

WELCOME

TO

37th ARRS

DA NANG AB, RVN

643/
14

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MISSION

The mission of the 37th ARRSq is to provide rescue and recovery capability of downed aircrew members primarily in I Corps and North Vietnam. Missions into other areas will be as directed by higher headquarters. The mission is the most rewarding of any in Southeast Asia and in keeping with the noblest calling of all mankind - that of saving the life of a fellow man.

TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

DaNang Air Base takes its name from the coastal city of DaNang, the second largest city in South Vietnam with a population of approximately 260,000. Both are situated on a strip of land surrounded by the South China Sea on the east and to the north. To the south, the land is flat, open plains, heavily interlaced with streams and rivers. Several miles to the west, there is a scenic mountain range which extends across Vietnam into Laos. The climate is tropical with an average annual rainfall of 81 inches, most of which falls during the months of October through January. Daytime temperatures range from 65 degrees in the winter to 105 degrees during the months of June and July.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Settle all personal affairs prior to departing the CONUS. Consult a legal officer to establish a valid will and powers of attorney as necessary. Make arrangements with creditors to avoid letters of indebtedness which can be injurious to your career.

TRAVEL TIPS

There is no requirement for blues or winter clothing. We suggest you wear 1505's from the port to Vietnam. Fatigues, 1505's and flight suits are worn for duty. Although fatigues and 1505's are available through the BX and Clothing Sales Store, suggest you bring a couple of sets of each to be safe. You should bring combat boots also, but they too, are available through the Clothing Sales Store. Include both military and civilian rainwear for the rainy season. A field jacket or light civilian jacket will feel comfortable during the evening from December to March. Your civilian clothing should be limited to lightweight wash and wear slacks and shirts. Suggest you bring a sport coat or suit for use during leave. Handcarry flight gear and helmet. Bring sneakers for athletics, if interested. Beachwear should also be included for your visits to China Beach. Aircrew members should be sure to bring their flight jackets.

LEAVE POLICY

One seven day ordinary leave is authorized during a twelve month tour. One R&R is also authorized during a twelve month tour (see Personnel Services Section). Ordinary leave may not be taken in conjunction with R&R.

If you extend your tour for six months or more, a 30-day special leave is authorized to any place in the Free World. This leave is not chargeable and transportation costs are paid by the government.

Emergency leaves. All emergency leave requests must be originated through Red Cross channels. Be sure to advise your family of this procedure.

NEWS MEDIA

Personnel assigned to DaNang Air Base are kept informed through the Armed Forces Radio Service (AM and FM), Armed Forces television, daily editions of the Stars and Stripes newspaper and weekly editions of the 7th Air Force News and Military Assistance Command Observer.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Religious services are scheduled to meet the needs of the base and include the following:

The Protestant Program: Three worship services, Sunday School and Communion are conducted each Sunday. On Wednesday evenings, Holy Communion and Bible Study are scheduled, and on Thursday evenings, the Choir practices. In addition, the Protestant Men of the Chapel provide an active role both in support of the chapel program and of the various missionary endeavors through their humanitarian efforts. Also, there are discussion groups designed to meet the needs of the single airmen. These intellectual, stimulating discussions are the means of applying the faith to daily life.

The Catholic Program: Three masses are held on Sunday and a daily Mass is conducted Monday through Saturday. Choir practice and Novena are held on Tuesday evenings. The Holy Name Society provides a vigorous means to participate in the Catholic Program of DaNang Air Base.

The Jewish Program: Services are conducted in conjunction with the Jewish Chaplain assigned to the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force at DaNang.

PERSONNEL SERVICES ACTIVITIES

SERVICE CLUB. DaNang Air Base has a modern, new Service Club, fully equipped with separate TV lounge, tape room, game room and snack bar. Hobby crafts may also be bought in the Service Club. Three annexes (quonset huts) are in operation too. Each is equipped with pool tables, ping pong tables, hi-fi music and table games. Outside activities include athletic equipment checkout, guided tours to the city of DaNang, and boating, water skiing and deep sea fishing trips from the US Marina.

ATHLETICS. The following facilities are available: Two outside basketball courts, weight lifting areas, flag football and soccer fields, two softball diamonds, volleyball courts and horseshoe pits. The intramural sports program consists of basketball, flag football, volleyball, and softball. Lighting of the sports fields is planned for this year.

THEATERS. One air-conditioned theater with a 280 seat capacity is located at DaNang Air Base. There are six showings daily. A free, outdoor theater is also available that seats 150 and has one performance daily.

REST AND RECUPERATION. During your tour in Vietnam, you will be authorized one R&R leave which is not chargeable to you as ordinary leave. R&R usually lasts five nights at the area of your choice. Quotas are received each month at Personnel Services for each of the R&R Centers. Quite often, applications exceed quotas; consequently, those with the longest time in Vietnam have first choice. You are eligible to apply for R&R after 90 days in the country. R&R Centers are located in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, Bangkok, Hawaii, and the Malaysian cities of Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

CHINA BEACH. Available to all base personnel is a beautiful, mile-long white sand beach on the South China Sea. Located several miles from the base, China Beach is readily accessible by bus transportation. A swimming area, complete with refreshment stands and lifeguards, has been set up for the convenience and safety of bathers. The water temperature during the swimming season is about 75 degrees.

EDUCATION. The Base Education Office offers high school and college level correspondence courses. A Vietnamese language course was recently added and testing facilities are available.

LIBRARY. The Base Library is located in the new Service Club and is open seven days a week. 16,000 volumes of fiction and non-fiction books plus 130 periodicals are available. A Branch library with a rotating book collection has been established to offer maximum convenience to the patron.

OPEN MESSES

Officer's Open Mess. The DaNang Officer's Open Mess is the only dining facility for officers at DaNang Air Base. It is open 24 hours a day and the facilities include cafeteria style dining, separate bar and patio, and a package store. Entertainment is provided approximately once a week. Dues are \$2 per month. Movies are shown approximately four nights each week.

NCO Open Mess. NCO's in the grade of E-6 and above must eat their meals in the NCO Open Mess Dining Room which has been converted into a Field Ration Mess. It has a large dining area and the Club boasts a patio for outdoor barbecues and other snacks. The NCO Open Mess also has a bar, package store and entertainment is featured twice weekly.

Airmen's Open Mess. The Airmen's Open Mess features a snack bar and full bar facilities and large dining room. Entertainment is also featured.

DINING HALL

There are two airmen's dining halls at DaNang Air Base. Only enlisted personnel in the grades of E-5 and below are authorized to eat in the airmen's dining halls.

BASE EXCHANGE

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service operates the DaNang Air Force Exchange, which is located outside the main gate to the base. The exchange offers an extensive inventory of merchandise including military and civilian clothing, shoes, toiletries, tobacco goods, jewelry, cameras, watches, tape recorders, records, soap, magazines and some canned goods. The Special Order Counter affords the shopper mail order gifts and special order service. A barber shop is also located in the exchange. Representatives from General Motors, Ford, Chrysler and American Motors are available for automobile orders. Photo developing service is also available.

OFF LIMITS

DaNang Regulation 125-2 places the city of DaNang and Vietnamese housing areas on the base proper OFF LIMITS with stated exceptions.