



Tan Son Nhut Air Base,

**377th Combat Security Police Squadron
United States Air Force**

**Pamphlet:
Ready Reference Facts on South Vietnam**

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As to the immorality or not of the Vietnam War, at age 19 it was cars, chicks, and a sense of duty to country that were important to me. I had no political savvy then, nor even then understood the concept. 'Twas duty, and perhaps mindlessly so, that determined my actions. Raised on John Wayne movies, there just seemed to be no question about what I should do.

After TET 1968, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) produced a pamphlet, reproduced here in its six pages, which attempted to explain the *what for* of Vietnam.

I obtained the pamphlet while at TSN, sometime in 1968. They were handed out to personnel. It must have been the latter half of 1968 that I received the pamphlet. I say that because at the very bottom of the last page (The Enemy) there is a notation that reads: MACV P-5710/11 (4-68). I assume that means the

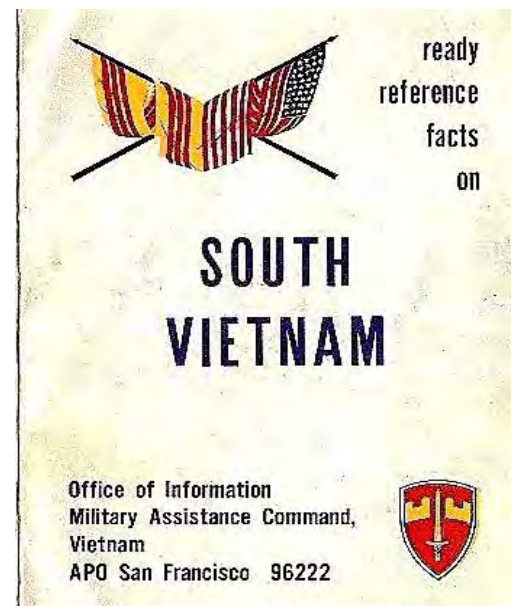
(civilian employee) is the Naval Printing and Publication Service, and there is a large Naval installation on Guam to this day... have been to it several years ago. In addition, on the Our Military Effort page, troop strength is indicated to be about 497,000 for the winter of 1967-1968. That the pamphlet was published in the latter part of 1968, and I received it then is a pretty good bet.

Hindsight produces many good arguments for and against this stuff. Problem is, today they are all out of time and place. And yup, I have read some of the recent emails at EmailCall. It is not a coincidence that I dug the pamphlet out and sent it to you.

Take care ... Dan McKegney

MACV Handout: Ready Reference Facts on South Vietnam

Pamphlet Cover



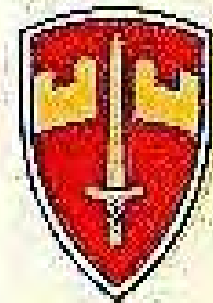
We Take Care of Our Own



ready
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on

SOUTH VIETNAM

Office of Information
Military Assistance Command,
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The Stakes In Vietnam

Free World Goals:

+++ Freedom, independence and self-determination for 17 million South Vietnamese.

+++ Sovereignty of all free Southeast Asia nations by halting communist aggression in South Vietnam.

U. S. Commitment:

+++ Since 1954, three U. S. Presidents have pledged assistance to South Vietnam in its struggle to resist communist aggression.

+++ Since 1955, U. S. Congress has annually passed both military and economic assistance programs for South Vietnam.

Wider Significance:

+++ The U. S., to justify the confidence of millions who look up to it as leader of the Free World, must maintain the integrity of all its commitments and promises by assisting nations to which such commitments and promises have been made.

+++ To maintain the security of the entire Free World, the U. S. must discourage so-called "wars of national liberation," a euphemism for externally inspired and directed aggression against a legitimate government.

+++ To insure an eventually stable peace in the world, the U. S. must stop the aggressive, militaristic spread of communism before the chance of permanent peace is lost.

Building A Nation

Historically dominated by foreign or unenlightened rulers and, since 1940, torn by war and insurgency, Vietnam has been denied the peaceful climate needed for growth and prosperity. Rich in rice potential and raw materials she has been poor in production capacity, finished goods, technicians and professional men.

What South Vietnam Has Done Since 1954:

+++ Now produces 90% of textile needs in more than 700 plants opened or enlarged since 1954.

+++ Is approaching self-sufficiency in paper, plastic products.

+++ Has increased by nearly 400,000 tons annual commercial seafood yield.

+++ Built more than 7,000 rural medical centers.

+++ Secondary school student population increased 10 times. University and vocational school enrollments quadrupled.

Revolutionary Development:

+++ Is centrally coordinated program for rebuilding in secure areas, has been called "core of nation-building," regains confidence of people, prepares community for future economic growth.

Free World Assistance:

+++ Some thirty-one nations give economic aid to South Vietnam (U. S. aid since 1954: \$3½ billion) and 24 international voluntary agencies work in country.

Free Elections:

+++ Constituent assembly elected in September 1966 wrote Constitution. Rural elections in villages and hamlets in early 1967. Presidential and parliamentary elections held nationwide in fall of 1967.

Vietnam--Place & People

The People:

+++ Among Vietnamese: Moderation is a key to personal conduct. Politeness, restraint, and courtesy are esteemed social virtues. Wisdom comes with age. Learning and education are deeply revered and respected. Loyalty between family members is a duty, an obligation. Worship of ancestors holds an important place in religious life.

++ Characteristically, the Vietnamese: Place a high value on harmony, patience and honor. Are quieter, less excitable than Westerners.

++ Population: Numbers about 17 million, 85 per cent being ethnic Vietnamese. There are about one million Chinese, a half-million Cambodians, and 800,000 Montagnards (mountain tribal groups). Eighty per cent of people are farmers. (About half the people live in the Delta area.)

The Place:

++ Long and narrow in shape; about the size of state of Washington. Vietnam lies in southeast corner of Asia and is bounded by Laos, Cambodia and the South China Sea.

++ Geographically, Vietnam consists of: The Central Highlands, having two-thirds of the land mass, with a chain of mountains, dense jungles and some open forests. Narrow coastal plain running from the northern tip almost to Saigon and characterized by flat land with numerous beaches. The Mekong Delta, south of Saigon, which can yield an immense rice crop and has more than 3,500 miles of navigable rivers and canals.

The Enemy

The Enemy:

++ Is communist North Vietnam and as its southern arm, the Viet Cong.

++ His numbers: Viet Cong "Main Force" units and North Vietnamese units have a combined combat strength of about 118,000 men.

++ Total enemy strength in the south, including supporting forces, is about 286,000 men.

+++ His weapons: Although the enemy began fighting with weapons left over from the war against the French, his arms and ammunition, growing more abundant and more sophisticated, now come from China, the Soviet Union, and other Communist-bloc nations.

++ He still relies heavily on home-made mines and booby-traps.

+++ His tactics: He is attempting to destroy the people's support of the government through classical battlefield maneuvers, sinister forms of terroristic activity, including assassination and kidnapping, and through intensive propaganda campaigns.

+++ His machinery for aggression: The Communist regime in Hanoi directs, controls and supplies all enemy forces through the Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN).

+++ The National Liberation Front, Controlled by Hanoi, is the politico-military organization in South Vietnam which claims that it is fighting "to liberate" the people. But this "arm of liberation" remains only a tool of Hanoi designed to achieve a communist take-over in the South.