

MEMORANDUM

TO : BM/SGN

DATE: 04 October 1969

FROM : SZ/DAD

REF. No. SZDAD/69/099

SUBJECT: DANANG Station Monthly Report for September 1969

GENERAL

Hostile activity for the month was limited to one significant incident, but in terms of reported casualties and projectiles fired, it was the largest attack in the past five months. This attack occurred in the early morning on 6 September and consisted of an estimated 76 rockets and 43 mortar rounds impacting in the Danang and surrounding area. 21 fatalities and approximately 100 injuries, mainly to Vietnamese civilian personnel, were reported as a result of the attack. One rocket apparently exploded an ARVN ammunition dump and the resulting concussion caused minor damage to some doors and windows in the company hostels. No injuries to company personnel were reported.

The Danang City and Air Base curfews remained unchanged; a curfew pass in the form of a letter was obtained for those personnel who might be required to remain on the base after 2100 hours. This pass will be renewed monthly without any anticipated problems.

Southern Air Transport flights were limited to 8 and no problems were encountered in their handling. 8 such flights are already scheduled to transit Danang during October.

The maintenance of company air-conditioners became a serious problem during the month with several unit failures. The station repair capability is satisfactory in most instances, but in several cases, the units require replacement compressor motor assemblies which are unavailable. As a result of this situation it has been necessary to remove all the air-conditioners (4) from the new hostel to support the old hostel and 2 offices at the air base are without air-conditioning.

LEGAL

Negotiations with Barclay & Company concerning their proposal to operate the terminal snack-bar have ceased as a result of a MACV directive which cancelled their operating authority in Vietnam. As an alternative, discussions are being held with a Sergeant Dobbs who apparently was responsible for setting up the snack-bar originally and is now serving another tour at Danang. Through his efforts with the Base NCO Club, an operation far superior to the present may be forthcoming.

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CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Two minor problems developed with the Embassy customer concerning the handling of their VIP passengers and cargo on company aircraft. The former was resolved locally by permitting an Embassy representative to pick-up the required conditions of contract from Traffic and escort the VIPs to the aircraft without Traffic assistance. This customer has their own protocol procedures and apparently feels that such passengers are best handled internally. The ultimate responsibility for the correct loading and tie-down of Embassy cargo on company flights is somewhat undefined since the 4395 contract is no longer in effect. This matter has been referred to Flying Contracts for clarification.

The AID customer seems satisfied with the progress made on the design of the passenger terminal renovation project, but funding for the project is still not assured.

FACILITIES

Detailed drawings were prepared by SGN for the passenger terminal renovation project and bids have been received from four local contractors to accomplish the required construction. A reimbursable pro-forma AR has been submitted by SGM/SGN based on the lowest bid.

The Danang City Power Project was completed during the month and payment was made to S.I.P.E.A. for the transformer installation. Although the facility has remained on USAF generator power almost all of the time, very satisfactory voltages are received from the transformer. A technician was sent from SGN to balance the current loads and the slight heating problem in the main distribution lines seems to have been eliminated.

The Nose Hangar Lean-to Project was also completed and final settlement was effected with the contractor.

A re-evaluation of the deferred Paving Project has been requested so that a firm determination can be made as to whether or not the 2500 bags of cement on hand should be retained or exchanged for gravel. The local AID customer supports the project but funding for it is still indefinite. The rainy season is rapidly approaching and it is doubtful that any of this cement will be useable if it is not utilized fairly soon.

FISCAL

██████████ payroll for the month totaled: ██████████

Petty cash expenditures for the month totaled: 26,815\$VN

OPERATIONS

Total revenue flight time increased 3+55 hours as compared to the previous month. 204B flying was reduced significantly due to a lack of requirements by the Embassy and the substitution of a PC-6 for Quang-Ngai on the part of AID on Sundays. Revenue losses increased significantly primarily as a result of poor weather when Danang was within the influence of tropical storms.

