

"Welcome to Viet Nam"

509th



RR GROUP


ORIENTATION BROCHURE



I would like you to consider this booklet as a preliminary welcome from me and the officers and men of the 509th Radio Research Group.

The contents of the booklet represent a combination of general information, facts and answers to the most commonly asked questions concerning your forthcoming tour in Vietnam. I am sure you will find your tour of duty with the Group one of the most challenging and professionally rewarding periods of your military career.

In the event you need additional help in effecting your change of station, please feel free to contact me.


WILLIAM T. RILEY, JR.
Colonel, SIGC
Commanding

509th Radio Research Group Orientation Brochure

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1. Introduction

Welcome to the 509th Radio Research Group. Your tour with the Group will be one of the most challenging and rewarding periods of your Army career. We know you have many questions about your assignment, the living and working conditions you can expect, what to bring with you, etc. This booklet has been compiled in an attempt to answer as many of those questions as possible. If you desire additional information, feel free to contact the Commanding Officer, 509th Radio Research Group, ATTN: IAPVADJ, APO San Francisco 96307.

2. The 509th Radio Research Group

The 509th Radio Research Group consists of the Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Company, 8th Radio Research Field Station, 224th Aviation Battalion (RR), 303d Radio Research Battalion, and the 313th Radio Research Battalion, as well as the 101st Radio Research Company and the Radio Research Communications Unit, Vietnam. You will find further information on each of these units elsewhere in this brochure.

The 509th Radio Research Group has been in South Vietnam since 13 May 1961. At that time it was the 3d Radio Research Unit. The initial complement of men totaled 101 men, compared to the present 5000-man Group.

When the unit first arrived in country, the headquarters was established in an old airplane hanger, in what is now the headquarters of the 224th Aviation Battalion (RR) on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Operations were conducted from vans located on the Tan Son Nhut air strips. Later these vans were moved to the Vietnamese Joint General Staff compound, the current site of the Group headquarters.

The men were billeted in a local hotel and later, in April 1962, moved onto Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The officers occupied four two-man bungalow apartments in the city proper.

In June 1963, the 3d Radio Research Unit received the first Meritorious Unit Commendation ever awarded during peacetime for its work from 13 May 1961 to December 1962.

The first Radio Research tactical support unit in South Vietnam, the 509th Radio Research Detachment, arrived with the 173d Airborne Brigade in June 1965. Since that time every U.S. Army tactical unit

of Brigade size or larger has deployed with Radio Research in support.

On 1 June 1966, the 3d Radio Research Unit was redesignated the 509th Radio Research Group.

3. Tour of Duty

The normal tour of duty for members of the 509th Radio Research Group, as established by regulations, is twelve months. Your DEROS (Date of Eligibility for Return from Overseas) will be established by adding one year to your DDZI (Date of Departure from Zone of Interior) and subtracting one day. For example, if you depart CONUS on 30 June 1968, your DEROS will be 29 June 1969. It is possible, after you have served at least several months in-country, to apply for an extension of your foreign service tour by submitting a Request for Personnel Action (DA Form 1049). With an approved extension of over 90 days, you will become eligible for a second R & R trip. When an extension for six months or more is approved, you are entitled to a thirty day leave, not chargeable against your regular leave entitlements, to virtually any place in the Free World, with all transportation costs being paid by the Government. (See Leave and R & R below).

4. Arrival in Vietnam

Flight time from Travis AFB, California to the Republic of Vietnam averages between 22 and 30 hours, depending on the routing of your flight. Cam Ranh Bay, Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut are the aerial ports of entry for RVN, but the majority of our personnel arrive at Bien Hoa AFB. After completing a customs declaration at Bien Hoa, you will be transported to the 90th Replacement Battalion (Camp LBJ) at Long Binh, about seven miles away. Here you will complete initial in-country processing and change your American money into Military Payment Certificates (MPC). A representative of the 509th Radio Research Group will be on hand at Camp LBJ to arrange transportation to Headquarters and Service Company, 509th Radio Research Group, at Davis Station, approximately 20 miles south of Long Binh, where you will receive your assignment instructions.

If for some reason you arrive in the Saigon area and are not contacted by a representative of the 509th Radio Research Group, call one of the following numbers for assistance:

0730-1800 hours:	CO, HQ & Svc Co.....Tan Son Nhut 3607
	Adjutant, HQ,
	509th RR Gp.....ARVN 31847 or MACV 2452
1800-0730 hours:	CO, HQ & Svc Co.....Tan Son Nhut 3607
	SPO, HQ, 509th RR Gp....ARVA 31847 or MACV 2452

5. Republic of Vietnam

The Republic of Vietnam, referred to as South Vietnam, is approximately the size of the state of Washington. It is bordered to the north by North Vietnam, to the east and south by the China Sea and to the west by Laos and Cambodia. Vietnam has 2000 years of cultural and political history. The population of South Vietnam is about 14 million with most of the people living in the fertile delta of the Mekong River in the southernmost part of the country. The majority of the population is engaged in agriculture, with rice being the principal crop.

