that almost any serviceman during his tour can participate in an education program.

b. All these Centers offer high school and college equivalency tests, end-of-course examinations, and college entrance examinations. In addition, service personnel may enroll in correspondence courses from the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) or from one of the 45 colleges and universities affiliated with USAFI. Professional counseling also is available.

c. All Centers offer group study courses. The range and variety of subjects depends upon the size of the post. In addition, Education Centers located at the larger bases have resident University of Maryland classes in which college credit can be earned.

9. Electrical Appliances

The use of high wattage appliances (corn poppers,

coffee pots, hot plates, etc.) in billets is discouraged in all areas and prohibited in most areas. The primary reason for this policy is to conserve resources. Also, wiring in many areas is not designed to carry the large loads required by these appliances, and their use often results in blown fuses and fires.

10. Financial Facilities

a. Currency.

(1) Military payment certificates (MPC) are used for all payments to military personnel and are the official medium of exchange for all cash transactions within establishments of the US Government in RVN. US dollars are not authorized in RVN and must be exchanged for MPC immediately upon your arrival. The MPC series in use in the RVN is not authorized for use anywhere else. Therefore, MPC must be exchanged for US dollars immediately prior to departure.

(2) Transactions on the local economy are conducted in piasters, the official currency of the RVN. A special currency fund rate for sale of piasters to authorized US personnel for personal use has been established. Piaster conversions at the special currency fund rate (118\$VN to \$1 US) are made at all finance offices, military banking facilities, and at many club and mess associations.

b. *Banking Services.* The Bank of America, The Chase Manhattan Bank, and The American Express

International Banking Corporation are currently operating military banking facilities in RVN for the use of US military personnel. The banks offer personal checking accounts with no service charge. In addition, all other normal banking services are provided with the exception of personal loans. Checks drawn against accounts with these banks are negotiable only in MPC within the RVN but are negotiable in US dollars when mailed to CONUS. The banks pay interest on checking accounts at the rate of 5 percent per annum, computed quarterly on the minimum balance in the account if the balance did not drop below \$100 during the quarter. Many personnel find it highly desirable to utilize these facilities rather than a bank in CONUS. A "Bank by Mail" plan has been established whereby accounts can be opened by mail, with the member's monthly pay mailed to the bank by the paying finance office.

11. Food

a. Military Sources.

(1) *Mess facilities.* The majority of military personnel subsist in field ration messes while others use nonappropriated fund messes, i.e., Officers', NCO and EM clubs. Where field ration messes are not available, enlisted personnel will receive a "rations not available" allowance. Officer personnel will receive their normal subsistence allowance whether they eat in a field ration mess or nonappropriated mess. There are numerous open mess facilities providing restaurant-type food and

beverage services and sufficient branches/annexes to provide facilities for all Army personnel in the country.

(2) *Commissary and post exchanges.* The one US Army Commissary Resale Store in the Republic of Vietnam is located in the Cholon area of Saigon in the shopping center compound. This shopping area also includes an Army and Air Force Post Exchange. The commissary and post exchanges carry adequate food stocks to meet basic needs. The commissary stocks a limited line of meats, canned goods, dairy products, staples, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, ice cream, and baked products. Patronage is generally limited to those persons in the Saigon-Cholon area who do not have access to Government mess facilities. The post exchanges are limited to nonperishable products such as crackers and cookies.

(3) *Snackbars.* The Vietnam Regional Exchange operates a number of snackbars which support the heaviest troop concentrations. For the soldier in isolated areas, there are snack-mobiles. Where inadequate facilities exist to house a snackbar, there are snack stands. These snackbars serve hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, grilled cheese, ham and cheese, fried egg, and other popular sandwiches as well as soft drinks, coffee and tea, ice cream, sundaes, and milkshakes.

b. Civilian Sources.

(1) *Local food and water.* Purchase of meat, meat

products, milk and other dairy products on the local economy is hazardous because of the relatively high incidence of disease. These products should be purchased from the commissary, post exchanges, or other approved sources. All raw fresh fruits and vegetables must be thoroughly cleaned and peeled before eating. Illnesses transmitted by food and water are common. These diseases start in the intestinal tract and include typhoid fever, cholera, amebic dysentery, shigellosis, infectious hepatitis, and various worm infestations. Diseases of this type are not common in the United States where they have been controlled by sanitation. Vietnamese people have developed a degree of immunity to some of these infections although they do have a high disease and death rate during childhood. Adult Vietnamese may, therefore, be able to drink marginally treated water and eat native foods without illness, while Americans will become sick. US Army personnel receive immunizations against typhoid and cholera which offer some protection. The soldier's best defense, however, against these and other intestinal infections is to avoid food and water from other than US-controlled sources.

