

VIETNAM

1965-1966: A Day at



Da Nang AB Vietnam China Beach

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23rd ABG/AP; 6252nd APS; 35th APS; 366th APS/SPS

APO for Đà Nẵng Air Base was APO San Francisco, 96337

Telling it like it was!



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China beach was more than just sand and surf... and in 1965-1966 it represented a moment of calm for battle weary soldiers. A beach-day to look forward to... a place where the word *Rocket* was never associated with, as was *Rocket City* Đà Nẵng Air Base.



Đà Nẵng Air Base, 6252d Combat Air Police, 366th SPS K-9 - March 1966

A day at China Beach, renown to Vietvets and made world famous by the television series, *China Beach* (1988-1991) that was *nothing* like I ever saw but one of my favorite series, starred the still very hot *Dana Delany*. China Beach is a world class beach, with miles of white sand, warm gentle waves, and where you can wade 200 yards out in waist-deep water. A Western vacation tropical paradise, *it would have been*, with cotton-ball clouds nestled against Monkey Mountain.

A day at China Beach with some of the Đà Nẵng SPS guys... a little *California Dreaming* of home, American beauties, and the equally beautiful sandy beaches of Long Beach, California.

A Day at China Beach

The Air Police posting Truck was available for a trip to China Beach, and several of us decided to go.



1. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Crossing the Trinh Minh Bridge over the Han River, from Đà Nẵng Air Base to China Beach.



2. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Parallel bridge.



3. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Bicycles, Pedestrians merge with military and civilian vehicle traffic.



4. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: ARVN Bridge-Guard.



5. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Scenic views abound on both sides of the road.



6. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Marble Mountain, left-center, with sampan fishermen plying their trade.



7. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Tidal fishing nets at low tide.



8. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Tidal fishing nets at low tide.



9. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Sampans at anchor.



10. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Fishermen mending nets.



11. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Rice Paddies.



12. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Rice Paddies.



13. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Marshland, bunkers and water buffalos.



14. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Sampans and shoreline Pagado (center).



15. *Click photo to see full panorama photo.*



16. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Pagoda closeup.



17. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Fishermen.



18. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Fishermen closeup.



19. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Rice fields and paddies, with Temple (center).



20. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: After the war... I'm goona build me a hotel right there!



21. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Hey... WOMAN! a WOMAN!
[Several years ago an army soldier emailed that he met this girl at China Beach and married her!]



22. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Look at those fools in the hot sun!



23. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Hey... watch it!



24. **China Beach, Đà Nẵng:** Look at'em... trying to drown each other! How stupid!
I think I'll go out and join'em.



25. **China Beach, Đà Nẵng:** Water fight! Left, Gary Knutson riding Gary Eberbach's shoulders.



29. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: No way they can claim victory.



30. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: What a beach! (minus the AO trash cans)



31. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Hey... did you hear someone say, *WOMEN?*



32. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Wading 200 yards off shore and still at waist-deep! Monkey Mountain in background.



33. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Just look at that view! Calm, warm waters, and the *view!*



34. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Yeah. Tourist will pay *bazillions* to see this. Just think... the USA's just over the horizon that'a'way.



35. China Beach, Đà Nẵng:... and there she goes! *Your face scared her off!*

Did not....

Did to....

Not...

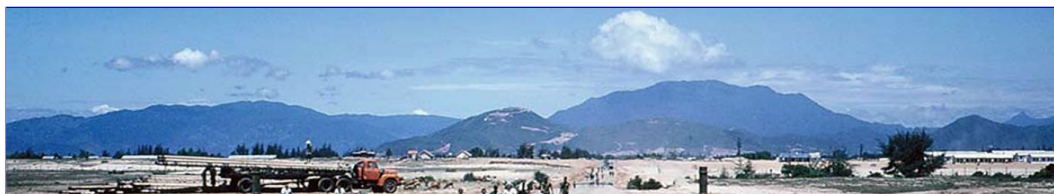
To....



36. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: The road back to Đà Nẵng AB (Freedom Hill 327, center). *I guess we'll have to pave the road to.*

I'm bored...

Yeah... me to. Let's go back to base.



37. Click photo to see full panorama photo.



38. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Road back to Đà Nẵng AB, ARVN government compound.



39. China Beach, Đà Nẵng: Close up of ARVN gate guard.

We Take Care of Our Own

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