The Central Highland area north of Saigon forms a fertile plateau which is sparsely populated by various tribal groups known as Montagnards. Approximately 700,000 Montagnards are scattered over an area twice the size of the Mekong Delta and Central Lowlands combined. They live as primitive agriculturists, out of contact with the bulk of the lowlands population.

The climate is hot and humid. The monthly mean temperature is about 80 degrees Fahrenheit throughout the year. The monsoons, blowing generally from the south in the summer and from the north in the winter have a profound influence on the climate and rainfall. During the winter monsoon, the high pressure area in the interior of the continental land mass forces dry cool air outward toward the sea, producing Vietnam's dry season. During the summer monsoon, the heated air of the Gobi Desert rises causing moist air to flow inland from the sea, depositing heavy rainfall in its passage.

Saigon, located in the Mekong Delta, is the largest city in the entire country and is the capital of the Republic of Vietnam. Saigon is a relatively modern city with beautiful parks, boulevards, and impressive public buildings. It was developed by the French to provide better port facilities for the increasing exports of rice from the Mekong Delta. In 1936 it was a modern city of 110,000 and by 1968 it had grown to 3,000,000 including the inhabitants of adjacent Cholon, the Chinese section of the capital city. Saigon has a modern international airport, Tan Son Nhut. It is the main industrial center of South Vietnam. Paper mills, textile mills, sugar factories, and cement plants abound. The city is situated well inland and seagoing ships must proceed 50 miles through a circuitous channel to reach the docks along Song Sai Gon in the city proper. The channel varies from 29 to 39 feet in depth. The riverfront docks are designed to take ships with a draft of no more than 49 feet. However, larger ships can be accommodated on favorable tides.

6. Leave

During the course of your tour in Vietnam, you are authorized one seven day leave out-of-country. This leave may be taken, at the individual's expense, to any of a number of authorized sites, including Taipei, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Manila and Tokyo.

7. Rest and Recuperation

During a normal tour, you are authorized one five day rest and recuperation absence, exclusive of travel time. R & R sites at present include all of those mentioned under leave as well as Hawaii and Australia. Round trip transportation is provided at government expense, while the individual bears all other costs. The absence is not chargeable against your leave time. As noted under "Tour of Duty", a second R & R is authorized if an extension for over 90 days is approved. In addition, a three day in-country R & R, at one of several selected resort areas in the Republic of Vietnam, is authorized for personnel assigned to field units. Availability of allocations for these centers is variable, as the demand is understandably great.

8. Finances

You should bring enough cash with you to meet your living expenses for the first month in country. (A minimum of \$50 to \$100). Your first month's pay after arrival in country will normally be by check though it might not be received on payday. Travel pay and any outstanding TDY pay will also be paid by check and should be received within three to four weeks after arrival in Vietnam.

There are a number of different methods by which you may receive your monthly pay. The finance center serving your unit of assignment will give you detailed advice on these alternate methods. In general, however, most personnel in Vietnam draw a specified amount each month, and have the rest automatically sent home or deposited in a savings program.

Monthly expenses vary from unit to unit, and location to location. Moreover, expenses are to a great extent contingent on the tastes and desires of the individual. As a general guideline, if a consolidated mess is not available at the unit's location, officers may plan on spending between \$35 and \$60 per month for food. Maid service, where available, runs about \$5.00 per month, and laundry averages from \$10.00

to \$15.00 per month. Other expenses are optional with the individual.

9. Savings Programs

There are several excellent savings options available to servicemen in Vietnam. The foremost of these is, of course, the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Plan, which pays 10% simple interest, computed quarterly, on principal deposits. With an additional \$65 per month in hostile fire pay, foreign service pay for enlisted men, \$30 family separation pay for married individuals (Grade E-4 with over 4 years and above), and the appreciable tax advantages for persons serving in Vietnam, this foreign service tour represents an outstanding opportunity for most persons to save a significant amount of money. This is especially true as far as the Savings Deposit Program is concerned.

Another prime method of savings, as well as a further avenue of supporting the nation's commitment here in Vietnam, is the U.S. Savings Bond program with which you are undoubtedly already familiar. Both the Bank of America and the Chase Manhattan Bank, which have offices in Saigon, offer a checking account program which pays 5% interest on your balance over \$100.

10. Currency

You will have occasion to use two separate currency systems while on duty in Vietnam-- Military Payment Certificates (MPC) and Piasters. No other currency is accepted in-country. Upon arrival in Vietnam, you must convert all American currency into MPC, at the rate of \$1.00 for \$1.00 (MPC). Thereafter, you will be paid (except for your first month in-country) in cash, with MPC. MPC is the medium of exchange at all U.S. Government owned or operated facilities, such as PX's, clubs, etc., in Vietnam. When buying on the local economy, you are required to use piasters. Piaster exchange facilities are located at all Finance centers-- in addition, most units have a piaster conversion officer, and many E4, Officers' and NCO Clubs provide piaster exchange services. The official exchange rate, which all personnel are required to observe, is 118 piasters for \$1.00 American.

First person checks may be cashed at PX's and at many service, NCO and Officers' Clubs, as well as at bank offices. Generally, a limit of \$25 or \$50 is placed on the amount of the check. You will find checks written to you by a second party difficult to cash in Vietnam. Money orders are readily obtainable at a reasonable fee at APO's in-country. For amounts over \$100 you will be able to have a U.S. Treasury check sent out at Finance centers, and sent home to the recipient. This service is without cost to you.