(2) *Eating establishments.* Most Vietnamese eating establishments are not off limits to US personnel. This does not imply, however, that the US Army considers these establishments safe in regard to sanitation. To reduce the element of risk, use discretion in selecting a place to eat. Larger, well-established places are usually

best. Hot, well-cooked foods are the safest. Raw fish or meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, and dairy products should not be consumed, and water or ice from civilian sources should be avoided. Some bottled beverages produced in the RVN are considered safe. Some liquor products, however, including US brands sold on the local economy have been adulterated with wood alcohol which causes blindness or death.

12. Health Problems

Americans in the RVN experience a wide variety of afflictions which occur with about the same frequency as in the United States. In addition, a number of illnesses, mostly infectious diseases, either do not occur in the United States or are many times more prevalent in the RVN. Soldiers must actively seek to avoid these extra hazards. Some of the potential sources of sickness and related precautions are—

a. Insect-Transmitted Diseases.

(1) The most common insect-transmitted infections are those carried by mosquitoes—malaria, dengue fever, and infectious encephalitis. The way to prevent these diseases is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Limiting exposed skin surface by rolling down sleeves and buttoning collars, particularly at night when mosquitoes are most active, and using insect repellent are effective anti-mosquito measures. Bed nets will keep the sleeping person from being bitten. The chloroquine-pri-

maquine tablet taken weekly by all persons constitutes a second line of defense. In some areas an additional drug, Dapsone, taken daily is prescribed. These medications are important, but they do not protect against mosquito-borne diseases other than malaria or even offer complete protection against malaria. The best defense is to use all measures to avoid mosquito bites and to take the suppressive drugs without fail.

(2) Other infectious diseases include plague transmitted by fleas and scrub typhus transmitted by mites. Flies may also contaminate food with germs causing a variety of infections, some quite serious.

b. Respiratory Diseases. The most serious respiratory disease is tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is many times more common in the RVN than in the United States and is most likely to be transmitted by close contact with an infected person. Discretion in close personal contacts is advisable.

c. Skin Diseases. With the high humidity and temperature, it is common for a rash to appear in the groin area. It may be avoided by careful cleaning and by applying talcum powder or cornstarch to this area daily. Foot powder should be used daily. Any scratch or cut of the skin should be treated promptly to reduce the chance of infection.

13. Language

a. Vietnamese is a tonal language that bears similari-

ties to Cambodian, Thai, and Chinese. At least one-third of its vocabulary is derived from Chinese. Chinese ideographs were used almost exclusively for the written language until the early years of this century at which time the Roman alphabet came into official use. French remains useful as a second language although English is spoken by an increasing number of people.

b. DA Pamphlet 380-411 (A Pocket Guide to Vietnam) contains helpful information about the Vietnamese language such as word and phrase usage.

14. Laundry and Drycleaning Services

Military and civilian laundry and drycleaning facilities are limited. Most uniforms and civilian clothes are laundered through contract service or by individual hire of maids or local nationals. Washing and ironing on an individual hire basis are done by hand and with antiquated irons. The capability of military equipment is used primarily in support of tactical forces. Commercial or domestic washers and dryers are not available normally.

15. Legal Matters

a. General. In placing personal affairs in order before your departure, you should remember that you will be a great distance from your normal place of residence for a considerable period of time. In this connection, it is advisable to seek the aid of a legal assistance officer.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at your present station will assist you.

b. *Personal Affairs.* The following matters may need attention prior to your departure:

- (1) Will
- (2) Power of Attorney
- (3) Debts and obligations
- (4) Income tax and State tax if applicable
- (5) Insurance
- (6) Other important documents

c. *Power of Attorney.* Although legal assistance is available to all military personnel in the RVN, it does take time to process legal documents needed by family members at home. For this reason, each serviceman who owns an automobile should consider giving a responsible member of his family a special power of attorney to register the automobile before he leaves CONUS. A married service member should also consider giving his wife a special power of attorney to move, store, or transfer the family's household goods, thus permitting her to make necessary arrangements in advance of his return home for reassignment. General power of attorneys are to be avoided; in most cases they prove unnecessary, and effective revocation is very difficult. If a service member must give a family member a general power of attorney, he should limit it in time and bring one copy of it with him to the RVN.