The following is a breakdown of flight time generated by this station during September:

VN-41/AID	- - - - -	876+36
VN-41/Embassy	- - - - -	162+04
0005	- - - - -	9+39
0069	- - - - -	6+12
Non-Revenue	- - - - -	9+19
		<hr/>
Total	- - - - -	1,063+50

Revenue loss for the month was as follows:

Maintenance	- - - - -	7+00
Weather	- - - - -	16+00
Customer Cancellations	- - - - -	1+00
Other	- - - - -	0+00
		<hr/>
Total	- - - - -	24+00

Hostel occupancy factors were 80.71% and 40.33% for the Old and New hostels respectively. The higher utilization of the New hostel resulted from extended DHC-4 and unscheduled C-47 RONs.

COMMUNICATIONS

The remote VHF/UHF was out of service only once during the month and the problem was repaired within one hour at the [redacted]. The transfer of the ground radio transmitters to the RMD Lean-to was commenced, and all the required underground audio cables were installed. Temporary antennas have been erected for interim use until the programmed 80 foot antenna mast is received from SCM and installed.

Incoming and outgoing messages totaled 1853 and 1425 respectively.

TRAFFIC

A planned reduction of 5 Ground Services personnel was deferred at

customer insistence. Although the manning of this department is considered excessive, the AID customer apparently wants to continue to bear the additional expense involved.

Passenger and cargo statistics for the month are as follows:

	<u>Passengers In</u>	<u>Passengers Out</u>	<u>Cargo In</u>	<u>Cargo Out</u>
4101	2,624	3,177	230,044	351,176
4102	495	556	8,401	20,486
0005	11	3	Nil	Nil
0069	0	7	Nil	Nil
AAM	83	120	8,693.5	18,099.1
TOTAL	3,213	3,863	247,138.5	389,761.1

No Continental Air Services flights were handled during September.

SECURITY

A crewmember reported the theft of a flight case from the entrance of the New Hostel while awaiting transportation to the airfield but no conclusive evidence could be found that the hostel security guard was negligent. According to the guard's statement, other crewmembers were in the immediate vicinity of the case when the theft apparently took place.

PERSONNEL

No solution to the work permit problem has been reported and as a consequence, visas, extensions of stay and air base pass processing are still being delayed. PM/SGM indicates that progress in this area is being made but at a very slow rate.

A third major personnel reduction was accomplished during September which brings station manning down to a level not experienced in nearly two years. With only a very few exceptions and those requiring a re-definition of policy, any further reductions can only be sustained with a very noticeable decrease in service or capability.

The personnel breakdown at Danang station at the close of business, 30 September, was as follows:

Permanent	5	22*	14	85*
Pre-Process	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0
Daily hire	-	0	0	0
TOTAL (126)	5	22	14	85

* Includes two personnel who will be transferred to SGN when Tan-Son-Nhut base passes are obtained.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

RMD handled a total of 620 arriving and 624 departing flights during the month. Maintenance delays remained the same as August for a total of 5. No outstation recoveries were required. Heavy services amounted to two number 1 PC-6 services, three number 1 204B services and two number 2 204B services. One engine change (C47) and no propeller changes were required during the month.

RGMD expended a total of 1435 manhours, of which 323 were utilized in hostel maintenance. In an attempt to reduce air-conditioner problems in the old hostel, heavier gauge wire and U.S. switches were installed in addition to replacing the thin plastic windows with plywood sheeting.

NSA transactions were disrupted for a brief period as a result of the substantial damage sustained by their facilities during the rocket attack of 5 September. The only enduring problem was that their September invoice did not include IBM cards which will delay reconciliation of the invoice with company records.

STATISTICS

From previous monthly reports the following data was extracted:

	<u>September 1967</u>	<u>September 1968</u>	<u>September 1969</u>
Flight Time (hours)	1093	1452	1055
Arrivals	719	748	620
Departures	713	737	624
Passengers (outbound)	2451	3499	3863
Personnel	103**	143	127
	7	7	5
	18	31	22
	10	13	14
	68	92	86

** Does not include Traffic Ground Services Labor Force.

Although the above figures are not necessarily comparable, they do give some indication of the changes over the years covered.

Original Signed by
WINSTON C. CAMBRE
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