11. Income Tax

Enlisted men receive a federal tax exemption on their salary and military pay, as of the day they arrive in Vietnam. Tax exemptions include reenlistment bonuses. For officers, the exemption covers the first \$10,000 in base pay and hostile fire pay combined for each month in country.

12. Living Quarters

Living accommodations for all personnel are adequate, regardless of where you may be stationed. The type of quarters in which you will live depends in great measure on the unit to which you are assigned after arriving in-country. At the present time members of the 507th Radio Research Group live in a variety of quarters, ranging from General Purpose Medium Tents with wooden floors, to permanent, tropical construction, two story billets, to masonry BEQ's and BOQ's. Some additional guidance may be found in the section of this brochure devoted to our individual units.

13. Overseas Phone Calls

Calls may be placed from Vietnam to the United States in two ways, commercially and via MARS stations. The USO in downtown Saigon provides telephone service to the United States during working hours-- the cost of a five minute call at present is about \$23.00. MARS stations, located throughout Vietnam, provide "patch" service to CONUS in the following manner. By radio relay, the local MARS station contacts a radio station in the United States. The U.S. MARS operator then places a commercial phone call to the party you wish to contact. A five-minute minimum conversation via this radio-telephone "patch" is thus made possible. The cost, billed to the called party, is the cost of the telephone call from U.S. MARS station to the called party. At the present time, it is extremely difficult for calls to be placed directly to you in Vietnam from the United States.

14. Recreational Facilities

Although you can expect to work a longer duty day than you may have in other units, there is normally time and opportunity for some off-duty

relaxation. Every unit within the Group has a Service Club, sponsored by its non-appropriated fund, or access to the service club of the supported command. The same holds true for Officer and NCO clubs. Other recreational facilities generally available include regularly scheduled movies, tennis, basketball, volleyball, softball and in some locations bowling alleys, swimming pools, libraries, and USO clubs. Special Services offices at virtually all unit locations have available cards, games, T.V. sets, radios, tape recorders, horse-shoe sets, dart boards, etc., for issue to unit clubs or day rooms.

15. Mail

The key to efficient mail service in Vietnam is your APO number. Virtually every one of the subordinate units in the 509th Radio Research Group has a different APO number. Mail addressed to you at an incorrect APO may be delayed up to several months. You should inform your correspondents of this fact before leaving the United States and as soon as you reach your assigned unit, insure that all your correspondents know your number. Your return address should appear in the following format:

RANK FULL NAME
SERVICE NUMBER
UNIT
APO San Francisco 96__

Mail generally takes approximately five days between Vietnam and the United States. Servicemen in Vietnam have been extended free mailing for personal correspondence (written and tape recorded) sent to the United States and to foreign countries. All mail written by you in Vietnam, to assure the free privilege, should contain your full return address in the upper left hand corner. Personal mail addressed to a foreign country must be labelled somewhat differently-- the postal officer in your unit of assignment should be consulted as to proper preparation.

16. Post Exchange Facilities

Post exchanges or PX annexes are available at all unit locations. The PX's stock most military clothing items, including fatigues; personal hygiene items; cigarettes, candy and snack type items; magazines; radios; tape recorders; cameras; etc. There are many fine bargains available in the line of electronic and photographic equipment at the Post Exchanges. There are also Exchange Service snack bars at many unit locations.

17. Education

Where the situation permits, personnel are strongly encouraged to continue their education while assigned to the 509th Group. Many courses of instruction, at all levels, are available through the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI). In addition, more than 3,000 correspondence courses are available from the extension divisions of forty-four leading colleges and universities. University of Maryland courses are also available in some areas of Vietnam. Your unit education officer will assist you if you desire to improve yourself by pursuing any of these educational avenues.

18. Clothing

It is suggested that you bring with you several short sleeve sport shirts and several pairs of lightweight slacks for off-duty wear. "Wash and wear" fabrics are particularly recommended. Suits are seldom worn, and a tie is considered formal wear in Saigon.

Although you will be issued jungle fatigues and boots, you should bring with you three to five sets of fatigues and at least one pair of combat boots. Subdued insignia is preferred by most individuals, and may be required by some commands. It is not readily available at some locations in country, so it may be advisable to obtain several sets before leaving CONUS.

It is also advisable to bring towels and an ample supply of underwear and socks. A lightweight sweater or jacket may prove handy, since the evenings are cool in some parts of RVN.

All necessary equipment will be issued by your unit of assignment. Personal convenience items, such as electric razors, clocks, radios, etc. are desirable, and are readily available at Post Exchanges in country.

19. Firearms

Importation of personally owned firearms into the Republic of Vietnam is forbidden. To spare yourself embarrassment and possible disciplinary action, as well as confiscation of the firearm, leave your personal weapon at home.

20. Religious Services

Religious needs of all personnel are attended to by military chaplains. Religious services for members of the major faiths are available at all unit locations. All personnel are encouraged to attend services of their choice on a regular basis.

