

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 21 September 1970

REF. No. BMSGN/70/276

TO : AVPATPE

FROM : BMSGN

SUBJECT : August Monthly Report

Saigon Base Monthly Report for August 1970 is forwarded in three copies for your file.

E.J. Theisen

SAIGON BASE
MONTHLY REPORT
AUGUST 1970

I. GENERAL

1. Total block time for August was 5386 hours as compared to 6128 for August 1969 and 5295 hours for July 1970.

2. Several 120mm rockets impacted within the perimeter of the Danang Air Base Facilities. Several persons were killed and several additional persons were seriously injured, there was no damage to AAM Facilities or personnel.

3. Locally, in Saigon the situation remains quite stable with negative rockets attacks and diminishing terrorist activities. However there is an increasing number of demonstrations by Vietnamese war veterans augmented by questionable organizations. There were also several students demonstrations against the Vietnamese Government and American participation in the war effort here which makes this American unproud of some of the bad lessons being learned from our activities in the United States

4. We have given up numerous contacts with the U.S. Air Force to solve vehicular traffic situation along our taxi way (which includes VIP vehicles! from MACV and 7th Air Force plus a variation of military vehicles which use our area as a shortcut. Also there has been increased irregulated traffic on 6th Street which crosses our main taxi way from the AAM Ramp to the runway. Since this is a VNAF Base, I have addressed official correspondence to the VNAF authorities and I am pleased with their enthusiastic appreciation of our problem. I expect that an acceptable vehicle control will be established within the AAM area within the next 30 days. This has been the subject of separated correspondence -- see BMSGN/70/262 and BMSGN/70/263. (Attachment C)

5. PANAM continues to press forward with plans to bring their 747 Jumbos into Saigon on a daily basis beginning 1 October. Special ground handling equipment has already been received. My contacts with the Vietnamese Aviation authorities indicate however that there are still questions whether TSN airfield facilities are adequate to handle this operation. Meanwhile Air Cambodge (Cambodia) Caravelle operations into Saigon have diminished from 6 daily flights per week to one, and sometimes, two flights per week.

6. We have heard nothing further concerning USAF-VNAF plans to relocate AAM facilities in Danang.

AR 2438 - Completion of Concrete Pavement and Drainage Ditch, DAD

The target date for completion is 10 September 1970.

AR 2437 - Improvement on Passenger Lounge, DAD

The scope of work and total cost of the project by about 50%. The bid proposal of the contractor was also cut by 50%. A meeting is scheduled with the contractor for the first week in September to negotiate and sign a contract. Construction is expected to begin on or about 15 Sept. 1970.

AR 2422 - Renovation of the Operations Building, SGN

Approximately 15% of the work has been completed. This project has a scheduled completion date of 30 Sept 1970

AR 2421 - Relocation/Renovation of Various AAM Shops and Offices, SGN

All scheduled moves have been made.

AR 8320/8348 - Da Nang Hostel & SZ Residence Renovation

This project is complete. The AR Closure Notice was submitted on 27 August 1970.

AR 2449 - Saigon Terminal Parking Apron

The contract is scheduled for signing during the first week of September. Approximately 30 - 45 days will be required for actual construction.

AR 8343 - Air Conditioning NHA Crew Quarters

To date eleven units have been installed. The remaining two units were received 31 August 1970 from HKG.

Proforma AR - Phase One have been submitted for the following projects:

Convert the Cafeteria Annex for the Security Dept. - Local management is projecting the closure of the Phu Kiet Office located in down town Saigon during the month of December. If this materializes, the Security Dept will have to be provided adequate space. It is felt that a portion of the Cafeteria Annex could be developed into adequate offices.

7. Training: I am very proud of the consistently high grades being maintained by our 25 [redacted] students in Tainan. I am informed they are the highest ever achieved by "outside" students.

II. GENERAL AFFAIRS

1. Consequences of the unrealistic exchange rate of the piaster at VN\$118 to US\$1 - It must be recognized that this exchange rate is unrealistic because in the "open" market a dollar is worth 400 piasters. This situation has created many difficulties for the nation:

a. It paralyzes export: In the face of increasing local costs of production the exporter cannot sell at competitive prices when he can only recover 118 piasters per dollar and government subsidies remain too low.

b. It creates an irrational foreign exchange transfer system: Foreign firms operating in Vietnam for instance may transfer abroad a portion of their profits. With the existing rate of 118 piasters per US\$ these firms appear to be over privileged.

c. The existing unrealistic exchange rate is unfair to the US and allied troops and foreign residents, who consequently tend to minimize their expenses in local currency or to exchange their dollars on the black market which involves some 100 million dollars per year.

III. CUSTOMER RELATIONS - Our relations with all customers have never been better. They are so congenial, it is unbelievable.

IV. HOSTEL OCCUPANCY

1. Danang - All rooms at the hostel were occupied every night during the month. Of the 682 beds available, 454 beds were used during August for an occupancy rate of 67%.

2. Nha Trang - During the month, 6 rooms were unoccupied a total of 57 days. In addition, the hotel had been vacated 29-30 August due civil disturbance. All crew members were moved to the Nautique Hotel. Of the 499 beds available, 358 were occupied for an occupancy rate of 72%.

V. MEDICAL

Number of sick call: 1358
Accidents: 28
Hospitalized sick call: 1
Unhospitalized accident: 28
Outcall: 2
Physical examination: 24
Sick leaves: 239

VI. PERSONNEL

1. Apart from routine activities, we have expended considerable effort trying to iron out the problems with respect to the new Entry Visa requirement for U.S. citizens. Since we are not in a "command" position, we ourselves have not been able to make much progress.