16. Medical and Dental Care

Military medical facilities are excellent and provide for a wide variety of specialized care. Because work schedules for all individuals are heavy and travel is difficult, personnel should obtain any needed routine dental and medical treatment before arrival.

17. Pay and Allowances

a. Military personnel serving in the RVN may qualify for the following three additional items of pay entitlements:

(1) *Special pay for duty subject to hostile fire.* (\$65 per month for both officers and enlisted personnel) as prescribed in the Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Entitlements Manual (DODPM).

(2) *Family separation allowances (FSA)* as authorized in the DODPM. Members who are not furnished Government quarters in the RVN and who are entitled to BAQ as members with dependents are authorized FSA—I in an amount equal to BAQ for a single member of the same grade. In addition, FSA—II in the amount of \$80 per month is payable to those members in pay grade E-4 (over 4 years' service) and above, who have dependents and meet the criteria outlined in DODPM.

(3) *Foreign duty pay (FDP)* for enlisted personnel as prescribed in the DODPM. FDP ranges from \$8 per month for an E-1 to \$22.50 per month for an E-9.

b. In addition, military members receive an increased net pay because of the Federal Income Tax exclusion for personnel serving in a combat zone. Warrant officers and enlisted personnel receive their pay tax-free, and commissioned officers have up to \$500 per month of their pay excluded from taxation. Dislocation allowances are also excluded from taxable income if the dependents of the member either commence or complete their move during a month in which the member is entitled to a combat zone exclusion.

c. Individuals may receive their pay by one of the following options:

(1) Cash (MPC) each month.

(2) US Treasury check payable to a dependent, a bank in CONUS, or one of the military banking facilities (MBF) in the RVN.

(3) A portion in cash (MPC) and the balance forwarded by US Treasury check to a dependent, a bank in CONUS, or one of the MBF in the RVN.

(4) A portion in cash (MPC) and the balance carried forward on their military pay voucher.

Any allotments of pay should be completed prior to departure from the old duty station.

18. Police, The Law and You

a. While in the RVN you will be subject to both the laws of the country and to the US Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Vietnamese civilian police author-

ities exercise authority over US military personnel outside military installations similar to that of State or local police in the United States. The Vietnamese police are strict but fair. They work in close and friendly association with your military police. Policing in major cities is often conducted by joint police patrols, composed of the National Police (Canh Sat), the US Military Police, and the Vietnamese Military Police (Quan Canh).

b. US Military Police are always available to give information, advice, and assistance to US military personnel in the RVN. They are also authorized to apprehend and temporarily detain US military personnel when necessary for the protection of human life or US property or when the individual's public conduct reflects unfavorably on the prestige of the United States. Police reports by US Military Police are prepared in accordance with prescribed directives, and forwarded to the commanders of the personnel concerned. Generally, the US Military Police are responsible for the prevention of crime and traffic accidents and criminal investigations when an accident or crime involves members of the US military forces. During your stay you should report accidents and incidents promptly to the Military Police or, in their absence, to the Vietnamese civilian police.

19. Postal Service

a. *Types of Postal Service.*

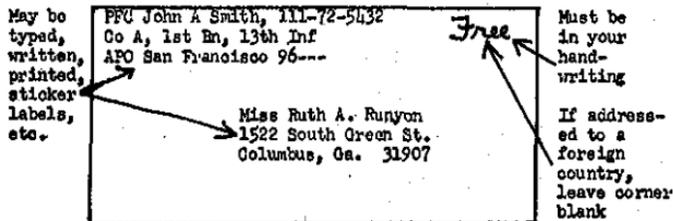
(1) *Airmail letters and parcels.* All airmail, including parcels prepaid at the airmail rate, is transported by aircraft within the United States and from the gateway terminals of San Francisco or Seattle. This mail should be delivered in the RVN within 4 to 6 days after it is mailed in the United States.

(2) *First-class mail.*

(a) Letter mail and sound-recorded communications such as magnetic tape recordings and records used for personal correspondence, when prepaid at the first-class rate, are transported from the United States to the RVN by space-available, nonpriority airlift. It should be delivered in the RVN within 6 to 9 days after it is mailed in the United States.