21. Health

Medical treatment facilities in Vietnam are limited though adequate to normal requirements. It is recommended that personnel assigned to the 509th Radio Research Group with chronic or recurrent illnesses be re-evaluated prior to departure by their local station doctor since certain specialists are not available and local hospital facilities are limited. Prior to departure from CONUS, personnel who wear eyeglasses should complete routine matters such as refractions and obtaining additional pairs of eyeglasses. Dental facilities in Vietnam are also quite limited, and incoming personnel should insure that major dental work, particularly specialized dental treatment, is accomplished prior to leaving the United States. All military personnel are required to be immunized in accordance with the following schedule:

Small Pox	Every 12 months
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Every 12 months
Tetanus	Every 6 years
Diphtheria	Every 6 years
Polio	All personnel should have had a series of oral vaccine before entering the command
Yellow Fever	Every 6 years
Flu	Every year
Cholera	Every 6 months
Plague	Every 6 months
Typhus	Every 12 months

It will be your responsibility to insure that your immunizations are kept current.

22. Hold Baggage

If you shipped hold baggage, you will be assisted by Group personnel in making arrangements to have it picked up or forwarded to your unit of assignment. It can take 60 or more days for your hold baggage to arrive in Vietnam.

23. Do's and Don't's for RVN

DO identify yourself with the goals and interests of the local people by following their customs, using their language, and understanding their way of life.

DO treat women with politeness and respect.

DO make friends among the working people and assist them personally.

DO demonstrate to the people your knowledge of their government and your respect for its officials and laws.

DO show the Vietnamese soldier that you know and respect his rank and experience.

DO always give the people the right of way when you drive.

DON'T attract attention by loud or rude behavior.

DON'T lose your temper or argue unnecessarily.

DON'T separate yourself from the people by an open display of wealth or privilege.

CONCERNING YOUR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT:

DO remember security, remain alert, and be ready to react with your military skills.

DO give help and cooperation to the other Americans and Allies who are here assisting the Vietnamese people.

DO consider carefully the VC tactics before making decisions which affect the lives and property of the Vietnamese people.

DO treat VC captives according to the Geneva Convention.

DON'T forget where you are and why you are here. Always use self restraint and consciously avoid any actions which would discredit our

motives and weaken our standing with the Vietnamese people.

DON'T use unnecessary force.

CONCERNING YOUR PERSONAL CONDUCT:

DO keep your appearance up to proper standards.

DO know and obey Vietnamese and US regulations dealing with purchases from the PX and commissary and conversion of currency.

DO call the military police when involved in an accident in which someone is injured or the property damage exceeds 1000 piasters.

24. Subordinate Units

Headquarters & Service Co

Headquarters and Service Company, 509th Radio Research Group, was authorized by GO 48, dated 20 May 1966, Headquarters, Arlington Hall Station, with a primary mission to provide administrative and logistical support to Headquarters, 509th Radio Research Group.

The company occupies eleven barracks on Davis Station, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. The barracks are tropicalized wooden buildings, 16' x 42', and were designed to house 12 men. A Mess Hall, Day Room, Supply Room, Enlisted Open Mess, Arms Room, Mail Room, Theater, Latrines, and Orderly Room are also located on the Station.

As you may expect, the climate is tropical. You can expect monsoon rains from July through November, cool days and nights in December and January, and hot, humid weather from February through June. Temperatures may vary from the low 70's to over 110 degrees.

The Headquarters building is located in the Republic of Vietnam Joint General Staff Compound, and is referred to as "White Birch". It is a completely air conditioned building with all Command and Staff activities as occupants. Bus and military vehicles are used to transport personnel the approximately 4 miles from Davis Station to White Birch. Work hours are from 0730 - 1800 hours Monday through Saturday, and 0830 - 1730 hours on Sunday. There are, of course, times when you will be given a break to accomplish personal needs.

The recreational facilities at Davis Station are well-used by the personnel. We have a 2000 book library, pool table and ping-pong table. You can play tennis, basketball, volleyball or lift weights. Composite teams play softball and flag football, using the Air Base fields. There is a free movie five nights a week. Currently programmed is acquisition of a boxing ring and allied equipment.

The mess hall serves the best food in all Vietnam. There is an Officers' Field Mess, NCO Mess, E-5 Mess and E-4 and below Mess. Ice cream and pastries are usually available for the dinner and supper meals.

The Enlisted Open Mess has been remodeled and is by far the nicest in Vietnam. There is a main bar and table service, NCO Lounge, with bar, and a Dining Room serving excellent food. A floor show is presented at least once each week. The club is completely air conditioned. Operating hours are from 1000 to 2300 hours daily with a "swing bar" from 0001 to 0130 hours.

There are many things of interest to see and do in Saigon including excellent restaurants, the Presidential Palace, Parliament Building, Saigon Zoo and museum, the Saigon River, and numerous other scenic or

architectural attractions. Prices are high, unless you are a good bargainer, and purchases in the PX facilities are encouraged. Dress is neat, casual civilian clothing or Khaki uniform. Fatigues, while authorized in American facilities, are not authorized in bars, or restaurants on the economy. Some facilities, such as the International House, require a tie after 1800 hours. The PX facilities are well stocked with personal items, gifts, and souvenirs.