However, the U.S. Embassy is going full steam ahead in its efforts, and they advise that procedures should become consistent and simplified "before too long".

2. Personnel Strength

Classif.	Saigon Base								Total	
	GRD	FLT	GRD	FLT	GRD	FLT	GRD	FLT	GRD	FLT
Permanent	33	132	117	13	126	3	7	3	283	151
	[REDACTED]								Total	
	484 [#]	12 ^{**}	2		2		1 [*]		489	12

Temporary [REDACTED] 1 [REDACTED] 1

Pre-processed: [REDACTED] - GRD 12 FLT 2

(*) : [REDACTED] Ground Personnel: 786
 (**): [REDACTED] Flight Personnel: 165
 (#) : [REDACTED] Total : 951

Classif.	Danang Sub-Base				Total
	GRD	GRD	GRD	GRD	GRD
Permanent	3	13	16	70	102

Pre-processed: [REDACTED] GRD 1

Classif.	Nha Trang Sub-Base				Total
	GRD	GRD	GRD	GRD	GRD
Permanent	4	8	21	59	92

Classif.	Can Tho Sub-Base			Total
	GRD	GRD	GRD	GRD
Permanent	1	10	3	14

VII. OPERATIONS

1. Flight Time Report (See Attachment A)
2. Ground Fire Incidents Report (See Attachment B)
3. On 2 January 1970, taxi accident in a Porter aircraft (PC-6C, N9444) at Bien Hoa (V-02) South Vietnam.

1. From 2 January 1970, taxi accident in a Porter aircraft (PC-6C, N9444) at Bienhoa (V-02) South Vietnam until 27 July 1970 a gear up landing N7770B at Bac Lieu, SVN. Substantial damage was incurred to the aircraft. The pilot and four passengers received no injuries. We had no accidents or incidents however we destroyed our good record in a catastrophic demonstration.

2. On 8 September 1970, shortly after climb out from Hoi An Airstrip, the external sling load on 204B, N1303X was inadvertantly dropped in the outskirts of the village. The load consisted of two 55 gallon drums of gasoline, one 55 gallon drum of diesel fuel. As the cargo impacted the ground a fire resulted, three small houses were totally destroyed and two houses were fifty per cent destroyed. There were 9 fatalities and three seriously injured on the ground. There was no damage to the aircraft or injuries to the three crew members. This is still being investigated and right now it appears AAM was not completely at fault. Local emphasis is being taken to get this trend "back on track".

4. Ground Transportation

Aggregate minibuses mileage : 24,916 km approx. 15,572 miles
 Total minibuses downtime : 191 hrs 8'
 Total minibuses pax carried : 3244 pax
 Isuzu bus mileage: 6353 km approx. 3970 miles
 Total Isuzu bus downtime : 78 hrs 42'
 Isuzu bus pax carried : 10280
 Supply vehicle mileage : 2770 km approx 1731 miles
 Supply vehicles downtime : 30 hrs 12'

VIII. TRAFFIC/AAM

	July	August
Passengers departure SGN (all contracts)	5,771	5,314
Passengers arrival SGN (all contracts)	6,486	6,086
Outbound cargo SGN	65,891	49,778
Inbound cargo SGN	68,553	80,236

TRAFFIC/USAID

	Cargo (including AF Caribou A/C)	
	July	August
Outbound (lbs) SGN	706,114	595,821
Inbound (lbs) SGN	231,436	55,296

IX. FLYING

The month was relatively quiet and no earth-shaking incidents marked our operation as other than routine. Assorted problems arose with

trying to schedule crews returning from TCs or leave due to the VN visa restrictions. Theft from crewmembers cars in the AAM parking has taken a sharp increase. There have been a number of instances of the fuel tanks being drained.

The hostel at Danang is almost completely reconditioned. The Nhatrang hostel is finished with the installation of air conditioners.

Fixed-wing bidding was closed and the bids were submitted to Taipei.

X. TECHNICAL SERVICES

1. Technical Services - SVN productive activities continued along the level set in June, with flying hanging between the 5500 and 5600 hour level. Damage repair work was up due to a VTB gear-up landing, motor damage to a 204B and wind damage to a PC6C. Recoveries, incidents AGP's and flight delays were down. The flying hour level was supported by a heavy and very successful refugee movement in the early part of the month.

2. Fixed Wing Unscheduled work consisted of eight engine changes, handling of five aircraft departure delays and two aircraft recovery missions.

3. Rotary Wing August was a very quiet month with no outstanding problems or difficulties encountered.

4. Shops Volpar N7770B suffered considerable damage from a gear up landing. Helicopter N1306X suffered over sixty holes from unfriendly mortars. USFAA inspection activities were quite active during the month.

5. Planning The Planning and Production Control Section pre-planned scheduled and processed for all types of aircrafts.

6. General Maintenance Grass plots on the south side of the RMD building and at the Traffic have been reworked to upgrade their appearance. Water pipe has been installed along the front of the CITCA Hangar and along the south side of the Northeast Ramp.

7. Airborne Electronics August was a good month for AED/SGN. With 458 O/N SVC and 49 Heavy Services, there were no delays due to AED.

8. Quality Control Five inspectors attended courses in aircraft inspection techniques and practices, fluorescent and dye penetrant inspection, magnetic particle inspection and aircraft radio graphic inspection.

The work load was somewhat light this month.

9. Supply activities remained routine. The procurement Section experienced a slightly larger amount of transactions as compared to last month. Total value of commodities purchase from local market amounted to VN 971,639.00.

Local customs authorities enforced strict regulations to inspect incoming and outgoing shipments, requiring more time to clear.

E.J. Theisen