(b) If you are stationed in the RVN or if you are in any military or VA hospital as a result of disease or injury incurred in the RVN, you are entitled to free mail service to any place in the world. You may mail letters, postcards, and sound-recorded communications (tapes or records) which are personal in nature; pictures, clippings, and similar items mentioned in your letters may be inclosed with them. Free letters addressed to the United States must be inclosed in plain envelopes and should not be marked "AIR MAIL." Use of airmail envelopes or marking of "AIR MAIL" on envelopes, cards, tapes or records may result in postage charges when delivered to the addressee. Mail is delivered within 6 to 9 days to addressees in the United States. Mail addressed to foreign countries may be

marked "AIR MAIL" if you want airmail service, but do not mark it "FREE" or such mail will be subject to collection of postage when delivered to the addressee. The following drawing illustrates a correctly addressed free envelope.



(3) *Space available mail (SAM).* Parcels mailed to you at the fourth-class rate of postage (surface parcel post), and not exceeding five pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined, are moved from the point of mailing in the United States to the gateway terminals (San Francisco or Seattle) by surface transportation. They are then moved by air, on a space-available basis to RVN, and should be delivered to you within 7 to 12 days after mailing. SAM parcels mailed in RVN to the United States are returned to the gateway terminals by space-available, non-priority airlift, and are then moved within the United States by surface transportation.

(4) *Parcel Air Lift (PAL).* Parcels mailed at the fourth-class rate of postage (surface parcel post), and

not exceeding thirty pounds in weight and 60 inches in length and girth combined, are entitled to space-available air movement from the point of mailing in the United States or RVN, provided a special airlift fee of \$1 is also paid. This mail should be delivered to the addressee within 6 to 9 days after mailing.

(5) *Newspapers and magazines.* All newspapers and magazines to which you have subscribed, which are published once a week or more frequently and principally feature current news of interest to members of the armed forces and the general public, will be sent to you by space available airlift. You should receive this mail within 7 to 12 days after mailing. About 60 days before you leave the RVN, notify your publishers to stop sending publications to you. Provide them with a state-side address if possible. Otherwise, provide them with your rotation date and ask them to stop mailing publications by that date, until they again hear from you.

(6) *Fourth-class parcels.* Ordinary fourth-class parcels mailed at the parcel post zone rate (surface parcel post) and not eligible for SAM service because of size and weight, or for which the \$1 PAL fee has not been paid, move by surface transportation from point of mailing to the addressee. This service is extremely slow and should not be used for items which have a time value or which may deteriorate. This mail should be delivered to you within 21 to 85 days after it is mailed.

(7) *Money order service.* Domestic United States Military Money Order Service is available in RVN, and may be obtained without the payment of a fee. There is a restriction as to the dollar amount in money orders that you may obtain during each month; therefore, it will be to your advantage to establish a savings account in the United States prior to your departure, or take advantage of one of the savings plans outlined in paragraph 24, after you arrive in the RVN. Do not get involved in illegal money order transactions by—

(a) Buying or selling money orders to foreign nationals or US citizens who are not allowed to purchase money orders.

(b) Obtaining money orders for persons who wish to exceed their purchases. There are procedures for obtaining the commander's approval in obtaining money orders in excess of the restricted amount, and they should be followed.

(c) Using money orders to satisfy a financial obligation with a foreign national, firm or agency.

b. Your New Address

(1) If you are coming for duty with US Army, Vietnam (USARV) or US Army Strategic Communications Command-Vietnam, your orders have assigned you to an oversea replacement station for further assignment to the USARV Transient Detachment, for either assignment to a specific organization, or just for fur-

ther assignment. If you are awaiting assignment to a specific unit, you should have your mail addressed to that unit. However, if your orders read "for further assignment," have your mail addressed—

PFC John A. Smith 111-72-5482
Personal Mail Section
APO San Francisco 96881

(2) If you are assigned to the US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (USMACV) and not to a specific organization of USMACV, have your mail addressed—

PFC John A. Smith 111-72-5482
Casual Mail Section
Headquarters, USMACV
APO San Francisco 96222

(8) Incorrectly or insufficiently addressed mail must be processed against locator files and causes a delay in delivery. You can, therefore, help the personnel of the Military Postal Service assure prompt delivery of your mail by—

(a) Using the appropriate address listed above until you arrive at a permanent unit.