Your mailing address at Headquarters and Service Company will be:

Rank, Name, ASN
HQS Co, 509th SR Gp
APO San Francisco 96307

In preparing for your tour, here are a few do's and don't's:

DO:

Bring at least 2 sets of Khakis and your Low-quarter shoes.

Bring wash-and-wear (permanent press) civilian clothes. Dry cleaning facilities are limited.

Have a good lock on your duffle bag or suitcase.

DO NOT:

Bring a personal weapon.

Bring narcotics or drugs.

Forget you are a soldier first - a technician second.

RRCUV

The Radio Research Communications Unit is located at Davis Station. All comments pertaining to Headquarters & Service Company apply to the Radio Research Communications Unit, Vietnam.

101st RRCo

The 101st Radio Research Company, organized on 14 February 1963, was originally classified the 7th Radio Research Unit, with an augmentation of 67 officers and enlisted personnel.

As of 1 July 1966, from the original unit's organization of five

functional sections, the 7th RRU authorization grew from 67 assigned personnel to its present day strength of 192 personnel. The 7th RRU was redesignated the 101st RR Co in August 1966 and now employs a platoon located in each of the four corps tactical zones. Headquarters, 101st Radio Research Company is located at the Tan Son Nhut AFB, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. All comments pertaining to the Headquarters & Service Company are applicable if you are assigned to the Headquarters.

The living conditions vary from tents to a hotel depending on where you are assigned. The 1st and 4th Platoons live in modern hotel BQs. The 2nd and 3rd Platoon presently live in tents but are in the process of obtaining semi-permanent billets. Members of the Headquarters Platoon live in semi-permanent billets at Davis Station.

Recreational facilities are available in all areas include military clubs, dayrooms and special service activities.

224th Avn Bn

The 224th Aviation Battalion (RR) is a unit subordinate to the 509th Radio Research Group. The 224th Aviation Battalion (RR) headquarters building is located on Tan Son Nhut Air Base about one mile from the cantonment area.

Units within the 224th Aviation Battalion (RR) are as follows:

Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, 224th Aviation Battalion (RR), Tan Son Nhut

1st Radio Research Company (Avn), Cam Ranh Bay

138th Aviation Company (RR), Da Nang

144th Aviation Company (RR), Nha Trang

146th Aviation Company (RR), Tan Son Nhut

156th Aviation Company (RR), Can Tho

A determination regarding your assignment will be made after your arrival depending upon the immediate needs of the battalion.

Your mailing address will be: Rank, Name, ASN
224th Aviation Battalion (RR)
APO San Francisco 96307

Mail will be forwarded to your new duty station upon reassignment to your new duty station.

Living Quarters

Living quarters for officers and men assigned to the 224th Aviation Battalion (RR) are good. Officers will live in a hotel or villa depending on the company to which you are assigned. Enlisted men are also provided comfortable billets.

Curfews

Curfews are established in accordance with military situations and local civilian regulations and policies.

Transportation

Transportation in Vietnam is generally provided by organic military vehicles. In population centers, such as Saigon, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Vung Tau, Can Tho, and other cities, commercial transportation (taxis, pedicabs, and similar vehicles) is available. For long distance travel within Vietnam, you will go by air.

Privately owned vehicles cannot be transported to Vietnam. PCV's are not feasible as the driving hazards are great and except within Saigon and other population centers, air transportation is used. Application for purchase and operation of privately owned vehicles (including motor-cycles) must be submitted through command channels to Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam. Subordinate commands have the authority to disapprove.

Clothing

All personnel will arrive in country in short sleeve khaki uniform. The fatigue uniform is the normal uniform in this organization. You will be issued jungle fatigues and jungle boots in your assigned unit. It is recommended that you bring five sets of fatigues, two pairs of boots, one pair of low quarters, and three sets of khakis.

Off duty dress is usually casual and the wearing of civilian clothing is encouraged. White or conservative sport shirts and wash-and-wear slacks are acceptable for most occasions. All clothing should be washable since dry cleaning facilities are scarce and the quality of their work is generally poor. A raincoat is also recommended for use during the rainy season. Many personnel have had uniforms and civilian clothing made by local tailors who do good work at reasonable prices. You need not bring dress blues, whites, or greens. You may bring flight suits if you desire, however, flight suits may not be worn in Post Exchanges, Officers' Messes, etc. Most aviators wear fatigues for flying. This precludes changing clothes before going to the Officers' Mess for lunch.

303d RRBn

General History

Prior to coming overseas, the 303d RR Bn was located at Fort Wolters, Texas. It received alert orders on 23 January 1966 and began training and preparing for the move to Vietnam. The troops boarded the USNS Weigel and departed Oakland, California on 16 April 1966. The voyage across the Pacific lasted 22 days, with the unit arriving at Vung Tau on 6 May 1966. The battalion was then moved by air to Tent City "B" at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, while the advance party made final preparations for the move to Long Binh.

With the arrival of all officers and men in Long Binh, the unit began the construction of its cantonment area. All battalion offices and billets were located in tents. At present, practically all buildings are semi-permanent in nature, with shower and latrine buildings. There are clubs and sports facilities for the enjoyment of the personnel. All of this has been accomplished by the officers and men of the battalion with very little outside assistance. This was accomplished while supporting II Field Forces Vietnam with the mission typical of a battalion of this type.