(b) Using the official address of your permanent unit once it has been established. If it is not posted on the mail room bulletin board, consult your unit mail clerk.

(c) Avoiding tricky abbreviations, vehicle

bumper markings, unit identification codes, and short cut addresses.

(d) Using the essential elements of your address—grade, first name, middle initial, last name, social security account number, complete unit identification, APO San Francisco (and the appropriate APO number). Example:

PFC John A. Smith, 111-72-5482
Co A, 1st Bn, 13th Inf
APO San Francisco 96

(4) Oversea Replacement Stations, replacement battalions, replacement companies or detachments, and the USARV Transient Detachment should not be used as mailing addresses.

c. Notification of Change of Address.

(1) The only way to make sure that your mail is forwarded to you is to promptly prepare and mail "Change of Address" cards (DD Form 1175) every time your mailing address changes. The cards are free, require no postage, and you may send as many as you wish. They will be available in your unit mail room, or at any APO.

(2) You should mail one of these cards to each of the following:

(a) Correspondents and publishers.

(b) The postal officer of the unit from which you are departing.

(c) The postal officer of the installation (or APO, if overseas) from which departing, whichever is applicable.

(d) The postal officer of your new unit

(e) The postal officer of your serving APO

(f) Area Postal Directory, APO San Francisco
96381

(8) In addition, you must also prepare another change of address card (DA Form 3531), which will also be available at your unit mail room. This card is pre-addressed and requires no postage. Completion of the card is very important since it will assure that any mail which had been addressed to you through the Personal Mail Section can immediately be forwarded to you at your permanent unit.

(4) If you do encounter any mail problems, please discuss them with your unit postal officer or the postal officer of the serving APO. They are there to help you to insure the best service possible.

d. Customs Privileges. You are entitled to mail bona fide gifts to your family and friends without their paying taxes and duty on the articles if they cost \$50 or less. If they cost more than that, then taxes and duty can be assessed on the amount over \$50. A bona fide gift is an article freely given to another. You may not send an item which you bought for another with his money. You may *not* send gifts addressed to yourself, nor may you send a gift with the intention of selling it.

(1) *What you may send.* Anything mailable which was purchased at a PX or PX concession.

(2) *When customs privileges are available.*

(a) While serving in RVN.

(b) While on R&R outside of RVN.

(c) While hospitalized outside of RVN as a result of disease or injury incurred in RVN.

(d) While enroute home after your tour in RVN ends.

(3) *How to mark your parcels.* Mark your parcel "Bona Fide Gift--\$50 exemption claimed under PL 89-368." Be sure to describe the article in detail on the customs declaration tag. Other customs privileges are available to you while in RVN. Discuss your mailings with the postal clerk who will advise you of proper notations to be made on your parcels.

e. Mailing Prohibitions. There are numerous items which are not mailable. Weapons, ammunition, explosives, drugs, narcotics, obscene matter and threatening communications are a few. If you are not certain as to the mailability of items, check with the postal officer at your serving APO.

(1) Due to the extremely dangerous nature of materials previously found in parcels leaving the RVN, special attention is given to this matter in-country. You are warned not to mail firearms, explosives, drugs or narcotics (including marijuana). Parcels are opened by

postal officials, examined by X-ray equipment or mine detectors, and sniffed by trained dogs for narcotics. Violators are subject to punitive action under Federal Laws and Army Regulations.

(2) If you mail any parcels, you are completely responsible for determining that anything you mail does not violate Post Office Department mailability regulations or military regulations.

(3) All parcels entering the United States, to include Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, are subject to physical examination by officials of the Bureau of Customs. In addition to assessing customs duties and taxes, these officials intercept non-mailable matter found in the mails only and turn it over to appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation. If the investigation so warrants, punitive action will be taken against the sender, and in many cases against the addressee as well.

20. Post Exchange Facilities

The Vietnam Regional Exchange operates an extensive chain of retail outlets carrying a wide choice of merchandise. In addition, the exchange operates snackbars and a variety of personal services facilities.

a. Post Exchange. There are more than 200 outlets in the Republic of Vietnam. Main PX stores are located at the larger installations, base stores at the smaller installations, and troop stores or annexes in unit areas.

Imprest funds are used to provide convenience items to troops located in isolated areas. Therefore, the American soldier in the RVN can buy tobacco and cigarettes, candy, toilet articles, stationery, and many other convenience items anywhere he is stationed. Some items carried by the exchange are jewelry, sundries, men's clothing, gift items, photographic supplies, hi-fi gear, beverages, appliances, and military insignia. Selected high demand items are rationed by the USMACV Ration Control Board to provide an opportunity for all individuals authorized exchange privileges to purchase a fair share. Cosmetics, toilet articles, and other merchandise for women are stocked in the exchange system, but a particular brand or type may not be available. Women should bring a supply of favorite brands or arrange for shipment from the United States.

b. Personal Services. Concessionaires, licensed by the exchange, operate throughout the RVN. Even in the most remote regions there are barber concessions; others are—

- (1) American automobiles
- (2) Diamonds and jewelry
- (3) Film processing and photo developing
- (4) Watch, radio, and TV repair
- (5) Laundry and limited drycleaning
- (6) Tailoring
- (7) Flowers-by-mail
- (8) Gifts

c. *Mail Order Catalog Service.* Personnel assigned to the RVN may use the PACEX Mail Order Catalog which is published for gift shopping convenience. Items may be ordered for delivery to the RVN or directly to the United States. The PACEX catalog offers a wide variety of merchandise, e.g. jewelry, watches, dolls, china, silverware, cameras, radios, tape recorders, stereo tuner-amplifiers, speakers, rings, silk, brassware, wood carvings, television sets, and linens. Personnel are encouraged to make maximum use of this convenient mail order system. Mail order catalogs and order forms are available at the special order counters in the main PX stores.

21. Radio and Television Services

a. Some of America's top television shows, newscasts of world and national events, music for all tastes, and major sporting contests are enjoyed daily by about 95 percent of the American Forces serving in the RVN. The music format for AM radio is contemporary; however, each program day has music devoted to particular audiences. Rock, soul, country and western, oldies, easy listening, and jazz are but a few of the music categories. AFVN-FM and FM-Stereo stations feature an "easy listening" format of standard, classical, and current down-tempo music. The AM radio signal covers the entire RVN and can be received on most pocket-sized radios. FM radio signal can be received within a radius

of about 50 miles from the major cities depending on regional topography.

b. AFVN television programs the majority of the television series viewed in the United States. The television programming is obtained from the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS), Los Angeles. Most of the material consists of film and video tape programs.

22. Recreation

Special Services facilities and programs in the RVN include libraries, service clubs, craft shops, sports facilities, motion picture theaters, the Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Program, and an entertainment program.

a. *Libraries.* An extensive library program provides all types of reading material. A number of regular full service libraries with hardbound book collections ranging from 4,000 to 9,000 volumes are currently in existence. These hardbound books are supplemented by magazines and paperbound books and tape listening facilities with collections of prerecorded music tapes. Those areas not receiving full library service are served through field collections (quality paperbound and some hardbound books in balanced collections), bookmobiles, and branches of nearby regular libraries. Each month current magazines and recently published paperbound books are mailed direct to company size units.

b. *Service Clubs.* There is an active service club

program throughout the RVN. Service clubs staffed with professionally trained civilian hostesses offer all features of stateside clubs (recreational facilities, entertainment, reading and writing rooms, parties, games, music, etc.).

c. Craft Shops. Craft facilities are available throughout the RVN. They will normally include dark rooms for photo work and the necessary area and equipment for woodworking, model building, leather working, and fine arts activities.

d. Sports. The USARV Sports Program is geared to low level intramural competition. Equipment and technical assistance to support virtually all sports and many permanent-type facilities including swimming pools and beaches are available.

e. Motion Pictures. Free 16mm movies are shown almost everywhere. In some of the more built-up areas, there are 85mm theaters.

f. Rest and Recuperation (R&R) Program and Leave.

(1) *Out-of-country R&R.* During your 12-month tour, you will be entitled to one out-of-country R&R. You are guaranteed six nights at the site of your choice: Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Sydney, Taipei, and Tokyo. Guamanians are also authorized to visit Guam. The cost of travel to and from the R&R site is paid by the Government, but all other expenses must be paid by the individual. You must have completed at

least 8 months of your tour before you can apply for R&R, and priority in filling R&R space allocations is given to those with the most time on their tours in the RVN. Later, if you extend your tour by 90 days or more, you will be authorized an additional out-of-country R&R.