Subordinate units of the battalion are of the direct support type. They are deployed in support of the 1st Infantry Division, the 9th Infantry Division, the 25th Infantry Division, the 101st Airborne Division, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Geographical Location

The Headquarters of the 303d Radio Research Battalion is located at the Long Binh complex near II Field Forces Headquarters approximately 20 miles northeast of Saigon. This is the largest US military complex in Vietnam today.

Climate

The high temperatures within the 303d's locale normally range between the high 80's and mid 90's, with lows in the 70's. There are primarily two seasons in this area. The rainy season is from April thru October. The dry season is from November thru March.

Living and Recreational Conditions

Both officers and enlisted personnel are living in prefabricated aluminum or tropical buildings. Many of the units have maid services available. All units have adequate medical facilities, PX, and barber

facilities, permanent mess facilities, and recreational activities to include motion picture services, unit or sundry fund clubs, athletic equipment, and library.

Necessary Clothing and Equipment

Three sets of fatigues and one pair of combat boots should be brought by the individual. Other items of necessary clothing include two sets of khakis, one pair of low quarters shoes, a raincoat, and an overseas cap. Casual clothes are optional, but desirable for off duty hours. Wash and wear material is preferable as professional cleaning facilities are almost non-existent. As far as other articles of clothing, the individual should bring what will be sufficient for his own needs. Field equipment is available from unit supply channels.

Other

PX's offer a wide variety of items for personal comfort, e.g., fans, televisions, radios, chairs, refrigerators, record players, clothing, gifts, etc. Fatigues are available in the PX as well as personal items such as soap, shaving cream, razors and toothpaste. Opportunities for inter-theater transfers (ITT) to units of your choice after completion of the Vietnam tour are very good. Personnel are encouraged to apply if interested.

313th RRBn

The 313th Radio Research Battalion, located in Nha Trang, arrived in Vietnam on 9 April 1966 as the 13th Radio Research Unit in support of I Field Force, Vietnam. Only a small detachment arrived initially, but other companies were added as their parent units entered the country. Today, the subordinate units of the 313th Radio Research Battalion include the 330th Radio Research Company, the 371st Radio Research Company in support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, the 374th Radio Research Company in support of the 4th Infantry Division, the Americal Radio Research Company in support of the Americal Division, and the 404th Radio Research Detachment in support of the 173d Airborne Brigade.

Nha Trang is located on the coast of the South China Sea approximately 250 miles northwest of Saigon. The average annual temperature is 80 degrees with one monsoon season which extends from early December to late April. The remainder of the year is hot and dry. However, the tropical breezes from the sea are cool and refreshing.

The city of Nha Trang was once a popular resort area during French occupation and many of the buildings and artifacts are still intact. The beach compares favorably with any in the world as the waters are remarkably clear and sparkling throughout the year. Recreational facilities are excellent and include the beach, numerous theaters, and several hard surface tennis courts. Approximately eight power boats are available with water skis, and fishing and photo lab facilities are also available.

Civilian clothing can be worn anytime during off duty hours and personnel assigned to the Nha Trang area are encouraged to bring slacks and sport shirts. Since almost all social functions are casual, hardly any need exists for an individual to bring a suit. During the monsoon season, a civilian raincoat is very useful, and a sweater or light jacket will come in handy as the night temperatures will drop to around 50 degrees. Religious facilities are abundant and worship of every faith can be accomplished according to the individual's desires.

330th Radio Research Company

The 330th Radio Research Company is located approximately five miles by paved road from Pleiku, RVN. The region is one of rolling plains atop a massive plateau in the mountainous west central portion of RVN. Members of this command are billeted in permanent tropical type barracks, constructed through a company self-help program. The barracks are divided into two man cubicles with cadre rooms and an NCO quarters for senior NCO's. A BOC is currently on the base development plan and construction should begin in 1968. The unit dayroom includes a game room with pool, ping pong and game tables, a library/writing room, a craft hobby shop

and a projected photo lab and darkroom. The EM/NOO club is located near the center of the company area for individual use. Attached to the EM club is an outdoor theater showing movies twice nightly. Adjacent to the club is a small PX with a limited stock of personal items, and the company barber shop. An outdoor volleyball court is now used and early construction of a cement pad basketball/volleyball court and football field is planned. Additional entertainment is provided by the AFVN Television station in Pleiku, which transmits eight hours daily, plus Armed Forces Radio. Personal services are available in the company area through the hire of local nationals. A non-appropriated fund, subscribed to by members of the command provides barbers and laborers. The barbers provide free haircuts to members of this unit, while certain details, such as KP and garbage pickup, are eliminated through the use of local nationals. Presently Pleiku City is on limits to US personnel from 1200 hours to 1800 hours daily.

371st Radio Research Company

The 371st Radio Research Company is located with the 1st Air Cavalry Division at An Khe. An Khe is on national highway 19, half way between Qui Nhon and Pleiku, approximately 250 miles northwest of Saigon. Recreational facilities are excellent, with clubs, theaters, and sports equipment available in abundance.