(2) *In-country R&R.* There is an in-country R&R center at China Beach in Da Nang. Because of the limited capacity of the center, your stay is limited to 8 days. Furthermore, the quota to USARV units is normally allocated with priority given to those personnel living under hardship or austere conditions. The atmosphere of the R&R center is much like that of a beach resort with free billeting, special rations with free beer and soft drinks, free movies, pool tables, sun decks, and water sports including swimming, fishing, boating, and water skiing.

(8) *Ordinary leave.* During your 1-year tour you are authorized one ordinary leave of up to 7 days' duration. You cannot take leave in conjunction with R&R, but you are authorized to take leave to any of the R&R locations. In addition, ordinary leave may be taken within the RVN and to Okinawa; it is not authorized, however, to CONUS. Although it is sometimes possible to travel on leave using space available aircraft, you must be able to pay for your transportation in the absence of space available seating.

(4) *Special leave.* A special leave is authorized for anyone who extends his tour by at least 6 months

personnel are on duty. Chaplains are assigned to combat, combat support, and combat service support units. Facilities for religious services and programs vary from the austere field type to well-appointed base camp chapels. Even in a combat situation, many services are held with special services provided for High Holy Days and Holy Days of Obligation.

24. Savings and Piaster Expenditure Reduction Programs

a. Savings Plans. Since military personnel will be receiving a substantial increase in net pay while serving in the RVN, they are encouraged to invest all or part of this additional net pay in one of the following ways:

(1) *The Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program.* All servicemen stationed outside the United States or its possessions are eligible to participate in this program which pays 10 percent interest per annum, compounded quarterly—one of the highest interest yields that can be found anywhere. Deposits made by the 10th of each month earn interest for the entire month. Allotments for savings deposits may be initiated prior to departure for the RVN, with the allotment becoming effective the first full pay period after arrival at the oversea station.

(2) *US Savings Bonds.* They provide an excellent means of establishing a systematic savings program.

They should be purchased by allotment prior to departing your old duty station.

(3) *Military banking facilities.* The 5 percent interest paid by the military banking facilities in RVN provides another excellent return on investments.

b. Piaster Expenditure Reduction Program.

(1) American troops have more buying power than they ever had in the United States because of the lower standard of living in the RVN. Thus, what seems like a fair price to many servicemen is overpayment on the local economy. Many Vietnamese dealing with US servicemen are quick to take advantage of this situation and raise their prices on goods desired by servicemen. The more the troops show they are willing to pay, the more they are going to be charged. Items purchased by Americans such as souvenirs and other nonessentials fall in the inflation bracket. By paying high prices for these items, the American soldier not only does not get full value for his money but also hurts the Vietnamese economy by flooding the market with extra piasters which in turn, results in higher prices for such essentials as food. The man with a fixed income suffers most as he receives less for his money. Each time Americans purchase Vietnamese goods and services required by the Vietnamese, whether a bowl of rice or a ride in a taxi, they are reducing the supply of that item. Each time the supply of an item is reduced, the competition for what is left becomes more intense and leads to price increases.

(2) If spiraling prices are not checked and brought down to a level that the average Vietnamese can afford, the people may become discontented and lose faith in their government. For this reason, the state of the economy of the Republic of Vietnam is of continuing concern to the United States. A strong and healthy economy, free of inflation and its accompanying ills, is directly related and vital to the successful conclusion of the current conflict. The efforts of the Government of the RVN to fight inflation and to maintain the economy on an even keel must be supported whenever possible. To lessen the inflationary impact of US Forces' spending, the Piaster Expenditure Reduction Program consisting of a number of measures designed to limit both official and personal expenditures of piasters by the Department of Defense and its personnel is in effect in RVN. Your contribution to this effort should be to voluntarily keep your piaster spending down to the absolute minimum, purchase your necessities from the post exchanges, adhere to pricing guides when furnished to you, and avoid being over-generous in your tipping. To insure the success of this program, the Commander, United States Military Assistance Command-Vietnam (COMUSMACV) has established a piaster expenditure goal of 1180\$VN (\$10) per month for each individual. All personnel are requested to aim for this goal.

25. Telephone and Telegraph Services

a. Commercial telephone calls to CONUS may be

"booked" at the USO Club in Saigon or may be made from "Call Home" telephone facilities at specific geographic locations throughout the RVN on a "first come, first served" basis. "Call Home" facilities are located at Da Nang, Cam Ranh Bay, Qui Nhon, Long Binh and Nha Trang. Station calls are routed via Vietnamese commercial facilities at a cost of \$9 for 3 minutes and \$3 for each additional minute. Person-to-person calls cost \$12 for 3 minutes and \$3 for each additional minute.

b. The USARV Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) network consists of 47 stations at strategic locations throughout the RVN. In addition, the Air Force and Navy operate stations at various in-country locations. Phone patching and message service are provided on a first-come, first-served basis for all military personnel. Charges for a phone patch are calculated from the radio point of contact in CONUS, Alaska, or Hawaii to the called location. All phone patch calls are made collect, i.e., paid by the party being called.

c. MARSGRAMS may be sent free of charge to families and friends of service personnel.

26. Transportation

Within the RVN transportation is generally provided by military vehicles. In the large cities such as Saigon, taxis, pedicabs, and similar vehicles are available. In addition to space available military flights out of the

country, there is commercial air transportation. A round-trip ticket to Bangkok, for example, costs about \$100.

27. Weapons

The possession of privately owned firearms or other dangerous weapons in the RVN by US Armed Forces personnel is prohibited. Also prohibited are importing, carrying, or otherwise introducing into, as well as purchasing within, the RVN any firearm or dangerous weapon. Dangerous weapons include but are not limited to the following:

a. Knives with folding blades longer than three inches, swords, stilettoes, sabers, straight razors, spring-release (switchblade) knives, trench knives, and bayonets, other than those issued and being used in the performance of official duties.

b. Metal knuckles, blackjacks, saps, clubs, and similar items.

c. Instruments in which compressed air or a chemical propellant is issued to fire a projectile.

28. Welfare Services

a. *Army Community Service.* While you are in the RVN, your family's welfare will not be neglected. Major military installations in the United States, as well as in Europe and the Far East, have an Army

Community Service (ACS) Center. Army Community Service Centers will provide information, assistance, and guidance to your dependents in solving personal and family problems. They normally will provide information on such matters as availability of housing; medical and dental care; legal and financial assistance; problems such as care of handicapped children, juvenile delinquency, indebtedness, and other complex personal matters; travel; and shipment of household goods. Since it is important that your dependents know that these services are available, you are encouraged to tell them about the services and that all they have to do to receive advice or assistance is to telephone or visit the nearest Army installation and ask for the Army Community Service Officer. As a special service to your family, while you are away, the ACS Center will mail your wife a monthly information newsletter on request.

b. *American Red Cross.*

(1) The American Red Cross has been serving in the RVN ever since US Army advisors first came there. The mission of the Red Cross personnel is to serve as liaison between American servicemen and home, to provide a bit of America in the RVN, and to assist servicemen in solving personal and emergency problems. Basically, three categories of services are offered: (a) the traditional military welfare services involving communications, emergency leaves, and financial assistance; (b) hospital services including recreation and crafts; and (c) the center/clubmobile program.

(2) The center/clubmobile service augments the recreational facilities and activities of the Special Services and the USO. In this program, recreation centers offer free coffee and cool beverages along with games, music, and recreation programs. The centers are located on post and usually are open 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. When they are not on duty at the centers, Red Cross personnel travel with their activities to the servicemen in the field.

SECTION III CONCLUSION

29. Distribution

Applicable commanders will insure that a copy of this pamphlet is furnished each individual as specified below:

a. At home station, to each officer, warrant officer, and enlisted person or his dependents upon alert for assignment to the RVN.

b. At US Army Oversea Replacement Station, to each individual not previously issued a copy.

c. At transportation areas, to each individual not previously issued a copy at home or oversea replacement station.

30. Being a US Ambassador

a. You should remember that you are a personal representative of your country at all times and should—

- (1) Understand and respect local customs
- (2) Use good judgment in spending your money
- (3) Refrain from criticizing the RVN Government
- (4) Refrain from overindulging in alcoholic beverages

ages

- (5) Maintain a respectable personal appearance
- (6) Show respect for other people, both American and Vietnamese, at all times.

b. Best wishes for a most successful tour.

The proponent agency of this pamphlet is the Office of the Adjutant General. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements to TAGO, ATTN: AGAO-R, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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