374th Radio Research Company

The 374th Radio Research Company in support of the 4th Infantry Division began arriving at Dragon Mountain near Pleiku in July 1966. The main body closed on the growing Fourth Division base camp on 30 September 1966. The tent-living phase has given way to one story wooden billets, a new aluminum operations building, and a supply orderly room building. The dayroom presently under construction will house a library, pool table, ping pong table, and TV room.

Americal Radio Research Company

The Americal Radio Research Company in support of the Americal Division is located at Chu Lai, east of Highway 1 on the South China Sea. Living conditions in this newly formed unit are at present adequate, and attempts are continuing to improve living standards. Quarters presently consist of roofed and screened tent frames with folding cots and poncho liners for bedding. The area offers several clubs and the USO is constantly expanding the variety and scope of its off duty recreational facilities. PX facilities are excellent, with a wide range of toilet articles, uniform items, luggage, cameras, jewelry and electronic equipment available, as well as a limited stock of civilian clothing.

404th Radio Research Detachment

The 404th Radio Research Detachment is in direct support of the 173d Airborne Brigade, whose base camp is located at An Khe. The unit is presently deployed along the sandy beach shores of Phu Hiep. Living quarters consist of wooden floored tents at present.

403d RR SOD

The 403d Radio Research Special Operations Detachment (Airborne) is attached to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). The unit entered the Republic of Vietnam in October 1967. All personnel assigned are expected to be Special Forces qualified and hold either the MOS 05D4S, 05D4S, or 98C4S. Officers hold MOS 39640.

Anyone assigned to the unit can expect to be assigned, or on operation, anywhere in the Republic of Vietnam. All combat and field equipment is issued by the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). The 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) has all elements normally assigned a Special Forces Group and the needs of assigned or attached personnel are normally met immediately. When passing through the Nha Trang Area, HQ, 5th Special Forces Group, the recreational facilities are abundant. Personnel assigned this unit can expect to work a seven day week, of approximately 14 to 18 hours a day.

8th RRFS

When you arrive in Vietnam.

After you have completed normal processing, you will probably be joined by a representative of the 509th Radio Research Group who will provide any assistance you may need and offer transportation. The 509th will provide billeting for you until arrangements are made for obtaining a flight to this unit. You can expect a delay in Saigon of up to four days. Upon departing Saigon you will normally be booked through to Da Nang which is 93 kilometers south of Phu Bai. From Da Nang to Phu Bai you will normally be placed on a shuttle aircraft on a space available basis to Phu Bai. If by chance you are stranded in Da Nang overnight, call Da Nang 6403 (138th Aviation Company) to ask for assistance or information concerning other possible flights to Phu Bai. Marine freight section has a number of shuttle flights to Phu Bai. When you arrive at the Hue/Phu Bai Airport, (if a representative of the 8th Radio Research Field Station is not present) call Phu Bai 2089 or Phu Bai 2031 and transportation will be sent to pick you up and take you to the 8th Radio Research Field Station.

Training

Newly assigned enlisted personnel are required to participate in an orientation and training program of two days (normally given within one week of arrival). Training consists of varied but essential items of more localized, specific importance. It includes such subject matter as defense of the post, crew served weapons training, night firing techniques, perimeter orientation, firing of your individual weapon, etc.

During the same period personnel are oriented and briefed by the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Chaplain, S2, S3, Provost Marshal, and respective company commanders.

History of the 8th Radio Research Field Station

The 8th Radio Research Field Station is located approximately 470 miles north of Saigon (2½ hours flying time) and nine miles south of the city of Hue (pronounced WHEEY). The unit was activated as Detachment J, 3d Radio Research Unit in February 1962. On 1 November 1964 it was redesignated as the 8th Radio Research Unit subordinate to the 3d Radio Research Unit (since redesignated the 509th Radio Research Group). In September 1966 it was again redesignated as the 8th Radio Research Field Station. The unit is presently composed of Headquarters Company, A Company, and B Company, with one composite unit of Marine and Navy personnel attached (I Company).

This unit is situated on a compound of approximately 80 acres. Because of the close proximity of subordinate units, many administrative

functions including messing operations, motor pool, and supply have been consolidated under the 34. All other functions are aligned with normal battalion type command and staff channels.

Climate

The climate in this portion of Vietnam is divided roughly into two seasons. The dry season starts around March and lasts until September. During the season there are infrequent rains and the temperature has been over 100 degrees with a relatively low humidity. The monsoon (rainy) season is from October to February and during this period it is not uncommon for rain to fall continuously for several days. The temperature rate drops accordingly and at times it is cool enough to sleep under two blankets.

Hue

The city of Hue is the Ancient Imperial Capital of Vietnam. Its population is approximately 100,000. It is the third largest city in the Republic following Saigon and Da Nang. The Imperial Palace is in Hue, centrally located in the Citadel which is patterned after the Forbidden City of Peking, China. Camera enthusiasts will find an abundance of subjects. Situation permitting, frequent trips are organized. At present, Hue is "Off Limits". However, on occasion, guided tours are still conducted.

Finance

The Commanding Officer, 192d Finance Section, Da Nang in-processes newly assigned personnel while enroute to this station. Newly assigned personnel are routed through Da Nang for further transportation to Phu Bai. Upon your arrival in Da Nang call Parchment 390 (ask for 1st floor finance office). Transportation will be arranged for you to the finance section where your pay records will be scrutinized, vouchers completed, and payment, as appropriate, will be made. You will then be returned to the airport. All personnel regardless of whether accompanied by finance records will report to the 192d Finance Section for finance records processing.

Uniform Facts

Upon departure from CONUS you wear the Khaki (tan or light weight green for officers) uniform, and if traveling during the monsoon season it is advisable to carry the field jacket. Enroute from Saigon to Phu Bai, the fatigue uniform is required.

The duty uniform is fatigues for all personnel. QM sales store facilities are not available, therefore all items of uniform should be purchased prior to departure. Jungle fatigues and boots are in very short supply as we are on a low priority for these items. Sufficient quantities of fatigues (light weight, if available, 4 or 5 sets) and boots (2 pairs) should be carried by the individual. Underclothing

and socks are sometimes available in the PX; however, it is recommended that eight or ten pair be brought. If possible, retain your raincoat. You will be issued a poncho, but at times it is too warm and a raincoat is better. Field gear will be issued upon arrival at Phu Bai.

If at all possible, you should bring a field jacket. Also a couple of sweatshirts are advisable. This is necessary because of low temperatures during the monsoon season.

Civilian Clothing

Dry cleaning facilities are not available. Civilian clothing you bring should be of the wash and wear type. Sport shirts and slacks (or shorts) and a sweater and/or windbreaker type jacket is advisable. At times some civilian clothing is available in the PX, but size and color schemes are extremely limited. One or two pairs of slacks and two or three shirts should be more than adequate.

Athletic Gear

If possible, you should bring minor items of athletic gear for your own convenience such as gym shorts, swimming trunks, and tennis shoes. These items are in short supply here.

Mail Service

The official mailing address of this unit is as follows:

Rank, Name, ASN
8th Radio Research Field Station
APO San Francisco 96308

Library

The library is air conditioned and offers approximately 3500 volumes plus periodicals. It is probably the best stocked library in this part of Vietnam.

Chapel

A resident Protestant Chaplain is assigned. Currently there are three separate services held on Sunday in the Post Chapel: an Episcopal Holy Communion, a General Protestant Worship, and a Roman Catholic Mass. Jewish and Latter Day Saint services are held at other chapels in the immediate vicinity; transportation to attend either of these services is provided.

Movies

Four shows daily at 0900, 1630, 2030 and 0100.

Swimming

A fresh water swimming pool is presently in use in the compound. It is advisable to bring your own trunks as they are not available here.

Clubs

Three clubs are presently in operation. They are the Officers' Club, NCO Club and the EM Club. The Officers' Club has kitchen facilities and the NCO Club and EM Club have facilities programmed.

Sports

Softball diamond, volleyball courts, tennis courts, and basketball courts are available and active leagues are in effect.

Special Services

Darkroom facilities, tape recording facilities, gym, hobby and craft sales, and a limited amount of athletic equipment such as weights, etc., are available.

Tailor Shops

Three tailor shops are on post where clothing may be made or altered. Name tags are available but are expensive. The shops also carry a small amount of souvenir items.

MARS Station

A MARS Station has been established and is now in operation. Telephone patches can be irregular, but in general CONUS calls can be placed within two hours. We have been averaging approximately 500 calls per month (a three minute call to Washington, D.C. area costs between \$2.50 and \$3.00). MARSGRAMS may be sent and received. To send a MARSGRAM to this unit, contact the nearest military establishment with MARS facilities and send it to ABSAQ, APO 96308.

Exchange Facility

A small field exchange is located on the installation, and is usually well stocked with the basic essentials (toilet articles, cigarettes, stationery, etc.). Luxury items (cameras, tape recorders, refrigerators, jewelry, etc.) are available from time to time but go fast. However, a catalog service permits ordering of specific items.

Education

No resident type instruction is available. However, many correspondence courses handled through USAFI and forty-four leading college and university extension divisions are available. End of course examinations, USAFI Achievement Tests I and II, and high school and college GED tests are also available.

Dental and Medical

A dental detachment is on post; however, it is equipped to perform routine treatment only. Any major dental work should be accomplished

prior to departing your present duty station. The medical detachment on post is well equipped to treat the immediate needs of personnel. Any special medical treatment (refraction, auditory tests, etc.) should be accomplished prior to your departure from CONUS.

Messing

The Officers' Club has messing facilities. The EM Mess is located in air conditioned trailers and the quality of food served is excellent. At times the variety is small due to transportation difficulties; however, the mess personnel do an outstanding job even under adverse conditions.

Quarters

Officers are billeted in air conditioned trailers. EM billeting is a combination of air conditioned trailers and high ceiling concrete French type buildings with overhead fans. Due to the rotation problem, with new personnel arriving prior to personnel due for rotation departing, billeting space is sometimes at a premium. However, generally speaking, adequate space is available for comfortable living.

Legal Assistance

A legal clerk is authorized in the organization; however, he is not always assigned. Legal assistance is available in Da Nang or Saigon. Incoming personnel are advised to complete all legal matters prior to departure from their present duty station.